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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY











THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF  
HENRY COUNTY,  
ILLINOIS.

---

ILLUSTRATED.

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

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
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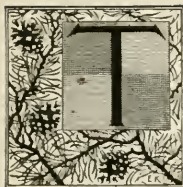
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## PREFACE.

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

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

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

March, 1901.

THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING CO.



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"Biography is the only true history."—Emerson.

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*N. B. Gould*

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

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GOULD, NATHANIEL BARTLETT. Honored and respected by all, there is no man in Cambridge who occupies a more enviable position in business circles than Nathaniel B. Gould, not alone on account of the success he has achieved, but also on account of the honorable, straightforward business policy he has ever followed. He has been prominently identified with public affairs, and is now serving as president of the board of trustees of Cambridge and treasurer of the Old Settlers Association.

Mr. Gould was born in Piermont, Grafton county, New Hampshire, March 31, 1828, but in early life removed with the family to Canaan, in the same county. He traces his ancestry back to Zaccheus Gould, who was born in England about 1580, and came to America about 1638, locating finally at Topsfield, Massachusetts, where he died in 1670. His wife, Phebe Gould, passed away in 1663, leaving one son and five daughters, all of whom married and had families. Their descendants in this country are now quite numerous, and are represented in the various branches of industry and the learned professions.

Amos Gould, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, was a soldier of the Revolutionary

war, and at the close of that struggle moved from Salem, Massachusetts, to Canaan, New Hampshire. He was at West Point when Arnold's treason was discovered. He was born at Boxford, New Hampshire, December 12, 1761, and died at Piermont, that state, December 28, 1853. On the 14th of June, 1780, he married Rebecca Perley, and to them were born thirteen children.

Amos Gould, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in New Hampshire in 1700, and there he married Miss Nancy Harris Bartlett, a native of Canaan, that state, and a descendant of one of the early Massachusetts colonists. Her father, Nathaniel Bartlett, fought seven years for American independence as a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Amos Gould, Jr., came west in 1856, and settled in Moline, Rock Island county, Illinois. His death occurred in Moline, in 1864, and his wife, who was a devoted Christian, died in 1884, at the age of eighty-eight years. Unto them were born nine children, six sons and three daughters, namely: John M., a resident of Moline; Amos, Lyfe Y., Nathaniel B. and Mrs. Nancy J. Dean, who are all living in Cambridge; Daniel W., who makes his home in Moline; George D., who was born March

26, 1835, died in 1882; Susannah, widow of B. H. Burrows and a resident of Andover township, Henry county; and Lora H., who was born October 5, 1838, married J. H. Dean, and died in 1865.

The early life of Nathaniel B. Gould was spent on a farm in his native state, and his education was acquired in its common schools. Coming west in April, 1851, he located in Moline, Illinois, and from 1852 until 1856 was employed as a traveling salesman by John Deere. In the latter year he came to Cambridge, where he conducted a hotel and livery stable in partnership with his brother Amos until 1861, when he moved to a farm, and for three years successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has, however, been interested in farming since that time, but not as a resident farmer. Returning to Cambridge, he and his brother Amos, under the firm name of A. & N. B. Gould, laid out the Gould addition to that village. He has since been interested in various business enterprises, and on the 1st of July, 1881, assisted in organizing the First National Bank, of which he has since been president. The bank was organized with a paid-up capital of fifty thousand dollars and has a surplus of twenty thousand dollars. The safe, conservative policy which he inaugurated commends itself to the judgment of all.

On the 24th of November, 1859, Mr. Gould was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Jennings, who was born in Elmwood, Peoria county, Illinois, and completed her education at Lombard College, Galesburg. Her parents were Levi and Susan H. (Shepherd) Jennings, of Cambridge township, this county, where the father was extensively and successfully engaged in stock raising, his specialty being sheep. He died

December 29, 1859, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife departed this life at Cambridge February 4, 1888, at the age of seventy-five. Levi Jennings was born in Salem, Ohio, of Quaker stock, March 10, 1795, and there lived until about thirty years of age, when he married Miss Susan H. Shepherd, who was born August 20, 1813, the day her father, John Shepherd, returned from the war of 1812. In 1835 Levi Jennings removed with his family to Peoria county, Illinois, having previously visited the country and purchasing a large tract of land. His land purchases were quite extensive in Peoria, Knox and Henry counties, Illinois, and prior to his death had accumulated a handsome fortune. In 1849 he located in Cambridge township, where he built one of the first really good houses in the township, which is yet standing. The children of Levi and Susan H. Jennings were: Ann, wife of James Bush, a farmer of Adair county, Iowa; Mary J., wife of our subject; and John L. To Mr. and Mrs. Gould were born two daughters: Nellie L. and Katie M. The latter is now the wife of W. F. Hays, of Seattle, Washington, by whom she has one child, Catherine Gould Hays. Nellie L., born October 20, 1863, died February 23, 1879, and her death was a heavy blow, not only to her family, but to a large circle of friends. She was a most amiable young lady, of more than ordinary promise, and a bright scholar who was preparing to enter Vassar College.

Politically Mr. Gould has been an ardent Republican since the formation of that party. He has always taken an active interest in the affairs of town and county, and has been honored with several important official positions. He was chairman of the building committee which had charge of the construc-



tion of the court house, completed in 1880, at a cost of seventy-five thousand dollars, every cent of which had been paid at that time. It is an excellent and substantial fire-proof building, and stands as a monument to those who had it in charge. Mr. Gould has been an important factor in educational affairs; was a member of the school board for the long period of seventeen years, and it is safe to say that no man in Cambridge has devoted more time to educational and other matters of general benefit, he being one of the most progressive and public spirited men of Henry county. He served as supervisor of Cambridge township for twenty-six years, and has been quite an active member of the agricultural board. In 1895 he was elected president of the village board which position he still holds. He was president of the board and chairman of the committee at the time the water works were put in, in 1896. The financial trouble then prevailing prevented the village from selling its bonds, and it was only by Mr. Gould's public spirit in giving the village the benefit of his credit that the water works were completed that season. Mr. Gould organized the Armory Hall Company, and has since been its president. It built the large building known as the armory hall, which is occupied by the bank and a general store on the ground floor, the hall above being 50x90. In the erection of store buildings Mr. Gould has done much for the village. He and his brother Ames built and are the present owners of the Gould block, and he has assisted many others to build.

As a citizen Mr. Gould has always been ready to discharge any duty devolving upon him, and the best years of his life have been given to the building up and advancement of his adopted village and county. Few men

are better known throughout this section of the state than N. B. Gould, who is honored for his sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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### J. R. GAMBLE.

Among the highly respected and substantial citizens of Kewanee is numbered J. R. Gamble, whose home is at No. 101 North Burr street. He is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Philadelphia, September 23, 1832. His parents, George N. and Susanah G. (Guthridge) Gamble, were born, reared and married in England, where the father was engaged in the grocery business until his emigration to America in 1831. After nine months spent in this country he returned to his native land, but at the end of another nine months he again crossed the ocean and located permanently in Philadelphia, where he was engaged in the manufacture of morocco. There he died at the age of forty-five years, and his wife who was a faithful member of the Episcopal Church, died in the same city at the age of seventy-six. In their family were thirteen children, of whom our subject was the sixth in order of birth. His sister and brother, Susanah and Frank B., are still residents of Philadelphia.

In that city J. R. Gamble was reared and educated, and on starting out in life for himself worked in a ship chandler's or naval supply store for two years. Subsequently he served a four years' apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, and having thoroughly mastered the business, he came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1855 and located in Kewanee, making his home ever since on the corner where he now resides. On locating

here the village contained a population of not more than one thousand, and with its growth and progress he has since been prominently identified. As a carpenter and contractor he has done an extensive business and has erected many buildings in the town and surrounding country, including the factory buildings of the firm of Pierce & Haxtum.

Mr. Gamble was married in Philadelphia, October 30, 1855, to Miss Maria P. Woolley, also a native of that city and a daughter of William H. and Eliza Woolley, who were born in Pennsylvania and are now deceased. In their family were ten children, namely: William, a resident of Philadelphia; Anna, who became the wife of Charles Corkhill and died at the age of sixty-one years; Maria P., wife of our subject; Jane, wife of John Kliss, of Philadelphia; Harriet, wife of Mr. Redford, of Oregon; Susan, who died young; Ruth, wife of Dickinson Woodruff, of Trenton, New Jersey; and Lydia, who married E. L. Miner and died at the age of forty-five years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gamble have been born the following children: Florence N., wife of Charles Payne, of Kewanee; Kate B., who is the widow of A. O. Warner and has one child, Louise W.; George H., pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who married Margaret Hawthorne and has four children, George, William, Ross and Paul; Joseph N., a resident of Kewanee, who married Fanny Tunnicliff and has four children, Ruth, Margerie, Don and Catherine; Susanah, wife of Rev. Ellis M. Jones, a Baptist minister of Nebraska City, Nebraska, by whom she has two children, Miriam and Esther; Fred B., a resident of Kewanee,

who married Eleanor Cramb and has two children, Frederick and Florence; and Ross W. and Louise M., both at home. The parents are active and consistent members of the Baptist Church, and in politics Mr. Gamble is a Republican. He is widely and favorably known, and has many warm friends in the community where he has so long made his home.

---

### JOHN H. SMITH.

John H. Smith, deceased, was one of the highly respected and honored citizens of Henry county, Illinois, where he followed the occupation of farming for some years, but had laid aside business cares and was living a retired life at the time of his death. He was born in Prussia, Germany, November 17, 1818, and was seventeen years of age when he bade good-by to friends and native land and came to the United States, landing in New York. He first located near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and was engaged in teaming between that city and Cumberland for some years.

In Somerset county, Pennsylvania, Mr. Smith married Miss Ann Messe, a native of that county, and a daughter of Christian and Ann (Feidler) Messe, also natives of the Keystone state. Throughout life the father followed the miller's trade and died at his home in Somerset county, at the age of sixty years, his wife surviving him four years. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Smith, of whom one son and three daughters are still living, namely: Elizabeth is the wife of Aaron Ott, a druggist of Marion, Kansas, and they have four children, Vida, Mamie, Milford and Roy. Mary E. is the wife of Dr. J. W. J. Kerr.

of Corsicana, Texas. Nancy, now a resident of Geneseo, is the widow of Peter Drumm, who was engaged in farming in Geneseo township, and they have had three children: Vena and Jessie, both living, and Howard, deceased. John, a prominent farmer, who is now operating the old home place, married Mollie, daughter of Henry Goembel, of Geneseo, and they have one child, Neva.

On leaving Pennsylvania, in 1851, Mr. Smith came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased a farm in Edford township, on which he lived for some years, but about 1860 removed to Geneseo township, locating just north of the city, where he engaged in general farming and stock raising until 1891. That year he purchased a home on North State street, Geneseo, where he lived retired until called from this life on the 11th of April, 1900, at the age of seventy-nine years, his remains being interred in Oakwood cemetery, Geneseo. He was always a public-spirited man, advocating all measures that tended to improve the welfare of the community in which he lived, and he was therefore recognized as one of its most useful and valued citizens. He was a faithful member of the Evangelical Church and a constant attendant upon its services. In his home he was a most exemplary husband and father, and in both business and private life made many friends and no enemies. His death was deeply mourned in the community where so large a part of his life was spent.

---

#### HENRY GOEMBEL.

Henry Goembel, deceased, was for over a third of a century an honored resident of Henry county. He was ever faithful to his

duties of citizenship, and by the successful conduct of his business interests not only promoted his individual success but also advanced the general prosperity. In his life span of seventy-eight years he accomplished much, and left behind an honorable record well worthy of perpetuation.

Mr. Goembel was born in the village of Norderaula, Hesse, Germany, June 14, 1822, on the river Fulda, a tributary to the Rhine, and was the oldest son of Sebastian and Anna Goembel, both of Hessian birth. His parental grandfather was one of the Hessian soldiers who were hired by the English government to aid the British in the American Revolution, being literally sold by the German ruler, as that nation holds the ownership of its subjects until a certain amount of military duty is performed. Under such circumstances he came to America, and was taken prisoner at New York by the Continental troops. After his release he became a loyal adherent of the colonial government, and engaged in clerking until peace was restored, when he returned to his native land. In 1834 his son, Sebastian, accompanied by his wife and eight children, came to the United States, taking passage at Bremen on the Ernest Gustav, a German sailing vessel, and landing in New Orleans after a long and tedious voyage of sixty-nine days. After two weeks spent in the Crescent City they proceeded to St. Louis, and from there went to Havana, Illinois, where they remained one month. At the end of that time they went to Peoria, then known as Fort Clark. They finally located on Farm creek, in Tazewell county, where the father of our subject purchased a claim when the land came into market. At that time a log house constituted the only improvement on the

place, but it was not many years before the land was under excellent cultivation and adorned with good and substantial buildings, it being the home of the family for several years. The parents spent their last days in Washington, Tazewell county.

Henry Goemmel was only twelve years of age on the emigration of the family to the new world, and in Tazewell county, Illinois, he grew to manhood, remaining under the parental roof until 1849, when he purchased a tract of timber land a mile and a half from the old homestead and built thereon a frame house. Being a natural mechanic and familiar with the use of tools, he did most of the work on this building himself. He resided there until 1864, and in the meantime placed about half of the two hundred acres under cultivation. In October of that year he came to Henry county and purchased a partially improved farm of two hundred acres in Alba township, to the further development and cultivation of which he devoted his time and attention for some years. He prospered in his new home and became the owner of seven hundred acres of very valuable and productive land. He also had two good farms in Phenix township, and forty acres near Geneseo, to which city he and his family removed in 1872. There he practically led a retired life, having acquired a handsome competence which enabled him to lay aside all active labor and spend his last years in ease and quiet, surrounded by all the comforts of life.

In 1849 Mr. Goemmel married Miss Catherine Fey, also a native of the province of Hesse, Germany, and a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Fey, who brought their family to America when she was about twenty years of age and settled near

Peoria, where they resided and then moved to Chatsworth, Livingston county, Illinois, but both died when well advanced in life in Hooppole, Illinois. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Goemmel were born eight children, four sons and four daughters, namely: (1) Zachariah T. was for some years engaged in farming in Phenix township, this county, but in the spring of 1900 moved to Prophets-town, Whiteside county, where he now follows the same pursuit. He married Mrs. Annie Rock, and they have three children, William, Herbert and Alice. (2) Charles C., a farmer of Hooppole, Henry county, married Lizzie Greenwood and they had eight children, Maude, Musy, Millie, Carl, Cassie, Bessie, Pearl and an infant son. (3) Anna is the wife of Joseph Greenwood, a farmer of Hooppole, and they have nine children, Charles, John, Mattie, Henry, Joseph, Forrest, Aaron, Zachariah and Katie. (4) Elizabeth is the wife of Lawrence Seyler, a real estate dealer of Arkansas, and they have six children, Vida, Roy, Mollie, Charles, Ethel and Manley. (5) John H., a retired citizen of Geneseo, married Hattie Hines. (6) Mollie is the wife of John Smith, a farmer of Geneseo township, and they have one child, Neva. (7) Henry, who is engaged in farming on the old homestead in Geneseo township, married Julia Bubeck, and they have two children, Flora and Lucille. (8) Katie is the wife of Theodore Becker, a prominent dry goods and hardware merchant of Geneseo, whose pleasant residence is just north of Mrs. Goemmel's home on North State street, and they have three children, Leslie Goemmel, Hobart Theodore and Marguerite Mildred.

Mr. Goemmel died at his home in Geneseo, May 8, 1900. He was highly honored for his Christian and benevolent

character and was greatly respected by his fellow citizens. Those who knew him best were numbered among his warmest friends, and in his death the community realized that it had lost one of its best citizens. He was devoted to his family and in every respect was a true gentleman.

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#### CHARLES E. STURTZ.

Charles E. Sturtz, a leading and prominent attorney of Kewanee, Illinois, was born on the 9th of November, 1864, in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, not far from Cumberland, Maryland, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (Kennell) Sturtz, also natives of that county and representatives of old Pennsylvania families. In 1869 the parents, accompanied by their children, removed to Illinois, locating near Sterling, Whiteside county, where they have since made their home, the father being engaged in farming. He was born July 6, 1839, and still enjoys good health. In his native state he followed the occupation of school teaching, and when the Civil war broke out he enlisted as a private in Company H, of a regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, but was later promoted to the rank of orderly sergeant. His wife is of English descent and her ancestors were among the early settlers of Pennsylvania and Maryland. In their family were nine children, all of whom are still living, namely: O. L., a photographer of South Bend, Indiana; Charles E., our subject; Alice, wife of H. T. Bowman, of Dixon, Illinois; William S., a resident of Sterling; Mattie, wife of Arthur Emmett, of Rock Falls, Illinois; Grant, a dentist of Marietta, Mississippi; Lewis J., a photographer of Green Bay,

Michigan; Herman, a dentist of Marietta, Mississippi; and Cora E., wife of Clarence Ward, of Rock Falls, Illinois.

Mr. Sturtz, whose name introduces this review, received his preliminary education in the common schools of Whiteside county, and later attended Dixon College, after which he engaged in teaching school in Whiteside county for four years, in the meanwhile devoting his spare time and vacations to the study of law under the direction of Attorneys Mannahan and Ward, of Sterling. He also took his Blackstone with him on expeditions of pedagogy. In the fall of 1887 he entered Knox College, Galesburg, where he was graduated in 1891, receiving the degree of bachelor of science. All this time he was pursuing his law studies during vacations, and after leaving Knox College, he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he received the degree of bachelor of laws in 1892, being admitted to the bar the same year. He spent one year in the law office of Otis & Graves at Chicago, and in 1893 came to Kewanee, where he has succeeded in building up an extensive and lucrative practice. He has a well equipped modern law office on the corner of Tremont and Third streets.

On the 16th of September, 1892, Mr. Sturtz was united in marriage with Miss Allie C. Price, of Neponset, Illinois, a daughter of Joseph Price, who now resides in Kewanee. By this union has been born a daughter, Zola May, now six years of age. Fraternally Mr. Sturtz is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and politically is identified with the Republican party. In 1894, 1895 and 1896 he was elected city attorney for terms of one year each, and in 1899 was re-elected for a term of two years, be-

ing the present incumbent in that office. He is also serving as secretary of the board of education, to which position he was elected in 1899 for a term of three years, and is a member of the committee on teachers and text books. Socially he is deservedly popular, as he is affable and courteous in manner and possesses that essential qualification to success in public life, that of making friends readily and of strengthening the ties of all friendships as time advances.

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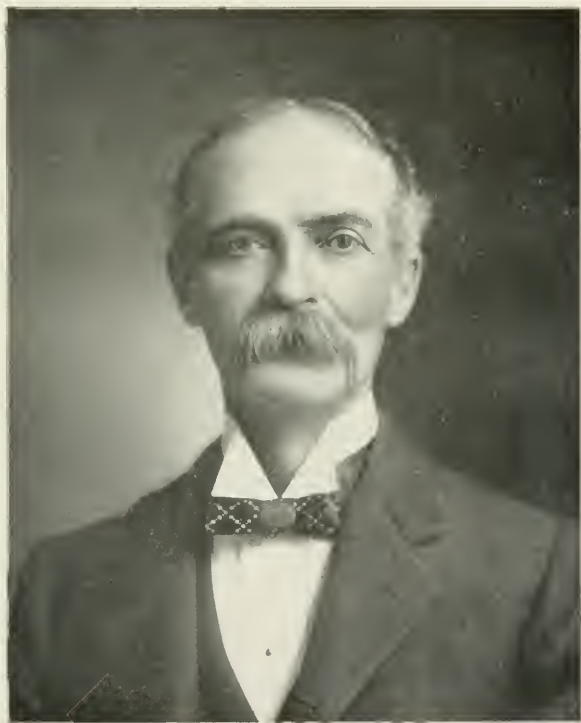
### JAMES K. BLISH.

As president of the First National Bank of Kewanee and one of the leading attorneys of this section of the state, Jas. K. Blish is widely known and universally respected. A native of Henry county, he was born on the 2nd day of May, 1843, within a mile of where the bank now stands, and is a representative of one of its oldest and most prominent families. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to Abraham Blish, who emigrated from England, and located at Duxbury, north of Plymouth, Massachusetts, about 1637, where he engaged in farming for a time, but in 1642 removed to Barnstable, the same state, there spending the remainder of his life. His son Joseph, from whom our subject is descended, was a life-long resident of Barnstable and a farmer by occupation. In the latter's family was Tristram Blish, who was born in Barnstable, and married Annie Fuller, a great-granddaughter of Edward Fuller, who came to this country in the Mayflower. In 1725 they removed to Colchester, Connecticut, where their last days were spent upon a farm. Of their seven children, David, the

fifth in order of birth, was born in Colchester and married Zeruiah Skinner. He engaged in agricultural pursuits, and during the Revolutionary war served as sergeant in a company from Connecticut. He died in the town of Marlboro, which was formed from a part of Colchester, Glastonbury and Hebron. His son, Thomas Blish, was born in Glastonbury, and for many years served as deacon in the old New England church at that place. He married Prudence Hubbard, and to them were born four children.

Of this family Colonel Sylvester Blish, the grandfather of our subject, was third in order of birth. He was born and reared in Glastonbury, Hartford county, Connecticut, and in early life engaged in farming and trading there. In company with Rev. Ithamar Pillsbury and Elizur Goodrich, he was appointed a commissioner in 1836 by the Connecticut Association organized in Wethersfield, and sent to Illinois to select land for a colony. Coming to Henry county, they purchased fifteen thousand acres of land in what is now Wethersfield and Kewanee townships, after spending about three months in carefully inspecting this locality, and they displayed remarkable foresight in their selection. At the end of that time they returned to Connecticut, but in the spring of 1837 Mr. Blish again came to Illinois, driving through the states of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, the journey consuming six weeks. On reaching his destination he erected a log cabin upon his land, about fifteen by twenty feet, with a loft overhead, which was his home for many years, but has since been torn down. He was one of the largest land owners in this section in early days, and engaged in farming in connection with his land ventures. He had served as colonel in the state militia of Connecticut for many years, and





JAMES K. BLISH.

LEGADY  
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URBANA



always bore that title. Two years after locating in Wethersfield he opened an inn, which he conducted for a quarter of a century, it being the stopping place of all the stage lines passing through this locality. Mr. Blish was the first postmaster of Wethersfield, and one of the first county commissioners, and took a very active part in organizing the county and in all public matters. He died in 1855, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Rhoda Cheney, passed away in 1878. In their family were five children, namely: William Henry, who died in Wethersfield in 1897, at the age of eighty-three years, leaving eight children; Thomas, who died in Galena, leaving two children who are still living there; Charles Cheney, father of our subject; Prudence Hubbard, who married Hon. James Knox, a member of congress, and both are now deceased; and George Cheney, who died in Chicago, leaving seven children, who still reside there.

Charles C. Blish, father of our subject, was born in Glastonbury, Connecticut, in May, 1820, and was educated in that state, graduating from the Middletown Academy. At the age of seventeen he came with his parents to Illinois, and took up surveying, which he followed for twenty years, serving as county surveyor for many terms. At the age of twenty he was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth P. Bonar, a native of Knox county, Ohio, and fifth in order of birth in a family of eleven children, nine sons and two daughters. Her father, Mathew Bonar, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and in 1839 came with his family to Illinois, locating on Walnut creek, in Knox county, where he purchased a partially improved farm and lived for a number of years. When he discontinued surveying, Charles C. Blish turned his attention to farming and stock

raising, which he successfully followed until his death, which occurred December 15, 1890. His wife died June 13, 1900. To them were born six children, but only two reached years of maturity, these being J. K., our subject; and Mathew Bonar, who is a resident of Kewanee, though engaged in farming in Wethersfield township. He married Matha F. Morrill, and they have three children.

The primary education of J. K. Blish was obtained in the Union school of Wethersfield and Kewanee. He was next a student in the preparatory school at Ann Arbor, and in 1862 entered the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in 1866, with the degree of A. B., after pursuing the regular collegiate course. Returning to his home in this county, he engaged in farming in Wethersfield township for three years, and then went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where the following two years were spent as a member of the firm of Kiter, Bonar & Blish, manufacturers of blank books. On selling out his interest there he went to Chicago, where, in the employ of J. W. Middletown, he engaged in the same business until the big fire of 1871, and then returned to Kewanee and entered the law office of Howe & North as a student. He took the required examination before the supreme court at Springfield and was admitted to the bar in 1873, since which time he has successfully engaged in the general practice of law at Kewanee. He was alone until 1889, when he formed his present partnership with William Lawson. This is one of the leading law firms of western Illinois, and they enjoy a large and lucrative practice. On the organization of the First National Bank of Kewanee, in 1870, Mr. Blish's father became president, and filled the office for about twenty years.

In 1886 our subject was elected a director, and since 1894 has served as its president. He is not only a lawyer of ability and prominence, but is also a capable business man, and the business of the bank has steadily increased under his able management.

On Christmas day, 1869, Mr. Blish was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. McManus, a native of New York state, who died in 1881, her remains being interred in Kewanee cemetery. By that union were born two children: James Louis, now a dentist of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, who married Martha B. Aldrich and has two children, Mary Eleanor and Zirian Aldrich; and Bertha, at home with her father. Mr. Blish was again married, October 5, 1886, his second union being with Miss Amy Mason Rhodes, a native of Providence, Rhode Island, and a daughter of Albert Rhodes, deceased, who was for many years a resident of Buda, Illinois. To them have been born three children: Elizabeth, Mathew Rhodes and Asa Rhodes, all attending the Kewanee schools. Mrs. Blish is a lady of culture and refinement, a leader in charitable work, and is a member of the Unitarian Church.

In politics Mr. Blish is a Democrat, but not an advocate of free silver. For several terms he was an active and influential member of the city council; was a member of the school board eighteen years and secretary of the same for some time; and was county supervisor four years, during which time the new court house was built, and he served on the building committee. For twelve years he was also one of the directors of the Kewanee public library, and for thirteen years was president of the Kewanee Fair Association, of which he was one of the organizers. In the organization of the Kewanee Building and Loan Association he took the leading

part, and was its first secretary, a position he still holds. This has been a very successful enterprise and of great benefit to the city. Through its aid many workingmen have secured good homes. He assisted in organizing the Kewanee Electric Light Company, since merged into the Kewanee Light & Power Company, and has been prominently identified with a number of business enterprises that have promoted the welfare of the city in no uncertain manner. He has been a delegate to nearly all the state conventions of his party, and in 1888 was one of the presidential electors. He is now serving as president of the Old Settlers Association, which office he has filled for several terms. As a citizen he meets every requirement and manifests a commendable interest in everything that is calculated to promote the city's welfare in any line. In manner he is pleasant, genial and approachable, and all who know him esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

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#### A. J. ANDERSON.

A. J. Anderson, who is now successfully engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business in Kewanee, Illinois, was born in Sweden and came to this country with his father during infancy. His early education was acquired in the schools of Kewanee, and on leaving the high school at the age of sixteen years he entered the employ of the Haxtun Steam Heating Company, now the Western Tube Company, as an apprentice. Here he learned the boiler maker's trade, remaining with the company four years. He then went to San Francisco, California, where he served as inspector of the city water works one season, and at the

end of that time entered the mechanical department of Lincoln School of that city, where he pursued a mechanical course. Later he took a trip through the western states, and before returning home he also visited the east.

Since then Mr. Anderson has resided uninterruptedly in Kewanee, and has been engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. In June, 1892, he formed a partnership with W. H. Remick, under the firm name of Remick & Anderson, and this connection continued until March, 1900, since which time Mr. Anderson has been alone in business. He represents many of the best and most reliable insurance companies of the world, including the Liverpool, London & Globe, of Liverpool, England; the Springfield Fire & Marine, of Springfield, Massachusetts; the German American, of New York; Magdeburg, of Germany; the Phoenix, of Brooklyn; the Phoenix, of Hartford; the Imperial, of London; the Home, of New York; the Aetna, of Hartford; the Fire Association, of Philadelphia; the Hartford, of Hartford; the American Central, of St. Louis; the National, of Hartford; and the Fireman's Fund.

On the 14th of November, 1899, Mr. Anderson married Miss Lucy Robison, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas Robison, now deceased, who was one of the early settlers of this county and an honored resident of Kewanee. Fraternally Mr. Anderson is a member of Kewanee Lodge, No. 159, A. F. & A. M.; Kewanee Lodge, No. 466, K. P., in which he has filled all the offices and is now past chancellor; and Nabuthæan Temple, No. 5, Knights of Khorassan, of Galesburg. As a Republican Mr. Anderson takes quite an active part in local politics and is now chairman

of the city central committee. He is a wide-awake, energetic young business man, and in all his undertakings has met with well-deserved success.

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#### AUGUST CHARLET.

For many years August Charlet was actively engaged in farming in Henry county, but is spending his declining days in ease and retired from labor in his pleasant home at No. 323 South Grove street, Kewanee. He is a native of Germany, born in Brandenburg, October 31, 1828, and is a son of Abraham and Dorothy (Schalipp) Charlet, natives of the same province. The father was a laboring man, who died in Germany at the age of fifty-two years. The mother afterward came with our subject to America, and passed away at his home in Burns township, Henry county, Illinois, at the ripe old age of seventy-eight years and two months. In their family were six children, namely: John, who was serving in the German army at the time of his death, which occurred when he was about twenty-four years of age; August, our subject; Dorothy, who became the wife of William Wert, and died in Kewanee township, this county; Julius, a farmer of Burns township; William, who died in Germany at the age of four years; and Louisa, widow of Oscar Fischer and a resident of Burns township, this county.

The early life of the subject of this sketch was spent in the fatherland, where he attended school, and after the completion of his education he worked at the weaver's trade for some time. In 1856 he sailed from Hamburg for New York on an old

English freight boat, which had been converted into a passenger ship. The voyage lasted eight weeks and three days, during which time they encountered some severe storms. On reaching New York Mr. Charlet came at once to Henry county, Illinois, and settled in Wethersfield township, where he at first worked by the day at any thing which he could find to do. Five years after his arrival he had saved enough from his wages to purchase eighty acres of unimproved land in Burns township. The land was fenced but there were no buildings upon it, and to its improvement and cultivation he at once turned his attention. Later he added to it a tract of one hundred and twenty acres and subsequently bought one hundred and sixty acres in Cornwall township. He was successfully engaged in general farming until February, 1888, when he removed to Kewanee and purchased the lot where he now resides. Tearing down the old house which stood thereon he erected his present comfortable residence. He has since sold his farms to his sons and has laid aside the cares and responsibilities of business life.

On the 23d of September, 1859, Mr. Charlet was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary (Leonard) Couve, also a native of Iren, namely: William, a farmer of Anna-Couve, who died in 1858, leaving four children. She was first the wife of William Charles Leonard, who never came to this Brandenburg, Germany, and a daughter of van township; Fred, a farmer of Cornwall township; Louisa, wife of Ernest Spiegel, of Cornwall township, and Mary, wife of Gus Schroeder, of Burns township. By her marriage to our subject Mrs. Charlet has become the mother of two children: August, a farmer of Cornwall town-

ship, married Sophia Kollman and they have three children, William, Clare and Louis; and Minnie is the wife of Charles Klein, who is with the Western Tube Company of Kewanee. Mrs. Charlet was born October 29, 1829, and came to the United States on the same vessel with her husband.

By his ballot Mr. Charlet supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and has always taken an active interest in educational affairs, serving as school director for three years, but he has never cared for political office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is a member of the German Evangelical Church of Kewanee, and was a trustee of the same for twelve years. Coming to this country empty-handed, but with a strong determination to succeed he has steadily and persistently worked his way upward until he acquired a comfortable competence, which now enables him to spend the remainder of his life in ease and quiet, surrounded by all that makes life worth the living.

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#### THOMAS BENNISON.

Thomas Bennison, who is now living a retired life at his pleasant home at No. 600 East First street, Kewanee, Illinois, was born in Hurst, England, April 28, 1837, a son of Samuel and Mary Bennison, who are represented on another page of this volume in connection with the sketch of their son, Samuel. In 1845 our subject accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world, and was reared and educated in Pennsylvania. From that state the family removed to Shullsburg, Wisconsin, and in 1864 came to Henry county, Illinois.

When his school days were over Mr. Bennison worked in the lead mines of Wisconsin, and after coming to Kewanee embarked in mercantile business in company with others. Later he was alone in business, and with the development of the city his trade constantly increased, successfully following that pursuit from 1865 until June, 1897, when he retired from active life to enjoy the competence he had acquired through years of industry, perseverance and good management. As a business man he was always energetic, prompt and notably reliable, and his success has been worthily achieved. He has erected three large store buildings on Tremont street, Kewanee, and has built a number of private residences in that city, and he and his son-in-law put up a large brick block in Cozad, Nebraska. He is also a stockholder in a bank in that city, and for a number of years was one of the directors of the First National Bank of Kewanee, of which he was one of the charter members.

In 1862 Mr. Bennison married Miss Ann Walton, a native of Shullsburg, Wisconsin, and a daughter of John and Mary Walton, who were born in England, and died in Kewanee, Illinois, the former, July 30, 1887, aged seventy-eight years, the latter January 29, 1885, aged seventy-six. They were both members of the Primitive Methodist Church. By occupation Mr. Walton was a miner and followed that pursuit very successfully in the gold fields of California for two years, and after his return east worked in the mines here for a short time, and then lived retired throughout the remainder of his life. Of his seven children Thomas died in 1853, at the age of twenty-one years. Sarah became the wife of William Bennison, now deceased, and she died

in 1893, at the age of fifty-eight. Leonard is engaged in mining in Colorado. Mary is the wife of Bennett Osborne, of Kewanee. Ann was the wife of our subject. Robert is a veteran of the Civil war and a retired farmer of Iowa. Hercules R. was married February 22, 1880, to Alpha Johns, and died in Kewanee, in July, 1899, aged fifty-five years. Of his two children, Joseph C. and Mae B. are still living, while Philip died at the age of nine years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bennison were born four children: Mary A., now the wife of M. H. Brown, of Nebraska, by whom she had two children, Azal and Ruth; Stella E., wife of Robert Davis, of Nebraska, by whom she has one child, Paul; Lewis J., who died May 6, 1888, at the age of sixteen years; and Nettie O., wife of Arthur Wake, of South Omaha, Nebraska. The wife and mother, who was a consistent and faithful member of the Primitive Methodist Church, was born in 1844, and departed this life July 13, 1899. Mr. Bennison was again married November 14, 1900, his second union being with Miss Alice Jones, of Kewanee, who was born in Pennsylvania June 6, 1851, and came with her parents, Moses and Catherine (Taylor) Jones, to Kewanee in 1863.

Mr. Bennison is also a member and trustee of the Primitive Methodist Church of Kewanee, and is a staunch supporter of the Republican party. On the temperance ticket he was once elected trustee of the city, but has never cared for official honors. As a public-spirited citizen, however, he has been actively identified with the improvement of Kewanee, and has done all within his power to advance its interests along various lines. On locating here he and the other members of the Bennison family took

up their residence on what became known as Bennison row, but within the past few years the name has been changed to Cambridge street. The family is one of prominence in the community, and its members stand deservedly high in the esteem of their fellow citizens.

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### JOHN CHISNALL.

Since November, 1867, this gentleman has been an honored resident of Kewanee, and is to-day serving as special tax collector for the city. He was born in Lancastershire, England, January 27, 1833, and is a son of William and Alice Chisnall, who were lifelong residents of that country. The father died when a young man, but the mother long survived him, passing away in 1876, at the age of sixty-four years.

John Chisnall, the only child of this worthy couple, was educated in the common schools of England, and when a lad of eleven years was apprenticed to the wheelwright's trade, which he learned thoroughly. He came to this country as a Mormon emigrant in 1831, prior to the insurrection of Brigham Young against the government, and first located in Utah, where he remained until 1858, during the uprising. The following two years were spent in Omaha, Nebraska, which city at that time had no telegraph or railroad lines and gave little promise of its present thriving condition. During all this time Mr. Chisnall worked at his trade. In 1860 he went to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he made his home until coming to Kewanee in 1867. During the winter of 1866-67 he spent four months in visiting his native land. Upon his return he located in Kewanee, where he worked at wagonmaking principally un-

til 1888. Being economical and industrious he managed to save something from his wages, and this capital he invested in a lot in the heart of the city, upon which he erected a pressed brick double store building, which on account of its location is very valuable property. This he now rents to a good advantage.

In 1857 Mr. Chisnall was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Sandiford, who was also a native of Lancastershire, England, and came to the United States on the same vessel with our subject in June, 1831. Both are active members of the Latter Day Saints' Church, and during his residence in Kewanee Mr. Chisnall has served as pastor of the church of that denomination at this place. The congregation now numbers about one hundred families, and they have erected a good modern church edifice. Fraternally Mr. Chisnall is a member of the Knights of Honor, No. 1173, of Kewanee, and the blue lodge of the Masonic order at this place and the chapter and commandery at Princeton. He affiliates with the Republican party but has never taken an active part in politics. From 1892 until 1898 he was with the Kewanee Coal Company, and the following year was appointed by the mayor as collector of special taxes, water rents, etc., which position he is now most creditably filling. He has also served as health officer and justice of the peace since 1893. He has led an upright, honorable and useful life, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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### MOSES W. RESSER.

For over half a century Moses W. Resser has made his home in Henry county, and since attaining to man's estate has been



actively identified with its business interests. He is now following farming on section 5, Geneseo township. He was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, on the 27th of October, 1847, and was only three years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Moses and Hannah (Groom) Resser, also natives of the Keystone state. The family settled in Phenix township, where the father purchased a farm of two hundred acres. To his landed possessions he added from time to time until he had seven hundred acres in Phenix and Geneseo townships. He died in the city of Geneseo at the age of eighty-two years, and his wife passed away at the age of sixty-five. In the family of this worthy couple were eight children, of whom Moses W. is the fifth in order of birth, and six of the number are still living.

Our subject remained on the home farm in Phenix township, giving his father the benefit of his labor until the Civil broke out, when he ran away from home, and at Leavenworth, Kansas, enlisted in Company I, Eighth Kansas Volunteer Infantry. He took part in many of the principal battles of the war and remained in the service until hostilities ceased, being honorably discharged at San Antonio, Texas. He then returned to his home in Illinois and went upon the Mississippi river, leading the life of a sailor for ten years. When he retired from the service he held a certificate as first-class pilot from the government. During the following six years he was engaged in the hotel business in Geneseo, conducting what was known as the Singleman House.

In the meantime Mr. Resser was married at that place, in 1879, to Miss Mary A. Bookmiller, a native of Phenix township,

this county, where her father, John D. Bookmiller, now deceased, was engaged in farming. By this union were born five children, all of whom are still living, namely: Edith F., who is now the wife of Henry C. Kirchner, a farmer of Greene county, Iowa, and has one child, Flossie A.; Moses D., aged seventeen; Otis A. and Flora F., twins, aged twelve years; and Earl E., aged eight, all at home.

Mr. Resser is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres on section 5, Geneseo township, which formerly belonged to his father's estate, it being purchased by our subject from the other heirs. When it came into his possession it was all wild and unbroken, and all of the improvements now found thereon have been made by him. He is accounted one of the most thorough and skillful farmers of his community, and in his undertakings is meeting with well-deserved success. In the development of his farm he has materially advanced the interests of the county, and has ever borne his part in promoting those enterprises for the public good. He is a recognized leader in public affairs, and has creditably filled nearly all the township offices, including that of supervisor.

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#### CASPER SAND.

Among the prominent retired farmers of Geneseo, Illinois, and honored veterans of the Civil war, is Casper Sand, who was born on the 7th of August, 1844, in Germany, of which country his parents, Henry and Anna Catherine (Weaver) Sand, were also natives. The father served the usual length of time in the German army, and in his native land followed both farming and the mason's trade. In the fall of 1849 he

brought his family to the United States, being several weeks in crossing the ocean. From New York they proceeded to Chicago by water, and in the latter city Henry Sand was offered a good position, but having decided to join his brothers, Louis and Philip, in Henry county, he continued his journey by team, arriving here in the same fall. He purchased a soldier's claim of forty acres in Loraine township, to which he subsequently added until at the time of his death he had one hundred and seventy acres of highly cultivated and productive land. He died in 1888, at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife departed this life in 1879, at the age of seventy-three. Both were members of the Evangelical Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them. They were married in 1838, and became the parents of four children, namely: Casper, our subject; Mary, widow of Frederick Jaquet, a resident of Loraine township; Emeline, wife of Henry Jaquet, a farmer of Bureau county, Illinois; and Margaret, who died at the age of nineteen years.

Casper Sand attended school one summer in Germany before coming to the new world, and was a student in the public schools of this county for a time, but as a boy he worked hard upon the home farm and had little opportunity to obtain an education. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services during the Rebellion, he enlisted in the fall of 1864, in Company H, Thirty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Peoria, and went into camp at Springfield. Later the regiment joined Sherman's army in Georgia and went on the march to the sea. Mr. Sand was in the engagement at Savannah, where he was under constant fire for about a week, at the end of which

time the Confederates retreated, giving General Sherman the grand opportunity of capturing that city just in time to present it to President Lincoln as a Christmas gift, in 1864. The day that our subject participated in the grand review at Washington, D. C., was one of the proudest of his life, knowing that he had aided in the preservation of the Union. He was mustered out at Springfield in June, 1865. He was wounded, but never taken prisoner, and stood the service fairly well. At the close of the war he resumed farm work and continued to follow that occupation until his retirement from active labor in 1896. He is still the owner of a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which is well improved in the way of buildings and fences, and is under a high state of cultivation.

In 1875 Mr. Sand wedded Miss Mary Groshaus, also a native of Germany, who died in 1868. During the funeral services at the church, word came of the death of Mr. Sand's father, and her remains were taken back home, so that both might be buried together. Our subject was again married, August 7, 1886, his second union being with Miss Charlotte Sommers, who was born in this state, a daughter of George and Catherine Sommers. Her father, a native of Germany, came to America at a very early day and settled in Henry county, Illinois, becoming one of its pioneers as well as one of its highly respected citizens. The year of his arrival here was 1833. He owned and operated a well improved farm of three hundred and seventy acres in Loraine township. His circle of friends and acquaintances throughout this section of the state was quite extensive. He died April 10, 1891, at the age of sixty-



eight years, two months and fourteen days, and his wife, who was born in Warren, Pennsylvania, June 18, 1835, died August 11, 1891, on the fortieth anniversary of their marriage. She was a good woman, gentle and loving, yet firm, and was a devout Christian from her youth, both she and her husband being members of the Evangelical Association. She had two brothers, Philip and Rev. Jacob Worth, who are still living, and also three sisters, Sophronia, Delia and Mary Ann (deceased). To Mr. and Mrs. Sommers were born nine children, namely: Philip E., a resident of this county; Henry G., of Chicago; Jacob C., a farmer of Kansas; Charlotte A., wife of our subject; Joseph W., a resident of Montana; Mary A., wife of Simon Jaquet, a farmer of this county; Katie E., an invalid; Delia, who died at the age of two years; and Frank W., a resident of Lorraine township. The children born to our subject and his wife are Perry A. E., Homer H. G. and Alice C. By a former marriage Mrs. Sand has one child, Edna E.

In his political views Mr. Sand is an ardent Republican, and he filled the office of school director about five years. He is an honored member of Jenkins Post, No. 452, G. A. R., while his wife belongs to the Ladies' Circle of the G. A. R., and both hold membership in the Evangelical Church. They are widely and favorably known, and well merit the high regard in which they are held.

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### WILLIAM NELSON.

Geneseo township has no more progressive or enterprising citizen than this well-known agriculturist, who is the owner of

a valuable farm of two hundred and ninety-five acres on sections 13 and 24. He was born in Sweden, on the 2nd of January, 1847, a son of Nels and Stiena (Olson) Nelson, who were life-long residents of that country. The father followed the occupation of farming and also engaged in the manufacture of iron. He died in Sweden at the age of forty-four years, while the mother was seventy-four at the time of her death. They were the parents of eight children, but only three are now living. August, our subject's youngest brother, started for America some years after William came to this country, but died on the voyage and was buried at sea. None of the others crossed the Atlantic.

It was in 1869 that William Nelson emigrated to the United States and took up his residence in Wethersfield township, Henry county, Illinois, where he worked by the month at farm labor for five years, and then rented a farm in that township, which he operated for four years. At the end of that period he came to Geneseo township and purchased eighty acres of partially improved land on section 24, and erected thereon a large and modern residence. He tiled the place and has otherwise improved it until it is now one of the model farms of the community. To his original purchase he has added until he now has nearly three hundred acres all under excellent cultivation.

On the 22nd of November, 1873, Mr. Nelson was united in marriage with Miss Emma S. Peterson, also a native of Sweden, who came to this country in 1869, and joined her parents who were then living in Wisconsin, but are now deceased. By this union were born three children, namely: Mary D., born in Wethersfield township, November 13, 1875, was graduated from the Gene-

sen Collegiate Institute in 1893, and is now the wife of Alfred Peterson, a prominent farmer of Geneseo township, whose home is on section 24, just opposite the residence of her parents. Emma Sophia, born in Wethersfield township, January 13, 1880, was graduated from the Geneseo Collegiate Institute in 1896, and for four years has taught school in Geneseo township, giving the highest satisfaction. Henry William, born in Geneseo township, February 2, 1892, is now attending the home school.

Mr. Nelson gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for office. However, he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs, and gives his aid to all enterprises for the public good. He holds membership in the Swedish Lutheran Church of Geneseo, which his family also attend, and they are people of prominence in the community where they reside.

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### L. F. MATTESON.

Greater fortunes have been accumulated in Henry county but few lives furnish so striking an example of the wise application of sound principles and safe conservatism as does that of Mr. Matteson. The story of his success is short and simple, containing no exciting chapters, but in it lies one of the most valuable secrets of the prosperity which it records, and his business and private life are pregnant with interest and incentive, no matter how lacking in dramatic action.

Mr. Matteson was born in the northern part of Sweden, June 13, 1844, a son of Hans and Brita Matteson, who brought their fam-

ily to America in October, 1854, and settled in Copley township, Knox county, Illinois. Throughout the remainder of his life the father engaged in general farming in Knox and Henry counties, and died in Galva township, this county in 1866, at the age of fifty-five years. Subsequently his wife went to Nebraska to make her home with relatives and there died in 1890, aged seventy-six years. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom were born in Sweden, while one was born in this country, but died when quite small. Of the eight, Anna is the wife of Isaac Boostrom, a manufacturer of tile and brick in Polk county, Nebraska; L. F. is next in order of birth; Anson H. is a stock raiser and shipper, of Loomis, Phelps county, Nebraska; Carrie is the wife of Jonas W. Olson, of Galva, Illinois; Lizzie is the wife of Olof Erickson, of Stromsburg, Nebraska; Mary died in Cambridge township, this county; and August H. and Peter E., twins, are both deceased.

The subject of this sketch was principally educated in the schools of his native land, though he attended school for a time in this country after attaining his twentieth year. He grew to manhood upon the home farm and then removed from Knox to Henry county, locating on a farm in Galva township, where he spent two years. The following eight years were passed in Cambridge township, and while living there he was married in 1875 to Miss Lizzie M. Sanburg, who was also born in Sweden, December 9, 1855, and came to America with an uncle in 1870. Her father died in Sweden when she was an infant and the mother came to America in June, 1890, and resides in Galva township. By this union were born five children, of whom Jefferson W. died at

the age of twelve years. Those living are Franklin, who is now engaged in farming upon his father's land; Dulie N., a graduate of the Galva high school and now the wife of William Edward Hanson, who is clerking in her father's store; and May and Morris, who are both attending school.

Mr. Matteson owned a farm of eighty acres in Cambridge township, which he operated until 1878, when he removed to Galva, and practically lived retired for the following two years. In 1881 he purchased a meat market, which he conducted at intervals for about fourteen years, and still owns the building in which it was located, it being now occupied by John Lapan. On the 13th of March, 1899, he purchased his present drug store of Mrs. Hanson, and has since given his attention to that line of trade. He carries a well-selected stock of drugs, druggists' sundries, paints, oils, books and stationery, and is meeting with good success in this venture. During his residence in Galva he purchased a well-improved farm of one hundred and eighty acres, which has been operated by him for a number of years, and in connection with his farming operations he is now giving considerable attention to the stock business. He is a stockholder of the Galva State Bank, the Galva Telephone Company, and the Westrand Manufacturing Company of Galva, which manufactures corn planters and farm implements. As a business man he is enterprising, energetic and thoroughly reliable, and the success that he has achieved is certainly well merited. He is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Galva, in which he has filled all the offices. In his political affiliation he is a Republican and has always taken an active interest in party affairs. He has filled a number of

local offices, including that of school director, and in 1899 was elected supervisor of Galva township, which position he is now filling with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He has been a member of the town board of Galva for eight years, during which time he labored earnestly for the establishment of water works, and his efforts were finally crowned with success. He has been a delegate to the county senatorial conventions of his party, and is one of the most influential and prominent citizens of his community. His estimable wife holds membership in the Lutheran Church at Galva, and he contributes liberally to its support and to all worthy enterprises for the public good.

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#### W. SYDNEY GOEMBEL.

Among Geneseo's most enterprising and progressive business men is W. Sydney Goembel, who for the past twelve years has represented the Moline Wagon Company as a traveling salesman, while in that line of business he has been successfully engaged for almost a quarter of a century. He was born in Peoria, Illinois, on the 9th of April, 1848, and is the eldest son of Jacob and Louisa (Luther) Goembel.

The father was born in Niederaula, Kries Herschfeld, Kurfenstenthum, Hessen, Germany, May 17, 1824, and in 1834 came to America with his parents, Sebastian and Anna (Schaffer) Goembel, landing at New Orleans, on the 9th of June, after sixty-three days upon the water. They proceeded up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Peoria, and across the country to Tazewell county, Illinois, where Sebastian Goembel

bought a farm and also secured a quarter section of government land. His last days were spent in Washington, that county, where he died at about the age of seventy-six years. His wife was over eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. For many years they held membership in the Evangelical Association, and were highly respected by all who knew them. Of their nine children only the eldest daughter, Catherine, wife of John Minch, of Washington; and Jacob, father of our subject, are now living.

Jacob Goembel was reared on the home farm and educated in the German language, having never attended English schools. He assisted in opening up the farm in Tazewell county, which was only five miles from Peoria. At the age of twenty-one he left home and went to Chicago, where he worked as a teamster for ten dollars per month. In 1840 he was married in Lake county, Illinois, to Miss Louisa Luther, who was born in New York, January 28, 1826, a daughter of John Jacob and Louisa (Saunders) Luther, both natives of Linbach, Neibeirn, then a province of France, but now a part of Germany. Her father served under Napoleon Bonaparte, for seven years as a member of the old Imperial Guard, and accompanied that famous warrior on his invasion of Egypt and Russia, taking part in the siege of Moscow. He was under the command of General Ney for a time, and while in the service had a horse shot from under him. In 1821 he came to this country and first settled in Allegany county, New York, where he made his home for a few years. The following seven years were spent in Warren, Pennsylvania, and in 1836 he removed to Chicago, Illinois, which city at that time contained only two good houses. The

Indians were just leaving for the western reservations beyond the Mississippi. The family made their home in the vicinity of Chicago until coming to Henry county in 1852, when they took up their residence in Yorktown township. Mr. Luther died in Geneseo, in 1862, at the age of seventy-four years, six months and five days. His wife passed away at their home near Chicago in 1850. They were members of the Evangelical Association and most estimable people. Of their eleven children, ten reached maturity, but only three are now living, namely: Louisa, mother of our subject; Elizabeth, wife of Jesse Wilmot, of Leonora, Kansas; and David, a resident of Geneseo.

After his marriage Jacob Goembel worked in a slaughter house in Peoria for a year, and then purchased eighty acres of land on Farm creek, Tazewell county, which he sold in 1851 on coming to Henry county. Here he entered a tract of government land on section 30, Yorktown township, and engaged in its cultivation until 1863, when he bought another farm in the same locality, and made his home there until his removal to Geneseo in 1876. He is still the owner of ninety-one acres of land in Yorktown township, but is now living retired in Geneseo. His political support is given the Republican party, and he filled the office of school trustee for many years. He and his wife are prominent members of the Evangelical Association, and he is now a trustee of the church.

This worthy couple are the parents of nine children of whom our subject is the oldest. Samuel, a prominent grain dealer of Geneseo, is represented on another page of this volume; Jacob Edward, a farmer of Yorktown township, married Emma Rapp and has three children, Ada, Harvey and

Bessie; Peter, a farmer of Minnesota, married Christina Rapp and has six children, Olive, Arthur, Jesse, Perry, Edith and Vernon; Anna is the wife of Henry Glabe, a contractor of Tazewell county; Lydia is the wife of Isaac Krimbill, of Minnesota, and has five children, Blanche, Vera, Winnie, Clarence and Archie; John E., an attorney of Rockford, Illinois, married Minnie Crosskopp; Wilhelmina died at the age of seven years; and Catherine died at the age of eighteen months.

Mr. Goembel, of this review, was only three years old when brought by his parents to this country, and in Yorktown township he grew to manhood. His early education was obtained in the public schools, and at the age of eighteen he entered the Northwestern College at Plainfield, Illinois, where he was a student for a time. Subsequently he engaged in teaching school in Henry county for four years, and during the following two years engaged in farming in Yorktown township. In 1872 he made an extended trip through Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa, in company with his cousin, Levi Copp. They spent a delightful summer in this way, driving the entire distance of two thousand seven hundred and sixty miles.

On his return home Mr. Goembel successfully engaged in stock buying for two years in Yorktown township, and in the fall of 1873 removed to Moline, where he embarked in general merchandising, in company with John Rapp, under the firm name of Rapp & Goembel. The following June Samuel Arnett became a member of the company and the name was changed to Rapp, Goembel & Arnett. Two years and a half later Mr. Rapp sold his interest to his partners, who continued business under

the name of Goembel & Arnett until the fall of 1878, when Mr. Goembel withdrew from the firm. The following year he engaged in the implement business with Mowery & Hawkins, and in 1880 went upon the road for the Johnston Harvester Company, of Batavia, New York, representing their western branch, with headquarters at Chicago. In 1881 he became connected with the Sterling Manufacturing Company, of Sterling, Illinois, being the first man to represent that company as a traveling salesman. He remained with them two and a half years, and in 1883 entered the service of the Janesville Machine Company, of Janesville, Wisconsin, his territory including the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and Wyoming, with headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska. On leaving that concern, in the fall of 1889, he entered the employ of the Moline Wagon Company, with which he is still connected. A genial and obliging gentleman, he makes a very popular salesman, and is held in high regard not only by the company which he represents, but also by his many patrons and the acquaintances he makes upon the road. Mr. Goembel now makes his home in Geneseo. As a business man he has prospered and is now the owner of a ranch of six hundred and forty acres near Sherman, Minnehaha county, South Dakota, and has a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Rock county, Minnesota, which he rents, it being worked on the mutual plan. He also has city property in Geneseo, Illinois, and Wichita, Kansas.

On the 8th of October, 1870, Mr. Goembel was united in marriage with Miss Martha Greenwood, a native of England, and a daughter of John and Mary (Sound)

Greenwood, who became residents of Yorktown township, this county, in 1863. Mr. Greenwood is now deceased, but his wife is still living and makes her home with her son Joseph, in that township. Mrs. Goembel died September 11, 1871, and our subject was again married November 17, 1874, his second union being with Miss Laura E. Early, who was born in Saxony, Germany, in December, 1848, and came to America in 1853 with her parents, Lave-recht and Leonora (Bartholt) Early. On landing in New York the family proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois, and located in Burns township, where Mr. Early followed the occupation of farming. His wife died September 17, 1860, at the age of forty-three years, and the following year he removed to Geneseo, where he engaged in the hotel business until 1867. He passed away in September, 1868, at the age of fifty years. Mrs. Goembel has a half-brother, William F. Crangle, of Holmesville, Nebraska; and has three sisters, namely: Amelia, deceased wife of Andrew Martin, of Atlantic, Iowa; Aurelia, wife of J. J. Shuck, of Geneseo, Illinois; Lizzie, wife of Joseph Dobbs, a jeweler of Geneseo. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Goembel have been born three children: Lowell Sydney, who was born July 13, 1878, and died May 1, 1890; Ethel Pearl, born November 13, 1881; and Lela May, born June 4, 1883.

In politics Mr. Goembel is a staunch Democrat, and is a personal friend of William J. Bryan. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias, and the Iowa Traveling Men's Association, and holds an enviable position both in business and social circles. His wife and daughter are members of the Baptist Church, and the family

is one of prominence in the community where they reside, having an extensive circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### J. C. SMILEY, M. D.

Among those who devote their time and energies to the alleviation of human suffering is Dr. J. C. Smiley, of Kewanee, who is to-day the oldest practicing physician of Henry county. He was born on the 14th of September, 1830, in Winchester, Virginia, near the battle ground of Bull Run, and is a son of Walter and Susan (Kraus) Smiley. The latter was born in Ohio of German parentage, while the Doctor's father was a native of Scotland, though he came to America in boyhood and was only a lad when his father died. He was educated for the Presbyterian ministry, and devoted his entire life to that noble calling, preaching in Winchester for many years. He removed to Randolph county, Indiana, when our subject was nine years of age, and there followed farming for five years. He died at the age of sixty-six years, and his widow subsequently married Ephraim Bragg. Her death also occurred in Randolph county, Indiana, when she was sixty-nine years old. By her first marriage she had nine children, all of whom reached years of maturity, while five are still living, namely: J. A., a resident of Indiana; J. C., our subject; Maria, widow of Perry Hinesley and a resident of Indiana; Sarah, wife of Benjamin Cleavenger, of Indiana; and C. M., a farmer of Randolph county, the same state.

Dr. Smiley's early educational advantages were meager, as he had to go three and a half miles to school and was



only able to attend a few months in winter, wading through slush and snow. As his father died when he was not nine years old he hired himself out to a man who taught school in winter and farmed in summer. While in his employ he was sent on errands to the neighboring towns and in this way formed the acquaintance of a Mr. Searle, who conducted a general store at Deerfield, and who later hired our subject to work for him at five dollars per month. He remained with him thirteen years and then came to Cambridge, Illinois. In the meantime he commenced reading medicine with Dr. Longshore, who came west the year before our subject and it was through his influence that Dr. Smiley located here. For a year and a half he continued his studies under Dr. Edwards, of Cambridge, and then attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago. On his return to Henry county, in the spring of 1860, he took charge and cured the first case of diphtheria which is known to have occurred in the county. For about four years he was in partnership with Dr. C. H. Grand, and was then alone in practice for a few months. In the spring of 1865 he came to Kewanee, and has successfully engaged in practice here ever since. On locating here there were six other physicians in the place, but he is the only one remaining. He was in partnership with Dr. Day for about four years, and was then alone until he formed a partnership with his son in 1887. He has met with excellent success in his chosen profession and enjoys a large and lucrative practice.

On the 25th of September, 1852, Dr. Smiley was united in marriage with Miss Mary Ellen Cook, of Jay county, Indiana, who was a native of Ohio, and a daughter of John R. and Mary Cook. He has been

called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who died January 12, 1899, at the age of sixty-six years. Of the four children born to them two died in infancy. Florence is now the wife of Louis Kraus, of Kewanee, and they have one child, Charles. Francis M., now a physician engaged in practice with his father, was born in Cambridge, November 3, 1858, and received his early education in the schools of Kewanee. He then entered Notre Dame University, where he pursued both the literary and medical courses, and was graduated in 1876 with the degree of M. D. He was next a student at Ann Arbor one year, and having contracted ague at that place returned home. For two years he attended lectures at Rush Medical College, and was graduated from that institution February 22, 1879. Locating at Aitchison, Illinois, he was engaged in practice there for three years, and for the following four years was connected with the Pinkerton Detective Agency. He then spent some time at the receiving hospital of Bellevue, New York, and the insane asylum at Staunton, Virginia, making a study of the patients at both places, and then returned to Kewanee in 1887 and entered into partnership with his father. In 1890 he took a special course at the Illinois Eye & Ear Infirmary, where he spent one year. Externally he is connected with the Tribune, Royal Circle and Home Forum, and also belongs to Canton Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Kewanee. He assisted in organizing the Rebecca lodge of the same order, and also the Improved Tribe of Red Men, at Kewanee. In politics he is independent. He was married, May 1, 1879, to Miss Minnie MacFarland, a native of Boston, Massachusetts, and a daughter of William MacFarland, now of Wichita, Kansas. By this union was

born a daughter, Grace L., a graduate of the Kewanee high school.

At national elections Dr. J. C. Smiley votes the Democratic ticket, but at local elections, when no issue is involved, he supports whom he believes to be the best man for the office, regardless of party affiliations. He has served as a member of the town council and for many years was president of the school board, during which time school houses were built and the public school system put on a good running basis. Other offices have been tendered him, but he has always refused such honors. Having met with success in his chosen calling, he is now the owner of considerable property in Kewanee, and also in Omaha, Nebraska, and has farming land in that state. He is one of the oldest Odd Fellows in Henry county, and has been a Mason since 1868, now holding membership in Kewanee Lodge, No. 159. He is widely known throughout the county where he has so long made his home, and is universally esteemed and respected.

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#### PETER HERDIEN.

One of the most prominent citizens of Galva, well known for his business ability and enterprise, is Peter Herdien, president of the Hayes Pump and Planter Company, and the originator and treasurer of the Herdien Coal Company, the latter being established in 1880. He was born in Lingbo, Shog, Socken, Sweden, May 23, 1844, and is the son of Hans Hanson, who, through his five years' service in the National Guards of Sweden, acquired distinction and won the military name of Herdien. His

wife, Catherine Johnson, was also a native of Sweden, and they were the parents of three children. Hans, born in 1836, died in Sweden in 1885. Christine, the only daughter, still makes her home in her native land. Peter is the subject of this sketch. The parents both died in Sweden, the father in 1865, at the age of forty-five years. The mother survived him many years, and died in 1891.

The subject of this sketch is the only one of the family coming to America. He received his education in the schools of his native country, and while the instruction was not all that he desired, it was the foundation for knowledge afterwards acquired by reading and contact with the world, and for the business career for which he had a natural inclination. He was but twenty years of age when he came to the United States, and although he came with limited means, he had the steadfast determination to achieve success, if it were at all possible. Locating first in Knox county, Illinois, he worked for a time as a carpenter, but in the winter following his arrival he commenced to learn the cabinet maker's trade, at which he continued for five years securing in that time a thorough knowledge of the trade.

In 1869, Mr. Herdien came to Henry county and was employed by Mr. Alger in his furniture store in the village of Woodhull, and there remained one year, during which time an excellent trade was built up. Leaving the employ of Mr. Alger, he went to Galva, where he formed a partnership with O. L. Peterson, and purchased the furniture interests of L. Hedstrom, who was a partner of Mr. Peterson. For a number of years the partnership thus formed was continued, and the business is yet carried on by Mr. Peterson. The firm of Herdien & Pe-





PETER HERDIEN.

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terson, soon after its organization, opened up a branch store in Cambridge, Illinois, which they continued until 1876, when the stock was disposed of and Mr. Herdien became interested in coal mining and in the general coal trade. Soon after this, however, he and Mr. Peterson purchased a furniture store in Kearney, Nebraska, which they continued to operate for one year, when they sold out to a Mr. Swift. In company with seven others, he then formed the Galva Mining Company, but later this was merged into the Herdien Coal Company. In the years that have since passed, he has built up an excellent trade, supplying nearly all the coal for the local trade, and at times shipping to other points. Some years ago the firm of Lewin & Corkhill started up in the coal trade, and, after running for a short time, the company purchased their interests, and has since conducted a profitable business.

On the 6th of November, 1870, Mr. Herdien was united in marriage with Miss Martha Johnson, of Victoria, Knox county, Illinois, a native of Sweden, born July 9, 1848, and daughter of Louis Johnson, who came with his family to Illinois in 1857 and settled in Knox county. By this union three children were born, Jennie M., born October 17, 1871, was married September 26, 1900, to F. P. Bodinson, a druggist, and they now reside in Baker City, Oregon. Walter L., born August 8, 1874, after receiving his primary education in the schools of Galva, entered Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, and, taking the classical course, was graduated with the degree of A. B. He later entered the law department of the same institution, from which he was also graduated, and in 1900 was admitted to the bar of Cook county, and now resides

in Chicago. In all he took a seven years' course in the University. Elmer Forrest, born May 22, 1876, also took the classical, later the medical, course in the same institution, receiving first his degree of A. B., and afterwards the degree of M. D. He was in attendance at the University for eight years.

His business interests calling him to Chicago, in 1891, Mr. Herdien moved his family to that city, where they remained until 1895 and then returned to Galva. In that year he became identified with the Hayes Pump and Planter Company, as manager, investing some capital in the concern. With his well known energy and business tact, he has built up a good trade for the productions of the company, and placed its business on a sound financial basis, and in July, 1899, was made president. In other concerns he has also become interested, and is now the president of the Galva Gas Light and Coke Company, and vice-president of the First National Bank of Galva.

Religiously, Mr. Herdien is a member of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church, of which body his wife is also a member. Both manifest much interest in the work of the church and in the cause of the Master. Politically he is a Republican, and while he is an active worker for his party, attending and participating as a delegate in its various conventions, he has never aspired to political offices. It is as a business man that he is best known, and for thirty years he has been identified with the business interests of Galva, and it is conceded by all that his influence has been felt in a remarkable degree, and always on the side of right. While conservative, he is yet wide awake to every interest that will best advance the general good of his adopted city and county.

## DANIEL LAVERY.

This well-known and successful farmer, whos fine farm, comprising two hundred and eighty acres of land, is pleasantly located on section 36, Hanna township, is a native of the Emerald Isle, and a son of Daniel and Esther (Bann) Lavery, who, as farming people, spent their entire lives in Ireland. The father was about sixty years of age at the time of his death. Our subject has one brother, Patrick, who is a farmer of this county.

In 1855, when about twenty-two years of age, Mr. Lavery, of this review, emigrated to America, and first located in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, where he worked by the month for one year. He then went to California, where he spent two years in prospecting and mining, and on his return east again took up his residence in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, where he followed farming for the following two years. In 1863 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of his present farm in Hanna township, to which he has added from time to time as his financial resources have increased until he is now the possessor of a valuable place of two hundred and eighty acres, all under cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings, including a pleasant residence. In connection with general farming he is also engaged in stock raising with excellent success.

In Wayne county, Pennsylvania, Mr. Lavery was married, in 1861, to Miss Mary O'Neill, a native of that state, and a daughter of James and Eliza (Boyle) O'Neill, both now deceased. Her father was born in Ireland and was about four years of age when he came to the United States. Unto

Mr. and Mrs. Lavery were born the following children: John, who died at the age of eighteen years; James, who married Lucy Hannon and is engaged in farming in Atchison township, this county; Lizzie, who died at the age of thirteen years; Daniel, a farmer of Annawan township; Charles, at home; Celia, now in a convent at Susquehanna, Pennsylvania; Salie, Frank and Margaret A., all at home; William, who died at the age of eighteen years; and Minnie, at home. All were born in this county, with the exception of John, whose birth occurred in Pennsylvania.

In his political affiliations Mr. Lavery is a Democrat, but he has never sought public office, preferring to give his attention to his business interests. He gives his support to all enterprises for the public benefit, and in many ways has materially advanced the interests of the community in which he lives. In religious belief he is a Catholic and his family also attend that church.

## FREDERICK W. WEINRICH.

One of the prosperous farmers and successful stock raisers of Henry county, Frederick W. Weinrich, is now carrying on operations on section 6, Munson township. He is a native of this county, born in Geneseo township, June 15, 1862, and is the eldest son of William F. and Christina (Kipping) Weinrich, who were born, reared and married in Germany, and as a wedding journey came to America in 1852. The father had received a limited education in his native land and had learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for ten years after coming to this country, making his home

during this time at Geneseo, Illinois. He then took up agricultural pursuits, to which he devoted his attention from 1862 until he retired from active labor, in 1893. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Geneseo township, which had previously been broken, but he added to it many valuable improvements, making it one of the most desirable farms of its size in the locality. In connection with general farming he was also interested in the stock business until 1893, when he laid aside all business cares and removed to Geneseo, where he now makes his home. He is a supporter of the Democratic party, but has never taken an active part in political affairs. He attends the Methodist Church of Geneseo, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him. In his family were nine children, all of whom reached maturity, namely: Emma, widow of Gottlieb Zimmerman and a resident of Geneseo; Clara, who died unmarried at the age of thirty years; Christina, at home with her parents; Frederick W., our subject; William, salesman for a wholesale liquor house of Rock Island; Matilda, at home; Edward, who is extensively engaged in the stock business on the old home farm in Geneseo township; Charles, a printer by trade, who died in 1897; and Herman, who is engaged in the poultry and commission business in Cambridge.

Frederick W. Weinrich received his education in the district school near his boyhood home, and grew to manhood upon the farm, which, as the oldest son, he assisted his father in improving and cultivating as soon as large enough to handle a plow. On attaining his majority he embarked in business for himself as a stock dealer on a small scale, giving his attention to Poland China

hogs, which he raised for sale and breeding purposes. Although still a young man he is one of the oldest dealers in his community. His stock is all of a high grade and very valuable. Each year he has his stock on exhibition at the fairs, and has thus far secured first prize and sweepstakes for his hogs. He is also extensively engaged in feeding cattle for market, and by a visit to his well kept farm one can see some fine animals as evidence of his skill as a practical stock feeder. In connection with his brother Edward he is also interested in raising full blooded draft horses and polled Angus cattle, which have recently been added to the list of high grade animals which they raise. In each business venture Mr. Weinrich has met with decided success, and we predict for him a brilliant future as one of the leading stock dealers of the county. From 1888 to 1894 he rented land in Geneseo township, but in the latter year purchased his present farm of one hundred and twenty-four acres on section 6, Munson township, upon which he has made some valuable improvements, including the erection of additional buildings for the accommodation of his constantly increasing stock business.

In 1888 Mr. Weinrich was united in marriage with Miss Matilda Bartz, who was born in Germany, in 1869, but was brought to the United States in 1871 by her parents, John and Anna (Fritz) Bartz. Her father died in Edford township, this county, in 1900, but her mother is still living on the farm there. Mrs. Weinrich is the oldest of their eleven children who are still living, the others being Bertha, who died aged about three years in Germany; Albert died in Geneseo when a child; Gustaf, a farmer of Edford township; Hulda, wife of B. Wood-

ruff; Emma, a resident of Rock Island; Edward, at home; Mary, a resident of Geneseo; and Minnie and John, both at home. One son, Otto, is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Weinrich are active members and liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He has never taken an active part in political affairs. He is a wide awake, energetic business man, and is thoroughly reliable in all transactions.

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#### WILLIAM H. COSNER.

This well-known and prosperous farmer of Burns township, whose home is on section 14, is a native of Henry county, born in Kewanee township, January 5, 1842, and is a worthy representative of one of the county's pioneer families. His father Jacob Cosner, was born on the 11th of April, 1809, in Coshocton county, Ohio, where he continued to make his home until coming to this county, in 1838. He was one of the first to locate in Wethersfield township and became prominently identified with the early development and upbuilding of this locality. In 1841 he removed to Burns township, of which he was also a pioneer, and there continued to reside until his death, which occurred January 3, 1897. He served as postmaster of Burns for several years, was road commissioner six years, and school director for some time, and was one of the leading and influential citizens of his community. He cast his first presidential vote for General Jackson, and continued to support the Democratic party throughout life. On the 5th of February, 1841 he married Miss Sarah Leonard, who was born in Pennsylvania, January 6, 1820,

and was a daughter of Samuel and Phebe Leonard, the former of German, the latter of Irish descent. Her parents died in this county and were buried in Cosner cemetery, the cemetery being named after his family. Our subject's paternal grandparents, Philip and Mary Cosner, were of German and Welsh extraction.

William H. Cosner is the oldest of a family of ten children, the others being as follows: Sylvester Rush, born October 11, 1843, died September 27, 1845, and was buried in Wethersfield cemetery. Abraham Swails, born November 13, 1845, married, first, Isabella Tracy, and, second, Eliza Martin, and lives in Cornwall township. Lenton Boner, born October 20, 1847, died April 21, 1849, and was buried in the Cosner cemetery. Amanda Byantha, born December 20, 1849, is the wife of L. E. Wilhelm, of Kewanee. Cynthia Maria, born December 7, 1851, died January 6, 1873. Sarah Salena, born August 31, 1854, died September 11, 1855. Mathew Potter, born October 20, 1828, died September 12, 1859. Ruea Rosella, born June 28, 1858, died September 30, 1858. Francis Marion, born May 22, 1859, married Betsy Johnson, and died October 20, 1890. The mother of these children died on the 30th of July, 1896.

Mr. Cosner, of this review, attended the country schools near his boyhood home, and on the completion of his education turned his attention to the work of the farm. Throughout his entire life he has engaged in agricultural pursuits, and is now the owner of two valuable and well improved farms, one of one hundred and six acres, the other of one hundred and seventy-two and a half acres. The neat and thrifty appearance of these places shows conclusively that he thoroughly understands the voca-

tion which he follows and that he is a man of good business ability. For some years he engaged extensively in the raising of Shropshire sheep, but now gives attention to the raising of cattle, horses, sheep and hogs.

On the 1st of January, 1864, in Wethersfield township, Mr. Cosner was united in marriage with Miss Adelaide Myvernia Wedge, born May 14, 1844, and daughter of Chester and Paulina (Ellenwood) Wedge, and they have become the parents of two children: William Orin married Emily Scott, by whom he has three children and with his family lives on a farm adjoining his father's. Ceria Clyde married Grace A. Whitted, and resides with our subject; has two children, Dewey K. and Claude W.

Politically Mr. Cosner is a Democrat and he takes quite an active and prominent part in local affairs. He has filled the office of justice of the peace four years, constable eight years, and road master at various times, and his official duties have always been most capably and satisfactorily performed.

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#### WILLIAM MERRIMAN.

This gentleman, who is one of the oldest settlers and most highly esteemed residents of Henry county, is now living a retired life in Geneseo. He was born in Huron county, Michigan, on Christmas day, 1832, a son of Edward and Malinda (Bartlett) Merriman, natives of New York, from which state the father removed to Michigan in the latter part of the '20s. He was a good farmer and followed that pursuit throughout life. He died February 14, 1858, at the age of forty-six years, and his widow subsequently married Adam Dunlap,

a highly respected citizen of Geneseo, who is represented elsewhere in this work. Her death occurred March 24, 1868, when she was seventy-seven years of age. She was a devout Christian, a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was generous and charitable, and an excellent neighbor, a devoted wife, being almost worshipped by her children for her many endearing qualities. She still lives in the affections of all who knew her.

William Merriman is the oldest in a family of six children, the others being Louisa Olive, who married J. Stafford and died at the age of sixty-five years; Minerva, wife of Wesley Niceswinder, of Geneseo; Charles B., a resident of Blairtown, Iowa; Hortence, wife of Charles Jackson, of Essex, Iowa; Harriet, who died at the age of three years; and Gilbert, who resides in Arkansas City, Kansas.

The subject of this review was reared to farming, which occupation he has followed throughout life in connection with auctioneering, having devoted a portion of his time to the latter pursuit for twenty-seven years. Although he is practically living a retired life in Geneseo, he still does some auctioneering for his old friends, and has sold as high as thirteen thousand dollars' worth of property in one day.

As early as 1838 Mr. Merriman came to Henry county, Illinois, locating here before the Indians had left for their western reservations and when wild game was plentiful. At one time he and a neighbor counted a drove of seventy-five deer going from one patch of timber to another. Mr. Merriman pre-empted a tract of government land before it came into market and later purchased it. A portion of this land he still owns, having a fine farm of three



hundred acres in Phenix township, which he has improved and placed under excellent cultivation. His principal farm products have been corn and oats, and he has given considerable attention to the raising of stock. In 1892 he left the farm and moved to Geneseo, where he now makes his home. He has served his fellow citizens as school director and highway commissioner, but has never cared for official honors, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests.

On the 24th of March, 1860, Mr. Merriam wedded Miss Margaret Carse, a native of Wayne county, Ohio, and a daughter of W. M. and Mary Carse, who came to this country from Belfast, Ireland, at an early day, and in 1850 located in Illinois. By this union were born seven children, namely: Mary M., wife of Wilbur Browning, of Phenix, by whom she has one child, Maudie; Nancy J., wife of Benjamin McHenry, of Geneseo, by whom she has six children, Alta, William B., Flora, Eddie, Freddie E. and Benjamin D.; Pearley Etta, wife of W. M. Withrow, of Phenix; Amelia, wife of Olen Browning, by whom she has one child, Alva C.; Edward, a resident of Phenix, who married Susan Tabor and has one child, Ora; Delia, wife of Edwin Wert, of Geneseo, by whom she has two children, Ira and Gertie; and Elsie, who died at the age of five years.

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#### LYMAN J. WILKINSON.

This well-known and efficient superintendent of the Henry county infirmary, located in Munson township, was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, on the 17th of August, 1833, his parents being George and Julia A. (Manton) Wilkinson, both natives

of Rhode Island. The Wilkinson family was founded in America by his paternal great-grandfather and two brothers, natives of England. When young the parents of our subject moved to Pennsylvania, where their marriage was celebrated, and there the father followed farming for several years. Coming to Illinois in 1837, he took up a government claim in La Salle county, and the following year returned to Pennsylvania for his family. He followed his chosen occupation in that county until his removal to Bureau county, in 1844, and there he also opened up and improved a farm, which he successfully operated for a number of years. Later he embarked in the hotel business in Tiskilwa and carried it on for about ten years, when, at the age of fifty-eight, he retired from active life and moved to Atchison, Illinois, where he owned a small farm. He resided in Henry county for about six years, and died while on a visit to our subject at the age of sixty-eight. When he first came to Illinois this section of the state was practically all wild prairie land, entirely destitute of improvement, and in the development of his farms he aided materially in advancing its interests. He started out in life a poor man, and through his industry, enterprise and good management became quite well-to-do. In religious belief he was a Universalist, and in politics he was a Democrat. As one of the leading and influential men of the community in which he lived, he was honored with a number of local offices, although he never sought political preferment. After his death his wife made her home with her children and lived to the ripe old age of eighty-three years.

The family of this worthy couple numbered eight children, five of whom reached



years of maturity, namely: Marshall, who was a member of the Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, followed the blacksmith's trade in Tiskilwa, Bureau county, where he died in 1892; Lyman J., our subject, is the second in order of birth and the oldest of the family now living; Orrin, who served in Company E, Ninety-third Illinois Infantry, during the Rebellion, is now engaged in the boot and shoe business in Princeton, Illinois; Charles is a carpenter of Cripple Creek, Colorado; and Mary J. is the widow of William Smith and resides on a farm in Munson township, this county. All were reared in La Salle and Bureau counties, this state, and were educated in the public schools.

Lyman J. Wilkinson was only four years old when brought by his parents to Illinois, and was reared amid pioneer scenes. He received a high-school education, and assisted his father in the arduous task of opening up a farm in the new country. He remained at home until he was married, March 31, 1853, to Miss Emeline Stevens, who was born in Canterbury, New Hampshire, January 26, 1835. Her father, Thomas J. Stevens, was one of the pioneers of Bureau county, this state, where he located in 1839. In his family were four children, who are still living: Joseph M., a retired farmer of Anawan, Henry county; Francis, who owns a farm but is now engaged in the butcher business in Tiskilwa, Bureau county; Lorena, widow of S. Fifield and a resident of Buda; and Mary, widow of B. A. Cleveland and a resident of Davenport, Iowa. Mrs. Wilkinson died at the present home of our subject September 19, 1898. By that union there were born three children, namely: (1) George T., born October 23, 1856, lives

on his father's farm in Munson township. He married Jane Goshorn and has two children, Lyman and Bert. (2) Willis L., born September 21, 1861, lives with his father on the county farm, acting as his assistant. He married Ethel Lambert, who now serves as matron of the infirmary. They have two children, Mabel and Elon. (3) Bert H., the youngest son of our subject, was born August 25, 1867, and died, unmarried, August 28, 1889.

After his marriage Mr. Wilkinson worked at the carpenter's trade, which he had previously learned, and which he followed until after the Civil war broke out. Responding to his country's call for aid, he enlisted in Company E, Ninety-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which company was known as the Tiskilwa Tigers. He entered the service as first lieutenant, while his brother Orrin was captain of the company. They were mustered into service October 13, 1862, by Captain Barrey, of the United States army. Our subject participated in the battle of Champion Hill and the siege of Vicksburg, but on account of failing health he resigned his commission and was mustered out September 3, 1863.

After resting for a time Mr. Wilkinson resumed work at his trade in Tiskilwa, and continued to follow the same until selected by the board of supervisors of Bureau county as superintendent of the infirmary there, which position he most creditably filled from 1869 to 1872, when he resigned to accept a similar position offered him in this county. The new building had just been erected in Munson township, the plastering being put on after he moved in. Since then many improvements have been made under his careful supervision, and the farm of one hundred and twenty acres has been enlarged

to three hundred and twenty. The farm is now under a high state of cultivation and the institution is in a flourishing condition, owing to the excellent management and good business and executive ability of Mr. Wilkinson, who has proved a most capable, as well as popular superintendent. He is now the owner of a well improved and highly productive farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, Munson township, now occupied by his son.

Mr. Wilkinson has been president of the Henry County Agricultural Board, under whose auspices the fairs are held, and is one of the stockholders of the association. In religious belief he is an Episcopalian; has served as vestryman for a number of years; and at present is one of the vestrymen of the church at Geneseo. Fraternally he is an honored member of E. G. Jenkins post, G. A. R., of that place, and is a prominent Mason, a member of the blue lodge of Cambridge, the chapter and commandery of Princeton, Illinois, and the Mystic Shrine, at Davenport, Iowa. He is one of the prominent Republicans of his community, and takes quite an active and influential part in the work of his party. As a pioneer superintendent of infirmaries in Illinois, and as one of the most honored and highly respected citizens of Henry county he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in its history. In all the relations of life he has been found true to every trust reposed in him, and has manifested his loyalty in days of peace as well as in time of war.

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#### FRANK F. WHIFFEN.

The present mayor of Kewanee is one of the most public spirited citizens of that place, to whose energy and foresight the

city is indebted for many improvements. While Mr. Whiffen, as a prosperous business man, has given close attention to his private affairs, he has never forgotten or ignored the bond of common interest which should unite the people of every community and he has always been ready to promote progress in every line.

He was born in Kewanee, May 11, 1858, and is a son of John Whiffen, whose birth occurred in Kimbolton, England, October 13, 1815, and who came to America in 1832 with his parents. For many years the grandfather of our subject was proprietor of a livery stable in London, known as the Swan Yard, but after his emigration to this country lived a retired life. Both he and his wife died in Utica, New York, where the family located on coming to the new world. Their children were born in England and are all now deceased. In order of birth they were as follows: Thomas spent his early life in Utica, New York, but his death occurred while making his home in Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois; David was a resident of Iowa; John, the father of our subject, was the next of the family; Isaac followed the butcher business in Utica, New York, throughout life; Uridge was a school teacher of the same city; and Mary completed the family.

When quite a young man John Whiffen was engaged in the butchering business in Utica with his brother Isaac, to whom he sold his interest on coming west, and whose sons still carry on the business at the same corner in that city. It was in 1850 that John Whiffen came west selling carriages and two years later located in Wyoming, Illinois, where he followed farming until the death of his wife, Mrs. Sarah (Seaton) Whiffen, who passed away February 23,



FRANK F. WHIFFEN.

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<sup>1</sup>1854. She was a sister of B. W. Seaton, editor of the *Prairie Chief*, Cambridge, Illinois. She was also a native of England, and they were married in Utica, New York, July 25, 1838. By this union seven children were born, namely: John W., born in June, 1839, is deceased; Isaac A., born October 8, 1840, is a carriage manufacturer and dealer of Janesville, Wisconsin; Amanda Jane, born November 14, 1842, is now Mrs. C. E. Bowles of the same place; Thomas C., born September 5, 1847, is a veteran of the Civil war and a lumber merchant of De Witt, Nebraska; Sarah, born October 4, 1849, married Moses M. Barr, of Downers Grove, Illinois, and both died leaving a family of six children; Mary E., born March 24, 1852, is now Mrs. Clement Noyes, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Henrietta, born October 24, 1842, died October 6, 1845. Returning to New York, the father was again married, July 3, 1854, his second union being with Miss Clarissa A. Ferguson, of Frankfort, that state, who was born August 11, 1824. There were three children by this union, of whom our subject is the second in order of birth. Charles E., born July 30, 1855, died April 23, 1863; and Frederick, born November 11, 1864, died April 5, 1867. In 1855 John Whiffen took up his residence in Kewanee, Illinois, becoming one of the first butchers of that place, and continuing to carry on the business up to the time of his death. He was also one of the early stock buyers and shippers of this section, and was engaged in the carriage business as a sort of side issue for a few years. He died June 27, 1897, and his wife passed away February 16, 1894. They were among the charter members of the Presbyterian Church of Kewanee, and were highly respected and esteemed by all who knew them.

During his boyhood and youth Frank F. Whiffen attended the public schools of Kewanee, and at the age of seventeen began his business career in the employ of M. C. Quinn, who conducted a meat market and restaurant. Later he worked for his father and William Priestman one year, and at the age of nineteen went to Terrill, Texas, where he was employed in the meat market of Mr. Priestman for a year. On his return to Kewanee he formed a partnership with his father in the butchering business in September, 1878, and carried on a market in the same building on Tremont street until 1887, when he began buying and shipping live stock and dealing in real estate. He purchased a part of the Cook estate, consisting of thirteen acres on Water street, which he laid out in lots and then sold. In many instances he built houses on the lots, and sold all on the installment plan, thus disposing of fifty lots. Although a number of these were sold without anything being paid down, he has never had to take one back. In this way he has enabled many a poor person to secure a home, who otherwise would not have done so. Mr. Whiffen also laid out an addition in the east end of town, known as the Elmwood addition, which contains thirty-two lots, all practically built up now. He is still successfully engaged in the real estate business and has handled houses and lots all over the city. He sold the lot on which the Kewanee National Bank is located to that corporation, and received for the same the highest price ever paid for a lot in Kewanee. In 1894 he embarked in the lumber business on the north side of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad tracks, on North Main street, carrying a full line of building materials, and has built up a good trade. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man,

who generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

On the 20th of October, 1884, Mr. Whiffen was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J. Pyle, a daughter of Robert and Sarah J. (Collingwood) Pyle, natives of England and early settlers of Henry county. The father is now deceased, but the mother is still living and makes her home in Kewanee township. Our subject and his wife have two children, Clara and Charles F., who are both attending school.

Mr. Whiffen is a director of the Union Building & Loan Association, and treasurer of the same. As a Republican he takes quite an active and influential part in local politics, and has been honored with the highest office within the gift of his fellow townsmen. He served as assessor in 1893, 1894, 1896 and 1897, being first elected on the Democratic and later on the Republican ticket. In 1899 he was elected mayor of the city, and during his term many permanent improvements has been made, including the completion of the system of sanitary sewerage as commenced by Mayor Pierce, and the laying of a number of cement sidewalks. He also arranged the details and carried out the paving of the business part of the city, the first laid in the city. Mr. Whiffen is pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, and in the discharge of his official duties has displayed the same business ability and fidelity that has marked his entire business career.

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#### MICHAEL N. EMERY.

For a quarter of a century this gentleman has been one of the leading agriculturists of Galva township, his home being on section

26. A native of Illinois, he was born near Lafayette, Stark county, on the 3d of April, 1842, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Neville) Emery, honored pioneers of this state. The Emery family was founded in America by two brothers, who came to this country from Germany, one locating in Maine, the other in Pennsylvania. The former was a ship carpenter by trade, the latter a blacksmith. The family has been well represented in the wars of this country, being always very patriotic and loyal. Among its members are soldiers of the Revolutionary war, while Conrad Emery, the grandfather of our subject, was in the war of 1812, and several cousins participated in the Civil war.

Jacob Emery, our subject's father, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1803, and first married Deborah Doty, by whom he had six children. Two died when young, but the others are still living, namely: Mary, widow of Michael Neville and a resident of Fulton county, Illinois; Sarah J., wife of Leonard Dufur, of Union county, Iowa; James H., of Whitewater, Wisconsin; and Lucinda, wife of Charles Potter, of Toulon, Stark county, Illinois. At an early day the father came to Illinois, and near Canton, Fulton county, he married Elizabeth Neville, a native of Ireland, who died in November, 1850. Two of the eight children born of this union died in childhood, the others being Johanna, who married Joseph Potter and died in 1862; David, a retired citizen of Galva; Britt A., also a resident of that place; Michael N., our subject; Catherine, who became the wife of Daniel Lundy and died in 1869; and Rose. For his third wife the father married Lydia Driscoll, and to them was born one child, Happy E., wife of S. V. Deem, of Galva. In 1863 the parents of

our subject removed to Stark county, which was then infested by Indians, while wild game of all kinds was very abundant. The father purchased several tracts of government land, and at the time of his death held two deeds signed by President Van Buren and two by President Tyler. He owned about three hundred and twenty acres of land at that time, all of which had been improved by himself. He was one of the first to settle on the prairie and experienced all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. In early days he hauled his farm produce overland to Chicago and Lacon. In 1853 he purchased property in Galva and erected five houses in the new town about the time the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad was built through that place. There he made his home until his death, which occurred April 4, 1894. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and was always prominently identified with public affairs, being honored with a number of official positions. He served as supervisor and a member of the town board, the duties of which positions he discharged in a most creditable manner. Religiously he was an active worker and influential member of the United Brethren Church.

During his boyhood Michael N. Emery pursued his studies in a rude school house in his native county, and after coming to Galva at the age of fourteen attended school for a few years. At the age of nineteen he manifested his patriotism and love of country by enlisting August 19, 1861, in Company B, Thirty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under command of J. C. Black, leaving Galva the same day. He participated in the battle of Pea Ridge, in 1862; Prairie Grove, on the 7th of December, that

year; the siege of Vicksburg and many skirmishes. During the Red river expedition he was taken ill and came home on a furlough. Being unable to return to the front, he was mustered out at Chicago in October, 1864. He was twice slightly wounded.

After being mustered out Mr. Emery lived near Lafayette, Illinois, until 1876, being engaged in agricultural pursuits. He purchased eighty acres of land there and also operated rented property. Selling his farm in Stark county, in 1875, he bought his present place of one hundred and twenty acres on sections 25 and 26, Galva township, Henry county, and the following year took up his residence thereon. He has since engaged in general farming and has met with most gratifying success.

In 1867 Mr. Emery married Miss Lydia A. Williams, who was born in Indiana, in 1847. Her father, Lyman Williams, is now living in Lafayette, Stark county, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. Her mother died September 12, 1876. During the border troubles in Kansas he went to that state, running the blockade successfully, but after remaining there a few weeks he returned to Illinois. His children are Mrs. Mary Miner, a resident of Toulon; Charles M., of Galva township; Lydia A., wife of our subject; John A., of Galva, Iowa; Mrs. Sarah Baker and William J., both of Stark county; Ella, a teacher of Geneseo; and Mrs. Anna Belle White, of Lafayette. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Emery were born three children, but one died in childhood. William E., born November 4, 1870, is an employe of the Hayes Pump & Planter Company of Galva. He married Pauline Dock, and they have one child, Wallace Leslie. Wallace J., born September 19, 1878, is at home with his father. Both sons attended the public schools of this



county, and the older took a business course at Los Angeles, California.

In his political views Mr. Emery is a staunch Republican, but has never been an aspirant for office, though always an active worker for the interests of his party. For a number of years he served as school director in his district. He is an honored member of the Grand Army Post, No. 33, of Galva, and is a Royal Arch Mason, while both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star Chapter, of which she has been worthy matron. They are people of considerable prominence in the community where they reside and are held in high regard wherever known.

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#### HENRY EYER.

Prominent among the representative citizens and respected and influential men of Annawan is the subject of this biographical notice, who for many years has been identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, but is now living a retired life at his pleasant home in Annawan.

Mr. Eyer was born in Warren county, Ohio, on the 14th of April, 1823, and is a son of Francis Henry and Mary (Knobloch) Eyer, the former a native of Germany, who came to America and settled in Warren county, Ohio, prior to 1812, the latter of Virginia. By their union were born three other children, namely: (1) John wedded Mary Patton and died in Warren county, Ohio, leaving six children, William, Root, Wendell, John, Margaret and Mary. (2) Jacob, who also died in Warren county, Ohio, first married Hester Pat-

ton and after her death wedded Mary Elwood, by whom he had the following children: Hiram, Rush, Elwood, Ashford, deceased, Nancy J., Elizabeth M. and Susan M. (3) Bettie is the wife of John Eartles, of Hamilton county, Ohio, and they have five children, John, Jacob, Wendel, Catherine and Mary. After the death of the father our subject's mother was again married, her second union being with Francis Henry Eyer, and by this marriage had five children: (1) Margaret, who died in 1899, was the wife of Amos Gustin, of Indiana, and they had seven children, Henry, Jeremiah, Catherine, Clara, Sarah, Jacob and William. (2) Mary, who died in 1880, was the wife of Robert Patton, and they had four children, Francis, Jefferson, John and Albert. (3) Christiana, who died in 1860, was the wife of Jonathan Gustin, of Anderson, Indiana. (4) Catherine is a resident of Warren county, Ohio. (5) Sarah, also a resident of that county, is the widow of John Sette, and has two children, Francis and Mary J.

Henry Eyer was reared and educated in his native county. Mr. Eyer has been twice married, first, with Miss Matilda F. Patton, of Warren county, Ohio. To this union were born three children, William J., Kewanee, Illinois; George W. (deceased), and Sarah J., who married Thomas Mason, Bureau county, Illinois. Mrs. Eyer died in September, 1850, and he was married the second time on the 14th of August, 1851, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah Blinn, who was born June 20, 1831, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Frye) Blinn, natives of Ohio and Virginia, respectively. It was in 1816 that they settled in Warren county, Ohio. In their family were eleven children: (1) Absolum, a resident of Kansas, married Martha Frye, and they have



four children, Sarah, Millie, Solomon and Lincoln. (2) Sarah, wife of our subject, is next in order of birth. (3) Mary, a resident of Bureau county, Illinois, is the widow of Samuel Pottorf and has three sons, William, Samuel and Jacob. (4) Solomon first married Elizabeth Geochenour, by whom he had three children, Becky, Mary and Malissa, and for his second wife wedded Mary Norton, by whom he had two children, Grant and George. (5) Christiana is the wife of Henry Messmore, of Indiana, and they had three children: Elizabeth, now the wife of Samuel Oldfather, of Indiana, by whom she has two children, Emma and Otis; Ella, who married E. Mitten and died in Annawan, this county, in September, 1890, leaving two children, Nellie and Frank; and George, who married Etta Payne, now a resident of Wethersfield, Illinois, and in September, 1898, he and his son Willie were killed when crossing a railroad track in a buggy at Kewanee. (6) Samuel, of Kansas, married Annetta DeWitt, and they have five children, David, Lena, Harry, Samuel and Joseph. (7) Julia is the wife of James R. Batten, of Annawan, Henry county, Illinois, and they have ten children: Hettie, Mary, John, Howard, Addie, George, Curtis, Emma, Nora and Milo. (8) Elizabeth is the wife of Henry Collins, of Kansas, and they have three children, Nellie, Jonas and Absalom. (9) Daniel, also a resident of Kansas, married Hannah Carroll, and they have nine children, Sarah, Becky, John, Millie, Vinie, William, Mary, Samuel and Nettie.

The children born to our subject and his wife are as follows: (1) Francis Marion, born September 2, 1852, died July 24, 1853. (2) Mary Elizabeth, born October 16, 1853, is the widow of Webster Batten and a resi-

dent of La Fayette, Illinois. Her children were Tillie; Eli, deceased; Albert; Clarence; Forest; Maud and Harrison. (3) Samuel Alfred, born July 12, 1855, died December 12, 1864. (4) Martha Ellen, born October 16, 1858, died August 31, 1859. (5) Emma Alice, born March 14, 1860, died March 25, 1860. (6) John Henry, born July 16, 1861, died October 14, 1862. (7) Annette Matilda, born March 14, 1863, died September 11, 1864. (8) Daniel D. Edward, born September 1, 1864, died January 29, 1865. (9) Anna Louisa, born February 26, 1866, is the wife of Nichols J. Griffin, of Annawan, and they had five children, George, Charles, Maud, Ida M. and Mamie. (10) Charles Elmer, born April 24, 1868, is a farmer of Annawan, Henry county. He married Salina Palmer and they have two children, William H. and Guy. (11) Jesse Alvin, born May 8, 1870, married Esta Cole (deceased) and they had one child, Lowell, who resides at La Fayette, Illinois.

During the first few years of his married life Mr. Eyer engaged in farming in Ohio, and on the 11th of September, 1857, started west. On his arrival in Henry county, Annawan contained but two stores, and much of this region was wild and unimproved. He located three miles south of that town, and purchased four hundred acres of land, for which he paid an average of twenty-five dollars and twenty cents per acre. To this tract he added until he had six hundred acres, but has since disposed of it, giving most of it to his children. Mrs. Eyer still owns one hundred and ten acres in Annawan township. In his farming operations he has met with most excellent success, and his career has ever been such as to gain for him the confidence and high regard of those

with whom he has been brought in contact, either in business or social life. He and his wife are faithful and consistent members of the United Brethren Church, and are people of the highest respectability. In May, 1892, they removed to Annawan, where they now reside.

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### OSWALD FISCHER.

Oswald Fischer, deceased, was for a number of years one of the leading farmers of Burns township, as well as one of its most highly respected citizens. He was born in Saxony, Germany, February 18, 1834, and was one of a family of seven children, the others being Edward, Gotlob, Mina, Paulina, Rosalia Augusta and Christiana. His parents were life-long residents of Augusta, Germany.

In his native country Oswald Fischer grew to manhood and was educated in the common schools of Saxony. He then served an apprenticeship as a miller, an occupation which he followed until he came to the United States in 1858. Landing at New York he came direct to Henry county, Illinois, and obtained his first position in a mill at Geneseo, and later had charge of the mill in Andover, where he remained until he was compelled to abandon the business on account of poor health. He then bought a partially improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Burns township, but after a few years sold it and bought the fine farm on section 8, that he afterward made his home. He took the farm with few improvements, there being only the shell of a small frame house, a few apple trees, and forty acres broken. The improvements which

now delight the eye were all made by himself assisted by his good wife. In 1881 they built one of the finest houses in the township, a home that would compare favorably with many good residences in a city. As a stock raiser he was very successful, giving special attention to hogs, of which he kept the best grades. Upon this farm he continued to reside until his death, which occurred November 10, 1897. The farm is still held by the family and is the widow's place of residence.

On the 24th of August, 1865, Mr. Fischer married Miss Mary Louisa Charlet, a native of Prussia, Germany, and a daughter of Abraham and Dorothy (Scharlp) Charlet, the father dying when she was two years and a half old. The mother came with the family to Kewanee in 1856 and Miss Charlet was educated there. To Mr. and Mrs. Fischer were born the following children: Edward L., a farmer by occupation, married Ida Whitney, a native of this county, and they have one daughter, Hazel Belle. Lena L. is the wife of William Stevens, a farmer of Burns township, and they have one son, Earl Cleo. Bernard O. married Anna Carlson, a native of Sweden, and is engaged in farming in Burns township. Alvin A. and Lorena A. are both at home with their mother.

Mr. Fischer acquired a good practical education in his native land, and for twelve or fourteen years capably and satisfactorily served as school director in this township. From the age of fourteen years he was an earnest member of the German Lutheran Church, and led an upright, honorable life, in which he gained the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact. In his political views he was a Republican, but not an aspirant for office. Mrs. Fischer

is a member of the Christian Science Church and is one of the directors of the church, and thus far successful in healing, although her field of labor has been limited.

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### JOHN LEWIN.

The subject of this sketch is a prosperous Manxman of Galva township, where he has made his home since 1856. He was born on the Isle of Man, January 25, 1843, a son of Robert and Isabella (Kissick) Lewin, also natives of the same place. In 1856 they brought their family to America and settled in Galva, Illinois, where the father, who was a carriage maker by trade, died the following year, aged fifty-four years. After his death the mother made her home with her children until she, too, was called to her final rest in August, 1894, at the age of eighty-five years. She lived with our subject almost forty years. Both parents were earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were highly respected and esteemed by all who knew them. Their children were Thomas, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Robert, who lives near Kempton, Ford county, Illinois; John, the subject of this sketch; Jane, deceased wife of William Kneal, of Kempton; and Isabella, wife of John Corkill, of Galva township, this county.

His parents being in limited circumstances, John Lewin had very limited school privileges, and most of his education has been acquired by reading and observation. He was thirteen years of age on the emigration of the family to America and at once sought work, being employed as a farm hand at ten dollars per month for two years. At

that time this region was wild and sparsely settled, and there was not a bridge on the road between Galva and Lafayette. When sixteen years of age he and a brother rented a small farm in Galva township, which they operated on their own accord, having purchased some stock and agricultural implements. While on that farm our subject attended the public schools for three winters.

About 1870 Mr. Lewin made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres in Knox county, which had been improved, and for which he paid four thousand dollars. He later sold that place at an advance of one thousand dollars and bought two hundred and forty acres on section 26, Galva township, Henry county, where he now resides, having previously rented the same for ten years. Having succeeded in his farming operations he has added to his property until he now has three hundred and fifty acres of well improved and valuable land. Throughout his business career he has engaged in general farming, and in recent years has carried on stock raising quite extensively, shipping a carload of both hogs and cattle to market annually. His specialty is polled Angus cattle. He has also been identified with five different mining operations in Galva, all of which proved quite profitable.

In 1884 Mr. Lewin married Miss Annie Andrewartha, who was also born on the Isle of Man, May 20, 1864, and is the oldest of a family of four children, the others being Martha, wife of David Clague, a farmer of Knox county; William, a farm hand of Galva; and David, a Methodist Episcopal minister of Hennepin, Illinois. The parents of these children were William and Eliza Andrewartha, natives of the Isle of Man, who removed from there to England, and in

1880 came to the United States, locating in Galva, where the mother died in 1887, but the father is still living in Galva township. By occupation he is a miner. Mr. and Mrs. Lewin have five children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Bertha, January 12, 1886; John, June 1, 1887; Eliza, January 25, 1889; Forrest, December 26, 1893; and Francis, December 16, 1896. With the exception of the youngest all are now attending school.

Mr. Lewin started out in life with nothing but his indomitable energy, and his accumulation of this world's goods is attributable to his good judgment in business affairs, his industry and perseverance, and the assistance of his estimable wife. Both are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and of the Fraternal Tribune of Galva. They are widely and favorably known and are held in high regard by the people of the community in which they live. In his political affiliations Mr. Lewin is a Republican and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln.

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#### DAVID WHITMORE.

For sixty years David Whitmore has been connected with the history of Henry county, and for a quarter of a century has been a resident of Woodhull. He has done more for the upbuilding of his town than any other of its citizens; has championed every movement designed to promote the general welfare; supported every enterprise for the public good; and has materially aided in the advancement of all social, industrial, educational and moral interests.

Mr. Whitmore was born in Morgan

county, Ohio, August 9, 1821, and is a son of John Whitmore, a soldier in the war of 1812, and grandson of Jacob Whitmore, both natives of Pennsylvania, of which state his ancestors were pioneers. They were of German descent. At an early day the father removed to Morgan county, Ohio, becoming one of its first settlers, and there he cleared and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres. In connection with its cultivation he also operated a sawmill which he owned. In Belmont county, Ohio, he married Miss Elizabeth Archibald, a native of Washington, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of James Archibald, who was born in Ireland and was a child of three years when brought to this country. In 1837 John Whitmore came with his family to Illinois, and first located in Mercer county, but three years later took up his residence in Clover township, Henry county, his nearest neighbors at that time being ten and twelve miles away. There he entered a tract of government land, and from the wild prairie developed a good farm. His last years were spent at the home of our subject in Woodhull, where he died in 1885, at the advanced age of ninety-four years. His wife passed away while residing on the farm, in 1866.

David Whitmore received a rather meager education in the schools of his native county, and was sixteen years of age when he came to this state with his parents. He aided his father in the arduous task of improving the home farm, and also broke, fenced and improved a tract of forty acres which he had entered for himself. He subsequently entered and bought more land until he owned eight hundred acres, a half-section of which he placed under cultivation, and erected thereon a good set of farm buildings.



DAVID WHITMORE.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

He actively engaged in farming until 1876, and at the same time was quite extensively interested in the raising and feeding of stock, which proved to him a profitable business, it being his policy to buy and improve property. He has erected six brick and two frame business houses and several residences, and in this way has materially promoted the welfare of the town, doing more for its advancement than probably any other man.

In Henry county, Mr. Whitmore was married, in 1853, to Miss Eliza J. Booher, a daughter of Isaiah and Mary Ann (Young) Booher, who were also pioneers of this county. Her father was a native of Pennsylvania, from which state he removed to Ohio, later came to Illinois, and finally went to Kansas, where his death occurred. His wife spent her last years at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore in Woodhull, where she died. Our subject's parents and Mrs. Booher were all laid to rest at Clover Chapel cemetery. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Whitmore, but two are now deceased, namely: Florence M., who was married twice and died in Woodhull, leaving five children; and Douglas, who died in 1871, at the age of thirteen years. Those living are Ida M., wife of S. I. Currie, of Chicago; Elizabeth L., wife of John Ben-nison, a merchant of Muscatine, Iowa; and Nellie L., wife of C. A. Warren, of Woodhull.

Politically Mr. Whitmore is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and has taken quite an active part in local politics. He served as assessor of Clover township for about ten consecutive years; has been a member of the village board, and school director for some years. In religious belief he is a Methodist, and was first connected with Clover

Chapel, but now holds membership in the church of that denomination of Woodhull. He assisted in building the latter, and has contributed liberally toward the erection of a number of churches in Henry county. He has served as trustee and steward for nearly forty years, and takes an active part in all church work. Fraternally he is a charter member of Woodhull Lodge, F. & A. M., in which he has filled all the chairs, and is now past master. He has now been a resident of Illinois for sixty-three years, and a longer period of time in Clover township than any one now living, and can relate many interesting reminiscences of life on the frontier. In early life he worked some in the pineries of the north and rafted logs down the Mississippi. He also engaged in steamboating on that river one summer. He has witnessed the destructive prairie fires that once swept over the state, and has seen great herds of deer. When he first located here he often hauled grain and other farm produce to Chicago, it requiring eighteen or nineteen days to make the trip, which can now be accomplished by means of railroads in a few hours. He then camped out at night, sleeping under his wagon. He is a man of exemplary habits and tried integrity, and his many friends throughout the county will be pleased to read this record of his life.

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#### JOHN E. STONBERG.

John E. Stonberg, a retired farmer of Galva, eminently deserves classification among the purely self-made men of Henry county who have distinguished themselves for their ability to master the opposing forces of life and to wrest from fate a large measure of success and an honorable name.



Mr. Stonberg was born in Gestrícland, Sweden, October 31, 1835, a son of John and Betsy Stonberg. In early life the father followed the tailor's trade, and his wife was his assistant in the shop. They were members of the Swedish colony that settled in this county in 1847, belonging to the second lot of emigrants to come over, which company numbered four hundred. The voyage was made in a sailing vessel and lasted thirteen weeks. Landing in New York they remained there until May, 1847, when they proceeded on their journey, going by canal boat to Buffalo, New York, and by steamboat on the Great Lakes to Chicago, whence they walked to their new home in Henry county. They had many hardships and privations to undergo but were of a sturdy race and made the best of their lot. There was a scarcity of provisions as the colony was not prepared to care for so many people. Sod houses were built and in these the settlers lived for a time. The land was all wild and unimproved, wild game was abundant and furnished many a meal for the colonists. Our subject once counted a drove of forty deer within three miles of the colony. As soon as the colonists got settled they went to work at their various industries, and the majority of them became prosperous and substantial citizens. For some time Mr. and Mrs. Stonberg worked at the tailor's trade, but at length, tiring of this, he did any general work that came to hand. They were members of the original colony until it broke up. The father always enjoyed good health, but his wife never fully recovered from the effects of the long and arduous journey from Sweden to their new home in this country. She was born July 8, 1808, and died January 9, 1898, while he was born in 1805, and departed this life in March,

1895. Of their four children, John E., the eldest is now the only survivor; Betsy died in 1848, at the age of twelve years; Peter O. died in Sweden; and Charles F. died of measles the same year that his sister passed away.

John E. Stonberg came with his parents to the United States, and remained at home in the colony until attaining man's estate. As he never attended school but two months during his entire life, he is a self-educated as well as a self-made man. He started out in life for himself at the age of twenty years with a capital of seventy-five cents. Borrowing twenty-five cents, he purchased an ax and commenced chopping wood in the timber and hauling it to market. Later he worked as a farm hand for a time. Going to Missouri in 1858 he was employed as night watchman at the round house of the Hannibal & St. Jo railroad at Brookfield until 1861, when he returned to Illinois, and with a span of horses which he owned engaged in cultivating land for the colonists. Subsequently he rented land and engaged in farming on his own account on a small scale. Prospering in this undertaking he at length purchased one hundred and three acres of land, for which he paid ten dollars per acre, borrowing the money, however, to make the first payment. He fully improved his land and as a general farmer and stock raiser met with wonderful success. From time to time he has added to his landed possessions until he now owns four hundred and forty-four acres of valuable farm land. He continued to personally supervise the operation of his land until 1900, when he removed to Galva and purchased his present home, which is a valuable piece of property that he has fitted up with modern improvements.



On the 22d of December, 1864, at Knoxville, Illinois, Mr. Stonberg was united in marriage with Miss Eleanor Swanson, who was born in Sweden in 1834, and came to this country in 1852. By this union were born six children, namely: Amanda J., who died at the age of fifteen years; Emma M., at home with her parents; Mary A., who keeps house for her brother on the farm; Carrie H., also on the farm; Charles E., who is now operating his father's land; and John F., who was a twin brother of Charles E. and died at the age of eleven months. The children were all reared under the parental roof and received good district school educations, while Charles E. also attended the Northern Illinois Normal school at Dixon for two years.

Mr. Stonberg is liberal in his religious views, and is independent in politics, voting for whom he deems best qualified to fill the offices, regardless of party lines. While living on the farm he served as school director for eight years and also filled other minor offices in his township with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He is widely known throughout the county which has been his home for over half a century, and has the entire confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

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#### WALLACE W. ANDREWS.

This well-known farmer residing on section 16, Burns township, was born in Litchfield, Connecticut, on the 20th of May, 1843, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of Henry county, his parents being Orin B. and Minerva (Hemingway)

Andrews, also natives of Litchfield county, Connecticut, where their marriage was celebrated September 20, 1840. The father was a son of John Andrews, who was also born in the Nutmeg state and had six children. In 1851 Orin B. Andrews came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up his residence in Osco township, where he purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land, and at once turned his attention to the development of his farm. At that time there were but few settlers in his vicinity, and most of the land was still in its primitive condition. He died September 14, 1857. The mother married Simeon Matthews September 14, 1870, and died January 20, 1900.

In the family of this worthy couple were five children, of whom Wallace W. is second in order of birth. Watson L., born July 24, 1841, enlisted during the Civil war in Company H, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Dunn, and was in a number of engagements, and was killed on the battle field. His remains were interred in the south. Lucy, deceased, was the wife of William Simonton. Charles resides in Cass county, Iowa. Willis died in Cass county, Iowa.

Wallace W. Andrews was about eight years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, where he grew to manhood, his education being acquired in the country schools. At the beginning of the Rebellion he enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry, which was organized at Camp Douglas, Chicago, from which place it was sent to Springfield, Illinois, thence to Pilot Knob, Missouri, through to Helena, Arkansas, thence to Memphis, Tennessee, fighting all the way across the country, skirmishing and guarding railroads. It was

in the last battle at Nashville, and then started farther south, being at Livingston, Alabama, when they heard of Lee's surrender. After four years of hard service he was discharged and returned home. In 1866 he went to Cass county, Iowa, and bought eighty acres of raw prairie land, which he improved, and there remained until 1884, when he returned to Henry county. He now owns a good farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Burns township, and is successfully engaged in its operation.

Before leaving for the west Mr. Andrews wedded Miss Mary Fort, a daughter of Isaac and Caroline (Gooding) Fort, natives of Connecticut, in whose family were four children, one son and three daughters, two of whom are now living. Mrs. Andrews died September 18, 1897, and was laid to rest in Cosners cemetery. Seven children blessed this union, namely: Watson Wilbur, born May 28, 1870, is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and a resident of Burns township; Lucy C., born July 22, 1872, is the wife of David Martin; Albert L., born December 12, 1873, is deceased; Elmer W., born May 17, 1875, is at home; Alice M., born October 14, 1878, is the wife of Edward Martin; George K., born October 21, 1880, and Leroy W., born August 26, 1885, are both at home.

Socially Mr. Andrews is connected with the Masonic fraternity of Cambridge, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the same place. He is also a member of the G. A. R. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He has always manifested the same patriotism in days of peace as in time of war, and is numbered among the most useful and valued citizens of his community.

## HENRY DE WITT.

This well-to-do and highly esteemed citizen of Annawan was born in Durham, Greene county, New York, May 15, 1820, and is a son of E. Lucas and Polly (Williams) De Witt. On the paternal side his ancestors were among the early settlers of New York and of German extraction. The father was also a native of Greene county and a son of James De Witt, with whom he was engaged in the milling business in early life, operating grist, saw and woolen mills. About 1834, when our subject was fourteen years of age, he removed with his family to Upper Canada, and in 1849 they came to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Annawan township. The father was engaged in farming on the southeast corner of section 34, and continued his residence there until called to his final rest at the age of eighty-three years. He entered some government land and also purchased another man's claim. He took quite an active part in politics and was a staunch Democrat. Religiously he and his family were connected with the Baptist Church. His wife, who was also a native of New York and of Welsh descent, survived him a number of years, and died at the advanced age of ninety-four. They were parents of the following children: Harriette, who married Adam Bean, and both died in Kewanee; Henry, our subject; Platt, a resident of Annawan township; Parmelia, wife of Peter Baker, of Kansas; Ira, who died in Annawan; and Antoinette, who married Samuel Blinn and died in Kansas.

The early life of our subject was spent under the parental roof, and at the age of thirty he came to Henry county. He had only five dollars in cash with which to begin life, but he has always made the most of his

advantages, and is now one of the well-to-do and prosperous citizens of his community. On coming to this county he pre-empted eighty acres of land in Kewanee township, and bought twenty acres, for which he paid twenty-five dollars per acre. On disposing of that property he purchased two hundred and forty acres on section 28, Annawan township, on which he made his home for fifteen years, and then removed to the village of Annawan, where he has built a good residence. He also owns eight lots there, and still has his farm, which he rents, while he is practically living retired, enjoying a well-earned rest. Diligence, enterprise and good management have been the crowning points of his success and have enabled him to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in the path to prosperity.

In May, 1847, Mr. De Witt was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Ann Nelson, a native of Canada and a daughter of James Nelson. She died May 2, 1898. Six children were born of this union, namely: Harriette first married John Haxby, who died leaving four children; George, now a resident of Nebraska; Luella is the wife of Henry Spurlock, of Chicago, and they have two children, Gneveive and John; William, of Iowa; and Myrtle married Henry Balternstern, and resides at Galesburg, Illinois. Mrs. Haxby married for her second husband James Rockafellow, of Annawan township; Oran, a resident of Arispe, Iowa, wedded Mary Tharp, and they have two children, Murl and Ruth; E. Lucas, of Tingley, Iowa, married Katie Fox, and they have two children, Morris and Harold; Levina Jane is the wife of Byron House, of Tingley, Iowa, and they have two children, Luella and Birdie; Addie, the wife of Elmer Fitzkie, of Annawan, and they have two children, De Witt and Henry;

and Harry, of Annawan, married Mabel Williams, and they have two children, Robert and Marion.

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#### DANIEL LEVERETT WILEY.

Only those lives are worthy of record that have been potential factors in the public progress, in promoting the general welfare or advancing the interests of the community in which they live. For many years Mr. Wiley was one of the leading farmers and business men of Henry county, and for twenty years was prominently connected with its financial institutions as president of what was one time known as the First National Bank of Galva, though the name was afterward changed to the L. M. Yocum & Company's bank.

Mr. Wiley was born in Rockingham, Vermont, March 23, 1819, a son of John and Randilla (Weaver) Wiley, also natives of the Green Mountain state, where the father followed farming throughout life. He was born in 1795, and died in 1866. In his family were eight sons and one daughter, but only one of the number is now living, Wilton W., still a resident of Vermont.

Our subject acquired his literary education in the common schools of his native state, and remained at home until he attained his majority. For a few years he followed mercantile business in the east. Coming to Brimfield, Illinois, in 1844, he purchased a tract of land and for a time followed farming. In the meantime he returned to Vermont, where he was married on the 5th of August, 1846, to Miss Mary Billings, of Rockingham, a daughter of Samuel and Susannah (Divoll) Billings, who were natives of Massachusetts. She was born July 30

1818, and died June 1, 1851. She left two children: Flora B., the older, is now the wife of Lorenzo Wiley, a farmer of Castana, Iowa. William F. married Florence Munger and is now engaged in the stock business in Sioux City, Iowa. He was formerly connected with the bank at Galva until his health failed, when he went to Iowa.

In 1854, Mr. Wiley was again married in Rockingham, Vermont, his second union being with Miss Sarah F. Davis, who was born there September 26, 1832, her parents, John H. and Susana (Billings) Davis, being farming people of that place. She was the fourth in order of birth in their family of six children, the others being as follows. Louise M. born July 13, 1826. She died August 27, 1866. She married in 1849 Albert Sherwin and he now resides in Leadville, Col. Susan A., born November 18, 1827, is the wife of Amos G. Sears, of Chicago. Nathaniel J., born October 14, 1830, went to California during the gold excitement of 1849, and is now a resident of Virginia City, Montana. Flora, born March 27, 1838, is the widow of F. A. LeClercq, and a resident of Springfield, Ohio. The father of this family died in Ohio, in 1861, after which the mother came to Illinois to make her home with her children, and her death occurred in Galesburg in 1879. By his second marriage Mr. Wiley had four children: Stella L., born December 25, 1856, died May 18, 1880; Mary, born April 29, 1862, died February 27, 1865; one, born November 10, 1864, died March 3, 1865; and Amy, born April 21, 1868, was married in 1886 to Orrin Houghton, who died March 5, 1891, leaving two children, Earl W. and Flora H. On the 14th of October, 1895, Mrs. Houghton married George T. Lacey,

and now lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he is engaged in merchandising and employed in a bank.

After his marriage Mr. Wiley made his home in Lafayette until 1855, when he removed to Galva, having purchased property at this place, and erected a pleasant residence for his family. For a year before locating here he was successfully engaged in merchandising in the town of Brimfield. He invested largely in farm property, which he improved and operated very successfully for several years, and then sold to an advantage, his land speculations proving quite profitable. He finally disposed of all his farms in Illinois and purchased considerable land in Iowa, which he also improved. In 1865, in connection with others, Mr. Wiley assisted in establishing the First National Bank of Galva, becoming one of its largest stockholders, and for twenty years served as its president. After the charter expired it was merged into the L. M. Yocum & Company's bank, of which he remained president until his death. For many years he practically lived a retired life, though he continued to look after his farming interests. He died at his home in Galva, March 17, 1890, honored and respected by all who knew him.

Though reared a Democrat, Mr. Wiley became a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and served as supervisor of his township for a time, though he never took an active part in political affairs. In religious belief he was a Universalist, and gave liberally to the support of church work. Many a deserving young man has reason to be very grateful for his timely assistance on the rugged pathway of life, for he took a deep interest in the welfare of those start-

ing out in life without capital and uncomplainingly working their way steadily upward to the goal of prosperity. He was always ready to relieve suffering and distress: and was held in high regard by all who knew him.

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### JAMES GILBRAITH.

Many of Henry county's most successful citizens have started out in life for themselves with naught but an abundance of determination and indefatigable industry, and have succeeded through their own diligence, energy and economy. Among this class may be numbered the subject of this sketch, who is to-day a prosperous farmer residing on section 30, Alba township.

Mr. Gilbraith was born in county Down, Ireland, July 6, 1837, and is a son of James and Jane (McCracken) Gilbraith, who, as farming people, spent their entire lives in that county, the former dying in 1882, the later in 1874. In their family were seven children, namely: (1) John came to America and at Rock Island, Illinois, married Maragaret Moore, also a native of county Down, Ireland. He died at his home in Keokuk, Iowa, leaving the following children, William, John, Robert, Alexander, Hugh, Joseph, Lizzie, Agnes and Margaret. (2) Hugh married Eliza McClelland, who died in 1885, and he also died in Ireland in 1890, leaving two children, John and William. (3) Eliza Jane is the wife of John McKee, of county Down. (4) Isabella married David Orr and died in Ireland in 1894, leaving six children, James, John, Isabella, Mary, Margaret and Jane. (5) William married Susannah Scott, who died in 1888,

and he departed this life in 1884, leaving four children, Alexander, John and two daughters. (6) James, our subject, is next in order of birth. (7) Margaret, who died in Keokuk, Iowa, in 1888, was the wife of Robert Miller, now a resident of Minnesota.

James Gilbraith attended the schools of his native land until twenty years of age and aided in the labors of the farm. With the hope of benefitting his financial condition he came to America in 1859 on the steamer *Circassian*, and on landing in New York came direct to Rock Island county, Illinois. During the first year of his residence here he worked for John Warnock, and during the following two years was in the employ of others in Henry county. In 1863 he purchased eighty acres of land in Alba township, which had already been broken, paying for the same twelve dollars and a half per acre, and this he has brought to its present high state of cultivation. He has added to his property from time to time until he now has six hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land in this county, and also has a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Rock Island county. He has devoted considerable attention to the raising of cattle for market, and has been remarkably successful as a breeder of fine Hereford cattle. He also raises horses for market, and in most of his undertakings has prospered until he is now one of the most substantial citizens of his community. On landing in New York he had only one hundred dollars with which to begin life, and the wealth that he has since accumulated has been acquired solely through his own industry, perseverance and good management.

On the 17th day of April, 1866, in Rock Island county, Mr. Gilbraith married Miss

Sarah Morrison, also a native of county Down, Ireland, who died March 1, 1886. Five children were born of this union, namely: (1) James, born July 10, 1867, was married in Rock Island county, in 1891, to Lydia Coin, and they had two children: Gladys May, who died in April, 1900; and Ruth Elizabeth. (2) Joseph, born March 12, 1869, married Emma Hirshberger, by whom he has two children, Lyle and Frank Leslie, and they live in Annawan. (3) Robert H., born August 18, 1870, married Maggie Downey, of Aledo, and resides in Alba township, Illinois. (4) Sarah J., born February 18, 1873, is the wife of John Warnock, of Westchester, Iowa. (5) Eliza A., born February 18, 1875, is the wife of John Pritchard, of Geneseo, and they have one child, Bernice. Mr. Gilbraith was again married, December 23, 1882, his second union being with Miss Matilda Smith, who was born near Antwerp, Germany. They have one son, Clarence A., who was born May 29, 1885.

In 1850 Mrs. Gilbraith came to America with her parents, Anthony and Elizabeth (Young) Smith, also natives of Germany. Her father died in Indiana, Pennsylvania, in 1860, and her mother departed this life at Taylor Ridge, Illinois, in April, 1888. They had six children, five of whom were born in Germany, namely: (1) Elizabeth married James Bothel and died near Taylor Ridge, in 1893, leaving two children, Herbert and Campbell. (2) Martin L. married and died near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, leaving three children. (3) Kate is the wife of Daniel Bothel, of Iowa City, Iowa, and they have four children, John N., Adlow, Gertrude E. and Norwood. (4) Mrs. Gilbraith is the next in order of birth. (5) Margaret

married Alexander Madill, of Milan, Illinois, and died leaving two children, William A. and Maud D.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Gilbraith hold membership with the Congregational Church of Atkinson and are people of prominence in the community where they reside, having a large circle of friends and acquaintances. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, and he has filled the offices of school director and road commissioner. Financially he has reason to be satisfied with the result of his labors since coming to the new world, and his course as a citizen has been such as to commend him to the confidence and respect of the people among whom he has lived.

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#### JUDGE C. M. TURNER.

In the last half century the lawyer has been a prominent factor in all affairs of private concern and national importance. He has been depended upon to conserve the best and permanent interests of the whole people and is a recognized power in all the avenues of life. He stands as the protector of the rights and liberties of his fellow men, and is the representative of a profession whose followers, if they would gain honor, fame and success, must be men of merit and ability. Such a one is Judge Turner, who now occupies the bench of Henry county, winning high commendation by his fair and impartial administration of justice.

The Judge was born in Stark county, Illinois, November 1, 1861, and is a son of Benjamin Turner, one of the honored pioneers, who was born in Delaware, December





C. M. TURNER.



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7, 1807, and when a child was taken by his parents to Ohio, where he grew to manhood and became quite prominent politically. In 1849 he emigrated to Lafayette, Stark county, Illinois, and engaged in farming there until the following year, when Toulon was laid out, and he moved to that place. He erected the first house in the village, and, as a hotel man and merchant, he was prominently identified with its business interests for many years. He served as postmaster of Toulon for sixteen years, and was one of the leading and influential members of the Old Settlers' Society, serving as treasurer of the same at the time of his death and for many years previous. He died at Toulon, March 21, 1887, honored and respected by all who knew him. His first wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth McWilliams, died in 1856, leaving one daughter, Sarah, whose death occurred in 1892. In 1858 he married Miss Ruth A. Myers, a native of Pennsylvania, who went to Toulon, Illinois, to teach music, and is still a resident of that place.

Judge Turner, the only surviving child of the second marriage, passed his boyhood and youth in Toulon and attended its public schools, graduating from the high school of that city in 1879. Subsequently he entered Knox College, Galesburg, where he was graduated with the degree of B. A. in 1884, and in 1887 received the degree of A. M. He read law at Toulon with Hon. M. Shallenberger, and on his admission to the bar, in 1888, began practice at that place, but in 1890 opened an office in Cambridge, where he has since made his home. He purchased the law library of the Hon. William M. Shepherd, which is one of the finest in the city. In the fall of 1890 Judge Turner formed a partnership with J. V. Streed, and under the firm name of Turner & Streed

they successfully engaged in practice until our subject was elected county judge, June 6, 1899. The firm was one of the most popular in Cambridge and built up an extensive and important law practice.

On the 6th of June, 1889, at Toulon, Illinois, Judge Turner was united in marriage with Miss Emma E. Follett, who was born in Missouri, but was reared in Toulon, where her father, Benjamin C. Follett, was engaged in the hotel business and in merchandising for a number of years, but is now living in Wyoming, Stark county. Mrs. Follett, who in her maidenhood was Miss Helen Rhodes, died in Wyoming in 1892. She was born in Stark county about 1840, a daughter of Erie and Eunice Rhodes, natives of Kentucky, and prominent early settlers of Stark county, Illinois, where both died. The Judge and his wife have two children: Helen Marie and Ruth Almira.

In his social relations Judge Turner is a member of Cambridge Lodge, No. 199, I. O. O. F., in which he has passed all the chairs; is also a member of the Encampment and has been for several years a representative to the grand lodge of the state. He is a Master Mason, and a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of Cambridge. The Judge is widely known throughout both Stark and Henry counties, and in the former served as justice of the peace, and was also secretary of the Stark County Old Settlers' Society from 1887 to 1890. He owns the farm on which the first court in that county was held. During his residence in Cambridge he has taken a very active and prominent part in public affairs; has served as president of the school board six years; and as mayor of the city in 1892 and 1893. He was active in securing the franchise for the electric light plant but was not at that time

on the board. Pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, he takes an active interest in all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit, and is now serving as treasurer of the Henry County Fair Association. Politically he is a Democrat, and was the first representative of that party elected to any county office for many years, a fact which plainly indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. His mind is analytical, logical and inductive. With a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the fundamental principles of law, he combines a familiarity with statutory law and sober, clear judgment, which makes him not only a formidable adversary in legal combat, but has given him the distinction of being one of the ablest jurists in this section of the state.

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#### HENRY QUINN.

For almost a quarter of a century Henry Quinn has been a resident of Illinois, and in this time has always been recognized as a public-spirited and progressive citizen, interested in the welfare of the communities with which he has been connected and taking an active part in all that has pertained to advancement along commendable lines. Today he is a well known representative of journalistic interests, as a faithful officer, serving as deputy sheriff and as the popular and highly esteemed proprietor of the Quinn Hotel of Cambridge.

Mr. Quinn is a native of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Butler county, on the 11th of October, 1854. His parents were Thomas and Ann (Boland) Quinn. The father was a native of New

York and the paternal grandfather of our subject was born in the Emerald Isle, whence he crossed the Atlantic to the new world in early manhood. About the time of their marriage the parents of our subject removed to Ohio where they remained until called to the home beyond. The mother passed away in 1862 and eight days later the father died, his death being occasioned by his great grief for the loss of his wife. She left an infant daughter, Agnes, who is now the wife of Joseph A. Miller, a contractor and builder residing in Galva.

There were but two children in the family, the son being Henry Quinn, who was left an orphan at the early age of eight years. He then went to live with his maternal grandfather, who removed to Wisconsin, where the subject of this review spent the days of his boyhood and youth. The educational privileges which he received were those afforded by the common schools, but his opportunities in that direction were limited, as he early began to earn his own living. His first independent venture was in carrying newspapers and he afterward learned the printer's trade, working in the pressroom of the Cantwell printing house of Madison for two years, and in the composing room for three years, during which time he not only mastered the business, but also acquired considerable general information which greatly supplemented the knowledge he had gained in school. His efficiency as a printer made it easy for him to obtain work in that line and he was employed in a number of large cities of the United States. He was employed at various places in the Mississippi valley between St. Anthony and St. Louis, and in 1878 he accepted a position as business manager of the Galva News, in which capacity he served

for eight years. On the expiration of that period he purchased a half interest in the business, since which time he has been a member of the firm of Fitch & Quinn. His thorough knowledge of journalistic work and his particular experience in this line have enabled him to give to the public a most creditable paper that finds its way into many homes in this part of the state, having a very large circulation. It is one of the leading papers in the county, neat in appearance, and is the advocate of all movements and measures calculated to prove of public good. It has been an important factor in promoting the welfare of the county, as well as in upholding the principles of Republicanism.

On the 11th of April, 1877, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Quinn and Miss Ettie Carico, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Carico, who are natives of West Virginia, but emigrating westward in 1832 they cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Bureau county, Illinois, where they long resided. At the present time they are living in Stark county where they have a large circle of warm friends. Mr. and Mrs. Quinn have one child, a son, Harry.

Mr. Quinn is recognized as one of the leaders of the Republican party in this county, and his fellow townsmen have called him to public office. In 1894 he was elected sheriff of Henry county by a majority of eighteen hundred and sixty-five, for a term of four years. He discharged his duties in a prompt and fearless manner and won high commendation by his faithful service. He handled many important cases during that period and was ever just in his enforcement of the law. Among his deputies was the present sheriff, E. Swain, who, on being elected to the office, chose Mr. Quinn to serve as his deputy, the appointment being

made on the 5th of December, 1898; thus our subject has continued his connection with the office for six years and his present term will include eight years' service. He has always been a stalwart Republican in his political association, keeps well informed on the issues of the day and does all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party. The journal of which he is a part owner has done much to advance the cause of Republicanism in this portion of the state, being an earnest champion of the measures of the party which stands for protection to American industries, for the gold standard and for the supremacy of the flag in every section of the world in which it has been planted.

Of the Masonic fraternity Mr. Quinn is a valued and prominent member, being a representative of Blue Lodge, of Galva, the Royal Arch Chapter of Kewanee, of the Council of that place, of Everett's Commandery, K. T., of Rock Island, and Kaba Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Davenport, Iowa. Both he and his wife hold membership in the order of the Eastern Star and in the Blue Lodge he has been honored with office. Mr. Quinn is a public-spirited man to an eminent degree. National progress and local advancement are causes both dear to the heart of this thoroughly loyal son of the Republic, and his devotion to his country is above question. In manner he is pleasant and genial; an approachable gentleman who enjoys the friendship of a large circle of acquaintances.

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#### FRANCIS W. LARSON.

Among the substantial agriculturists of Western township is the subject of this review, who owns and occupies an excellent

farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 32, two miles west of Orion, and also has another farm of similar size on section 33. He is a native of Henry county, his birth having occurred in Lynn township on the 24th of September, 1855. His father, Samuel B. Larson, was born in Sweden, in 1815, and there grew to manhood and married Anna Collen, a Swedish lady, born in 1814. In 1852, with their two children, they crossed the Atlantic and came direct to Andover, Henry county, Illinois. The father purchased a small farm, to which he later added a tract of raw prairie land adjoining, making a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he erected a good set of buildings and made other improvements. There he died February 12, 1884, and his wife departed this life July 18, 1888. In their family were three children of whom our subject is the youngest and the only one born in this country. John, the oldest, is a farmer of Lynn township, while Matilda married P. J. Anderson, and died January 1, 1880.

On the home farm in Lynn township Francis W. Larson grew to manhood, pursuing his studies in the local schools and assisting his father in the labors of the farm until he attained his majority. On starting out in life for himself he rented the old homestead, which he operated for a few years. In 1882 he bought his present place, but rented it out for two years before moving to it. Since then to its further improvement and cultivation he has given his time and attention. He raises a good grade of short-horn cattle and Poland China hogs, and in all his undertakings has been uniformly successful, so that he is now numbered among the prosperous and substantial men of his community.

In Mercer county, Illinois, Mr. Larson

was married March 17, 1877, to Miss Anna Louisa Plym, a native of Sweden, and daughter of John Plym, who settled in Alezio, Mercer county, where he remained until his death. She was a miss of twelve summers when she came to Henry county, Illinois, and was reared and educated here. She died June 18, 1893, and was laid to rest in the Swedish cemetery at Orion. Six children were born of this union, as follows: Emma, who is now keeping house for her father; Anna Victoria, who died at the age of twelve years; Minnie, who died at the age of eleven; John Edward, who was the second in order of birth and died in infancy; Edna Matilda and Mabel Violet, both attending the home school.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes, in 1876, Mr. Larson has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He has, however, efficiently served as a member of the school board for twelve years, and his duties of citizenship have always been most faithfully and conscientiously performed. He and his family are members of the Lutheran Church, and are prominent in the best social circles of the community in which they reside.

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#### WILLIAM LEMBKE.

William Lembke, an honored and highly respected citizen of Lynn township, whose home is on section 17, has been a resident of Henry county since August, 1857, and as a farmer he has borne a very active part in its development and upbuild-

ing. He comes from across the sea, his birth occurring in Prussia, Germany, January 28, 1829, and in that country he grew to manhood and learned the cabinet maker's trade, which he followed there for some years.

With the hope of benefiting his financial condition Mr. Lembke emigrated to America in 1855, going from Rotterdam to Liverpool, where he took passage on a sailing vessel, which was forty-seven days in crossing the Atlantic. They encountered some severe storms, during which one mast was carried away and other damage done to the vessel, while one man was lost overboard. Arriving in New York on the 4th of May, Mr. Lembke at once proceeded to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he found employment at the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and after working for ten days the company disposed of their old foreman and put our subject in his place. He held that position until Christmas, 1856, when he came to Mercer county, Illinois, and decided to remain in this state. He took a contract for working on G. B. Pillsbury's house in Lynn township, Henry county, and continued to work at his trade in this and Mercer counties for two years.

On the 17th of August, 1857, in Cambridge, Mr. Lembke was united in marriage with Miss Amelia A. Huyck, who was born and reared in Ohio, and was one of the early teachers of Henry county, Illinois. She died in 1863, and on the 21st of December, that year, Mr. Lembke was again married in Rock Island, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth Rhodenbaugh, a native of Mercer county, where she was reared and educated. Her father, John Rhodenbaugh, was born in Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, in 1818, and in

1837 came to Illinois, being one of the first settlers of Mercer county, where he improved a large farm. There he died May 2, 1892, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Polly Arrowsmith and was a native of Indiana, passed away March 11, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Lembke are the parents of two children: Lena, wife of Frank DeWitt, a farmer of Coal Valley; and Mary E., wife of G. B. Krapp, a merchant of Coal Valley, by whom she has two children, William Lembke, and Earl H., who died October 31, 1900, at the age of three years and seven months.

Prior to his first marriage Mr. Lembke purchased his present farm in Lynn township, only a small portion of which had been broken, and the only improvement on the place was a small frame house. To the further development and cultivation of his land he has since devoted his energies, has erected a pleasant residence and surrounded it with shade trees, making an attractive and picturesque home. Most of the fruit and forest trees upon the place he has raised from the seed. The neat and thrifty appearance of the farm denotes the supervision of a careful and painstaking owner, and show conclusively that he thoroughly understands the occupation he has chosen as a life work.

Politically Mr. Lembke is a Douglas Democrat, and cast his first presidential ballot for James Buchanan in 1856. He is an earnest advocate of good schools and competent teachers, and did much to advance the educational interests of his community while serving for twenty-one consecutive years as township school trustee. He also served as township assessor three years, but has declined further honors. Although reared in the Lutheran Church,

he and his wife now attend the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are members of the Eastern Star Chapter, No. 93, of the Masonic fraternity at Orion. Mr. Lembke is also an active and prominent member of Sherman Lodge, No. 535, F. & A. M., in which he has filled all the chairs and has twice served as master, while he has also represented the lodge in the grand lodge of the state. In token of their high regard for him the members of that lodge, on the 28th of December, 1892, presented him with a handsome gold headed cane on which was engraved the name and number of the lodge. The whole thing was a great surprise to Mr. Lembke. He is widely and favorably known throughout his adopted county, and is justly deserving of honorable mention in her history.

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### FRANK J. JOHNSON.

Frank J. Johnson, the present well-known assessor of Andover township—a position he has held for four consecutive years—was born in Sweden on the 30th of June, 1859, and in 1870 was brought to the United States by his parents, Peter and Hannah Johnson, also natives of that country, who on reaching the shores of America came at once to Andover township, this county, where the father rented land. For some time he followed farming, and then retired from active labor, moving to Andover, where he died December 29, 1890, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife survives him at the age of seventy-six, and now lives with a daughter, Mrs. Matilda Anderson, of Andover township. Both held membership in the Lutheran Church of Andover, and he affiliated with the Republican party.

They were the parents of eight children, all of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Christine, wife of A. V. Hultgren, of Andover township; Mary, deceased wife of John Reed; Hannah, deceased wife of Eric Ericson, of Western township; Emily, wife of Charles Eckman, of Nebraska; Frank J., our subject; Maggie, deceased wife of Clarence Anderson, of Osco township; Matilda, wife of Bengt Anderson, of Andover township; and Otto, a turnkey in the state penitentiary at Joliet.

Frank J. Johnson received his education in the public schools of this county and grew to manhood upon the home farm. He started out in life for himself as a farm hand and was thus employed until 1886, when he had secured enough capital to purchase some land. Nearly all this time he worked in Andover township.

In 1885 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Ella Johnson, whose birth occurred in Sweden May 14, 1863. Her parents, John and Mary (Peterson) Johnson, emigrated with their family to the new world in 1869, and settled in this county, where the mother died March 1, 1889. The father now makes his home in Western township. Besides the wife of our subject they had six other children: Ella S.; Hulda, wife of Nels Anderson, of Clover township; Charles; John, also a resident of Clover township; Frank; Augusta, wife of Charles Hultstreet; and Edwin. Of the seven children born to Frank J. Johnson and wife, two died in infancy, Cora and Nora, the others being Fred N., Herman F., Gilbert V. S., Dora M. and Martin P.

For six years after his marriage Mr. Johnson engaged in general farming and stock raising on rented land in Andover and Clover townships, but in 1892 he pur-



chased his present farm of one hundred and forty acres, to the cultivation and further improvement of which he has since devoted his energies. In connection with the regular farm products he raises broom corn, and has found that industry quite profitable. He also raises cattle and hogs for market, and in all his business undertakings is meeting with gratifying success. He was one of the first to become interested in the Farmers' Telephone, and is serving as one of its directors.

Mr. Johnson is what is styled a self-made man, for all that he has has been acquired by industry, perseverance and good management. The Republican party finds in him a staunch supporter of its principles. In 1896 he was first elected assessor of Andover township, in which capacity he has since served the people faithfully and well. He has always been officially connected with school affairs, and is now a director in district No. 5, Andover township. Religiously he is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover.

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#### CHARLES A. CARLSON.

The subject of this sketch, who is an energetic and progressive agriculturist residing on section 26, Andover township, Henry county, Illinois, was born in that township March 11, 1863. His father, Swan A. Carlson, was one of the men who came from Sweden to found a home for himself and better his financial condition. He was born in 1832 and as soon as old enough to care for himself turned his attention to farming, following that pursuit in his native land until 1858, when he decided to come to America. He had pre-

viously married Christina Swanson, and together they crossed the Atlantic, the voyage consuming eighteen weeks. They first located in Galesburg, Illinois, and on reaching that city found that their means were about exhausted. Coming to Andover township, which was the first settlement made by the Swedish colony, he operated rented land for a short time and then purchased a small tract of forty acres, to which he added from time to time as he succeeded in business until he had one hundred and sixty acres. He now resides in Andover township. His first wife died September 5, 1872, and of the eight children born to them three are now deceased. Those living are Axel, a resident of Evanston, Illinois; Mary, wife of Gust Sanberg, living on section 22, Andover township; Charles A., our subject; Frank, who lives on the home farm; and Hulda, wife of John Sandquist, also a resident of Andover township. Mr. Carlson again married, and by that union had two children: John E., a farmer of Andover township; and Ellen, at home. The father has always voted the Republican ticket, but would never accept or hold political office. He has ever been interested in the maintenance of good schools and efficiently served as director of the district school for several years. He is a member and liberal supporter of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover, and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

The preliminary education of Charles A. Carlson was received in the common schools of Andover township, and later he took an elective course at the Northern Illinois Normal School of Dixon. He grew to manhood on the home farm, becoming a thorough and practical farmer. On the 11th

of February, 1890, he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Swanson, who was born in Cambridge township, this county. November 22, 1869, a daughter of Charles and Johanna (Hanson) Swanson, natives of Sweden, where they were reared. About 1864 her father came to the United States, and her mother in 1868. After spending ten years in Cambridge township, Henry county, Illinois, Mr. Swanson purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Andover township, to which he has added since small tracts of land as his financial resources permitted until he now owns a valuable place of two hundred and forty acres on section 26. When it came into his possession it was only partially improved, but intending to make it a permanent home he has remodeled all the buildings as well as erecting new ones. For many years he followed general farming with good success, but is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former labor. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and religiously is a consistent member of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover and one of its liberal supporters. To himself and wife have been born four children, one of whom died in infancy. Of those living Emma, wife of our subject, is the eldest; Mamie is the wife of Gust Bjorling, of Weller township; and Alma is at home with her parents.

After his marriage Mr. Carlson rented a farm in Clover township, where he made his home for two years, and met with success in every undertaking. In 1892 he moved to his present farm on section 26, Andover township, where he rents two hundred acres of his father-in-law, Mr. Swanson, and here he carries on general farming and stock raising with marked success. In

1895 he purchased eighty acres of land on section 27, adjoining the farm which he rents, and now operates both places. Two children have come to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, namely: Esther M. and Millia Evalma E.

In his political views our subject is a Republican, though at local elections he supports the men whom he considers best qualified to fill the offices, regardless of party lines. He has filled the office of school director for nine years. Mr. Carlson is a leading member of the Lutheran church of Andover, and since his residence in Andover township has taken an active part in Sunday school work, the meetings being held in the school house of his district. He has been superintendent of the American Sunday school, and is district president of the Union Sunday School Association of Andover and Lynn townships, devoting a large share of his time in promoting the work.

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#### GEORGE W. KINCAID.

We are now permitted to touch briefly upon the life history of one who has retained a personal association with the affairs of Illinois throughout life and whose ancestral line traces back to the colonial epoch. His life has been one of honest and earnest endeavor and due success has not been denied him.

A native of this state, Mr. Kincaid was born in St. Clair county, on the 23d of December, 1821, and is of Irish descent on the paternal side. His grandfather, Andrew Kincaid, who fought for American independence in the Revolutionary war, was a native of Ireland and an early settler of



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Pennsylvania. The father, James Kincaid, was born in that state about 1790, and at an early day went to Kentucky, being among the pioneers of the Blue Grass state. There he grew to manhood and married Miss Polly Sanders, who was of English and Scotch extraction, and whose father had also removed to Kentucky in pioneer days. He was from Virginia. James Kincaid followed farming in Kentucky until about 1820, when he removed to St. Clair county, Illinois, locating within ten miles of St. Louis, where our subject was born near Belleville. In 1823 he took his family to Greene county, subsequently spent one year in Rock Island county, and then located in Mercer county, where he improved a farm and reared his children. He continued his residence there throughout the remainder of his life, but died while on a visit to our subject in Henry county, in 1855. He was a soldier of both the war of 1812 and the Black Hawk war, and was ever a true and loyal citizen.

George W. Kincaid is one of a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom two sons and two daughters are still living. Franklin is a resident of Mercer county, Illinois. Nancy married James Glenn, of Henry county, and both are now deceased. Martha is the widow of George Sinley and a resident of Colona. Emma is the wife of Charles Davis, of Missouri. Mrs. Sophia Mendenhall resided in Hancock county, Illinois, until her death.

The days of his boyhood and youth George W. Kincaid passed in Mercer county, but he received only a limited education. There he was married in 1844 to Miss Louisa Smith, who was born in Ohio, and came to this state in 1837, locating in Mercer county. After his marriage he continued to reside in that county for a time, and then re-

moved to Rock Island county, while in 1850 he came to Henry county, and purchased an eighty-acre tract of land in Colona township, known as the Dr. Baker farm. Upon this place he has since made his home, and to it he has added from time to time until he now owns nearly five hundred acres of land in one body. Three hundred acres of this amount has been placed under the plow, and improved with two sets of good buildings. Although he started out in life for himself in limited circumstances Mr. Kincaid has steadily worked his way upward by diligence, fair dealing and untiring industry until he is now one of the most prosperous citizens of his community.

Mr. Kincaid's first wife died in the fall of 1853. By that union he had six children, namely: William, a resident of the state of Washington; Mrs. Anna Anderson, of Kewanee, Illinois; Lucy, wife of Maxwell Murray, of Nebraska; Harriet, wife of Thomas Davis, of Iowa; A. Jackson, who is engaged in farming on the home place; Louisa, wife of James Montgomery, of Rock Island. Mr. Kincaid was again married in 1856, his second union being with Mary Walker, who was born in Kentucky, but reared in Missouri. She died January 19, 1900, leaving one son, John F., who is married and engaged in farming and the manufacture of cheese at Briar Bluff, Illinois.

Since the formation of the Republican party, in 1856, Mr. Kincaid has been an ardent supporter of its principles, and has voted for all its presidential candidates, but has never cared for official honors. His interest in educational affairs was manifest by fifteen years of faithful service as school director in his district. He has been an eye witness of almost the entire growth and development of this state, and for half a cent-

ury he has been prominently identified with the upbuilding of Henry county. He has since seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful homes and farms, its hamlets grow into villages and flourishing towns, and all of the interests and evidences of an advanced civilization introduced. As a honored pioneer and worthy citizen of his adopted county he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in its history, and his sketch will be read with interest by a host of warm friends throughout the county.

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J. A. KIRKLAND, M. D.

One of the most exacting of all the higher lines of occupation to which a man may lend his energies is that of the physician. A most scrupulous preliminary training is demanded, a nicety of judgment but little understood by the laity. In this respect Dr. Kirkland is well fitted for the profession which he has chosen for a life work, and his skill and ability have won for him a lucrative practice.

This well-known physician and surgeon of Cambridge was born near Belvidere, Boone county, Illinois, July 13, 1856, but before he was a year old was brought to Henry county by his parents, William and Hannah (Farley) Kirkland. The father was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, in September, 1813, and was a son of Alexander Kirkland, who at an early day was extensively engaged in trading with the Indians on this side of the Alleghanies, bringing his goods across the mountains on horseback and in pack trains. He and two brothers, Robert and one whose name is unknown, were millionaires, and paid many hundred thousand dollars to the government in way of duties. In pioneer days Alexander Kirkland went to Indiana,

where he purchased a large amount of land, but was soon taken ill, from which illness he died. His widow then returned east on horseback, carrying her infant son, the Doctor's father, a distance of three hundred miles, following blazed trees and fording streams, stopping by the wayside to nurse her sick infant and give him what medical attention she could. She gave an attorney power to secure the lands which her husband had purchased and sell them as he found opportunity. After selling the property he left for parts unknown, taking the proceeds with him. The brothers of Alexander Kirkland were lost track of, and nothing was known of them and their descendants for many years, but recently some were found living in Baltimore.

In 1856 William Kirkland, the Doctor's father, came to Illinois from Morgan county, Ohio, and located near Woodhull, Henry county, where he improved a farm, being an agriculturist by occupation. Here he died February 22, 1896, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was an active and prominent member of the Christian church assisted in organizing several churches of that denomination and was an intimate friend of Alexander Campbell, who was often a guest at his home. His widow is a devout Christian and a very active member of the same church. She was born in Pennsylvania and is now seventy-six years of age, making her home in Woodhull. Her parents, James and Ellen Farley, were natives of Pennsylvania and England, respectively, and died in Boone county, Illinois, the former at the age of eighty-four years, the later at the age of eighty-six. In early life William Kirkland was a Democrat, but voted for Lincoln in 1860, and was afterward a Republican.

Dr. Kirkland is the fifth in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being Mary, wife of Martin Hiller, a farmer of Iowa; James Curtis, a farmer, who died in 1881, at the age of thirty-five years; Elizabeth E., who has been an invalid for years; William P., who is extensively engaged in farming and stock raising on the old homestead at Woodhull, Illinois; Davis O., a farmer of Henry county; and Lloyd G., attorney for the Iowa Insurance Company and a man of considerable prominence in Chicago, who is now serving as president of the park board.

After leaving the common schools, where his primary education was secured, Dr. Kirkland attended Abingdon College three years, and for one year was a student at the Kentucky University. He successfully engaged in teaching school for two years, then read medicine with Dr. Dunlap, of Cambridge, for a time, and later attended lectures at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, where he was graduated in 1885. Immediately after his graduation he opened an office in Chicago, where he remained two years, and since 1887 has successfully engaged in practice at Cambridge. Besides his large general practice he is medical examiner for the following insurance companies and societies: The Manhattan, Penn Mutual, Fidelity Mutual, Phoenix Mutual, Home Life of Philadelphia, Prudential of New York, the Modern Woodmen of America, Home Forum, Knights of the Globe, and Kansas Life. The Doctor is also interested in business enterprises, and has served as president of the Electric Light Company of Cambridge for several years. He has an extensive and well-selected library, equal to, if not excelling, any other in Cambridge.

On the 17th of November, 1887, Dr.

Kirkland was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Price, daughter of Obed and Mary Price, of Galva, who are now residing at Etherly, Knox county, Illinois, where the father is engaged in business as a merchant. As a contractor and builder he was prominently identified with the interests of this county for some years, and erected more large buildings than any other man within its borders. He is a native of New Jersey, his wife of Pennsylvania, and they were married in Illinois in the early '60s. Religiously they are quite prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Kirkland is the older of their two children. The other, Archibald, is an extensive contractor and builder of Anaconda, Montana, and has erected some of the large public buildings of that state. Mrs. Kirkland was a member of the first class ever graduated from the high school of Galva, and prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching for twelve years, ten of these being in the city schools of Galva. She won an enviable reputation as an instructor, and by extensive reading has become perfectly familiar with the best literature. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Doctor and his wife have three children, namely: Helen Irene, Archibald F. and Therese.

Politically Dr. Kirkland is identified with the Republican party, but takes no active part in politics aside from voting. For six years he was a member of the school board of Cambridge. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is also connected with the Galva Medical Society and the Military Tract Medical Society. He has taken a post-graduate course at the Post-Graduate Medical College of Chicago, and has written many able articles for medical journals.



The Doctor is a lover of nature, and possesses an excellent knowledge of natural history. While a student at the Kentucky University he was shown how to mount a bird, and since then, through his own persistent effort, has become an expert taxidermist. He has given instruction to many high school pupils and others in this art, having started several amateurs along that line of work. He has the best and largest ornithological collection in Henry county, having about one hundred and twenty-five varieties of birds mounted, and their poise is excellent, showing a thorough knowledge of their life and habits.

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#### HENRY G. GRIFFIN.

There is particular satisfaction in reverting to the life history of the honored and venerable gentleman whose name initiates this review, since his mind bears impress of the historical annals of Henry county from the early pioneer days, and from the fact that he has been a loyal son of the Republic. For many years he was identified with the agricultural interests of the county, but is now living a retired life in Cambridge.

Mr. Griffin was born in Stockbridge, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, June 19, 1819, and traces his ancestry back to William Griffin, the progenitor of the family in America, who was a native of Wales and an early settler in Connecticut. His son, Samuel Griffin, the grandfather of our subject, moved from Connecticut to Massachusetts prior to his marriage with Nahusta Caldwell, who was born of New England parentage and was of Welsh and English extraction. They made their home in Mas-

sachusetts, and lived to an advanced age. John Griffin, our subject's father, was born in that state, and on leaving home at the age of eighteen went to New York. Being drafted, he served as a soldier in the war of 1812, and when peace was once more restored he resumed work at his trade of carpenter and joiner in New York. While there he wedded Miss Mary Hoag, a native of Rensselaer county, that state, but owing to ill health he finally returned to Massachusetts. In 1841 he came to Illinois and settled near Viola, Mercer county, where he secured a quarter-section of land on a warrant due for his services in the war of 1812, and to it he subsequently added by purchase. A part of this farm is still in possession of the family. The father died in Mercer county in June, 1865, at the age of sixty-eight years, and the mother, who was a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died in January, 1890, at the advanced age of ninety-two years and six months. Their children were William, who has been dead many years; Henry G., our subject; James M., deceased; Sarah, who died in Massachusetts, in 1839; Huldah, widow of Anson Calkins, and a resident of this county; Elizabeth, who died at the age of sixteen years; George, who has been dead many years; and Septimus, who lives near Viola, Illinois.

The boyhood and youth of Henry G. Griffin were spent on a farm in his native state, and he was educated in the common schools of the neighborhood. As early as 1837 he came to Illinois, and located one hundred and sixty acres of land in what is now Green township, Mercer county. To the improvement and cultivation of that place he devoted his energies until 1846, when he moved to Cambridge township, Henry county. Five years later he sold the



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farm which he first purchased and bought another in the same township, making it his home until his removal to the city of Cambridge in March, 1900. It is a well improved place of one hundred and seventy-four acres on section 2, and has been rented to the same parties for twenty years.

In Mercer county, Mr. Griffin became acquainted with and, August 4, 1840, married, Miss Isabella W. McGaughey, who was born near New Bedford, Pennsylvania, April 29, 1822. Her parents, Alexander and Rebecca (Tarrance) McGaughey, were natives of Adams county, that state, but shortly after their marriage moved to Mercer county, Pennsylvania, locating near New Bedford. By occupation her father was a wagonmaker and farmer. Having lost her mother when in her tenth year, Mrs. Griffin went to live with her sister, Mrs. Agnes Stewart, near Coitsville, Ohio, and in 1839 came with her to Viola, Mercer county, Illinois. She died September 6, 1893, and the funeral services, which were held at the Congregational Church, and conducted by Rev. E. P. Brand, were very impressive and comforting, the text being "Let not your hearts be troubled." In early life she was a member of the United Presbyterian Church, and was instructed well in the Holy Scriptures, which she taught her children both by precept and example. On the organization of the Congregational Church at Cambridge, she and her husband were two of the original members, and Mr. Griffin is now the only survivor. She always took an active and prominent part in the work of the church, and, save a few times during the Civil war, always prepared the bread for communion. As a friend she was ever true and loyal, and no one ever left her home who did not have good reason to be grateful for her hospitality. In her efforts

to make her family comfortable, she, like a true mother, often went beyond her strength. As a wife "many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all," is the feeling of the husband, whose home was left desolate by her death. In the great struggle between the north and the south, with fortitude and foresight, sustained the cares of the family and the farm while her husband and son were at the front, and she gave liberally to both the sanitary and Christian commissions. On the 4th of August, 1890, at their golden wedding, the community showed their appreciation of her worth by many substantial offerings.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Griffin were as follows: (1) John A. has been a minister in the Congregational Church for many years, and now resides at Sherrard, Illinois. At President Lincoln's first call for troops he enlisted in Company D, Seventeenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was promoted from the rank of sergeant to second lieutenant. He remained in the service until March, 1866, and was wounded in the thigh at the battle of Shiloh. He first wedded Mary Payne, who died in Danville, Illinois, leaving four children, Chester, Alice, Grace and Albert. For his second wife he married Margaret Haddick, and to them were born four children: Isabel, who died when about three years and a half old; Robert T., John and Charlotte. (2) French B., our subject's second child, was born March 29, 1845, and died at the age of six months. (3) James M. died in infancy. (4) The fourth child died in infancy unnamed. (5) William A., born September 23, 1848, married Lovica Hilbard and died March 17, 1882, leaving two children, Evelyn and Wilhelmina. (6) Mary A. is the wife of J. M. Merrill, of Des Moines, Iowa, and has

three children, Frank, Earl and Royce. (7) Rebecca A. is the wife of Rufus Anderson, of Des Moines, by whom she has one child, Julia A., and they also have an adopted daughter, Fannie Anderson. (8) Gilbert A., born July 25, 1857, died January 18, 1861. (9) Julia A. is the wife of F. H. Streed, of Ulah, Illinois, and they have two children, Henry G. and Eugene F. (10) Sarah A. is the wife of C. K. Filmore, of Marshalltown, Iowa, and they had seven children, Ralph W., Ross C., Paul H., Agnes, Dora, Marion and Charles K., deceased. Mr. Griffin has now living five children, twenty-two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

For his second wife Mr. Griffin married Mrs. Susan C. Blanchard, of Davenport, Iowa, March 2, 1898. She is a daughter of William and Matilda Kennedy, prominent residents of Rock Island county, Illinois.

Mr. Griffin entered the Union service during the Civil war, enlisting August 11, 1862, for three years, in Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under the command of Colonel T. J. Henderson. He took part in all the engagements in which his regiment participated until the battle of Knoxville, where he was captured by the rebels. By a roundabout way he was taken to Libby prison, where he remained from December 1, 1863, to May 7, 1864, and was then transferred to the stockade at Macon, Georgia. In August of the same year he was taken with others to Charleston, where they were placed under the fire from the Union guns on Morris Island and were kept there until October 6, when they were sent to Columbia, South Carolina, where they were kept in an open field until December 12. On that date the prisoners were moved to the state insane asy-

lum, and remained there until the 18th of February, 1865, when sent to the parole camp near Wilmington. Here they were delivered to the Union authorities, but Mr. Griffin was not exchanged until April 26, 1865, when he was allowed to join his regiment at Greensboro, North Carolina. The war having ended, he was finally discharged July 7, 1865, after almost three years of faithful service on southern battle fields and in the loathsome prisons of the south, where he endured all the hardships and privations of prison life.

Politically Mr. Griffin was originally a Whig, but has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party since its organization, and has served as a delegate to many county and state conventions of his party. He has been in office most of his life, being elected justice of the peace when very young. He was county school commissioner two years, and was on the building committee for the erection of different school-houses, including the first in the village of Cambridge. He was coroner of the county for a time and was supervisor of Andover township for nearly twenty years. He is a very prominent and influential member of the Congregational Church of Cambridge, and has served as deacon since its organization. His upright course in life commands the respect and commendation of everyone, and his labors as a founder of the county justly entitle him to a prominent place in its annals.

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#### PHILIP B. KEELER.

Among the recognized leaders of the Republican party in Henry county is Philip B. Keeler, the well-known and efficient circuit clerk, whose large acquaintance and en-

bounded popularity give him an influential following, while his shrewd judgment of men and affairs makes his counsel of value in all important movements. In business circles he also takes a foremost rank, and his success is all the more notable from the fact that it has been secured by his own judicious management.

Mr. Keeler was born in Clarendon, Orleans county, New York, August 27, 1843, the youngest child of Ira B. and Clarissa H. (Foley) Keeler, also natives of the Empire state, and of English and Irish descent, respectively. In early life the father followed the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and later engaged in bridge building, constructing many of the bridges over the Erie canal. He was widely and favorably known, and was a man of considerable prominence in his town, being called upon to serve as supervisor and in many other positions of public trust. Fraternally he was quite a prominent member of the Odd Fellows Society. He died in January, 1852, at about the age of fifty-two years, while his wife, who was a consistent and faithful member of the Baptist Church for many years, was born in 1797 and died in 1879. To them were born eleven children, of whom eight reached years of maturity, namely: Harriet B. is the widow of Clark Glidden, with whom she came to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1854, but is now living with her son in Aberdeen, Washington; Rufus died in California in 1898; Delia died in 1852; Josiah was accidentally killed in Scottsville, Kansas; Elizabeth V. is the wife of J. W. Eddy, a jeweler of Kewanee, and is now, in 1900, visiting the Paris exposition; Mary E. is the widow of Andrew Wood and a resident of Cambridge; Viola M. married L. P. Wilson and died in 1889; and Philip B. completes the family.

The early education of our subject was acquired in the public schools of his native state, but later he attended the Union high school at Kewanee, Illinois, and also took a special course in bookkeeping. By the death of his father he was thrown upon his own resources at the tender age of seven years, and has since made his own way in the world unaided. In 1859 he came with his mother to Kewanee, which he still considers his home, though in the discharge of his present official duties he is compelled to spend most of his time at the county seat. On starting out in life for himself he learned the jeweler's trade in Kewanee. Subsequently he found employment in a machine shop, but in less than a year he had the misfortune to lose his right hand and a portion of his forearm, though he did not resign his position for three years, successfully manipulating the machine with one hand during that time. Following this he again worked at the jeweler's trade until 1866, when he formed a partnership with & Keeler he was engaged as a dealer in jewelry, sewing machines and musical instruments, being successfully engaged in that line of trade for thirty years, he taking charge of the sewing machines and musical instrument department. For a time he was also interested in the lumber business in southern Arkansas, but his property there was destroyed by fire. The Building and Loan Association of Kewanee owes much of its success to Mr. Keeler, who is a man of keen discrimination, sound judgment and indefatigable enterprise. As one of the organizers and directors and president he has labored untiringly for its success, and has succeeded, with others, in placing the concern on a good financial basis. Through this organization many poor people have been able to secure homes for themselves which they never could have done in

any other way, and it has thus advanced the interests of the town.

On the 22nd of December, 1866, Mr. Keeler was united in marriage with Miss Mary F. Whittenmore, a daughter of Caleb Whittenmore, who to-day is one of the oldest and most highly esteemed business men of Peoria, where their marriage was celebrated. By this union were born two children: Rufus W., an expert electrician; and Philip B., Jr., a pupil in the public schools.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln Mr. Keeler has been an ardent Republican, and has worked untiringly for the success of his party. He has been honored with several important official positions, having served as a member of the village board of Kewanee and was supervisor of Kewanee township for many years. While a member of the village board the gas plant was put in and preliminary steps were taken to secure water works. He was chairman of the board of supervisors from the time he was first elected until his election as circuit clerk, which office he now so creditably fills, discharging its duties to the entire satisfaction of all the people. He was re-elected to the latter office in 1900 by a largely increased majority, and had no opposition in the convention. For some years he was a member of the library board of Kewanee, its library being one of the finest in the state, and its rooms kept open every day in the year. In the building up of this library much credit is due to him.

As a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows he has done much for the order, and is one of the most prominent members in the state. He was a member of the building committee when the hall of the Kewanee lodge was built. He is past grand of the subordinate lodge, and has been a rep-

resentative to the grand lodge of the state for the past twenty-five years. A member also of the encampment he is now past chief patriarch, and he has represented his camp in the grand encampment of the state for twenty-five years. He is now past grand marshal of the grand encampment. Until his election to the office of circuit clerk, he was a trustee of the I. O. O. F. property in Kewanee from 1870. Philip B. Keeler is emphatically a man of enterprise, positive character, indomitable energy and liberal views, and is thoroughly identified in every respect with the growth and prosperity of his adopted city and county.

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#### WILLIAM RINGLE.

Prominent among the successful stock-dealers and agriculturists of Henry county is William Ringle, the present efficient supervisor of Osco township. He was born in Allegheny county, near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, on the 6th of March, 1847, and was ten years of age when brought to this county by his parents, Joseph and Mary (Whitsel) Ringle, also natives of the Keystone state, where their marriage was celebrated. His paternal grandfather was a soldier of the Revolutionary war under the command of General Washington, and was trainmaster at Valley Forge. He died when comparatively a young man, leaving a large family of children, all of whom lived to an advanced age.

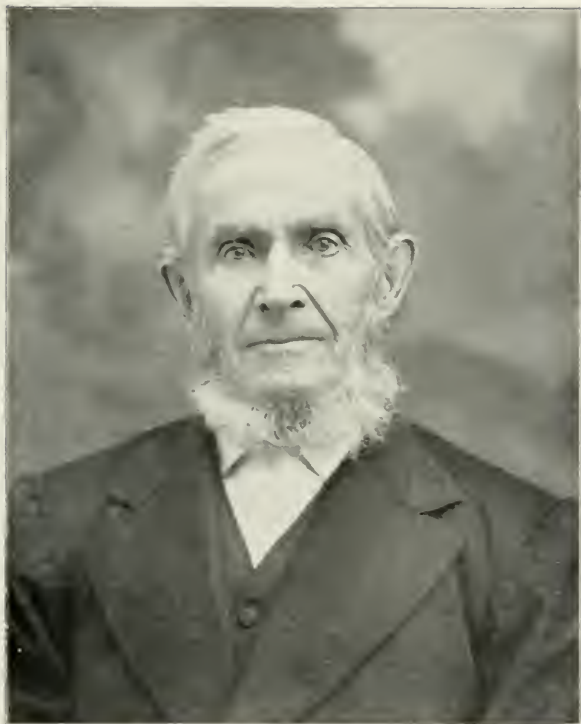
Joseph Ringle, father of our subject, was born in 1811, and died in 1893. He was born and reared in western Pennsylvania, his early home being in Indiana county. During his early manhood he lived for a time near Pittsburg, where he was engaged in the dairy business, but later returned to Indiana



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WILLIAM RINGLE.



JOSEPH RINGLE.

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county. He was one of the first to settle on the prairies in Osco township, Henry county, where he purchased and improved a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of land, and later added eighty acres more, which he retained until a settlement was made among the children by their starting out in life for themselves. He was a supporter and active member of the Presbyterian Church of Munson, and was a Prohibitionist in politics, though he never took a very active part in political affairs. He was a man of sound financial standing, and, starting from nothing, he accumulated quite a fortune. His wife was of Dutch ancestry, her forefathers having come from Holland at an early day and settled in Pennsylvania. They were quite wealthy and invested their money in coal mining, which is still carried on extensively by their descendants in that state. Mrs. Ringle died at the home of a daughter in Cambridge, in 1898. She was the mother of nine children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being James, a retired farmer of Munson township, who now resides in Geneseo; John, a retired resident of Cambridge; William, our subject; David W., a farmer of Geneseo township; Catherine, wife of Harrison Moore, a retired farmer of Newton, Iowa; Louisa, widow of A. J. Combs and a resident of Cambridge; and Mary, wife of John Sherrard, of Cambridge township.

During his boyhood and youth William Ringle attended the district schools near his home and the Orion Academy, and he remained under the parental roof until his marriage. It was on the 27th of October, 1873, that he wedded Miss Ellen A. Welton, who was born in Peoria county, Illinois, February 22, 1852, a daughter of Lester C. and Ora Welton, both natives of Connecticut. During her infancy the family moved from

Peoria to Henry county and located in Osco township, at which time the greater part of this locality was still in its primitive condition. Mr. Welton purchased and improved a large farm and was quite extensively engaged in stock raising. He was also one of the promoters and a large stockholder of the Osco & Western Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company, which was founded and incorporated in 1873, and embraced Osco and Western townships, Henry county, and Rural township, Rock Island county. It has proved a great benefit to the resident farmers of this community. For a time Mr. Welton lived in Cambridge, and then moved to Hutchinson, Reno county, Kansas, locating on a large stock farm, where his death occurred. He was one of the leading men of Osco township, and was looked up to by all as a guide, being a man of intelligence and integrity. His children were James, a retired farmer of Geneseo; Merritt, a farmer of Atlantic, Iowa; Margaret, wife of Chester O'Neale, of Hudson, Kansas; and Ellen A., wife of our subject. Mrs. Ringle received a good education, pursuing a classical course.

After his marriage Mr. Ringle located upon his present farm, having purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land on section 28, Osco township, on which he at once erected necessary and substantial buildings, including commodious barns, sheds and cribs, with the intention of embarking in the stock business. This he has always carried on in connection with farming, and also operates threshers and shellers, having two steam engines for that purpose. The Ringle family have always been engaged in the latter business, owning from one to five outfits among them and operating the same very successfully in threshing grain, shelling corn and hulling clover, as

well as grinding feed. For the last named purpose our subject keeps an engine on his farm all the time, preparing food for the large herd of cattle which he fattens each year. He has added one hundred and sixty acres of land to his first purchase and improved the same to conform to his growing stock business, being one of the largest stock men of Osco township. He started on a small scale, but has gradually increased the volume of his business until he now handles many hundred head of stock annually with profit. He first raised short horn cattle for market, and now gives his attention entirely to the feeding of stock for market purposes, his average shipments being from six to eight carloads of cattle and hogs annually. He is also interested in a fine grade of horses, and has sold some of the finest teams of Englishshires ever put on the market from Osco township, having the honor of receiving the highest price ever paid for a gelding in that place. He buys stock wherever he can to an advantage, principally in the west, and brings them home to fatten for market. Mr. Ringle has met with most excellent success in this business, and takes a just pride in his stock and the facilities he has for handling it. Always honorable and upright in all his dealings, he has the confidence and respect of those with whom he has come in contact, and his success is well merited. For the past eighteen years he has operated a steam threshing machine, and has owned and operated a thresher since 1867. He is one of the stockholders and directors of the First National Bank of Cambridge; is also a director and treasurer of the Osco & Western Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company, which does the leading business of this section, and he has served the people well in financial concerns.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Ringle is an active worker for his party and its interests, and has been selected to fill various offices in his township. In 1899 he was elected supervisor, and is now serving in that capacity with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. Since residing upon his present farm he has served continuously as township school trustee. In religious belief he is a Presbyterian, while his wife holds membership in the Episcopal Church of Osco, and he is a liberal supporter of all church work. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county as a most progressive and enterprising man, and is held in high regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### SAMUEL H. CALLAWAY.

Samuel H. Callaway is one of the leading farmers and stock raisers of Western township, his farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres being pleasantly located on section 32 and 5 in Lynn township, within two and a half miles of Orion. He was born in Warwickshire, England, July 27, 1839, and in his boyhood passed the birthplace of the immortal Shakespeare on his way to and from school. In 1849 he came to the new world with his parents, Samuel and Esther Callaway, who first located at Utica, New York, but later removed to Detroit, Michigan, where they spent the remainder of their lives. In England the father had followed the stock business.

In 1851 our subject and his older brother, Jonathan, came to Henry county, Illinois, where the former worked at anything by which he could earn an honest dollar. For

some time he was employed by the day or month at clearing land and at farming, and later, when he had saved enough money, he purchased teams and commenced breaking prairie, following that occupation for several years, during which time he broke hundreds of acres of land. However, after remaining here about three years, on account of poor health, he returned to Detroit, and three years later came back to Western township. Later he rented land and engaged in farming on his own account. When the Civil war broke out he tried to enlist at Detroit, Michigan, but, being lame and in poor health, was rejected.

On the 21st of November, 1861, in Henry county, Mr. Callaway married Miss Julia Belle Harrison, also a native of England, and a daughter of William and Sarah (Williams) Harrison. Her father spent his entire life in that country. The mother came to the United States with her daughter in May, 1850, and after the latter's marriage made her home with our subject and his wife until her death. For several years prior to her emigration from England, Mrs. Callaway made her home with her uncle, Frank Pears, the noted soap manufacturer of London. Before coming to this county she and her mother lived in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Callaway are the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, namely: Herbert L., who is still under the parental roof; John H., who has engaged in teaching school, but is now a student at Knox College, Galesburg; Ezra S., also a school teacher of Henry county; Ssther K., wife of Albert Sayre, of Western township; Pauline J., wife of S. H. Callo-way, a farmer of Grundy county, Iowa; Bertha A., wife of Addison Chase, a farmer of Western township, this county; and Alice

M., a successful school teacher of this county, four of the family having followed that profession.

Mr. and Mrs. Callaway began married life on a farm of forty acres in Lynn township, which he purchased in 1861, and to which he later added another forty-acre tract, making it his home for four years. On selling that place he bought eighty acres on section 32, Western township, where he has now made his home since 1865. When he located thereon about fifty acres had been broken, a small house built and an orchard and shade trees set out. Subsequently Mr. Callaway purchased an adjoining tract of forty-six acres in Lynn township, and has since devoted his energies to the further improvement and cultivation of his land, converting it into one of the most desirable farms of its size in that locality. He has made a specialty of the raising of Poland China hogs and Shropshire sheep, and this branch of his business has proved quite profitable. He commenced life in Illinois without a dollar, and by his own labor, enterprise and perseverance has accumulated a comfortable competence, and is to-day the owner of a good home and farm.

Politically Mr. Callaway has been a lifelong Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party; has served as highway commissioner three years; and as school director twelve years and president of the board. Fraternally he is a member of Sherman Lodge, No. 535, F. & A. M., of Orion. He is a loyal citizen of his adopted country, and in all the relations of life has been found true to every trust reposed in him. For almost half a century he has made his home in Henry county, and he is both widely and



favorably known. He was one of the promoters of the Orion-Sherrard Mutual Telephone Company, in which he is a director. He is also president of the Richland Grove Vigilance Committee, that has been in existence forty years.

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### ROBERT G. NEVILLE.

Robert G. Neville, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 29, Osco township, first came to Henry county in December, 1879. A native of Illinois, he was born in Kickapoo township, Peoria county, June 22, 1862, and is a son of George and Catherine (Moorehead) Neville, both natives of Ireland. They came to this country when young and were married in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where they continued to make their home for three years after their marriage, and then removed to this state, locating in Jubilee township, Peoria county. The father was actively engaged in farming in that county until his death, which occurred March 4, 1872. The wife and mother came to Osco in 1893, and died at the home of her daughter in Cambridge township, December 23, 1899. In the family were eight children, one of whom died in infancy, while five sons and two daughters are still living, namely: William, fireman in the Monarch distillery of Peoria; Robert G., our subject; Kate, wife of Frank Sheen, of Wolcott, Indiana; Thomas M., a shipping clerk in a wholesale rubber house in Chicago; John F., proprietor of a pool and billiard parlor in the same city; Richard C., a resident of Cambridge township, this county; and Sarah, wife of Albert C. Tomlinson, who lives on D. C. Tomlinson's farm in Cambridge town-

ship. The parents were members of the Episcopal Church.

As soon as he attained a sufficient age Robert G. Neville entered the common schools of his native county, where he pursued his studies until ten years old, when his father died and he had to assist in the support of the family. Subsequently, however, he attended business college at Davenport, Iowa, for two terms. His education was obtained principally by general reading and observation, and he has thus made up for his lack of early educational advantages. He worked by the month as a farm hand until twenty-five years of age, and did his share in supporting the family until he attained his majority.

On the 10th of February, 1886, Mr. Neville married Miss Margaret McCurdy, who was born in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, September 19, 1860, but who at the time of her marriage was living in Osco township, this county, with her parents, both of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Neville died July 10, 1896, leaving four children: Alexander, Robert, Harold and M. Edith, who attend the Osco school. She was a daughter of Alexander and Kate McCurdy, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, who came from the north of Ireland to the United States, first locating in Pennsylvania, where they were married. Later they came to Henry county, Illinois, and located on the southwest quarter of section 20, Osco township, where he opened up a farm and made his home until his death. Religiously he was an Episcopalian, while his wife was reared in the Presbyterian faith. On that home farm Margaret grew to womanhood, and there remained until her marriage.

After his marriage Mr. Neville removed to Kearney, Nebraska, where he lived for

two years and on his return to this county settled on his present farm, which was deeded to his wife by her father. He has since greatly improved the place by the erection of a good residence barns and fences; has planted trees, tiled the land, and placed it under a high state of cultivation. The farm consists of one hundred acres of rich and arable land. Mr. Neville follows both general farming and stock feeding. He usually buys a car load of cattle in Nebraska, both spring and fall, which he feeds and prepares for the market. For the size of his place, he is one of the most extensive feeders in Henry county.

Mr. Neville is one of the leaders of the Democratic party in his community, and has been elected to the office of town clerk and assessor. He has also served as school director nine years, and has taken an active interest in maintaining good schools. Religiously he is an active member of the Episcopal Church of Osco township, and for about ten years has served as vestryman, during which time a rectory has been built. He is a charter member of the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 2248, of Osco, of which he was consul four years, and is also a charter member of the Royal Neighbors of America. He is a member of Sherman Lodge, No. 535, F. & A. M., of Orion, and of the Eastern Star. In social circles he stands high, and is an active worker in the societies to which he belongs.

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#### OLOF WALLINE.

Tireless energy, well directed by sound business judgment, has brought to Mr. Walline gratifying success in the affairs

of life. For thirty years he has been a resident of Henry county, and now owns and occupies a fine farm on section 14, Andover township. Like many of the best citizens of this locality he is a native of Sweden, born February 18, 1847, and is a son of Olof E. and Betsey (Olson) Walline, also natives of that country, where the father followed farm work until his emigration to America in 1869. His last days were spent at the home of our subject in Andover township, this county, where both he and his wife died. Of the four children born to them one died in Sweden. The others are Margaret, wife of Peter Olenius, living on the old Buck farm in Andover township; Olof, our subject; and Peter E., now a resident of California, who was formerly a farmer of Andover township, and a merchant of Cambridge.

The subject of this review received his education in the common schools of his native land, and remained at home with his parents until he attained his majority. He then came to the United States and first located at Bishop Hill, Illinois, where he worked at the mason's and carpenter's trades, having partially learned the latter occupation in Sweden. After two years spent at Bishop Hill, he purchased eighty acres of land in Andover township in partnership with his brother, and together they successfully engaged in farming for twelve years, thus securing a good start in life. As they succeeded in business they added to their farm until they owned about two hundred acres, which property was divided when they dissolved partnership. In 1883, having sold his portion of the farm, Olof Walline purchased his present place, which at that time consisted of one hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land. He has since

laid many rods of tiling, built fences and erected buildings, and now has one of the best and most attractive farms of the locality. He and his brother, P. E., are also proprietors of the Cambridge Creamery, and in its operation have also met with well-deserved success; our subject is manager of the same.

In January, 1875, Mr. Walline was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Johnson, who was born in Andover township, May 6, 1855, a daughter of Andrew M. and Christina Johnson. The former, now deceased, was among the early settlers of his township. There Mrs. Johnson still resides, and with her live her two sons, Albert and Otto, and one daughter Ida, while Oscar, Alfred and Emma, wife of Swan Anderson, make their home in Nebraska, and Mrs. Amelia Norling lives in Cameron, Illinois, where her husband is engaged in blacksmithing. Mr. and Mrs. Walline have a family of nine children, namely: Charles W., Jennie, Henry W., Louvina, Eddie J., Esther, Minnie, Ernest and Mabel, all at home. They have been educated in the common schools, while Charles W. and Henry have pursued an agricultural course at Madison, Wisconsin, and are prepared to accept and hold any position in the business world. They also attended the high school of Cambridge. Charles W. now has charge of the creamery business of his father.

In his political views Mr. Walline is a Prohibitionist, but at local elections supports the men whom he believes best qualified for office. For the long period of seventeen years he has efficiently served as school director in his district, and for the past ten years has been appraiser for the Swedish Insurance Company in his township, adjusting losses also. He is an active member of

the Methodist Episcopal Church of Andover, and one of its trustees. He is a public-spirited and progressive citizen, who takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his adopted county, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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### JOHN L. HULL.

It is astonishing to witness the success of young men who have emigrated to America without capital and from a position of comparative obscurity have worked their way upward to a position of prominence. The readiness with which they adapt themselves to circumstances and take advantage of opportunities offered brings to them success and wins them a place among the leading men of the community in which they reside.

Among the natives of Sweden who have become prominent in business and public affairs in Henry county, is John L. Hull, who has been a resident of Cambridge township since 1869. He was born November 3, 1850, in Sweden, a son of Nels P. and Inga Carolina Larson. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in that country, but the mother is still living and continues to make her home there. In their family were seven children, of whom five are still living, namely: Christine, who lives on the old homestead in Sweden; John L., our subject; A. S., manager of a lumber yard in Cambridge, Illinois; and Emma and Nels P., who are living on the home farm in Sweden.

In the public schools of his native land John L. Hull acquired a good practical education. He remained on the home farm

until eighteen years of age, when he emigrated to this country with the hope of bettering his financial condition. After working as a farm hand in this country for two years, he located upon his present farm on section 8, Cambridge township, where he was at first in the employ of others. The Brick and Tile works were started upon the land in 1870, and the following year he commenced learning the business as a workman in the factory. Later he became manager of the plant, and in 1890 purchased a half interest in the business, which was carried on under the firm name of Cook & Hull until 1899, when Mr. Hull bought out his partner and has since been alone in the business. When the plant was first started it was run by hand and horse power, but while Mr. Hull was manager an engine of thirty-horse power was put in, and the factory otherwise improved. There are now five kilns, three with down drafts and two with up drafts and a drying shed, one hundred by twenty-six feet in dimension. During the busy season from fifteen to twenty men are employed in the yards. The product of the factory being of a superior grade, it finds a ready sale on the market, and is shipped in carload lots to Stark, Mercer and Rock Island counties. The success of this enterprise has been mainly due to Mr. Hull, who is a man of good business and executive ability. He owns thirteen acres adjoining the city of Cambridge, and is also engaged in farming and stock raising. He possesses keen discrimination as well as sound judgment, and in business affairs is prompt, energetic and notably reliable.

On the 12th of October, 1875, Mr. Hull married Miss Josephine C. Lyon, who was born in America in 1854. Both her parents died in 1897, leaving seven children, name-

ly: Tilda, wife of J. M. Anderson, a dry-goods merchant, of Cambridge; Ida; Josephine, wife of our subject; John, Alfred, Ludwig and Otto, all residents of Cambridge. Mr. and Mrs. Hull have four children: Lettie V., Edwin, Emma and Ernest. The two oldest are graduates of the Cambridge public schools and the others are still pursuing their studies there.

During his entire residence in Cambridge Mr. Hull has taken an active interest in politics and has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, serving on the town and county central committees. For two years he filled the office of tax collector, and in 1898 was elected supervisor, which office he filled so acceptably that he was re-elected in 1900 and is the present incumbent. For three successive terms he has been a member of the school board of Cambridge. He is an active and prominent member of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Cambridge, in which he has served as deacon and is now one of the trustees, while socially he is connected with the Mystic & Fraternal Tribune, No.—, and the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 199, in which he has held office. He is a man of recognized ability and sterling worth, and stands high in the community where he has so long made his home. Those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends, and no citizen in Henry county is more honored or highly respected.

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#### JOHN H. MCGOVERN.

This prominent citizen of Orion, who is now living a retired life, was born on the Monongahela river, in Brownsville, Fayette county, Pennsylvania, June 20, 1834, and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Martzall)

McGovern, the former a native of the north of Ireland, the latter of Pennsylvania, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was reared on the Emerald Isle and was a young man when he came to the new world. He died when John H. was but three years old, leaving a widow and seven children. He was engaged in business in Brownsville. The mother's ancestors were originally from Germany. In 1858 she came to Rock Island county, Illinois, and in 1865 moved to Iowa, where her death occurred about 1885. She was a member of the Presbyterian church.

In the county of his nativity John H. McGovern grew to manhood, and at Brownsville, Pennsylvania, he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and for a time he engaged in contracting and building in the east. Coming to Illinois in 1855, he first located in Rock Island, where he followed the same pursuit for five years, and then engaged in farming in Boling township for four years. In 1864 he went west and was interested in mining in Montana and Idaho for a short time. Later we find him in California, but in 1865 he returned to Illinois, and embarked in business at Milan, carrying on operations there for five years. In 1870 he removed to Orion, Henry county, where he opened a general store and did an extensive business for a number of years, being the leading merchant of the place. He finally sold out in 1885 on account of ill health and has since lived a retired life. He still owns considerable real estate in Orion, including two store buildings and two nice residences. His success in life is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts, diligence, perseverance and good management, and he is to-day one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of his community.

In 1860 Mr. McGovern was married, in Meadville, Pennsylvania, to Miss Martha Kerr, who was born, reared and educated in Meadville, Pennsylvania, and died in Orion, Illinois, in the fall of 1890. He was again married, in Henry county, May 15, 1894, his second union being with Miss Lydia Jane Deem, who is a native of Ohio, but came to Illinois with her father, William Deem, in 1860, and here grew to womanhood.

In politics Mr. McGovern is independent. He cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856, but has since supported the men and measures of either the Republican or Prohibition parties, being a strong temperance man. He has never cared for official honors, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. During his residence at Milan he joined the Masonic fraternity, and now holds membership in the lodge at Orion. Mr. McGovern is an intelligent man, pre-eminently public spirited and progressive, and has done much to advance the interests of Orion and promote the public welfare along various lines. He is widely and favorably known throughout this section of the county, and is numbered among its most valued and useful citizens.

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#### HONS SHULT.

Not on the plane of affluence did Hons Shult start out on life's journey, but in the valley of limited circumstances with the rough and rugged path of hard undertaking before him. He has met with many difficulties and obstacles but has steadily overcome these, and is to-day one of the most prosperous citizens of his community. For over a



HONS SHULT.

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third of a century he has actively engaged in farming in Lynn township, but now in the evening of life is enjoying a well-earned rest at his pleasant home in Orion.

Born in Skepersta Soken, Genspeng, Sweden, October 16, 1834, Mr. Shult was nineteen years of age when, in 1854, he took passage on a sailing vessel at Guttenberg, and after what was then considered a speedy voyage of five weeks, landed in New York on the 26th of July. He proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois, and soon after his arrival at Hickory Grove, Lynn township, obtained employment at grading on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, working that summer and fall as far south as Quincy. He then returned to Henry county and spent the three following winters in chopping cord wood on the island. Being ill with fever and ague he was unable to work during the summer months for three years. After his recovery Mr. Shult rented land which he operated for three years, and then purchased a tract of seventy acres which he still owns, it being at that time wild and covered with a dense growth of underbrush, which he at length grubbed up. In his farming operations he met with most excellent success, and was able to add to his landed possessions from time to time until he now has five hundred and twenty-five acres of very valuable and productive land. The last three hundred acres which he purchased was an improved farm. Upon his land are three sets of good farm buildings, and everything about the place betokens the care and supervision of a painstaking owner. Having acquired a handsome competence he removed to Orion, where he built a fine home in 1894, and has since lived a retired life.

In 1862, in Henry county, Mr. Shult married Miss Mary Johnson, a Swedish

lady and a daughter of Andrew Johnson who emigrated with his family to the new world and settled in Henry county, Illinois, in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Shult are the parents of six children, who are still living, namely: Albert, who is married and operates a part of the home farm; Frank Edward, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who is married and is now located at Woodhull, this county; Josephine, wife of August N. Johnson, who is engaged in farming upon the Shult land; Oscar, who is also married and lives on the old homestead; Ernest, who assists his brothers in the cultivation of their father's farm; and Lydia, at home. Two of the children met death very suddenly November 13, 1888, while crossing the railroad track on the farm. Both children and horses were killed, though Oscar, the oldest, who was driving, was not seriously injured. These were William, aged ten, and Ida, aged twelve years. Their death was a severe blow to the parents and many friends of the family.

Mr. Shult's political support has ever been given the Republican party since he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, but he has never taken a very active part in politics aside from voting. As a progressive and enterprising citizen he has been prominently identified with educational affairs, and with two others started the school in his neighborhood, of which he was a director for many years. Both he and his wife are earnest members of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Orion and are people of the highest respectability. Meeting with many discouragements during the first years spent in this country, Mr. Shult once decided to return to his native land, but being taken with ague about that time was unable to travel and so remained in America. Soon

prosperity shone upon his efforts, and he is to-day one of the most substantial men of the community in which he lives.

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### ANDREW PETERSON.

From Sweden came many of Henry county's most industrious and useful citizens—men who have borne a very active and prominent part in the development and upbuilding of the county, and helped to make it one of the best agricultural districts of the Prairie state. In Andrew Peterson we find a worthy representative of this class. For a period of about forty-four years he was successfully engaged in farming and stock raising here, but has now laid aside all business cares and is living a retired life on his farm on section 33, Western township.

Mr. Peterson was born in Vordnas, Sockeen, Sweden, December 20, 1827, and was reared upon a farm in the land of his birth. His father, Israel Peterson, was a land owner in Sweden, and died when Andrew was but eight years old. In 1850 he crossed the briny deep, being about eight weeks upon the voyage, and on landing in this country proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois, arriving in Andover August 7, during the cholera epidemic here. For three months he worked in the timber of Knox county, and then went to Rock Island county, where he was employed as a farm hand by the month for about a year, getting from five to eight dollars per month. Subsequently he worked in the shops at Moline, accepting any situation by which he could make an honest living. For a time he worked in a sawmill at that place, and

was engaged in cutting wood for two years.

Returning to Henry county, Mr. Peterson was married August 28, 1857, to Miss Lena Anderson, a sister of Swan P. Streed, also a native of Sweden, who came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1848. They began house-keeping in Lynn township in a small frame house which he erected upon his land, having previously purchased twenty-six acres. The first three years spent here he suffered much with fever and ague—a disease quite prevalent in pioneer districts—but when his health improved was able to devote more time to the cultivation of his land, and in his farming operations met with well deserved success. His home farm now comprises two hundred and eighty-five acres of well improved land, and he also has an adjoining tract of sixty acres in Western township. This property has all been acquired through his own industry, perseverance and capable management, for on landing in the new world he was without a dollar, and has been dependent entirely upon his own resources for his success in life.

Mr. Peterson has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died March 1, 1883, leaving four children, namely: Mary is the wife of William Gabrielson, of Rock Island county, and they have four children, Carl Elmer, Hattie Amelia, Frank Arthur and Arnold William. Josephine is the wife of Charles J. Chinell, a farmer of Western township, Henry county, and they have one child, Violet Irene. Edmond is also an agriculturist of Western township. Henry, a farmer of Lyon township, is married and has one son, Clarence Henry.

Politically Mr. Peterson is identified with the Republican party on national issues, and he has filled the office of highway commis-

sioner in Lynn township for about ten years; and school director for about twenty-five years. Using his influence, he succeeded in getting a school house built on his own farm, and gave the lot for the same. He is a member of the Lutheran Church of Orion, and his upright, honorable life has gained for him the respect and confidence of a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout Rock Island and Henry counties.

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### CARL J. LARSON.

This well-known painter and paper hanger of Cambridge, Illinois, was born in southern Sweden, on the 17th of September, 1854, a son of Lars and Chaste Larson, who spent their entire lives in that country, where the father followed farming. A man of good principles and business tact, he was widely and favorably known, and was called upon to fill several official positions in his town. He was born April 8, 1800, and died in 1876, while his wife departed this life in 1898, at the ripe old age of eighty-five years. Both were members of the Lutheran Church. In their family were eight children, of whom four remained in the old country, namely: Lars, Johannes, Carolina and Sven. Those who came to America were Peter, a resident of Cambridge, Illinois; Hannah, wife of Peter Neilson, of Creston, Iowa; Sana, a resident of British Columbia; and C. J., who is the youngest of the family.

C. J. Larson was educated in the schools of his native land. It was in 1880 that he crossed the broad Atlantic and came to Cambridge, Illinois, where he was met by his brother, Peter. For two years he worked

as a common laborer, accepting any employment which he could find. He had learned the carpenter's trade in Sweden, but it was almost impossible to obtain work along that line at Cambridge when he located here. In partnership with a gentleman from his native town he embarked in his present business in 1884, and has built up an excellent trade, having for the past eight years done all the painting for the leading citizens of Cambridge and vicinity. About 1891 he bought out his partner's interest and now has the leading business in his line in this part of the county.

On the 24th of March, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Larson and Miss Matilda C. Hulting, a daughter of Per and Johanna Hulting, of central Sweden. She was born in that country and came to America November 2, 1874, two of her brothers having already located here. They were joined by her parents in 1877, both of whom are now deceased, the father having died in 1892, aged seventy-two years; the mother in 1890, aged sixty-one. Both were members of the Lutheran Church. By a former marriage the father had one son, Andrew. Of the six children born of the second union Lottie died young; Lottie, the second of that name, died at the age of twenty-four years; and Anna died at the age of twenty-two. Those living are J. P., a resident of Geneseo, Illinois; Matilda C., wife of our subject; and Alfred S., who has resided with Mr. Larson since his mother's death.

Mr. and Mrs. Larson are active and influential members of the Lutheran Church in which he has served as deacon for ten years, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. His political support is given the men and measures of the

Republican party. One of the most reliable and straightforward business men of Cambridge, he has demonstrated the true meaning of the word success as the full accomplishment of an honorable purpose. Energy, close application, perseverance and good management—these are the elements that have entered into his business career and crowned his efforts with prosperity.

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#### JARED HEMINGWAY SMITH.

Almost a half century has passed since this gentleman arrived in Henry county, and he is justly numbered among her honored pioneers and leading citizens. As an agriculturist he has been prominently identified with her business interests, and makes his home on section 22, Osco township. His is an honorable record of a conscientious man, who by his upright life has won the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact.

Mr. Smith was born in Harwinton, Litchfield county, Connecticut, November 18, 1827, and belongs to an old colonial family. Tracing his ancestry back four generations he is descended from one of three brothers, who came from England to America and settled in the Nutmeg state. His father, Anson Smith, was also a native of Harwinton, and received a very limited education in the early schools of that place. After his marriage he located on a farm there, and was actively engaged in his chosen occupation of farming until his death, which occurred when he was about seventy years of age. He was twice married and by his first union had four children: Anson, Caroline, Amasa and Esther, all of whom died in Ohio, where they emigrated to

make homes for themselves. For his second wife the father married Abigail Holt, a native of East Haven, Connecticut, and to them were born the following children: Rodney D., who was born in 1824 and died in 1864; Roxy A., who died young; Jared H., our subject; and Minerva A., who married Mr. Holt and died in 1896, leaving two sons. The parents spent their entire lives in their native state.

Jared H. Smith, the only representative of the family now living, received but a common school education in Connecticut, and his early life was passed in work upon the home farm and in the shops of that locality. On leaving the parental roof in 1853, at the age of twenty-six years, he came to the prairies of Illinois and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Osco township, Henry county, at which time there were only three houses between his place and Geneseo, and about the same number between there and Cambridge, while not a tree was in sight. He has watched with interest the wonderful development of the country, and has materially assisted in its improvement. For a number of years he hauled all his produce to Geneseo and his wheat to Rock Island, these being the nearest markets. As time passed acre after acre of his farm was placed under the plow until all was under a high state of cultivation, and as he succeeded in his farming operations he added to his landed possessions until he owned about fifteen hundred acres. He has always retained the old homestead of one hundred and sixty acres where he first settled, and besides it has three hundred acres of valuable land elsewhere in the county. Nearly all of this has been improved by himself or under his supervision. In connection with general farming he has always followed stock rais-

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J. H. SMITH.



MRS. J. H. SMITH.



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ing, and annually feeds from fifty to two hundred head of cattle for the market. He was one of the original stockholders of the First National Bank of Cambridge and one of its directors for a number of years. He is also interested in other business interests.

On the 1st of October, 1854, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Jane Amelia Welton, who was born July 12, 1827, the youngest daughter of Noah and Ellen (Coles) Welton, life-long residents of Litchfield county, Connecticut. All of her family are now deceased with the exception of one sister, Mrs. Alvira Potter, of Stratford, Connecticut, who is now over eighty years of age. Mr. Smith was married in that state and brought his bride to the home he had prepared for her in this county, where they began their domestic life. Three children came to brighten their home, namely: Amelia M., born March 15, 1857, is now the wife of M. M. Nash, of Osco township; Anson W., born August 23, 1858, died February 24, 1863; and Myra Jane, born March 30, 1862, is the wife of W. F. West, who is manager for the grain firm of Fleming & Smith at Osco. The wife and mother died of diphtheria at the home place February 17, 1863.

Mr. Smith was again married, August 18, 1864, his second union being with Miss Mary E. Knowles, who was born in Pennsylvania, February 5, 1840, and came to this state with her parents. Her father died in Henry county, and though her mother's death occurred in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1899, her remains were brought back and interred by the side of her husband in the Andover cemetery. None of their children now live in Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Smith became the parents of six children, as follows: Henry A., born February 18, 1866,

was married January 6, 1892, to Adelia Atwood, and is in the employ of the telephone company at Cambridge, though he makes his home in Osco where he owns a farm. Anna, born July 9, 1867, is at home with her father. Jared Heber, born March 9, 1870, owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land in Osco township, purchased from his father. He was married, June 17, 1896, to Minnie M. Hadley, and they have three sons, Jared H., Julian and Thorwold. George Rodney, a twin brother of Jared Heber, also lives on a farm in Osco township. He was married, December 30, 1894, to Clara May Marsch, and they have two children. Charles Edward, born August 17, 1876, and Mary Ethel, born September 29, 1877, are both at home. The children have all received a common-school education and three sons have attended commercial college in Davenport and Chicago. All live near the old homestead. Mrs. Smith died April 27, 1895.

Mr. Smith is one of the most prominent and influential members of the Episcopal Church of Osco, who was one of the promoters of and organizers of the parish, and contributed liberally towards the building of the church. Since its organization he has been officially connected with the same, having served as senior warden for about eighteen years. He has looked after all the improvements of the church, and has ever been one of its most active workers. On national issues he always votes the Republican ticket, but at local elections supports the men whom he considers best qualified to fill the offices, regardless of party lines. For a number of years he served as township school treasurer, and for three years was supervisor of Osco township, during which time many substantial improvements were made in the county.

During the long years of his residence in the county, he has championed every movement designed to promote the general welfare, has supported every enterprise for the public good, and has materially aided in the advancement of all social, educational and moral interests. In manner he is quiet and unassuming, yet he makes many friends and is held in the highest regard by all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM D. JONES.

William D. Jones, a practical and enterprising agriculturist residing on section 34, Colona township, owns and operates one hundred and seventy-five acres of land, constituting one of the valuable and highly improved farms of the locality. His possessions have been acquired through his own efforts, and as the result of his consecutive endeavor he has won a place among the well-to-do citizens of the community.

Mr. Jones was born in Ontario county, Canada, September 22, 1844, and was there reared to manhood upon a farm. He is a self-educated as well as a self-made man, and deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life. As a young man he came to the United States, and in October, 1866, took up his residence in Henry county, Illinois, where he was at first engaged in teaming and later in coal mining. For about three years he worked by the month as a farm hand, and subsequently followed farming during the summer months, and mining through the winter season. He also devoted a part of his time to work at the carpenter's and joiner's trade, being a natural mechanic and handy in the

use of tools of all kinds. In 1877 Mr. Jones made his first purchase of land, consisting of an eighty-acre tract where he now resides. When it came into his possession it was covered with brush and timber, which he at once began to clear away, while he erected a small frame house, fenced the land and made other permanent improvements. He now owns one hundred and seventy-three acres, a portion of which is timber land, but seventy acres of the amount is under cultivation, and improved with good buildings.

On the 8th of May, 1869, in Henry county, Mr. Jones married Miss Anna M. Anderson, who was born in Sweden, but was only three years old when brought to this country by her father, Andrew Anderson, who in 1852 located in Mercer county, Illinois. A few years later he removed to Minnesota, but in 1864 returned to Illinois, and took up his residence in Western township, Henry county. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are the parents of seven children, namely: Anna Martha, now the wife of Daniel McGraw, a farmer of Colona township; Mabel, wife of Josephus Evans, of Rock Island county, Illinois; Carrie C., wife of Clarence A. Garland, of Colona township, Henry county; William Manville, who assists his father in the operation of the farm; Clarence Everett, Lucinda Mary and Wesley Davis, all at home, and the last named still in school.

Politically Mr. Jones is a true blue Republican and has supported that party since casting his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant, in 1872. He has served his fellow citizens in a most creditable and acceptable manner as highway commissioner for three years; school director for fourteen years, and president of the district; and jus-

tice of the peace for seven years. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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#### MATILDA EATON, M. D.

Among the successful representatives of the medical profession in Cambridge, Illinois, is Dr. Matilda Eaton, a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Hugh and Phebe (Munson) Eaton. On the paternal side she is of Scotch-Irish descent, her ancestors being among the refugees who left Scotland in 1619 to escape from religious persecution and settled in the north of Ireland, where they endured a persecution scarcely less irksome than that from which they had fled. For a century they made their home in that country, and in 1719 their exodus from Ireland to America began, since which time the emigration of the Scotch-Irish to America has been continuous. Sandy Eaton, from whom the Doctor is descended, was born in Scotland; was a farmer by inheritance and a weaver by trade. His son Hugh wedded Mary Ramsey, of Scotch descent, and to them were born three sons and three daughters. Of this family, James Eaton, the Doctor's grandfather, married Mary Moore, by whom he had seven children, namely: Eliza, deceased; Hugh, the Doctor's father; Mrs. Matilda Gingle; Mrs. Margaret Hall; Alexander; John; and Mrs. Jemima Adrian.

Hugh Eaton was born in county Antrim, Ireland, May 4, 1826, and completed his education at Dublin, where he studied for four years. In July, 1846, he came to America, and after spending one year in New

York, located in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he made his home for eighteen years, being principally engaged in farming, though he followed school teaching during the winter months for five years. Coming west he located in Bureau county, Illinois, April 15, 1865, but a year later took up his residence in Burns township, this county, where he lived until 1885, and then moved to Cambridge to spend his remaining days in ease and quiet. Here he died May 16, 1893. He efficiently served as school director for many years, but would accept no other office. Religiously he was an earnest and consistent member of the Christian Church, to which his wife also belonged. In Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, he was married, in January, 1850, to Miss Phebe Munson, and to them were born the following children: Mary, wife of Joseph Rogers; Susan, wife of Joseph Brown; Stephen W., a resident of California; James W.; Robert A., who died at the age of twenty-three years; George Munson; Matilda; Margaret, wife of Briton Hadley; Annie, wife of Lester H. Hadley, of Chicago; Clara, who died in infancy; Caroline; William E. C.; Oscar; and Frank, who died in infancy. The mother, who was always a faithful member of the Christian Church, died December 3, 1898, at the age of sixty-six years.

On the maternal side Dr. Eaton is of English extraction and traces her ancestry back to Thomas Munson, who came to this country from England about 1637. Her great-grandfather, Walter Munson, was only seven years old at the time of the Wyoming massacre and was too young to enter the service during the Revolutionary war, but had three older brothers, Wilmot, Stephen and Daniel, who fought for American in-

dependence. At the age of sixteen Daniel entered the service, becoming one of General Green's life guard, and was serving in that capacity at the time of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. He was discharged May 24, 1778, and died soon afterward. Stephen and Wilmot were with General Washington's army in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, and during the terrible winter at Valley Forge, when the soldiers were so poorly clad. Wilmot never received a cent of pay, neither a pension nor a bounty. Dr. Eaton's maternal grandparents were Walter and Susan (Bodley) Munson, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they made their home throughout life, the grandfather being engaged in farming. He always kept well-posted on the questions and issues of the day and was a supporter of the Whig party. His children were Phebe, the mother of Dr. Eaton; Emily E., wife of Robert Jones, of Bureau county, Illinois; Sarah, wife of Nelson Jones, of the same county; Deborah, wife of Nathaniel Coleman, of Bradford, Illinois; William B., a resident of Creston, Iowa; Mrs. Margaret Ware, a widow of Sidney, Nebraska; Mary J., wife of E. Q. Lovering, of Buda, Illinois; Hannah and Giles W., both deceased; and Loretta, wife of Frank Stevens, of Creston, Iowa.

Dr. Eaton began her education in the common schools and later attended the high school of Kewanee, after which she successfully took up the study of medicine, and was graduated at Bennett Medical College, Chicago, in 1896. After practicing in that city for six months, she came to Cambridge and opened an office. She makes a specialty of the diseases of women and children, and is meeting with most excellent success in her chosen profession. She was the first lady

physician in Cambridge and her skill and ability have won for her a liberal patronage. Pleasant and agreeable in manner, she makes many friends, is held in high regard by all who know her, and stands deservedly high in professional circles. Religiously she is a member of the Christian Church.

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### JOHN A. LARSON.

No foreign element has become a more important part in our American citizenship than that furnished by Sweden. The emigrants from that land have brought with them to the new world the stability, enterprise and perseverance characteristic of their people and have fused these qualities with the progressiveness and indomitable spirit of the west. Mr. Larson, who is now living a retired life in Osco, is a worthy representative of this class. He came to America in limited circumstances, hoping to benefit his financial condition, and his dreams of the future have been more than realized.

Mr. Larson was born in Uppby hamlet, Recta, Lyndkopenlane, Sweden, August 17, 1826, a son of Lars and Engred (Peterson) Johnson. His father died in that country and later his mother came to the new world, where her death occurred. He followed farming throughout life. Of the eight children born to them two sons died in infancy and two in early childhood, while four reached years of maturity, namely: Nels P., who is still living on the old homestead in Sweden; John A., our subject; Jonas W., a farmer of Andover township; and Andrew Gust, who lives near the village of Osco, in Osco township.

The early education of Mr. Larson was



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such as the boys of his native land usually obtained at that day. He studied his lessons at his mother's spinning wheel, and then joining a class recited them to the minister of the parish. As far as known he was the first person in his parish to emigrate to America. When twelve years of age he found at the home of a companion a geography in which he gained some knowledge of this country and the animals that inhabited it, and resolved to make this his future home. He saved his money with the view of carrying out this determination, and at length, at the age of twenty-two, had enough money to pay his passage. For five years he had worked, receiving on an average of fifty cents per month in American coin. His father owned eighty acres of land, which he helped to improve and which was worth about fifteen hundred dollars in Swedish money, and his interest in this was about one-sixth, which he finally sold to his older brother, whose employer, by advancing his wages, enabled him to pay. From this he received about forty dollars in American money, and to it added the money he had managed to save from his wages. In 1848 he took passage on a schooner at Gnttenberg, and after a voyage of seven weeks landed at Boston, whence he came direct to Andover, Illinois. The first railroad he ever saw was the one between Boston and Albany, over which he rode to the latter city, and from there proceeded by the Erie canal to Buffalo; by the Great Lakes to Chicago; by canal to Peru, Illinois (but walking most of the way on account of banks leaking), and by team to Andover. In the party was Gust Johnson and others to the number of twenty.

Mr. Larson obtained a situation with Rev. Pillsbury, to whose care, while ill with typhoid fever, he owes his life. He worked

as a farm hand until the fall of 1848, when with others he went to Galesburg to find employment, and worked as a tender to masons who were erecting an academy at that place. Subsequently he was employed in the wagon shop of Fuller & Bergen until the spring of 1851, during which time he partly learned the business. In company with two others he then started for California across the plains and endured many hardships and privations incident to such a journey, including troubles with the Indians. At Fort Kearney, Nebraska, a company of about fifty wagons was formed, with about three men to each wagon. Mr. Tucker, an old Indian trader from Indiana, was elected captain of the train, and had it not been for his leadership possibly all would have perished. He carefully instructed them in regard to the preservation of life, and years afterward Mr. Larson gratefully remembered a part of his teaching. On the 10th of February, 1858, he was thrown from a bridge across Edwards river into that stream, which was then at highwater mark and full of floating ice. His horse and carriage went down with him. He was partially stunned by the fall, and on regaining consciousness he remembered Captain Tucker telling his men that when thrown into water or swimming in swift running water towing a line never to guide a horse but give him rein and keep cool, with mouth closed, breathing through the nose. This he did and managed to reach the bank in safety, but he has never fully recovered, as his back was severely injured in the fall. Edwards river has since been dredged and converted into what is now known as the Henry county ditch, Mr. Larson being one of the originators of the enterprise. On arriving in California he engaged in prospecting and mining for little over a year, but like many

others he did not meet with very gratifying success, and accordingly returned to Illinois by way of San Francisco, the isthmus of Panama, Cuba, Jamaica and New York. He resumed work at the bench in the shop of his former employers, and in the spring of 1853 moved to Rev. Pillsbury's old residence in Andover, this county, it being his first home in this country.

That year Mr. Larson was united in marriage with Miss Martha Hedstrom, who was born in Sweden in 1830, and came to this country as one of Bishop Hill's colony. She died in September, 1878. To them were born three sons and five daughters, all of whom reached man and womanhood, but two sons are now deceased. John O., the eldest, is engaged in the manufacture of brooms in California, where he has made his home since 1878. Emily Caroline, a resident of St. Louis, is the widow of Leonidas McFarland, a son of one of the old settlers of Andover township, this county. He died in Iowa leaving one son, Roy A., who was on the battleship Boston when Dewey captured Manila. On his way home he was taken ill at Port Said and has since been in poor health, although he is now in business with an uncle at Eldora, Iowa. He brought home many Spanish and other relics from the places he visited, and feels justly proud of the Dewey medal which he wears. He also has a shell which came nearly ending his life, it striking four inches above his head. Ida M., the second daughter of our subject, is the wife of John I. Wheelan, who is engaged in the advertising business in St. Louis. Cordelia is the wife of Robert Fleherty, of New York. Mary J. and Olive are both at home with their father.

In 1852 Mr. Larson purchased a tract of woodland from Mr. Pillsbury, and convert-

ed the timber into lumber, from which he manufactured wagons. He also bought a farm near Andover, and for many years was actively engaged in farming and wagon-making, but since 1890 has lived a retired life. In his business undertakings he met with excellent success and added to his landed possessions from time to time until he now owns nearly six hundred acres of improved property which he rents. For some years he also followed auctioneering very successfully, his territory extending from Rock river into Knox and Mercer counties. In May, 1900, he moved to the village of Osco, where he built a good comfortable dwelling house and where he is now living in ease and retirement, surrounded by all the comforts of life.

Mr. Larson is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and is one of its most liberal supporters. He has always been liberal in religious matters and has helped toward building many different churches. Politically he is a strong Prohibitionist, and has served his fellow citizens faithfully and well as commissioner of highways thirty years, justice of the peace twenty-eight years, and in school offices many years. Public-spirited and progressive to an eminent degree, his support is always given every worthy enterprise for the public good. At one time he saved the Swedish Insurance Company from failure by financial aid, and through his influence, and that of others, the company was incorporated and placed on a strong financial basis. Over half a century he has been identified with the interests of Henry county, and he is to-day numbered among its most valued and useful citizens—a man honored and respected wherever known. There are only one or two Swedes in the county who were here before him.

## W. PITT WRIGHT.

This well-known retired farmer of Orion, first came to Illinois in April, 1848, and was for many years identified with the agricultural interests of Rock Island county, where he located in May, 1852, but since April, 1881, has made his home in Orion, Henry county. He is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Goshen township, Belmont county, that state, on the 16th of March, 1827. His father, Benjamin G. Wright, was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1798, and came to America with his father, Joseph Wright, in 1802, or 1804, being among the first settlers of Belmont county, Ohio. Joseph Wright laid out and founded the town of Belmont, and being a well educated man he became one of the pioneer teachers of that county. In religious belief he was a Quaker. In Belmont county Benjamin G. Wright grew to manhood and married Jane E. Broomhall, a native of Pennsylvania, her father being also a pioneer settler of that county. In early life he followed the cabinet maker's trade, but later engaged in farming. In 1851 he came to Illinois, and after a short time spent in Hancock county took up his residence in Rural township, Rock Island county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1890, at the advanced age of nearly ninety-two years. His wife passed away November 11, 1869.

Upon his home farm in his native county W. Pitt Wright passed the days of his boyhood and youth, receiving rather limited educational advantages. On coming to Illinois in 1848, he first located in Hancock county, but, in partnership with a cousin, he owned and operated a threshing machine two seasons, in Marshall and Bureau coun-

ties, Illinois, but working on the farm the remainder of each year in Hancock county. In 1852 he took up his residence in Coal Valley, now Rural township, Rock Island county, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which he converted into a good farm. In 1873 he purchased a section of land in Adams county, Iowa, of which he gave his daughter a quarter-section. In 1880 he sold a half-section, and yet retains a quarter-section of well improved land. Renting his property he removed to Orion in 1881 and erected his present comfortable residence. Although he came to this state in limited circumstances, he has steadily overcome the obstacles in his path to success, and is to-day the owner of two well-improved and valuable farms besides his town property, and can well afford to lay aside all business cares and enjoy the fruits of former toil.

Returning to his old home in Belmont county, Ohio, Mr. Wright was married, December 31, 1850, to Miss Mary Eliza Gregg, also a native of that county, of which her father, John S. Gregg, was a pioneer. For fifty years they have now traveled life's journey together, sharing its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity, and it is their intention to celebrate their golden wedding on the 31st of December, 1900. They are the parents of four children, namely: Clara E., wife of James W. Alexander, a retired citizen of Lenox, Taylor county, Iowa; Frank G., who died at the age of twenty-three years; Harry P., who is married and successfully engaged in business in Orion; and Bertha May, wife of John H. Spencer, operator and agent for the Santa Fe railroad at Ottawa, Kansas.

In his political affiliations Mr. Wright is a Jacksonian Democrat, and cast his first

presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, in 1852. He has filled the office of commissioner of highways, and has also served as a member of the school board, but has never sought political honors. For over half a century he has witnessed the wonderful growth and development that have taken place in this section of the state, and in this work he has borne an active part. When he first located here deer, geese, turkeys and other wild game was plentiful, but all have disappeared as the country has become more thickly settled, and all the comforts of an advanced civilization have been introduced.

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#### S. HENRY BURROWS.

S. Henry Burrows, an enterprising and progressive agriculturist of Henry county, whose home is on section 12, Andover township, was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, August 26, 1862, and came to this county in 1868 with his parents, Barnard H. and Susan C. (Gould) Burrows. The Burrows family was founded in America about 1700, and the father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all natives of Franklin county, Massachusetts. The last named was a soldier of both the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812, while the maternal great-grandfather of our subject also fought for the independence of the colonies in the former struggle. His ancestors have always been associated with agricultural pursuits.

Barnard H. Burrows was the eldest of a family of five children, one of whom is still living, Levi Burrows, who resides in Greenfield, Massachusetts. During his boyhood and youth he attended the common schools near his home and also took a course at an

academy in Amherst. Throughout his active business life he followed farming, and owned a good farm of ninety acres in his native state, adjoining which is now located the Moody school. December 14, 1858, he married Miss Susan C. Gould, a native of Canaan, New Hampshire, and to them were born four children, namely: Alice, now the wife of Frederick W. Hall, of Crookston, Minnesota; Minnie, at home; S. Henry, of this review; and Leon A., a resident of Dillon, Montana. All were born in Massachusetts. In 1868 the father brought his family to Illinois and settled in Cambridge. The following year he purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Andover township, which has since been the homestead of the family, and was successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until called to his final rest April 3, 1895, at the age of sixty-four years. Politically he was a supporter of the Republican party, and religiously was a supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In business affairs he was upright and reliable, and in all the relations of life was found true to every trust reposed in him. His estimable wife still survives him at the age of sixty-four years, and continues to reside on the old homestead.

S. Henry Burrows, of this review, graduated at the Cambridge high school in 1881, as did also his sister Minnie. He remained on the home farm assisting his father in its operation until 1883, when he went to North Dakota and took up a homestead in Benson county, remaining there about thirteen years, during which time he placed the land under a high state of cultivation and made many improvements thereon in the way of buildings. He still retains the same, and derives therefrom a good income. In the fall

of 1895 he returned to the old homestead in Illinois, but still visits his Dakota farm each fall to see that everything is kept in perfect order. After the death of his father he assumed charge of the home place, which he continues to successfully operate, being engaged in general farming. Since the father's death a good residence has been erected and is fitted up with all modern conveniences. As a Republican Mr. Burrows takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, and while a resident of Dakota served two terms as county commissioner in a most creditable and acceptable manner. He is one of the most public-spirited and enterprising citizens of his community, and gives his support to all worthy objects for the public good.

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#### CHARLES M. SAMUELSON.

For a period of about forty years Charles M. Samuelson was one of the most active and successful farmers of Henry county, owning and operating a well-improved and valuable place of four hundred and eighty acres pleasantly located two miles from Orion, but he is now living a retired life in that village, having acquired a comfortable competence that enables him to lay aside all business cares.

Like many of the best citizens of Henry county, Mr. Samuelson is a native of Sweden, where his birth occurred November 28, 1826. His parents were Samuel and Anna (Nelson) Johnson, in whose family were six sons and one daughter, the latter being Mrs. Magnuson, of Osco township, this county. The two older sons remained in Sweden, but the other members of the

family came with the parents to the United States.

Our subject was reared on a farm in his native land, and received the rudiments of an education at his mother's knee, but is almost wholly self-educated. In 1851 he took passage on a sailing vessel at Wurtemberg, and was about thirteen weeks in crossing the ocean to New York, during which time the ship encountered a number of severe storms. In October of that year he went to Buffalo by way of the Hudson river and the Erie canal, and was engaged in chopping wood in the timber until the following spring, when he crossed the lakes to Chicago, whence he proceeded by canal boat to La Salle, Illinois, and by team to Andover, Henry county. Shortly afterward he went to Galesburg, where he worked by the month on a farm for two years, and did not locate permanently in Henry county until October, 1854. His father and three brothers also located here, and the former entered eighty acres of land in Western township, now owned by our subject. He commenced work here and later succeeded to the place. Prospering in his farming operations, he purchased more land from time to time, until he now owns four hundred and eighty acres. He has erected thereon a good residence, three barns, sheds and other outbuildings, has planted an orchard and made many other valuable improvements on the place, so that it is now one of the most desirable farms in the locality. He continued the cultivation of his fields until 1895, when he rented the farm and moved to Orion, where he owns a pleasant home.

In September, 1856, in Henry county, Mr. Samuelson was united in marriage with Miss Johanna Swanson, daughter of John Swanson, who was born and reared in Swe-

den, but came to Andover in 1853. They have become the parents of the following children: Albert, who is married and engaged in farming on the home place; Peter and Edward, who are also married and follow farming in Western township; Victor, at home; Oscar, who operates a part of his father's land; Hannah, wife of Bert Butler, a noted vocalist, while she is a violinist of considerable ability, both having studied at the conservatory of music in Berlin; Minnie, wife of William Westerlund, a business man of Chicago; and Mary, who died in childhood.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860, Mr. Samuelson has been unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and its principles, but has never cared for political preferment. He has, however, taken an active interest in educational affairs as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and are justly deserving the high regard in which they are uniformly held. Having started out in life for himself empty-handed, his record is one well worthy of emulation and contains many valuable lessons of incentive, showing the possibilities that are open to young men who wish to improve every opportunity for advancement.

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### JOHN M. MAVITY.

One of the prominent representatives of the journalistic profession is the gentleman whose name introduces this brief notice, the editor and proprietor of the Chronicle of Cambridge. He was born in Decatur county, Indiana, May 14, 1862, a son of John A.

and Susan Z. (Wise) Mavity, both natives of Jefferson county, that state. His maternal grandfather was Thomas Wise, a cousin of Governor Wise, of Virginia, who hung John Brown. The grandfather was a member of the first session of the Indiana state legislature, which convened at Corydon in 1824, and continued a member for many years, until after the capital was removed to Indianapolis. He died at the extreme old age of eighty-eight years. He was a farmer by occupation, and a soldier of the war of 1812. He took part in the battle of Tippecanoe in 1811.

John A. Mavity, the father of our subject, followed blacksmithing until after the Civil war broke out, but in June, 1862, he laid aside all personal interests to join the boys in blue of Company B, Sixth Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He took part in the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga, and was with Sherman in the Atlanta campaign until the battle of Resaca, when he was seriously wounded in the right leg above the knee. It was thought that the limb would have to be amputated, but he had one of his comrades get him a club, and with it he kept the surgeon away. After his recovery he remained in the hospital as assistant, and in that capacity did excellent service until discharged, in June, 1865. Returning to his home in Indiana, he followed his trade for a few years, and then entered the ministry of the Christian Church, with which he had united a number of years before the war. He successfully engaged in preaching for a quarter of a century in different parts of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, filling some of the best pulpits of his church, but now, at the age of sixty-seven years, is living a retired life in West Lebanon, Indiana, enjoying a well-



earned rest. His has been an honorable and useful life, in which he has labored untiringly for the good of his fellow men, and he has the respect and confidence of all who know him. His estimable wife is still living at the age of seventy-one, and is an active member of the same church. Of their four children, John M. is third in order of birth. Jesse, the oldest, is foreman of a tinplate factory in Atlanta, Indiana, where he resides with his wife and three children. Helen died in infancy. Thomas W. married Nettie Musick, of Eureka, Illinois, who died in 1896, and he died in 1898, at the age of thirty-two years, leaving two children—Maurine and Grace.

After pursuing a high-school course John M. Mavity attended Franklin College, and after completing his education engaged in teaching school for four years in Johnson and Bartholomew counties, Indiana, and six years in Warren county, that state, having charge of country schools two years, and later serving as principal of the schools of State Line and West Lebanon for two years each. In 1880 he purchased the West Lebanon Gazette, which he successfully conducted until the 1st of August, 1900, when he sold that paper and bought the Chronicle of Cambridge, Illinois, which he is now publishing. Having studied law, Mr. Mavity was admitted to the bar in 1892, and from that time until coming to Cambridge he served as city attorney of West Lebanon, Indiana, and also as notary public. He did, however, only an office practice.

Mr. Mavity was married in July, 1886, to Miss Laura F. Hendricks, of Hedrick, Indiana, a daughter of John L. and Bethier Hendricks, and by this union have been born two children: May and J. Earl. Our subject and his wife are both active members

of the Christian Church, and while a resident of Indiana he served as clerk and elder in the same. He is also a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. In the former he has filled every office and served as delegate to the grand lodge of the state, while in the Woodmen Camp he has served as venerable consul, a delegate to the grand lodge of Indiana, and to the supreme lodge, which met at Kansas City in 1899. Through the columns of his paper and by personal effort Mr. Mavity has done much to advance the interests of the Republican party and insure its success, and was a member of the Republican central committee of Warren county, Indiana, from 1884 to 1898, inclusive, serving as secretary and chairman of the same from 1890 to 1896. He has also been a delegate to numerous county and state conventions of his party.

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#### T. I. BACHUS.

For the past nine years T. I. Bachus has been one of the most active and progressive business men of Orion, where at first he engaged only in the grain and lumber trade, but since 1895 has also carried on contracting and building with good success. Keen discrimination, unflagging industry and resolute purpose are numbered among his salient characteristics and to these may be attributed his success in life.

A native of Henry county, Mr. Bachus was born in Oxford township, February 3, 1860, and is a son of James Bachus, who was born in Gallipolis, Ohio, of which state the grandfather was a pioneer. The latter died there when James was a child of four



years. On leaving the Buckeye state in 1843 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and settled in Oxford township, where he pre-empted and later entered land, making for himself a well-improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres. He wedded Miss Mary James, a native of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who, like her husband, was left an orphan in childhood. He became one of the prosperous farmers of his community, as well as one of its most influential and prominent citizens, and served as township trustee for twenty-one consecutive years, being then succeeded by our subject. The father died in 1890, at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife passed away in 1874, at the age of fifty-two years. In their family were six children, namely: Mary, wife of Sidney Mead, of Wichita, Kansas; Jane, wife of Harry Light; James, a resident of Peoria, Illinois; Benjamin, of Buffalo, Missouri; Archibald, of Lakefield, Minnesota; and T. I., our subject.

T. I. Bachus grew to manhood upon his father's farm, and received his education in the home school. On leaving the parental roof he went to Jackson county, Minnesota, where he engaged in farming and also dealing in grain and hay for about six years. He made a specialty of hay, which he bought and shipped in large quantities. Disposing of his business there he returned to this county in 1892 and located at Orion, where he bought out an established grain and lumber business with a good elevator and lumber sheds and yard. By fair and honorable dealing he has built up an excellent trade, receiving a liberal share of the public patronage. In 1895 Mr. Bachus also began contracting and building, and has since erected many buildings in Henry and Rock Island counties, including churches, business

houses, elevators and numerous dwellings. Along this line he has done much to improve and benefit the country, and is to-day recognized as one of the leading business men and most public-spirited citizens of Orion.

At that place, Mr. Bachus was married, May 24, 1894, the lady of his choice being Miss Gertrude McClosky, who was born, reared and educated in Orion, and is a daughter of Edward McClosky, one of the early settlers of Henry county. In politics Mr. Bachus is a staunch Republican, having affiliated with that party since casting his first presidential vote for James A. Garfield, in 1880. For two years he served as a member of the town board, but has never cared for political honors, desiring rather to give his undivided attention to his business affairs. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, a member of the blue lodge of Orion, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Eastern Star Chapter.

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#### SAMUEL STEWART.

For over thirty-two years Samuel Stewart has been a resident of Henry county, and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural interests. He is now the owner of a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, Colona township, and in its operation he is meeting with excellent success. He was born in county Down, Ireland, March 1, 1805, and on the paternal side is of Scotch ancestry. His father, Robert Stewart, was born in county Down, Ireland, in 1821, and on reaching manhood was united in marriage with Miss Jane Craig. In the land of his birth he continued to make his home, being engaged in farming, until after the birth of all his chil-



SAMUEL STEWART.

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dren. On his emigration to America in 1868, he took up his residence in Colona township, Henry county, Illinois, and with the assistance of his sons opened up the farm on which our subject now resides, converting the wild tract into a highly improved farm. There he died in 1887, and his wife passed away in 1894. They were reared in the Presbyterian faith, and throughout life were active and consistent members of that church.

In the family of this worthy couple were seven children, five sons and two daughters, who reached years of maturity, namely: John went to Nebraska after reaching manhood and there died; William is married and lives in Red Willow county, Nebraska; James makes his home in Clay county, that state; Samuel, our subject; Robert is a resident of Red Willow county, Nebraska; Eliza is the wife of William Brown, of Colona township, this county; and Flora is the wife of Hugh D. Carey, of Henry county, Illinois.

Reared to manhood on the old homestead farm Samuel Stewart became familiar with the common English branches of learning in the district schools of the neighborhood. He aided in the work of improving and cultivating the home farm, remaining with his father until the latter's death, and continued its operation for ten years thereafter. He then purchased the interests of the other heirs and succeeded to the homestead, which he has greatly improved. A well three hundred and thirty-three feet deep has been drilled upon the place, and a wind pump put in, furnishing an abundant supply of good water for his stock. As a farmer and stock raiser he has met with excellent success, and is to-day one of the well-to-do citizens of his community.

In his political affiliations Mr. Stewart is an uncompromising Democrat, and an advocate of the principles of the party's laid down by William J. Bryan. He does all in his power to advance the interests and insure the success of his party, but has never cared for political preferment. He has served, however, as a member of the school board and clerk of the district. Religiously he is a member of the Warner Baptist church, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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#### LEONARD R. BOTHWELL.

Among the most prominent and influential citizens of Western township is this well-known and prosperous farmer, who owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred acres, the home being on section 22, within one mile of Orion. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, April 28, 1838, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His paternal grandfather was one of the early settlers of the Empire state, and his father, David Bothwell, was a native of Washington county, New York. The latter married Femima Spencer, of Jefferson county, who died in 1842, and his death occurred in 1846.

Thus left an orphan at an early age Leonard R. Bothwell was reared by his sister, Mrs. Mary Scott, and with her moved to Brown county, Wisconsin, in 1846, where he grew to manhood, his primary education being obtained in the common schools of that locality. The knowledge there acquired has been greatly supplemented by reading and observation in later years. He aided in the work of the farm and was also employed in a sawmill for a time.

In June, 1860, Mr. Bothwell came to Henry county, Illinois, and worked by the month for a number of years as a farm hand for N. B. Lloyd, who was one of the first settlers from Bucks county, Pennsylvania, to locate here, the date of his arrival being 1838. In August, 1861, Mr. Bothwell joined the boys in blue in the efforts to crush out the rebellion, becoming a member of the Eleventh Battery, Ohio Light Artillery, which was assigned to the Western army, and was organized at St. Louis. The winter was spent in Missouri, and their first engagement was at New Madrid, which was followed by the battle of Iuka, Mississippi, September 19, 1862, where Mr. Bothwell was wounded, being twice shot through the arm and also in the right side. Being permanently disabled he was sent to the hospital at Jackson, Tennessee, where he remained until honorably discharged from the service in January, 1863. That spring he returned to Henry county, and when he had sufficiently recovered began work on the farm of his father-in-law. During 1865 and 1866, he was similarly employed in Iowa, but since that time has made his home uninterruptedly in this county.

On the 6th of June, 1867, Mr. Bothwell married Miss Florence D. Lloyd, a daughter of N. B. Lloyd. She was born in Henry county, May 12, 1844, and was reared and educated within one mile of her present home. She attended the Geneseo high school for a time, and spent about four years with an uncle in Pennsylvania. After his marriage Mr. Bothwell helped carry on the Lloyd farm until 1871, and then purchased eighty acres of his present farm, which at that time was all wild prairie, and which he at once began to break and improve. He bought more land from time to time,

including a part of the Lloyd estate, and is now the owner of an excellent farm of three hundred acres, improved with good buildings and supplied with all the accessories and conveniences found upon a model farm of the twentieth century. Besides this valuable property he also owns residence lots in Orion. In connection with general farming he is engaged in stock raising, and is meeting with excellent success in both undertakings. He became a stockholder on the reorganization of the Farmers Bank of Orion, in 1895, and has since served as vice-president of the same.

Mr. and Mrs. Bothwell are the parents of eight children, namely: Ada, the wife of Charles Anderson, a farmer of Western township; Amelia, Esther, Lizzie, Herbert, Elwood, Arthur, William and Clarence, all at home, while the three youngest are still in school.

In his political affiliations Mr. Bothwell is an ardent Republican, having supported that party since casting his first vote for A. Lincoln, in 1860. He has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics; has served as assessor four years; as township collector two years; and in 1887 was elected supervisor, which office he filled so acceptably that he has been constantly re-elected, serving in all thirteen consecutive years. He has served on a number of important committees and is now chairman of the county building committee and the purchasing committee. He has also been a delegate to various county conventions of his party, and has made a faithful and efficient officer in whatever position he has been called upon to fill. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Grand Army of the Re-

public, and has served as quartermaster of the post at Orion since its organization. His life has been one of honest and earnest endeavor and due success has not been denied him.

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### JOHN LINN.

The expression "dignity of labor" is exemplified in the life record of this gentleman, who without reserve attributes his success to earnest work. He is a man of strong force of character, purposeful and energetic, and his keen discrimination and sound judgment are shown in his capable management of business affairs. He is to-day the leading merchant tailor of Cambridge, in which city he has made his home since February, 1895.

Mr. Linn was born at Mo, near Soderhamm, in the northern part of Sweden, March 12, 1841, his parents being John P. and Sarah Foline, who never came to America. The father, who was born in 1813, is still living. He has served in the standing army of Sweden, though never engaged in war, doing garrison duty most of the time. The mother of our subject died in 1847, and the father subsequently married again, but his second wife has also passed away. His children were Foline, who came to this country with our subject, and is now engaged in the shoe business in Moline, Illinois; John, of this review; Andrew, a shoemaker by trade, who died in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1871, at the age of twenty-seven years; and Charles, who died in infancy.

On coming to this country in the fall of 1868, Mr. Linn first located in Geneseo, Illinois, where he spent four years, and then went to Davenport, Iowa, where he was en-

gaged in the merchant tailoring business with P. A. Harling for the same length of time. At the end of that period he returned to Geneseo, where he followed the same business alone until 1881, and later conducted a tailoring establishment in Moline until 1892. On leaving that city he again returned to Geneseo, and continued to carry on business there with E. E. Aldeen until 1895, when he sold out to his partner and came to Cambridge, where he has already built up a large and lucrative trade.

Before leaving his native land, Mr. Linn was married on the 1st of January, 1865, to Miss Jennie Sparman, who was born in Umeo, Westerbotten, Sweden, May 10, 1842. Of the eleven children born to them only three have been spared, namely: Hannah, wife of Albert Freeman, of Moline; Jennie, who married Oscar Boon, of Geneseo, and has three children, May and Maria, twins, and Jennie; and Clara, who is in a store in Rock Island. Mrs. Linn and her daughters are members of the Baptist Church and are highly esteemed by all who know them.

In his political views Mr. Linn is a Republican. He was penniless on coming to the new world and had to work a year and a half to get enough money to send for his wife and two children, who had remained in Sweden. He therefore deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life. Besides his pleasant and commodious residence in Cambridge he is now the owner of one of the most highly cultivated and best improved farms in Andover township. Upon the place is a good ten-room residence, a barn, cribs and other buildings. Diligence has been the keynote to his success, and his example is one that might be profitably followed by all who have to depend

upon their own exertions. His worth is widely recognized and he enjoys the friendship of the best people of Cambridge.

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### PETER C. STEWART.

Although well past the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, Peter C. Stewart is still actively identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county and ably superintends the management of his fine farm of four hundred and eighty acres on section 26, Colona township. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, March 22, 1818, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families of New York, where his father, David Stewart, was born in 1763. On reaching manhood the latter married Effa Culverson, who was born in New Jersey, but was reared in the Empire state. For a few years they made their home in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and then removed to Muskingum county, Ohio, being numbered among its first settlers. In 1838 they came to Illinois and took up their residence in Mercer county, where the father died three years later.

Peter C. Stewart was twenty years of age when he came with his father to this state, and he spent two seasons working on the home farm in Mercer county. Coming to Henry county in 1841 he rented land in Western township, and commenced farming on his own account. After about eight or ten years spent in this way he purchased one hundred and sixty acres on section 36, the same township, and at once began its improvement and cultivation. Acre after acre was placed under the plow until the entire amount was highly cultivated. To the origi-

nal purchase he later added another one-hundred-and-sixty-acre tract, making a farm of half a section which he still owns, and still later he purchased the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Colona township, which he now occupies. The buildings upon the place are neat and substantial and everything about the farm indicates the careful supervision of a painstaking owner. He has engaged in raising and feeding stock quite extensively, and annually ships to the city markets four carloads of cattle and two of hogs.

In Henry county Mr. Stewart was married, December 20, 1845, to Miss Eliza Jane Piatt, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, August 5, 1823, but was principally reared in Indiana. About 1838 or 1839 she came with her father, Jacob Piatt, to Henry county, Illinois. Her father was twice married, his second union being with Jane Thompson. On coming to Henry county he bought land in Weller township, where he died in 1848. His wife survived him until 1880. They were members of the Presbyterian Church. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart have five children living, namely: Frank, who is married and engaged in fruit growing in Delta, Colorado; William J., who is married and is now serving as superintendent of schools in Nance county, Nebraska, being a teacher of long experience; Edward, who is married and engaged in the stock business in Trinidad, Colorado; Miles K., who is married and lives on the home farm with his father, though he owns a farm in Colona township; Ellen, wife of John Holden, who lives on the Stewart farm. One daughter, Ada, died at the age of five years.

Politically Mr. Stewart is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren. He has taken



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P. C. STEWART.



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an active interest in educational affairs, serving as school director some years, and as president and clerk of the district. Although eighty-three years of age he has the vigor of a much younger man and in spirit and interest seems yet in his prime. Old age is not necessarily a synonym of weakness and inactivity. It needs not suggest as a matter of course the want of occupation or helplessness. Mr. Stewart stands to-day in his mature years a strong man, strong in the consciousness of a well-spent life, strong to plan and perform, strong in his credit and good name, and a worthy example for young men to pattern after. For almost sixty years he and his wife have been residents of Henry county, and are to-day numbered among its most honored pioneers and highly-respected citizens.

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### JOHN A. BRODD.

This gentleman, who has been actively identified with the farming interests of Andover township for several years, was born at Broddark Parish, sixty-five miles from Gottenberg, Sweden, on the 2nd of February, 1850, a son of John and Catharine (Larson) Brodd, natives of the same country. The father was born October 27, 1821, and is a son of Swan and Christine Brodd, who spent their entire lives in Sweden, both living to an advanced age.

In his native land John Brodd, father of our subject, followed the occupation of farming until 1803, when he sailed from Gottenberg, Sweden, to Hamburg, Germany, and at the latter place took passage on a sailing vessel for New York. He was five weeks in crossing the ocean, that being considered a quick voyage at that time.

Coming at once to Andover, Illinois, he took up his residence in the well known log house in the center of the village, where he made his home until the following fall, when he bought two and a half acres in the same place, and lived there six years and a half. For thirteen years he rented the David Pollock farm, and then purchased the farm where our subject now resides, buying later thirty acres, which he improved and placed under cultivation, and where he now resides. In his political views he is a Republican, and in religious belief is a Lutheran, to which church his wife also belongs. They are still living in Andover township and are numbered among its honored residents. Of their seven children six were born in Sweden, and Clara and Frank G. both died in that country prior to the emigration of the family. Anna Sophia died in Andover township at the age of twenty-five years. John A. is the subject of this sketch. Frank L. is a resident of Cambridge. Theodore died in Andover in 1863, and Alma, born in that township, in 1864, died in 1865.

Our subject passed the first thirteen years of his life in Sweden, and then came with the family to the new world, since which time he has made his home in Andover township. After completing his education in its public schools, his advantages being limited, he took up the occupation to which he had been reared—that of farming—and in 1886 purchased his present farm of eighty acres of his father, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies. He has erected thereon good and substantial buildings, and has done considerable tiling.

December 16, 1886, in Andover township, Mr. Brodd married Miss Catharine Sophia Fair, who was born in that town-

ship, April 8, 1856, a daughter of Gustoph and Fredericka Fair, natives of Smolend, Sweden. Her parents came to the United States in 1854, and from that time until 1897 made their home in Andover township, but are now residents of Orion, this county. Mr. and Mrs. Brodd have six children, namely: Esther, Francis, Philip, Delmore, Chester and Hannah. The parents are both active members of the Lutheran Church, with which Mr. Brodd is officially connected. In politics he is a Republican, and he takes an active and commendable interest in all that will advance the interests of his township and county.

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#### WILLIAM H. KNOWLES.

Among the representative farmers and leading citizens of Osco township is the subject of this biography, who has resided here since 1874, his home being on section 22. He is a native of Henry county, his birth having occurred in Linn township, May 3, 1866. His father, Matthew Knowles, was born in Matlock, England, on the 19th of May, 1821, and in 1848 came to the United States. Choosing Illinois as a future home, he settled in Henry county, in 1856, and three years later was united in marriage with Miss Annie Radburn, the youngest of a family of seven children, and who was born in Bedfordshire, England, June 15, 1831, but was only two years old when brought to this country by her parents, who died of typhus fever in Byverly, Pennsylvania, two years later. She was reared by a sister in Philadelphia, where she was educated. In 1859 she came to Illinois, and December 29, of that year, she was married. After com-

ing to this state Mr. Knowles followed farming continuously until his death, which occurred July 10, 1882, on the farm where his widow and son now reside. For a time he owned and operated a farm in Lynn township, and on disposing of some of his property there he moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he resided for about a year. On his return to this county he located in Osco township and purchased a farm of eighty acres on section 22, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his energies until called to his final rest. He was an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, called upon him to fill numerous township offices. Religiously he was an earnest and faithful member of the Episcopal Church of Osco. In his family were five children, two sons and three daughters, of whom one son died in infancy. The daughters are Sophia R., wife of Walter Christiance, now a resident of Nebraska, but formerly of Henry county, Illinois; Emma W., a resident of Osco and widow of F. J. Stoughton, who died of typhoid fever in October, 1900; and Annie L., a graduate of the Geneseo Collegiate Institute and an instructor of music and drawing in the public schools of Portage, Wisconsin.

William H. Knowles, the only son of the family now living, was educated in the district schools of Lynn and Osco townships. He grew to manhood on his father's farm, and on the latter's death he took charge of affairs for his mother. He is a thorough and skillful farmer and in the management of the place he has been quite successful.

In 1889 he led to the marriage altar Miss Hattie E. Frederick, who was born in Osco township, August 3, 1865, a daughter

of A. A. and Nancy (Weaver) Frederick, residents of Geneseo, where they have made their home since 1872, the father working at his trade of harness making. Mrs. Knowles is the oldest of their four children, the others being Kate, wife of N. E. Sage, of Davenport, Iowa; Victor, a resident of Lexington, Illinois; and Edna, wife of Arthur Peterson, of Geneseo. Mr. and Mrs. Knowles are the parents of two interesting children: Kenneth F. and Ethel May. Mrs. Knowles was a graduate of the Geneseo high school in the class of 1884, and was a successful teacher for some years.

In his political affiliations Mr. Knowles is a Republican, and has served as tax collector in his township. For the past five or six years he has been a member of the Republican central committee for Osco township, and has been influential in Republican circles. He is one of the leading members of the Episcopal Church of Osco, and was appointed vestryman in the spring of 1900, which office he is now filling. His wife is also a member of the same church. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 2248, of Osco, and both he and his wife are members of the Royal Neighbors, No. 2022, of the same place. They are widely and favorably known, and are held in warm regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### DANIEL L. KELEHER.

Since the 7th of April, 1857, this gentleman has resided in Henry county and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural interests. Coming to the new world in limited circumstances, his enterprise, en-

ergy and perseverance have enabled him to mount from a lowly position to one of affluence. One of his leading characteristics in business affairs is his fine sense of order and complete system and the habit of giving careful attention to details, without which success in any undertaking is never an assured fact.

Mr. Keleher, who is familiarly known by his many friends as Dan, owns and operates one of the most desirable farms in Western township, it being pleasantly located on sections 14, 20, 23 and 24, three and a half miles from Orion. A native of Ireland, he was born in county Kerry, August 20, 1836, and received a good practical education. In 1853 he emigrated to the United States and first located in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he peddled apples, butter and other farm produce for some time, and also worked on the market square now occupied by the public building in Philadelphia.

Coming to Henry county, Illinois, April 7, 1857, he accepted a situation on the farm of M. B. Lloyd, the father of Western township, where he remained two years, and then purchased twenty acres of land from that gentleman. After operating it for one year, he traded it to Mr. Lloyd for a forty-acre tract of raw prairie land, upon which he has since made his home. The twenty-acre tract was on the proposed line of the Peoria & Rock Island railroad. Anticipating the location of a depot there, as it was the central point between Coal Valley and Orion, he wished to retain it, but was given an extra good bargain by Mr. Lloyd and so sold it. The forty-acre tract was fenced, broken and improved by the erection of a little house, and there he lived alone for a time. His labors were at length crowned with success, and to his landed possessions



he has added from time to time until he now owns five hundred and eighty-six acres of very valuable and productive land, having paid as high as seventy-three dollars per acre for a portion of it. This farm he has tiled, fenced and placed under a high state of cultivation, and has erected thereon a commodious residence, a good cattle barn, the largest in the county, and substantial out-buildings, which stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise. He also has another well improved farm of one hundred and six acres west of Orion, and in connection with general farming is successfully engaged in the stock business. He annually feeds and ships from five to seven carloads of cattle and hogs, and has found this business profitable.

At Rock Island, in 1863, Mr. Keleher was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Currin, a native of county Donegal, Ireland, who came to the United States in childhood and was reared in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, removing to Cambridge, Illinois, when a young lady. By this union have been born four children, namely: Mary A., wife of Andrew Long, a farmer of Osceola township, Henry county; Ellen, at home; D. C., who is married and follows farming in Western township; and Lizzie, who married Anton Ecksted and lives in Orion. The son completed his education by three years' attendance at the Geneseo Collegiate Institute.

Being a strong temperance man, Mr. Keleher supports the men and measures of the Prohibition party; has been a delegate to numerous conventions; and in the years 1896 and 1900 was the nominee of his party for representative from Henry county. He has served as township trustee and road commissioner, and is now serving his second

term as president of the Henry County Farmers Institute. At its session November 7, 1900, a vote was taken as to the most popular farmer in Henry county, and he was given that honor almost unanimously. He was a delegate to the Farmers Congress at Colorado Springs, and has filled other positions of honor and trust, the duties of which he has most capably and conscientiously discharged. He is a strong advocate of the township central public school. Religiously he and his family are communicants of the Catholic Church, and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. Mr. Keleher is one of the most enterprising and public-spirited citizens of his township, and favors the erection of a monument to the memory of the first settlers of Henry county. He enjoys the well-earned distinction of being what the public calls a "self-made man," and an analysis of his character reveals the fact that enterprise, well-directed effort and honorable dealing have been the essential features in his prosperity.

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#### JOHN V. SWANSON.

For almost half a century John V. Swanson has been identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, and is to-day one of its most prosperous and successful farmers, his home being in section 36, Western township. He was born in Linchuenglan, Sweden, on the 6th of September, 1835, and is a son of John and Lena Catherine Swanson, also natives of that country, the former born June 24, 1708, the latter February 4, 1799. In the land of his birth the father followed farming for some years, and there all of his children were born, the family be-

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ing composed of three sons and four daughters. In the summer of 1853 the parents and children emigrated to America and took up their residence in Henry county, Illinois, where the father improved a farm of eighty acres, making it his home until called to his final rest September 15, 1869, at the age of seventy-one years. The mother, who survived him a number of years died at the home of our subject March 28, 1887, and was laid to rest by the side of her husband in Andover cemetery, where a substantial monument has been erected to their memory.

John V. Swanson was a young man of seventeen years when he came to the United States with his parents, and during early life he assisted his father in the labors of the farm, remaining under the parental roof until 1863. On the 28th of March, 1863, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Peterson, also a native of Sweden, who was born January 8, 1846, and was brought to America by her parents in 1849, being reared in this county. Her father, Nels Peterson, was one of the early settlers of Western township, where he developed and improved a farm. He was born in Lounberga, Sweden, November 18, 1812, and died in Henry county, Illinois, August 9, 1888, while his wife, who bore the maiden name of Eva Carrie Mannosdoter, was born in the same county, February 10, 1821, and died September 5, 1883.

To Mr. and Mrs. Swanson were born seven sons and two daughters, as follows: Hannah M., wife of John A. Anderson, of Phelps county, Nebraska; Amelia, wife of Oscar Larson, of Western township, this county; Joseph, at home; Nathan, who holds a business position in the office of the Northwestern Railroad Company at Chicago;

Luther, who wedded Mary Johnson and follows farming on section 34, Western township; Charles A., at home; William, a student in an art school in Chicago; Otto A. and Victor C., both at home.

Throughout his entire business career Mr. Swanson has followed the occupation to which he was reared, and is to-day one of the best and most substantial farmers of Henry county. Success has attended his well-directed efforts, and to-day he is the owner of six hundred and thirty-four acres of valuable land, divided into three well-improved farms. This property has all been acquired by his own labor and enterprise and the assistance of his estimable wife, who has proved a faithful helpmate. The family are active and prominent members of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover, in which Mr. Swanson has served as deacon for many years. He is an advocate of good schools and competent teachers, and has done effective service in the interest of education while serving as school director for a number of years. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles, and never withholds his aid from any enterprise which he believes calculated to advance the moral, social or material welfare of his township and county, and is therefore numbered among the most valued and highly esteemed citizens of the community.

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#### ANDREW J. LARSON.

The subject of this biography is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Henry county, and now operates a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 26, Andover township. He is a na-

tive of this county, his birth having occurred in Osco township on the 28th of June, 1867. His father, A. G. Larson, was born in Sweden, July 25, 1837, and remained in his native land until the summer of 1860, when he came to America and took up his residence in Henry county, Illinois. For four years he worked by the month in Andover township, and then purchased eighty acres of land on section 28, Osco township, on which he erected a good set of farm buildings. To the original purchase he has added from time to time as his financial resources permitted until he now has seven hundred acres of fine farming land in this county. He is independent in politics and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him. His home is still in Osco township. He has two brothers living in this county: Jonas, a resident of Andover township, and August, of the village of Osco.

On the 1st of November, 1866, in Lynn, Illinois, A. G. Larson was united in marriage with Miss Tilda L. Hokanson, who was born in Sweden, May 18, 1846, and they have become the parents of eight children, of whom four are now living, namely: Andrew J., our subject; Henry J., Carl R., Gust A., all at home. May Augusta, who died in 1899. L. Edward, twin brother of our subject, was accidentally injured by a corn stalk cutter and died from the effects of the same; Nellie A. died from the effects of an injury from a blow given accidentally by one of her schoolmates; and two children died in infancy.

Reared on the home farm, Andrew J. Larson acquired his education in the district schools of Osco township. In 1893 he began life for himself as a farmer in Lynn township, where he remained until he bought his present farm of P. E. Walline in 1897.

He carries on general farming and stock raising, and in his labors is meeting with marked success. He is a thorough and systematic farmer, and the neat and thrifty appearance of his place plainly indicates his careful supervision. As a Republican he takes an active interest in political affairs.

Mr. Larson was married, in Cambridge, March 7, 1893, to Miss Carrie Youngquist, a native of Western township, Henry county, and a daughter of J. A. Youngquist, of Cambridge, of whom more extended mention is made in the sketch of Albert Peterson on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Larson now have an interesting family of three children: Earl Russell, Mildred Irene Ruth and Florence Maud. He attends and supports the Lutheran Church of Andover, of which his wife is a member.

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### JOHN W. STEARNS.

Among the farmers of Henry county who have met with most excellent success in their chosen calling is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He is now the owner of nearly five hundred acres of fine farming land in this county, which is divided into two well improved farms, and upon one of these, on section 12, Western township, he now makes his home.

Mr. Stearns is a native of the Green Mountain state, his birth having occurred in the town of Waterbury, Washington county, Vermont, April 28, 1835. The family to which he belongs was founded in this country by three brothers, natives of England, one of whom settled in Massachusetts, another in New York, and the third in Ohio. From the first branch our



subject is descended. His grandfather, John Stearns, Sr., and his father, John Stearns, Jr., were both natives of Massachusetts, and were among the early settlers of Vermont, where the former improved a farm of three hundred acres on the side of a hill. There the father was reared, and during his boyhood and youth he aided in the arduous task of clearing away the timber and placing under cultivation the wild land. In Massachusetts he married Abigail Hall Toby, a native of that state, and upon a farm in Washington county, Vermont, they made their home until he was called to his final rest February 28, 1855. His wife survived him many years and spent her last days with our subject in this county, where she died March 26, 1896, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years.

In the county of his nativity John W. Stearns, of this review, pursued his studies in the common schools, and he remained on the home farm until reaching man's estate. Coming west in October, 1860, he stopped at Rock Island for a short time, but later in the same season came to Henry county, where he engaged in farming on a rented tract of eighty acres for two years, and later on the James Glenn farm of one hundred and sixty acres for three years. In 1864 Mr. Stearns purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, where he now resides, and at once began its improvement. His first home here being a small house. As time advanced and he prospered in his undertakings, he bought more land, and has made many valuable improvements upon his place, including the erection of a large and pleasant residence, two good barns and other outbuildings, has set out fruit and shade trees, and in other ways has added to the value and attractive appearance of the farm.

Besides this place, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, he has another farm of two hundred and sixty-eight acres adjoining, and is to-day one of the substantial farmers and stock raisers of his community.

Mr. Stearns was married in Vermont, October 14, 1860, to Miss Albina Stone, a native of that state, who died in this county, in August, 1866, leaving one son, John Arthur, who is now married and follows farming in Osco township. He has two children, Bessie and Willis. On the 18th of July, 1867, in Henry county, Mr. Stearns was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Glenn, who was born February 9, 1840, and reared in Clinton county, Ohio, and came to Illinois with her father, Jacob Glenn, in 1856, locating in Colona township, Henry county. No children were born of this union, but Mr. and Mrs. Stearns have reared and educated two. A niece, Mary Harper, made her home with them from the age of ten years until her marriage, being now the wife of Milton F. Edwards, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. A nephew, Harry Rue, was only eighteen months old when he came to live with them, and now as a young man he assists in carrying on the farm.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Stearns has been identified with the Republican party, and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has served on the township committee of his party and has been a delegate to numerous conventions, but has never sought political honors, though he has been called upon to serve his fellow citizens as township school trustee, as road commissioner, and as treasurer for about eighteen years. He has ever taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs, and gives his support to every enterprise

calculated to advance the moral, social or material welfare of his township and county. His estimable wife is a member of the Methodist Church, and both are held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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### THOMAS M. ROBERTSON.

Prominent among the citizens of Henry county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state in the past sixty-five years, and who have, by honest toil and industry, succeeded in acquiring a competence, and are now able to spend the sunset of life in quiet and retirement, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. For many years he was one of the leading agriculturists of the county, but is now living a retired life in Cambridge, to which city he removed November 1, 1899, and where he owns a desirable home.

Mr. Robertson was born a few miles north of Galesburg, in Henderson township, Knox county, Illinois, May 2, 1835, and is a worthy representative of one of the most prominent pioneer families of this section of the state, his parents being Daniel and Mary (Maxwell) Robertson. The father's birth occurred in Perth, Scotland, but he was only six months old when brought by his parents to America. From New York the family removed to Morgan county, Illinois, in 1817. They constructed a flatboat in Pennsylvania, on which they loaded their household goods, horses and cattle, and they floated down the Ohio river to Lewiston, near St. Louis. Going to the land office, at Dixon, Daniel Robertson entered a tract of government land at Henderson Grove, which

was said to be the nicest grove in the state at that time. He secured the deed to a quarter-section of land on section 11, Henderson township, Knox county, and his brother, Alexander, who died in 1848, also obtained at that time one hundred and sixty acres and later entered a quarter-section more. The father of our subject lived at what is now Hendersonville, which was a thriving village before the railroad was laid out, but as the company saw fit to lay their line through Galesburg and skip Hendersonville, the latter was virtually killed. He and his brother were the first white men to settle in Knox county. During the Black Hawk war, the latter entered the army, leaving Daniel to care for the home and family. He was well acquainted with Shabbona, the friendly Indian of those troublesome times. Mr. Robertson was reared in the Scotch Presbyterian faith, but never united with any church. While a resident of Schuyler county, Illinois, he was appointed justice of the peace by Governor Edwards and held the office for some years. He died at his home in Knox county, April 6, 1890, at the ripe old age of eighty-six years, honored and respected by all who knew him. The mother of our subject, who was a most excellent woman, had died in 1840, at the early age of twenty-seven years. She was a daughter of Thomas and Clarkie (Williamson) Maxwell. Her mother's people came from Indiana to Illinois at a very early day and first located in Sangamon county, but in 1829 removed to Knox county. By his first marriage Mr. Robertson had five children, namely: Elizabeth, the first female white child born in Knox county, married Isaac Reed, and is now living in this county at the age of sixty-nine years; Alexander R. died from the effects of an accident Oc-

tober 11, 1891, at the age of fifty-eight years; Thomas M., our subject, is next in order of birth; Malissa, deceased, was the wife of James Smelser; Mary is the widow of Robert Adeock and a resident of Warren county, Illinois. For his second wife the father of these children married Miss Jane Riddle, who died in Galesburg, in 1895, at the age of eighty-five years. By that union were born six children, five of whom are now living: John T., a resident of Galesburg; James G., who died November, 1900, at Marysville, California; Amanda, now Mrs. Briggs, of Oklahoma; and Harlen, of Indian territory, and Harbin C., twins, living near Galesburg, Illinois.

The boyhood and youth of Thomas M. Robertson were passed upon the home farm in Knox county, and he received a good common-school education. At the age of seventeen he and his brother Alexander began breaking prairie, with three plows and five yoke of oxen to each plow. They broke much of the sod between Wataga and Little York, Mercer county, their largest day's work being ten and a quarter acres near Wataga, getting two dollars and twenty-five cents per acre. The brother retired from the business before our subject, who continued to follow it for about nine years. He became the owner of seventy-seven acres of land in Knox township, which he sold on coming to Henry county in 1867, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in Weller township, to which he subsequently added tracts of sixty-two, eighty and one hundred and forty acres, but has since sold a portion of this land, though he still retains one hundred and seventy-six acres of well improved and valuable land on section 7, and one hundred and thirty-seven and a half acres on

section 8, Weller township. Upon these farms he has erected good and substantial buldngs, has placed the land under a high state of cultivaton and otherwise improved them, until they are now among the most desirable of their size in that section of the county. He has also owned land in Nebraska.

On the 28th of October, 1858, Mr. Robertson was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Bick, who was born in Ohio, May 17, 1840, a daughter of Elias and Catherine (Stein) Bick, natives of Pennsylvania, who in 1852 removed to Knox county, Illinois. Her father was a successful merchant tailor, who did a large business and employed many workmen. He was born August 15, 1813, and died February 24, 1864, while his wife was born December 1, 1815, and died February 12, 1852. Both were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were held in high regard by all who knew them. Mrs. Robertson was the eldest of their four daughters, the others being as follows: (2) Alsetta is the wife of William Collins, a railroad employe of Atchison, Kansas, and they have five children, Frederick, William, Forest, Harry and May. (3) Susie is the wife of Albert Thompson, a farmer of Norton, Kansas; and they have seven children, Frederick, Charles, Howard, Florence, Cora, John and Maude. (4) Louisa is the wife of John Maxwell, a farmer of Grinnell, Iowa, and their children are Catherine, Jennie, Atha, Cora and Charles.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Robertson, but Cora died at the age of three years, and three of the number died in infancy. Those living are Arthur, on the home farm; Fannie, wife of V. J. Poppy, a farmer of Weller township, this county,

by whom she has one child, Jessie; Harry B., a grain buyer of Bishop Hill, who married Hattie Hunt and has one child, Mildred; and Carrie, wife of C. W. Nelson, who lives on the home farm.

For many years Mr. Robertson has been identified with the financial interests of Cambridge, serving as one of the directors of the Farmers National Bank since its organization, in 1882, and as vice-president during that entire time with the exception of two years. He is now one of the oldest bank officials in this part of the county. He has also been interested in the mercantile business some ten or twelve years. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Democratic party, and while living in the country he served his fellow citizens as road commissioner some time, and as a member of the school board for nine years. At the age of twenty-one years he was made a Mason in Hiram Lodge, Henderson, Illinois. Being demitted from that lodge, he became one of the charter members of Oxford Lodge, and later assisted in the organization of the lodge at Woodhull, Henry county. He and his estimable wife are members of the Baptist Church. They are widely and favorably known throughout the county, and it is safe to say that no couple within its borders are more honored or highly esteemed, or more justly deserve the high regard in which they are held by all who know them.

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#### ANDREW LINCOLN.

The well-known and popular superintendent of the Swedish Orphan Home in Andover township, was born in Vennland,

Kroppa Congregation, Sweden, April 29, 1842, a son of John and Maria (Olson) Lindgren, also natives of that country, where the father, who was a farmer by occupation, died. The mother subsequently came to the United States and settled in Kansas, her death occurring in Linsberg, that state, January 7, 1893. Our subject was reared and educated in his native land, and continued to make his home there until his emigration to America, in April, 1869. On his arrival in this country he proceeded to Kansas, where he received a contract for stone work on the Santa Fe railroad. His first contract was around Emporia and Florence and in that vicinity. He located in Linsberg, McPherson county, where he purchased two hundred and forty acres of land and followed farming for a time. For twelve years he was also engaged in the lumber business at that place, hauling the first load of lumber from Salina to that place. He took up government land there, and in his farming operations was fairly successful, though he met with some reverses, caused principally by the grasshopper plague. While residing in McPherson he was a member of the city council during which time many improvements were made. He was also a trustee of Bethany College, from the beginning of the school, a period of sixteen years, and was one of the officers when the college buildings were erected.

While a resident of Kansas, Mr. Lincoln was married, October 21, 1871, to Miss Anna Christine Johnson, a native of Sweden, and to them were born nine children, as follows: Julius L., who was ordained a Lutheran minister in 1893, and is now pastor of a church at Jamestown, New York; David, an undertaker and embalmer at that place; Simon, who is now attending

Rush Medical College at Chicago; Hannah; Selma, who is preparing herself for a trained nurse in Chicago; Carl, who is a student in Augustana College; and Luther.

Mr. Lincoln continued to reside in Kansas until September 1, 1896, when he accepted the superintendency of the Swedish Orphan Home in Andover township, Henry county, Illinois, and removed to this place, and has since most creditably filled that responsible position. This institution was organized in Minnesota and belongs to the Augustana Synod. It is known as the Swedish Evangelical Orphan Home and School and was first located in Swedonia, Mercer county, Illinois, where a building was erected in 1867 and dedicated the following year, but in 1869 the institution was transferred to Andover, Henry county. The first building erected here answered all purposes until 1880, when what is now known as the main building was erected. The farm consists of four hundred and thirty acres, of which three hundred acres are under a high state of cultivation. The farm is largely operated by the inmates under the supervision of Mr. Lincoln, and in 1899 they raised ten thousand bushels of corn upon the place. The first superintendent, S. P. Lindell, was succeeded by John S. Swanson, who filled that position for eight years. E. Hoogner, of Swedonia, was then superintendent for three years, and was followed by Gust Johnson for two years, and J. E. Munell for eighteen months. Mr. Lincoln then took charge of affairs, and has most capably and acceptably filled the office since September, 1896. There are now forty inmates at the home, though the enrollment has been as high as sixty-eight. During the school year of 1899-1900, the school was conducted in English for seven months, and in Swedish

for three months. The present capacity is forty, and the inmates receive home care, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln being father and mother to all.

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#### GEORGE J. SMITH.

Among the leading and representative agriculturists of Western township, stalwart and sturdy tillers of the soil, there is none who stands a more prominent figure than George J. Smith, whose home is on section 1, where since 1883 he has successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising.

Mr. Smith was born in Kombach, Bavaria, Germany, on the 15th of October, 1851, a son of John P. and Margaret (Grampp) Smith, also natives of that country, where the father followed farming until his emigration to the new world in 1856. On their arrival in this country the family first located in Maryland, but a year later came to Illinois, and the father opened up and improved a farm in Long Point township, Livingston county, on which he spent his remaining days. He was born in 1805 and died in January, 1886. His wife died about five years later.

George J. Smith was about six years of age when he came to America with his parents, and in Livingston county he grew to manhood, aiding his father in the improvement and cultivation of the farm, which he subsequently purchased. He continued his residence there until after his marriage, but in 1883 removed to Henry county and purchased his present farm of three hundred and twenty acres, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with most gratifying



results. He has built a neat and substantial residence, good barns and other outbuildings, has set out an orchard and shade trees, and has a good system of water works operated by a wind pump. In fact, all of the conveniences and accessories of a model farm are there found, and the place is one of the most desirable farms of its size in the township. Mr. Smith makes a specialty of raising and feeding stock for market, and annually ships about four carloads of cattle and the same of hogs, being accounted one of the most successful farmers and stockmen of the county.

On the 16th of March, 1882, in Henry county, Mr. Smith married Miss Carrie Smith, who was born in Edford township, Henry county, a daughter of William Smith, who was one of the early settlers of the county, and improved the farm on which our subject now resides. He was born near Hanover, Prussia, in 1822, and when about twenty years of age came to the United States, first locating in Cumberland, Maryland, where he married Caroline Emmert, also of German birth. In 1851 they came to Henry county, Illinois, and settled in Edford township, where he purchased land and still lives. He is an extensive land owner, and at one time was the owner of eleven hundred acres.

Having no children of their own, our subject and his wife have adopted a daughter, Edna Smith, who was an orphan. They are active and consistent members of the Lutheran Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them on account of their sterling worth and many excellencies of character. In his political views Mr. Smith is a staunch Republican, and has supported every presidential nominee of that party since casting his first vote for General

U. S. Grant in 1872. He is now serving as township trustee with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

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#### AMOS A. DYAL.

Among the self-made men and honored citizens of Orion who have laid aside business cares to spend their declining years in peace and quiet is the subject of this review, who has been a resident of Henry county since the 1st of October, 1856. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in the city of Pittsburg on the 7th of March, 1834, and is a son of William H. and Eliza A. (Stewart) Dyal, both natives of West Virginia, though their marriage was celebrated in the Keystone state. The father was born in 1807, and in early life was engaged in flatboating on the Ohio river, running coal barges. He finally located on a farm in Coshocton county, Ohio, and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. There he died in 1891 at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. The mother died in 1885.

On the home farm Amos Dyal grew to manhood, receiving but limited school privileges in his youth. In the fall of 1856 he came west, arriving in Henry county, Illinois, on the 1st of October, and for about four years he worked by the month on the farm of L. C. Welton, one of the early settlers of Illinois, who came to Henry county from Peoria county. Later he rented land and engaged in farming on his own account for three or four years in Osco and Andover townships. In 1862 he purchased eighty acres of land on section 14, Western township, but did not locate thereon until two



AMOS DYAL.



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years later. At time of purchase this was a wild tract, which Mr. Dyal fenced, broke and improved, and as his financial resources increased he added to his property from time to time until he now owns two hundred and thirty-four acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with a good set of farm buildings, including a pleasant residence and two barns. He raised and fed considerable stock for market, and in all his undertakings met with a fair success.

In November, 1860, in Henry county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Dyal and Miss Isabella McFarland, who was born and reared in Holmes county, Ohio, and died here in 1872, leaving two children. Ida Eliza, the older, is now the wife of Harry McCleese, of Hancock county, Iowa, and they have seven children: Myron, Clarence, Walter, Bertha, Isabella, Ralph K. and Hazel. Robert, the younger child of our subject, grew to manhood and married, but died May 8, 1896. In 1874 Mr. Dyal was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Marietta Hovey, who was born in New York, but was reared and educated in Henry county, Illinois, and engaged in teaching school prior to her marriage. She died in 1889, and June 29, 1892, in Fayette county Pennsylvania, Mr. Dyal was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Showalter, a native of that county, educated at George's Creek Academy and the Lock Haven Normal School, and also a school teacher. Throughout his active business life her father, James Showalter, also followed that profession, but is now living a retired life in Smithfield, Pennsylvania. He belongs to an old family of that state.

In his political views Mr. Dyal is independent, but being a strong temperance man,

he usually supports the men and measures of the Prohibition party. He and his wife attend the Baptist Church of Orion, with which he holds membership, but she is still connected with the Presbyterian Church of Smithfield, Pennsylvania, having been reared in that faith. As a citizen of Henry county, with whose interests he has long been identified, he is highly respected, enjoys the confidence of his neighbors and friends, and is regarded as a man of excellent business judgment. His success in life is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts, diligence and sagacity. He is now living retired in Orion, to which place he removed in October, 1895, and where he owns a home.

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#### P. E. OSTRAN.

This prominent business man of Cambridge, Illinois, who is a member of the well-known firm of Ostran, Hunt & Company, was born in Sweden August 31, 1866, a son of P. Ostran and Catherine Ostran. By occupation the father was a dairy farmer, and was an active member of the Christian Church, to which his wife also belongs. She is still living in Gofte, Sweden, at the age of sixty-eight years, but he died in that country in 1878, at the age of forty-nine. In their family were five children, namely: Mary, wife of August Peterson, of Hartford, Connecticut; Anna, wife of N. L. Wahlburg, of Cambridge, Illinois; P. E., our subject; Christin, wife of C. Nordstrum, of Hartford, Connecticut; and Hannah, who lives with her mother in Sweden.

P. E. Ostran was reared and educated in his native land, attending both the common schools and an academy. In the spring

of 1882, in company with a sister, who after landing remained in New York, he crossed the Atlantic and came direct to Cambridge. On his arrival here he began clerking in a store, and at the same time attended school that he might learn the English language. He was employed as clerk here until the fall of 1887, when he went to Kearney, Nebraska, where he held a similar position until July of the following year. He then returned to Cambridge and purchased the interest of James Mascal, now deceased, in the firm of Mascal, Walline & Company, for whom he had previously worked. The name was then changed to Walline, Wenerstrum & Company, Mr. Ostran being the company, and it remained such until 1894, when it was again changed to Ostran, Hunt & Company. Theirs is the largest store in Cambridge, and they carry a full and complete line of general merchandise, in fact everything found in a first class establishment of the kind. They buy all kinds of country produce, and conduct a branch store at Ulah, Illinois. Besides the members of the firm, employment is furnished six or seven clerks, and they enjoy a very large country and city trade, which is constantly increasing.

On the 13th of September, 1888, Mr. Ostran married Miss Delia Pederson, who was born in Mandal, Norway, October 3, 1864, a daughter of Ola and Anna (Olsen) Pederson. She came with her parents to America in 1871, and located in Chicago, where the family were living at the time of the great fire in October, 1871. In 1881 they moved to Kearney, Nebraska, where the father, a carpenter by trade, remained until 1895, since which time he has been a resident of Cambridge, but her mother died May 9, 1898, at the age of sixty years. Mrs.

Ostran died of apoplexy, July 18, 1900. She was a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and on the day of her death a committee of ladies from the church met at her house. She was called to the door by a visitor, and a few minutes after her return to the parlor the ladies noticed her unnatural breathing, and fearing something serious was the matter summoned a physician and her husband by telephone, both arriving a few minutes before her spirit took its flight. She had united with the church in 1891 and became an earnest and zealous worker, who loved the church of her choice with an intense devotion. Genial and pleasant in manner, she made many friends, and was highly respected by all who knew her. After dinner, on the day of her death, while apparently in perfect health, she sat down to the piano and played and sang stanzas of a song, the last of which was:

"In mansion of glory and endless delight,  
I'll ever adore Thee in Heaven so bright,  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow  
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now."

She was buried by the Eastern Star, of which she was a member.

Mr. Ostran is a prominent member of the Masonic order, and for several terms has been treasurer of the blue lodge at Cambridge. He is also a member of the chapter at Kewanee, Everts Commandery of Rock Island, the Eastern Star Chapter of Cambridge, and is a charter member of Mohammed Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Peoria. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth

and ability, have called upon him to serve as alderman for several terms. He has made for himself an honorable record in business, and by his well-directed efforts has acquired a handsome competence. As a citizen, friend and neighbor he is true to every duty, and justly merits the esteem in which he is held.

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### ALBERT PETERSON.

Among the representative farmers and prominent citizens of Andover township, none stand higher in public esteem than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, December 27, 1861, his parents being P. M. and Hadda Charlotte (Anderson) Johnson, the former born in Norravi Soken, and the latter in Asby Ostergotland, Sweden, where they were reared and married. In 1860 they left the mother country and came to the United States, locating at Salina, Jefferson county, Iowa, where the father purchased land and improved a farm, making his home there until his death in 1869. His widow subsequently married John Gabrielson, who died September 6, 1896. She is still living and yet makes her home in Jefferson county, Iowa. By her first marriage she became the mother of four children—Oscar and Peter, who died in Sweden; Albert, our subject; and William, a resident of Moline, Illinois. By the second union there were no children born. By a former union, John Gabrielson had two sons: Alfred, deceased, formerly a physician and surgeon of Trenton, Iowa; and Henry, a resident of Montana.

The primary education of Albert Peterson was obtained in the public schools of

his native county, where he remained until he was eleven years old, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, to make his home with an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Carlson, of Osco township, who were among the early settlers of the county, and with whom he lived until his marriage, since which time he has been a resident of Andover township, where he has successfully engaged in farming. Shortly after attaining his majority, and wishing to be better prepared for the active duties of life, he took a three-months' course in a business college in Davenport, Iowa, and he feels that the time was well spent.

At Orion, Illinois, on the 16th of April, 1884, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Peterson and Miss Emma Matilda Youngquist, a native of Western township, Henry county, Illinois, born April 16, 1864. Her father, Jonas A. Youngquist, was born in southern Sweden. He lost his father when quite young, and his mother subsequently came to America and spent her last days in Lynn township, Henry county, where her death occurred. Mr. Youngquist was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States, and in June, 1854, came to Andover township, Henry county. For one year he worked on the railroad south of Galesburg, and for the same length of time was employed as a farm hand by Daniel Mix, who lived south of Galesburg, in Knox county. After working fourteen months at twelve dollars and fifty cents per month, he came to Andover and labored in this locality for seven years, during which time he saved enough from his wages to purchase eighty acres of wild prairie land in Lynn township. Later he sold that place and bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Western township, which he improved by

the erection of good and substantial buildings. Prospering in his farming operations, he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he owned six hundred and sixty acres in Western and Andover townships. At Andover, he was married, February 11, 1862, to Miss Eliza C. Linberg, who was born in southern Sweden, September 29, 1840, and who in 1842 came to the United States with her parents, Swan and Catherine Linberg. She was third in order of birth in a family of five children, of whom the two youngest died in Oxford township, where the death of the parents also occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Youngquist have five children: Emma M., wife of our subject; Mary A.; Carrie B.; Julia A., and Anna M. The family all held membership in the Swedish Lutheran Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. In politics Mr. Youngquist is a Republican. He and his wife make their home in Cambridge, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have one child, Esther, born January 26, 1890. Both he and his wife are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church, in which he has served as deacon. In politics he is a thorough Republican, and an earnest advocate of the principles of the party. He keeps well posted in all the political and current events of the day, and while strong in his political convictions he is willing that others should enjoy the same rights as he claims from them. He has never been an office seeker, but has served efficiently as a member of the school board. His interest in the public schools is shown by his service in a thankless position. As an agriculturist, he has always kept abreast of the times, with eyes open to every invention and suggestion that will benefit himself or those in his chosen call-

ing. He is a frequent paid correspondent of some of the leading agricultural journals of the day, a fact that speaks volumes in his favor. His private library is worthy of special mention, comprising the best literature of the day, as well as the standard authors, found in all carefully selected libraries. He is the only farmer in Andover township, and possibly in Henry county, having a library of over five hundred volumes. No enterprise of a public nature that is calculated to build up his township or county but finds in him a friend.

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#### PLINY FREEMAN.

At the time of his death Pliny Freeman was one of the prosperous citizens of Genesee, and his possessions had been acquired entirely through his own efforts. He had also won by an honorable, upright life an untarnished name, and the record which he left behind is one well worthy of emulation. He was born in Sturbridge, Worcester county, Massachusetts, April 14, 1806, a son of Pliny and Delia (Marsh) Freeman, and belonged to one of the old and honored families of New England, tracing his ancestry back to Samuel Freeman, who came to America from England in 1630, with Governor Winthrop, and located at Watertown, or Newtown, Massachusetts, where he died in 1638. He left a son, Samuel, who was born in Watertown, May 11, 1638, and married Mary Southworth of Plymouth. Their son, Samuel Freeman, was born in 1662, and in 1684 married Elizabeth Sparrow, by whom he had a son Samuel, who was born September 1, 1688, and wedded Mary Paine. Their first son, who also bore the name of Samuel, was



PLINY FREEMAN.

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born November 22, 1716, and married Mary Chubb. He was the first of the family to make his home in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, locating in what is now the central portion of the village about the middle of the eighteenth century, the town having been incorporated February 13, 1739. After his death, his widow, who bore the maiden name of Mary Chubb, married again and died in 1807, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. Their children were Benjamin, Comfort, Jared, Samuel, Walter, Rachel, Martha and Mary, twins, and Raney. Of these, Comfort Freeman, the grandfather of our subject, was born August 23, 1750, and was married, May 6, 1771, to Lucy Walker, who was born in Sturbridge, February 13, 1749, and died August 5, 1832, while his death occurred December 4, 1806. In their family were nine children.

Pliny Freeman, the second son and fifth child of this family and the father of our subject, was born in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, September 24, 1780, and lived in the vicinity of his birth place throughout the greater part of his life. During his active business career he followed the occupations of farming and carpentering. He was one of the prominent and successful men of the community, served as selectman of his town for several years, and was captain in the home militia. Politically he was identified with the old Whig party. On the 5th of October, 1802, he married Miss Delia Marsh, a daughter of Silas and Deliverance (Fisk) Marsh, farming people and life-long residents of Sturbridge, where the former died in June, 1836, the latter in December, 1842. Mr. Marsh was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Freeman was born April 2, 1781, and died on the old homestead in Sturbridge, March 19, 1839. The father of our

subject died at the home of a daughter in Webster, Worcester county, Massachusetts, October 10, 1855. In their family were the following children: (1) Silas Marsh, born August 7, 1803, married Maria Upham of Sturbridge, and died at Millbury, Massachusetts, November 4, 1880. His wife died at the same place. Their children were Andrew Silas, Sarah M. and Flora B. (2) Pliny, our subject, was next in order of birth. (3) Beulah, born in 1807, married Walter L. Rosebrooks, a farmer of Oxford, Massachusetts, and was killed by lightning July 5, 1835. Their two children, Walter F. and Mary B., are both deceased. (4) Delia, born April 4, 1810, became the wife of J. S. W. May, of Holland, Massachusetts, and they have had three children, Laura, Pliny and Comfort. (5) Florilla, born May 26, 1812, was married in 1833 to Bradford Bayliss, of Southbridge, Massachusetts, and died at Bristol, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1876. (6) Augusta, born December 25, 1815, was married in 1841 to H. A. Perrin, of Massachusetts, and died January 14, 1873. Their children were Ambrose D., Charles H. and Myra. (7) Dwight, born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, January 15, 1819, is the only member of the family now living, his home being in Geneseo, Illinois. In 1852 he married Mrs. Sarah Lincoln Negus, who died in Geneseo. Their children were Isadora, wife of Joseph A. McLaughlin, of Geneseo; Arabella, wife of Robert T. Smith, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Florence L., wife of R. W. Wing, of Oakland California; and Frances L., deceased wife of William B. Hunter.

Reared on his father's farm, Mr. Freeman of this review was given the advantages of the common schools of his day, which can hardly be compared to the educational institutions which are now the pride and

boast of New England. He was early inured to hard work, and during his youth learned the carpenter's trade, completing his apprenticeship with Loren Merrick. Believing that the West furnished better opportunity for advancement than the older states of the east, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of twenty-three, having friends residing in that city. There he found employment at his chosen occupation, but not long after locating there he was seriously injured in the left knee, and was confined to his bed for some months. He then resumed work where he had left off, and for forty years was identified with the carpenter's trade in Cleveland, his specialty being inside finish. In the meantime he saved some capital which he invested in a small piece of land near the city, selling it afterward to an advantage.

During this period Dwight had settled in Geneseo, and Mr. Freeman paid him a visit in 1853, at which time he bought property near the village with the intention of making it his future home, but it was not until the fall of 1869 that he located here. He at once identified himself with the local interests and assisted materially in building up the city. Among the permanent improvements that he made was a business block and hall which bears his name.

On the 8th of September, 1835, in Cleveland, Ohio, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Freeman and Miss Marcia A. Prichard, who was born in Waterbury, New Haven county, Connecticut, April 11, 1816, a daughter of Gaines and Mary (Bronson) Prichard. In 1820 her family removed from that state to Ohio, the journey being made with an ox team and occupying six weeks. The mother died in August, 1821, and a month later the father also passed away at the age of twenty-seven years. Her ances-

try, however, were noted for longevity, and during her infancy she had six grandmothers living. Her grandmother Prichard was ninety-six years of age at the time of her death, while her maternal great-grandmother lacked only a few weeks of being one hundred when she passed away. At the age of ninety the latter was as vigorous as a person thirty years younger. She had her second sight and could read and sew without glasses. The male representatives of both families were principally farmers, though two of Mrs. Freeman's cousins were Episcopal clergymen, and one a physician. Her maternal grandfather, Gates Bronson, was born during the Revolutionary war and was named for the celebrated General Gates. His father, Michael Bronson, served as a lieutenant in the Continental army and also did the duty of an adjutant. He never applied for a pension, but after his death his wife received about two hundred dollars annually from the government.

On coming west it was the intention of Mr. Freeman to lay aside business cares and live a retired life, but he was much too energetic a man to enjoy such a life, and became actively identified with different enterprises. He took considerable interest in fruit culture. Although he was intensely a public-spirited man and an advocate of all that tends to advance and improve the community in which he lived, he did not care for public office. He died in Geneseo on Friday, November 2, 1894, at the age of eighty-eight years, six months and eighteen days. He was a man of strict integrity, good business ability and great energy, and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact, either in business or social life. He was an active and prominent member of the Protestant Episcopal Church

and a constant attendant upon its services. His widow is also a communicant of that church, and takes an active part in its work. She is a woman of many excellent traits of character which have endeared her to the entire community, and she is held in high regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### FRANK W. DURMANN.

This well-known farmer, residing on section 28, Colona township, Henry county, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Rock Island county October 21, 1847. His father, Joseph Durmann, was born in Bavaria, Germany, December 15, 1813, and when a young man emigrated to America. In April, 1845, he was married in Davenport, Iowa, to Miss Amanda Killing, also a native of Germany, though she was reared in Davenport. Mr. Durmann followed the cooper's trade in Rock Island for some years, and then located on a farm in Rock Island county, to the cultivation of which he devoted his time and attention until 1867, when he removed to Colona township, Henry county, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land, making it his home until his death, which occurred in March, 1895. In his family were five children, four sons and one daughter, of whom our subject is the eldest. Joseph, John and William are all substantial farmers of Colona township; and Mary is the wife of Patrick McKee, a farmer of Rock Island county.

F. W. Durmann was a young man of about eighteen years when he came to Henry county with his father, and in the improvement and cultivation of the home farm he bore an active part. On Thanksgiving day,

November 24, 1870, he was married in Rock Island county to Miss Josephine Davis, who was born in the city of Rock Island on the same street where our subject's birth occurred. Her father was John C. Davis, a native of New York, and a son of Garry Davis, who was one of the pioneers of Rock Island county, and built and conducted the first hotel at Milan, then Camden Mills. There her father grew to manhood and married Jane Renfrow, who was born in Illinois, her father, Absalom Renfrow, being also an early settler of Rock Island county, and the first cabinet maker and undertaker of Rock Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Durmann began their domestic life on a farm where they now reside, and consisting of eighty acres of well-improved land. He has built a neat and comfortable residence, and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. The marriage of our subject and wife has been blessed with five sons, namely: Burd C., Louis A., Ray, John D. and Harry W.

In politics Mr. Durmann is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and at national elections always supports that party, though he usually votes independent of party lines in local affairs where no issue is involved. He served two terms as township collector, and was a member of the school board some years, but has never sought political honors, preferring to devote his undivided attention to his business interests. Fraternally he is connected with the Home Forum, and religiously both he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Baptist Church. They have witnessed almost the entire growth and development of this section of the state, and are justly deserving of prominent mention among its honored pioneers and worthy citizens.

## SWEDISH EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

At an early day a large Swedish colony was founded at Andover, and it soon became necessary to found a church at that place. Accordingly the Swedish Evangelical Church was organized on the 18th of March, 1850, with ten communicants. The first of the Swedish colony to locate in Andover was Swan Nelson, who took up his residence here in 1840, but in 1847 we find that only a few families had settled here. When John A. Larson arrived in 1848 land could still be purchased at the government price of one dollar and a quarter per acre, and ten acres was considered sufficient for a family. The village was laid out at that time.

The Rev. L. P. Esbgorn arrived in Andover October 24, 1849, being sent as a missionary from Sweden. He was a well-educated man, and the first winter spent here he instructed the young people in algebra and other studies. The church was organized by him on the 18th of March, 1850, with twenty members, as previously stated, but five days later the membership was increased to thirty-five. He served as pastor until 1856, during which time a small brick building was erected according to plans given by the company in New York who located the colony here and gave to the church ten acres of land. The church was built by donations, Jenny Lind, the famous singer known as the Swedish nightingale, giving the most towards its erection. When Mr. Esbgorn left the church had a membership of three hundred, but being without a pastor for two years the membership decreased. Accepting a call from the church Rev. Jonas Swenson became resident pastor in the fall of 1858, and being a strong man the congrega-

tion increased so rapidly that it was found necessary to build a more commodious church edifice in 1867. It is to-day the largest Protestant church in Henry county, the seating capacity being twelve hundred. At that time the membership was over one thousand, but since railroads have been laid out in all directions other churches have sprung up at different places which have taken members from the parent church, though the congregation at Andover still numbers over eight hundred.

In 1863 Rev. Esbgorn returned to Sweden, where he was given a large pastorate over about eight thousand, and there he died in 1870. Rev. James Swenson, who was also a highly educated man, was pastor of the church at Andover for fifteen years, and died at this place on the 20th of December, 1873. The congregation here reared a monument to his memory, costing five hundred dollars. On the 13th of October, 1875, Rev. E. Carlson became pastor, and was in charge here for twelve years. He was promoted and given the degree of D. D. in 1892, and during the vacancy from 1873 to 1875 the congregation was given a supply. In 1887, Rev. V. Setterdahl became pastor, and is yet serving the church in a most acceptable manner.

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ANDREW PETER FRAGD.

Among Andover township's most influential and prominent citizens is A. P. Fragd who is now so efficiently serving as supervisor of the township. He was born in Kalmerlan, Central Sweden, on the 22nd of September, 1852, and was five years old when he came to America with his parents, John and Ann (Peterson) Fragd, also na-

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A. P. FRAGD.



MRS. A. P. FRAGG.



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tives of Sweden. The family took passage on a sailing vessel at Liverpool, and after a voyage of seven weeks' duration landed in New York, whence they came direct to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Andover township, where the father followed farming throughout the remainder of his life. In his native country he served fifteen years in the standing army, serving up to the time of his emigration to the United States, in 1857. He was an ardent Republican in politics and both he and his wife were earnest and consistent members of the Lutheran Church. The father died the latter part of May, 1891, and the mother ten weeks later. They were among the honored pioneers and highly respected citizens of Andover township. Their children were Caroline, now deceased; Sophia, wife of Captain Anderson of Iowa; Lottie; Augusta; Christine, deceased; Andrew P., and August, a resident of Chicago.

Reared in Andover, our subject was educated in the schools of that village, and since starting out in life for himself has successfully engaged in farming and stock raising in Andover township. In 1875 he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Anderson, also a native of Sweden, and a daughter of John Anderson, who lives at Osco. By this union were born eight children, namely: Sherman, who died October 8, 1900; Anna, Esther, Elmer, Walter and Eda, all at home; and Mary and Esly, both deceased. The wife and mother died in Andover in 1896, and two years later Mr. Fragd wedded Mrs. Mary Davis, a native of Pennsylvania, and widow of William Davis, who was an early settler and large land owner of Andover township, where he made his home until his death, August 17, 1894. Mrs. Fragd was born in Kiskimini-

tus, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, December 18, 1836, and is a daughter of George W. and Rachel (Starry) Dummire. Her father was a son of Solomon Dummire, a native of Germany, while her mother was a native of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, but of German ancestry. In 1850 her father came to Henry county, Illinois, and located in Western township, where he purchased unimproved land and opened up a farm, which was his home until his removal to Butler county, Kansas, in 1875, where his death occurred some seven years ago. His wife died in Pennsylvania when Mrs. Fragd was an infant. The latter accompanied her father to Henry county and remained with him until her marriage to William Davis, in March, 1862. Her education was principally obtained in the schools of her native state, but she attended the schools of Western township for a time after the removal of the family. William Davis was born in Ireland, and when less than eighteen years old came to the United States and direct to Andover township, Henry county, where he first worked as a farm hand. Later he purchased land, and at the time of his death, August 14, 1894, he was a well-to-do man. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

As a Republican Mr. Fragd has ever taken a very active and prominent part in local politics, and has been honored with several official positions of responsibility and trust. For the long period of twenty years he has been a public official of Andover township. He was commissioner of highways fourteen years, during which time many iron bridges were constructed in his township, and the first road graders owned by the township were purchased. He was

assessor some seven or eight years, and since 1897 has held the office of supervisor to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. He takes a commendable interest in county, state and national politics, and gives his support to all measures which he believes will prove of public benefit. As a member of the township central committee of his party he has rendered considerable service. Socially he is an honored member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Cambridge, and religiously holds membership in the Lutheran Church of Andover.

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#### REV. VICTOR SETTERDAHL.

For thirteen years Rev. Victor Setterdahl has been pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Andover, during which time he has ministered faithfully to the spiritual needs of his people and given powerful and effective aid to all influences which work for the advancement of the community. He was born in Ostergoetland, Sweden, January 20, 1844, a son of M. Anderson and his wife Catherine Larson, who lived and died in that country. Our subject took his name from his old home in Sweden, where he was reared and educated.

In 1864 Mr. Setterdahl came to the United States, and the following year entered Augustana College at Paxton, Illinois, where he took the seminary course and was graduated in 1873. From June of that year until June, 1874, he was pastor of a church at Rock Island. He then took charge of the church at Orion, Henry county, becoming its first pastor, and built up the congregation until it numbered three hundred and forty-five communicants. Prior to coming

to Andover he was connected with the churches at Lockport and Joliet, Illinois, as pastor, for three years, and before the establishment of the churches did mission work in those cities. In 1887 he accepted a call from the church at Andover, and has since remained at this place. The church here has had a remarkable career, and from it seven churches have branched off—Swedonia, New Windsor, Woodhull, Orion, Cambridge, Oppheim and Cable. Its elegant house of worship here was erected at a cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. It was supplied with a pipe organ in 1874, at a cost four thousand dollars. In 1875 the parsonage was built. This is the oldest church in Augustana Synod, and one of the largest country churches in the country. A summer school of two months is held here each year. There are ten acres of land attached to both church and parsonage.

On the 5th of May, 1874, in Mercer county, Illinois, Mr. Setterdahl married Miss Albertina Larson, who was born in that county in 1853, and after her graduation at the high school in Galesburg she successfully engaged in teaching in her native county for a time. Her parents were Gustaf and Catharine Larson. Her father was born in Sweden, and became a resident of Mercer county, Illinois, in 1850. He died in 1870, and his wife passed away in 1893. Mr. and Mrs. Setterdahl have five children. Victor E., now engaged as a bookkeeper in Chicago, is a graduate of Augustana College. He was married February 2, 1898, to Miss Edith Hanaway, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, but of Scotch descent. Etta, also a graduate of Augustana College, was for a time a student of music of the Conservatory of Music of Rock Island, Illinois. She is now a teacher in the village school in Andover, and is

organist for the church. Fred, Violet and Naomi complete the family.

For twenty-three years Mr. Setterdahl has been connected with ministerial work in Henry county, and his labors have been crowned with success. Revered and loved by his own congregation, he has also won the honor and esteem of all others who have seen his devotion to his noble calling.

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### PETER WESTERLUND.

One of the early settlers of Henry county is Peter Westerlund, now retired from business activities and quietly enjoying the income which he accumulated in former years. For many years he was successfully engaged in farming in Western township, where he still owns a valuable place of three hundred and twenty acres within three miles of Orion, but is now living a retired life in that village.

Mr. Westerlund was born in Sweden, August 21, 1839, and was eleven years of age when, in 1850, he came with his father to the new world and took up his residence in Henry county. After living for two years in Andover township the father bought one hundred and sixty acres of government land in Lynn township, in the improvement and cultivation of which our subject bore an active part until reaching man's estate. He began his education in his native land, and later attended the schools of Andover and Lynn townships for a time.

Leaving home in 1859, Mr. Westerlund went to Pike's Peak with ox and mule teams, and after prospecting in the mountains for some time went to Denver September 4 of the same year. The first house, where now

stands the city, was then being erected. From there he proceeded south to Fort Albuquerque, New Mexico, but not being pleased with the country, he and his companions sold their three wagons and oxen and floated down the Rio Grande river to El Paso, Mexico, passing numerous rapids and having exciting adventures. Selling their skiffs they went with some freight trains to San Antonio, and then started for Jefferson City on foot, carrying with them their luggage, a distance of one thousand miles. On reaching Quitman Mr. Westerlund secured work at getting out timber for the sawmills, and was thus employed for two months. He then went to Jefferson, Texas, where he spent the summer at work in a brick yard, and in the fall of 1860 he and his associates started north, arriving home in November of that year.

The following spring Mr. Westerlund, with others, established a brick yard at Woodhull, which they operated one season, but he then sold his interest in the business and took charge of the old home farm, which he carried on until 1865. He then bought his first property, consisting of eighty acres of wild prairie land, to which he subsequently added from time to time until he now has three hundred and twenty acres of land all in one body. This he has divided into two farms, has erected thereon two sets of good farm buildings, and has placed the land under a high state of cultivation. These places are now successfully operated by his sons, while he practically lives a retired life in Orion, where he has made his home since the spring of 1897, owning a good residence in that place. He is now vice-president and one of the stockholders of the State Bank of Orion, having been elected to that office on the reorganization of the bank. The

bank was first started by our subject and his sons, associated with two others, as a private bank.

On the 17th of February, 1863, in Henry county, Mr. Westerlund was united in marriage with Miss Eleanora Hultman, who was also born in Sweden, and came to the United States when a young lady. They have become the parents of five children, namely: William, who is married and engaged in business in Chicago; John A., a business man of Alabama; May, wife of Dr. Magnuson, a dentist of Orion; Arndt L., on the old homestead; and Perry E., also on the farm; both are married.

Mr. Westerlund cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, being in Texas in 1860, and has since been an ardent supporter of the Republican party and its principles. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Lutheran Church of Orion, and enjoy the hospitality of many of the best homes of the village. His success in life has been worthily achieved, and his career demonstrates what may be accomplished through energy, careful management, keen foresight and the utilization of the powers with which nature has endowed one, and the opportunities with which the times surround him.

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#### DAVID CLINTON TOMLINSON.

Among the successful, energetic and progressive farmers of Henry county is D. Clinton Tomlinson, who has been a resident of the county since 1857, and now resides on section 20, Osco township. His birth occurred in Holly, Oakland county, Michigan, August 17, 1844, his parents being D. S. and Hannah (Winegar) Tomlinson, both na-

tives of New York, the former born in 1810, the latter in 1807. After their marriage they moved to Michigan about 1837, and first located in Genesee county, but later settled in Oakland county, where the father owned and operated a farm. On disposing of that place, in 1857, he came to Henry county, Illinois. Mr. Tomlinson purchased one hundred acres of land in Osco township, which he improved, and throughout life followed general farming. He died on his farm in October, 1883, having survived his wife twelve years, as her death occurred April 14, 1871. By his ballot he always supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and took an active interest in educational affairs. His children were Jennie H., now the widow of William Perkins and a resident of Buffalo, New York; Catherine, wife of George Thomas, a farmer of Shelby county, Missouri; Ellen, deceased wife of John Beers, a resident of Osco township, this county; D. Clinton, our subject; and William H., who lives on the old homestead on section 11, Osco township.

Mr. Tomlinson, of this review, began his education in the common schools of Michigan, and after coming to this county with his parents, at the age of thirteen years, he attended school for a time. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, and while assisting his father in the work of the farm acquired an excellent knowledge of its labors. At the age of sixteen he began work for himself, though he made his home with his parents until his marriage, October 1, 1871, Mrs. Caroline D. (Harper) Geer becoming his wife. By her first marriage she had three children, namely: (1) Pearl G. is the wife of William McNeill, who is running a creamery in Prophetstown, Illinois, and they have four children, June, Leola, Arned and Va-

da. (2) Jessie is the wife of Charles Purviance, proprietor of a laundry and bottling works at Wyoming, Illinois, and they have five children, Leroy, Edith, Grace, Carol and Charles. (3) Grace is the wife of George Reese, a farmer and stock raiser of Prophetstown, and they have two children, Ralph and Avis. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson are as follows: (1) Albert C., who is engaged in farming on his father's land in Cambridge township, married Sarah Neville, and they have two children, Gwendolin and Duane C. (2) Mabel is the wife of Charles Arnett, a farmer of Penora, Guthrie county, Iowa. (3) Duane S. married Esther C. Fragd and lives at home. Mrs. Tomlinson was born in New York, April 13, 1839, and died on the home place in Osco township, this county, November 6, 1899. On leaving her native state she went to Wisconsin, and after spending one year there came to Illinois in 1857, living for a time in Whiteside county, and later in Geneseo, this county. She was of a willing disposition, and to her our subject attributes much of his success in life, for she aided him much by her encouragement and support. Pleasant and agreeable in manner, she made many friends, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew her.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson located on the farm where he now resides, his wife there owning one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Osco township. He has made many improvements upon the place, and has added to his landed possessions, having two hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land on sections 13 and 24, Cambridge township. He has always followed general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of hogs, and in his business undertakings has steadily prospered un-

til he is now one of the most substantial men of his community.

As a Republican Mr. Tomlinson has been quite prominently identified with political affairs, and is a recognized leader of the party in his community. For nine consecutive years he served as supervisor of his township, and later filled the same office for four years, always serving the people to the best of his ability. While he held that office the court house was in course of construction. He was also officially connected with the schools of his township for a number of years, and has always given his support to church work. Over his life record there falls no shadow of wrong; his public service was most exemplary; and his private life has been marked by the utmost fidelity to duty.

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#### ANDREW P. JOHNSON.

Andrew P. Johnson is a successful contractor and builder of Orion, of whose skill many notable examples are to be seen throughout Henry and Rock Island counties. Thoroughly reliable in all things, the quality of his work is a convincing test of his own personal worth and the same admirable trait is shown in his conscientious discharge of the duties of different positions of trust and responsibility to which he has been chosen in business and political life.

Mr. Johnson was born on the 30th of August, 1843, in Sweden, where he grew to manhood and learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, which he followed in that country for some years. In 1869 he emigrated to America, his destination being Henry county, Illinois, some friends of his



from Sweden having previously located in Western township. For about nine years he engaged in farming upon rented land, and then turned his attention to his trade, being engaged in contracting and building for the past twenty years. He has erected many of the business houses, residences, barns and other buildings in this section of the state. In 1895 he also opened a lumber yard, which he has since successfully conducted, carrying a good supply of lumber and all kinds of building material, as well as coal, tile, etc., and he has already built up an excellent trade.

On the 7th of June, 1873, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Augusta Magdalena Lunguin, who was also born and reared in Sweden. They have a family of three children: Louise, now the wife of B. S. Millett, of Jewell Junction, Iowa; Marie, at home; and Arthur C., who assists his father in business.

In his political affiliations Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes, but has never taken a very active part in political affairs, though he is now most capably serving as a member of the town board. He and his wife are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and are held in high regard by all who know them. He was elected a member of the village board April, 1900, since which time the electric light has been installed.

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#### REGINALD HEBER HINMAN.

For many years this gentleman was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of this county, but is now liv-

ing a retired life in Cambridge, where he is surrounded by all the comforts of life, which were secured by former years of toil. He was born in the town of Bristol, Hartford county, Connecticut, February 4, 1828, and comes of good old colonial stock. His parents, Willis and Olive (Atwater) Hinman, were also natives of the Nutmeg state, as were also his grandparents. His maternal grandfather, Isaac Atwater, fought for American independence as a private in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. The paternal grandfather, Philemon Hinman, spent his entire life as a house carpenter in Connecticut.

Willis Hinman, our subject's father, also learned the carpenter's trade and clock making in Connecticut, from which state he removed to Miami county, Ohio. With the view of locating farther west, he came to Henry county, Illinois, in December, 1850, and being pleased with this region, he returned for his family, who took up their residence in Osco township the following May. Most of the county at that time was government land, and deer, prairie chickens and other wild game was plentiful. Willis Hinman engaged in farming in Osco township until 1858, when he removed to Geneseo, and later to Cambridge. He was born July 8, 1798, and died September 18, 1888, while his wife was born February 8, 1799, and died April 21, 1889. Both were members of the Episcopal Church, and were highly respected and esteemed by all who knew them. Of their seven children three reached years of maturity, namely: Clarissa, who married Nelson Gaines, of Geneseo, and died in 1877, at the age of fifty-six years; Reginald H., our subject; and William, who was born in 1833, and died in 1892. He served as sergeant in the One Hundred and



Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, and married Elizabeth Townsend, now a resident of Cambridge.

In the town of his nativity Reginald H. Hinman spent the first years of his life and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Miami county, Ohio. He attended school in Troy, that state, and when his education was completed learned the carpenter's trade with his father. At the age of nineteen he turned his attention to farming, and to that pursuit he devoted the greater part of his active business life. Coming to Henry county, Illinois, in January, 1851, he has since resided here, and was actively engaged in farming in Osco township for many years, raising principally corn, oats and stock, but is now resting from his labors at his comfortable home in Cambridge, though he still owns a quarter-section of land in Osco township, which was entered from the government by his father in 1851, and also has one hundred acres in Cambridge township.

Mr. Hinman was married, October 8, 1852, to Miss Elizabeth Miller, of Miami county, Ohio, a daughter of Christley and Hannah (Wright) Miller, of Troy, that state. By this union were born three children, namely: (1) William Elliott, who carries on a fruit ranch and is also engaged in the feed and grain business at Pamona, California, married Nora Noland, and has three children, Frances E., Susan and Harry H. (2) Frank M., a resident of Allentown, Pennsylvania, married Lilly Miller and has three children, May, Ralph and Ethel. (3) Jennie M. died in March, 1877, at the age of twenty-three years, and the mother of these children passed away September 20, 1867, at the age of thirty-three. Both mother and daughter were active and con-

sistent members of the Episcopal Church. On the 8th of October, 1868, Mr. Hinman was united in marriage with Mrs. Susan Corl, who was born in Germantown, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, May 2, 1832, a daughter of Thomas and Anna (Fraley) Combs, natives of the same place. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to Illinois in 1852, and died here in 1859, at the age of fifty years, while his wife died in the spring of 1852, at the age of forty-eight. Both were earnest members of the Society of Friends and most estimable people. Besides Mrs. Hinman they had another daughter, Leah, now the widow of Reese Noland and a resident of Iowa. For her first husband Mrs. Hinman married Henry Corl, with whom she came to the Prairie state in 1850, locating first in Bureau country, but in 1857 removing to Cambridge, this county. In September, 1862, Mr. Corl enlisted in Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, of which company our subject's brother was also a member. Mr. Corl served as a non-commissioned officer, and was instantly killed during the siege of Knoxville, November 18, at the age of thirty-eight years. In religious belief he was a Methodist.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hinman hold membership in the Protestant Episcopal Church, and before coming to Cambridge he served as warden in the church at Osco. He is a prominent member of Cambridge Lodge, No. 49, F. & A. M., which is one of the oldest lodges in the state, and in which he has filled all the offices. He is also secretary of the Old Settlers Association. The Democratic party has always found in Mr. Hinman a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has been honored with several important official positions, having served as supervisor

many years and as chairman of the county board. He also filled the positions of township collector and justice of the peace for some time. For the long period of twenty-two consecutive years he has been secretary of the Henry County Agricultural Society, and has always taken a deep interest in its affairs and has done much to insure its success. Public-spirited and progressive to an eminent degree, he has ever been numbered among the most valued and useful citizens of his community—one willing to give his support to any enterprise for the public good.

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#### CHAUNCEY E. WASHBURN.

In the pioneer epoch in the history of this section of Illinois Chauncey E. Washburn came to Henry county, and has been an important factor in its substantial development and permanent improvement. He has seen its wild lands transformed into fine farms, while industrial and commercial interests have been introduced. In the work of progress he has borne his part and has been particularly active as a representative of the agricultural interests of the community. He is to-day the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land on section 2, Western township, where he makes his home.

Mr. Washburn was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, May 17, 1834, and on the 16th of May, 1837, was brought to this county by his parents, Abisha and Isabella (Clapp) Washburn. The former was a native of Vermont, the latter of Connecticut, and their marriage was celebrated in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the father worked as a mechanic in the armory until

coming west. The journey was made by way of the Connecticut river, Long Island sound, the Erie canal, and the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Hampton, Illinois. His destination was Henry county, which his brother, Nathan Washburn, had helped to survey the year previous. He purchased eighty acres of land in what is now Colona township, but the first season spent here he engaged in farming upon rented land, while the family lived in a little old outbuilding about ten feet square through the summer. In the meantime a good log house was built upon the land, and he began to break and improve his place, adding to it another eighty-acre tract. Later he purchased more land and erected a good set of frame buildings, making it his home until his death, August 31, 1873. He was the first supervisor of Colona township, and was active in establishing its schools. In politics he was always a Democrat.

Amid pioneer scenes in this county Chauncey E. Washburn grew to manhood. His first lessons were taught by his mother, and for a time he attended the district schools; but he is mostly self-educated, as the country afforded but limited educational privileges during his boyhood. He assisted his father in the arduous task of breaking the land and converting the wild tract into a highly cultivated farm. After reaching manhood his father gave him one hundred and sixty acres of land in Western township, only about twenty-five acres of which had been broken. A year or two later he sold that place and bought one hundred and sixty acres where he now resides, of which one hundred acres had previously been broken and a small house erected thereon. To its further improvement and cultivation he has since devoted his energies, and has



C. E. WASHBURN.

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added to it an adjoining quarter-section, making a good farm of three hundred and twenty acres and also two hundred and ten acres in Colona township. When a young man he engaged in breaking prairie two seasons with a team of five yoke of cattle, breaking as high as five acres in one day, and has ever taken a very active part in the development of the county.

March 28, 1858, in Colona township, Henry county, Mr. Washburn was united in marriage with Miss Emily Piatt, who was born April 5, 1833, near Covington, Indiana, and came to Illinois in childhood with her father, Joshua Piatt, locating south of Cambridge, where he opened up and improved a farm. By this union were born the following children: Ida, wife of Robert McLeese, a farmer of Western township; Lettie, wife of William Durmann, a farmer of Colona township; George, a substantial farmer of Western township; Otis, a teacher of typewriting and shorthand in Chicago; Edward, a farmer of Colona township; Jane and Emma, both at home. The wife and mother, who was an earnest and consistent member of the United Brethren Church, passed away April 20, 1895, leaving many friends as well as her immediate family to mourn her loss.

In his political views Mr. Washburn is a Jacksonian Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856, though he supported General Grant in 1872. He has for the long period of twenty years efficiently served as school director, having done much to build new school houses. For over sixty-three years he has now been identified with the interests of Henry county, and has witnessed almost its entire growth and development. He has seen great prairie fires sweep over the coun-

try, where now are waving fields of grain. When he first located here, deer, turkey and other wild game was found in abundance, and furnished many a meal for the early settlers. Swamps have been drained and converted into highly cultivated fields; railroads, telegraphs and telephones have been introduced; and now all of the conveniences and comforts of an advanced civilization can here be found. Mr. Washburn can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer days, and wrote a very able article on frontier life which was published in the papers of the county and was read with interest by all the old settlers. With his two sons, he introduced between their homes the first telephones in his section, getting at first much ridicule from his neighbors. As others saw the convenience, more 'phones were added, the lines extending to Orion, and now hardly a land owner in the western part of the county is without one.

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#### JOHN O. ANDERSON.

Among Orion's most honored and highly esteemed citizens is this retired farmer, who for almost half a century has been identified with the interests of Henry county. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Jonkopingland, Vestra Hared, Sweden, March 25, 1830, and was there reared upon a farm. It was in 1854 that he emigrated to the new world, taking passage on a sailing vessel at Guttenberg, and arriving in New York after a rather pleasant voyage of six weeks. He landed and at once proceeded west by train to Buffalo, the lakes to Chicago, and train to Geneseo, where he joined his brother

Malcolm Anderson, who had located here in May, 1854.

Renting land in Andover township, Mr. Anderson engaged in farming there for five years, and being unfamiliar with the methods and customs of America, had many new experiences during those years. Being economical, industrious and ambitious, he saved some money and in 1861 purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land in Lynn township, which he commenced at once to fence, break and improve. His first home was a good frame residence, though rather small, but it has since been replaced by a more commodious and pretentious dwelling. Good barns and outbuildings have also been erected, and the place converted into a highly improved farm. Mr. Anderson added to the original tract from time to time, and now has a valuable farm of four hundred acres. He continued its operation until 1895, when he retired from active labor and has since lived in Orion, where he has built a fine residence.

In Andover township, Mr. Anderson was married August 4, 1854, to Miss Sophia Youngquist, who was also born and reared in Sweden, and came to the United States on the same vessel as her future husband. Six children bless this union, namely: John, who is married and follows farming in Webster county, Iowa; Charlotte, wife of Peter Samuelson, a farmer of Western township, this county; Carl A., who is married and lives in Orion; Albert, who married and died August 1, 1896; Amanda, who is now her father's housekeeper; and Cordelia, wife of Edwin Linquist, who operates Mr. Anderson's farm in Lynn township. The wife and mother died May 20, 1898, and was laid to rest in Orion cemetery. Mr. Anderson has several times visited his son in

Webster county, Iowa, spending two weeks with him in September, 1900. He and his daughter, Miss Amanda, are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Orion. He was first a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Andover, and there served as deacon for six years. He was one of the church officials when the large church building was erected. He is identified with the Republican party, which he has always supported since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Empty-handed he came to America in search of home and fortune, and his ambitious dreams have been realized, for he has acquired a comfortable competence and handsome property, which now enables him, in his declining years to lay aside all business cares and enjoy a well earned rest, surrounded by a host of warm friends and acquaintances.

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#### THOMAS H. JOHNSTON.

Among the prominent and influential citizens of Cambridge, Illinois, is Thomas H. Johnston, who is now efficiently serving as county treasurer. He is a native of Henry county, born December 25, 1865, and is a son of John and Lucy M. (Selon) Johnston, the former a native of County Londonderry, Ireland, the latter of Stark county, Illinois. In 1854 the father came from Connecticut to this state and took up his residence in Henry county, where he followed the occupation of farming throughout the remainder of his life. He was actively interested in educational affairs and served as school director for many years, but aside from this he never took any part in public affairs. Religiously he was in

early life a Scotch Presbyterian. He died May 5, 1889, at the age of sixty-three years, but his wife is still living at the age of fifty-six, and now makes her home in Galva. Thomas H. is the oldest of their six children, the others being Edward L., assistant cashier in the First National Bank of Kewanee, Illinois; Phcebe J., who was formerly a teacher of this county, but is now at home with her mother; William J., who is engaged in the restaurant business in Kewanee; Robert E., manager of the E. W. Houghton Lumber Company branch at Altona, Illinois; and George E., bookkeeper for the same firm at Galva.

Thomas H. Johnston remained upon the home farm until twenty-six years of age, and his primary education was obtained in the public schools of the locality. Later he attended the Galva high school and the Davenport Business College, graduating from the latter institution with the class of 1887. On leaving the farm in 1892 he accepted the position of traveling salesman, and was with two different firms before he became connected with the banking establishment of L. M. Yocum & Company, at Galva. He remained with the bank until his election to his present office.

On the 31st of October, 1895, Mr. Johnston was united in marriage with Miss Susie E. Calhoun, a daughter of Andrew Calhoun, of Henry county, and to them have been born two children: Mary Janet and William C. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Johnston are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically he is a stanch Republican, and on his party ticket was elected treasurer of Henry county in 1898 by a majority of twelve hundred and eighty. His fellow citizens speak in unqualified terms of his ability for that office, the duties of which

he is now so capably and satisfactorily performing. His genial, pleasant manner makes him quite popular, and he has a host of warm friends throughout his native county.

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### JOHN SAMUELSON.

Since 1852 John Samuelson has been a resident of Henry county, and was for many years successfully engaged in farming and stock raising in Western township, two and a half miles from Orion, where he still owns a fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres, but is now living a retired life in Orion. Although of foreign birth his duties of citizenship have ever been performed with a loyalty equal to that of any native son of America, and when the country became involved in Civil war he went to the defense of the Union and protected its interests on many a southern battle field.

Mr. Samuelson was born in Askerland, Sweden, November 25, 1835, and with his parents, Samuel and Anna (Nelson) Johnson, crossed the briny deep to the new world in 1851. After spending one season in Buffalo, New York, the family came to this county, in the spring of 1852, and the father, Samuel Johnson, took up land in what is Western township, where he improved a good farm of eighty acres, making his home thereon until his death in 1865.

Being a young man of seventeen years upon his arrival in Henry county John Samuelson was of much assistance to his father in developing the farm, and remained with him until the latter's death. In 1861 he enlisted in Company C, Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Western army. The first im-



portant battle in which he participated was that of Shiloh, which was followed by numerous battles and skirmishes. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg and the capture of that strongly fortified place, and later went to Little Rock, Arkansas. He was also in the engagement at Jenkins Ferry. He entered the service as a private, but was promoted to corporal and later to sergeant. Losing no time from illness or other causes when his term of enlistment had expired he was honorably discharged in the fall of 1864 and returned home.

For one season Mr. Samuelson worked on the old home farm, and then commenced farming on his own account, having previously purchased forty acres of land. He and three brothers bought one hundred and sixty acres of land, which they improved and operated together for a few years, but finally divided the land, each taking forty acres. Subsequently our subject purchased two hundred and forty acres more and now has an excellent farm of three hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has made many substantial improvements, including the erection of good buildings, and the planting of fruit and ornamental trees. He continued to actively engage in the cultivation of his land and in stock raising until 1898, when he removed to Orion and laid aside all business cares to spend his remaining years in ease and quiet, owning a good home in the village. He was early identified with the Swedish Insurance Company and served as a trustee in the same.

In May, 1866, in Henry county, Mr. Samuelson was united in marriage with Miss Mary Lawrence, who was born and reared in Sweden, and they became the parents of six children, four sons and two daughters, namely: John W. and Arthur

H., who are engaged in farming on the old homestead; William, who is married and follows farming in Andover township; Guy, who is at home; and Mabel and Esther, who are now attending school in Orion. The wife and mother passed away March 17, 1893, and was laid to rest in Andover cemetery.

Mr. Samuelson's political support has always been given the Republican party since he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and has done all in his power to insure its success. For nine years he served his fellow citizens as school trustee, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity, and in days of peace as well as in time of war has been found a true and loyal citizen of his adopted country. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Grand Army Post at Orion. Mr. and Mrs. Samuelson were members of the Swedish Methodist Church of Andover.

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#### NELS M. NELSON.

Nels M. Nelson, who for over half a century has been an honored resident of Henry county, and who is now practically living a retired life, was born in Sweden on the 1st of January, 1829, and in that country grew to manhood. In 1849 he emigrated to America, and on landing on our shores proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois. About 1860 he sent for his father, Nels Samuelson, his mother having died when he was quite young. One sister, Christina, the widow of Charles A. Rosell, lives in Woodhull, this county. His brother, Peter, died at the home of our subject in Henry county.

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NELS M. NELSON.



MRS. NELS M. NELSON.

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During the first year of his residence here our subject worked as a farm hand for John Jennings for six dollars per month, and then went to the northern part of the county where he was in the employ of several farmers at different times. In 1854 he was married to Miss Anna Johnson, who was born in Sweden July 22, 1837, and at the time of their marriage was living in Andover township with her parents, both of whom are now deceased. The others of her family were Mailta, wife of August Swanson, of Woodhull, Illinois; John V., a resident of Linn township, this county; and Jacob, who makes his home in Nebraska.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Nelson located on the farm on section 31, Andover township, which is still occupied by them. In partnership with another gentleman our subject purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land which was still in its primitive condition and at once began its improvement and cultivation. At first he carried on general farming on a small scale, but as time advanced he steadily prospered and was able to add to his landed possessions until he now owns two hundred and ten acres, all acquired through industry, diligence and good management. When a boy Mr. Nelson received only a common-school education, but was early inured to hard work, and is a self-educated as well as a self-made man. Throughout his active business career he always followed general farming and stock raising, feeding both hogs and cattle for market, and in both branches of his business he was quite successful.

Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nelson four died between the ages of four and fifteen years. Those living are as follows: John A., who works at the carpenter's trade and makes his home with his par-

ents; Louisa, wife of A. A. Nelson, a farmer of Lynn township, by whom she has three children living, Edwin, Della and Elmer, and one deceased; Edward, who assists in the operation of the home farm; Ida, wife of Z. C. Johnson, who is engaged in farming on a part of her father's place, and by whom she has two children, Roy and Mabel; Otto, also at home, who was married in Minneapolis and has one son, August L.; and Gust Emil, who helps his brothers carry on the home farm.

Mr. Nelson is one of the very early settlers of Henry county remaining to tell to the present generation the story of pioneer life in this region. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Republican party, and he most efficiently served his fellow citizens as county commissioner for twelve years and as school director for fifteen years. He has always been in favor of maintaining good schools, and has given a liberal support to all worthy enterprises that would reflect credit on the people and the county in which he makes his home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Nelson are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover, of which he is now one of the trustees, and they take an active part in promoting good work. He had no special advantage in his youth, and without the assistance of influential friends in his early business career, has steadily advanced step by step until he now occupies a creditable position as one of the prominent and well-to-do men of his township.

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#### REV. WILLIAM M. PURCE.

As the rector of Grace Episcopal Church at Osco, Rev. William M. Purce has become widely and favorably known throughout

Henry county, where he has now made his home for over four years. He was born in Davis county, Iowa, on the 1st of November, 1865, and is a son of John A. and Delilah Jane (Collins) Purce, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, died at Chariton, Iowa, May 24, 1886, but the mother is still living and continues to make her home at that place.

In the county of his nativity William M. Purce spent his boyhood removing with his parents to Chariton, Iowa, when but thirteen years of age. He there attended the public and high school, from which he was graduated in 1885. In September of that year he became a student at Griswold College, Davenport, Iowa, where he pursued the classical course for two years and received the degree of B. S. in 1891. He was then engaged in editorial work as city editor of the Davenport Tribune for four years, and for two years took an active part in political affairs as political editor of that paper. While engaged in newspaper work he was reading preparatory to entering the ministry of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Purce took the examination for the diaconship, and was ordained a deacon by Bishop Perry at Davenport, September 23, 1892. He began pastoral work at Christ Church Mission, West Davenport, in November, 1893, where he remained one year, and from November, 1894, until accepting his present charge at Osco, Henry county, Illinois, in September, 1896, was rector of St. George's Church at Farley, Iowa. He was ordained a priest on the 30th of December, 1895, by Bishop Perry. As rector of Grace Episcopal Church at Osco, he succeeded Rev. Mr. Brown, who was only there for ten months, however. The church at this place was built

in 1873, and now has forty-five communicants. Under the pastorate of our subject it is in a flourishing condition.

Mr. Purce has always been an active missionary worker. While at Farley, he had charge of the mission work at Dyersville and Bellevue, and also started a mission at Monticello, Iowa, which he continued as long as he remained at Farley. On coming to Osco, he took charge of the work at Cambridge, Geneseo and Galva, at which places he holds regular services. He is particularly interested in the Galva mission, from the fact that when he first commenced holding services there the attendance was but from five to ten. The services were first held in a hall, but they now meet in their own church building, have a good congregation, a lay reader, Sunday school, and are well equipped for effective work. He has charge of all the work of his church in Henry county, with the exception of the churches in Kewanee and Woodhull.

Mr. Purce was married at Davenport, June 28, 1892, to Miss Jessie J. Cook, a daughter of William L. and Amanda M. (Fletcher) Cook. The father died in that city in 1886, but the mother is still a resident of Davenport. Mr. and Mrs. Purce have one child, Jessie Grace B.

Mr. Purce is quite an enthusiastic chicken raiser, and is also starting a rabbitry, owning only pedigreed Belgian hares, but the greater part of his time is devoted to church work. He is a member of the board of missions, and publishes at the rectory a twelve-page paper called the Church News, which is issued each month in the interest of diocesan and parochial work. There is a parochial school conducted in connection with his church at Osco. Mr. Purce is thoroughly familiar with conditions of both



church and state in Iowa and Illinois, and still takes an interest in politics, supporting and advocating the principles of the Republican party. He is a man of thoughtful, earnest purpose, of strong intellectual endowments, of broad charity and kindly nature, and by all denominations, as well as his own people, is held in high regard.

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### THEODORE BOLTENSTERN.

Among the representative business men of Cambridge is the subject of this review, who is now at the head of the ice trade in that city. He is a native of Henry county, born in Lynn township, April 15, 1858, and is a son of William and Mary (Anderson) Boltenstern, natives of Germany and Sweden, respectively. At an early day the mother came to this country with her parents and the father arrived here in 1852, their marriage being celebrated in Lynn township, where he purchased land and followed farming for many years. He was a recognized leader in the Republican party in his locality, served as recruiting officer during the war of the Rebellion, and filled the office of highway commissioner for the long period of thirty-six years. In 1893 he moved to Cambridge, where his death occurred the same year, but his widow is still a resident of that place. They were among the pioneers of the county, and were highly respected and esteemed by all who knew them. Their children were Theodore, of this sketch; Morris A., who resides on the old homestead in Lynn township; Edward A., who died in that township in 1867; Henry E. and Victor F., who are at home with their mother.

Theodore Boltenstern was reared on the home farm and received his education in the district schools of Lynn township. On starting out in life for himself he commenced farming in Andover township, where, in 1887, he purchased a partially improved farm of one hundred and seventy acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation, and on disposing of that he bought the well-known Davenport farm adjoining the city of Cambridge, on which he lived for eight years, and which he still owns. While carrying on farming he was also largely engaged in the stock business. In 1892 he became interested in the ice business, and now has the exclusive trade of Cambridge, to which city he moved in 1899. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man of known reliability, and in his undertakings has met with well-deserved success.

In Andover township, Mr. Boltenstern was married, in 1891, to Miss Ernestine Longshore, a native of that township, and a daughter of S. J. Longshore, one of the pioneers of Cambridge, where he now resides. By this union have been born two children, namely: Nellie M., aged seven years; and William S., aged four.

Mr. Boltenstern's father was one of the founders of the Fair Association, and our subject has been connected with it throughout life. He has also served as secretary of the Henry county agricultural board for nine years, and is still filling that office. He is one of the most enterprising and progressive citizens of Cambridge, and takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and for years has been secretary of the county central committee. While a resi-

dent of Andover township he served as justice of the peace for some time with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents.

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### LARS BENSON.

This well-known retired farmer of Cambridge, Illinois, is one of the worthy citizens that Sweden has furnished to the new world. He was born on the 13th of August, 1826, in Brearede Socken, near Halmstead, Sweden, in which country his parents, B. Munson and Engarg Swanson, spent their entire lives. The mother died at the age of forty years when our subject was only seven years old. She was twice married and by the first union had one daughter, Charste. Lars is the oldest of the four children born of the second marriage, the others being Botelle, a widow, who resides with her youngest daughter in Chicago; and Andrew, a resident of Cambridge. The father died in 1890 at the extreme old age of ninety-six years. He was quite an extensive and successful farmer, was a devout and worthy Christian, a member of the Lutheran Church, and was well and favorably known throughout his community.

Lars Benson was educated in his native land, and when his school days were over he left home at the age of fifteen years. In 1854 he took passage on a sailing vessel, and after a stormy voyage of seven weeks and four days landed at Boston. The ship encountered a tornado, during which the iron stored in the bottom of the vessel broke loose, but no lives were lost, though one person died during the storm and two others during the voyage. Mr. Benson spent about twenty-four hours in Boston, and then proceeded to

Moline, Illinois, by way of Chicago. He worked in a sawmill, blacksmith shop and foundry at Moline, and one year in a hotel at Alledo, after which he came to Henry county, arriving here March 14, 1861. For eleven years he was in the employ of Mrs. Jennings, of Cambridge township, as manager of her large farm, having from four to seven hands working under him. His first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and sixty acres on section 15, Cambridge township, to which he later added eighty acres, and now has a fine farm of two hundred and forty-six acres, besides five lots in the city, where he makes his home. On coming to America he had but twenty dollars, and the property he has acquired has been gained by hard work, good management and strict economy. Because of these sterling qualities he has succeeded where many others would have failed. After being here for three years and a half, Mr. Benson had saved five hundred dollars with which to return to Sweden, but was taken ill, and being unable to work for a year, it required that amount and fifty dollars more to pay his expenses during that time. He has never returned to his native land.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Benson has always affiliated with the Republican party, and is a staunch advocate of its principles. He remembers how in the '50s the money in circulation, especially that issued by state banks, was very uncertain, and he was well schooled in the disadvantages of carrying money "which is good now as far as we know, but whether it will be good and passable in an hour from now no man knoweth." Mr. Benson lost much by being compelled to take money for which he had no use at the time, taking it because his cred-



LARS BENSON.

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itors did not wish to carry it. Having passed through that crisis he has a keen appreciation of what it is to have a sound money basis.

Mr. Benson is unmarried and his family consisted of an adopted son, Edward Leander Benson, who was born in St. Louis, November 27, 1884, and has lived with our subject for thirteen years. His parents, Martin and Hannah (Olson) Johnston, were both natives of Sweden, and the latter died March 6, 1899. Edward is a steady, reliable boy, who finds a pleasant home with Mr. Benson, and gives a wonderful amount of happiness to his benefactor.

Mr. Benson has been a life-long member of the Lutheran Church, holding membership first in Moline, and later in Geneseo. He is a consistent Christian man and carries his religion into all the affairs of life.

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### JOHN M. HUNT.

This thrifty and progressive farmer, residing on section 20, Colona township, where he has an excellent farm of one hundred and twenty acres, was born upon that place February 12, 1842, and is a worthy representative of the oldest and most highly respected pioneer families of Henry county. His father, Anthony Hunt, whose birth occurred in Germany in 1802, crossed the ocean in 1829 and first located in Louisiana, where he spent six years on a plantation. He then came to Illinois with the Glenn brothers in 1835, and pre-empted eighty acres of land in what is now Colona township, Henry county, where our subject now resides. Later he entered the tract and built thereon a little cabin, in which he and

Thomas and John Glenn lived alone for some time, doing their own house work. In the first election held in Henry county, he was one of the first voters. Mr. Hunt was subsequently married in St. Louis to Miss Catherine Rider, also a native of Germany, where she was reared. They began their domestic life in the log house which he had erected upon his farm, and which in 1856 was replaced by a good frame residence. Besides his home farm consisting of one hundred and forty-four acres Mr. Hunt owned another place of eighty acres and a good home in Geneseo, where he resided for a number of years prior to his death, which occurred October 6, 1875, when he was seventy-three years of age. His wife survived him, passing away ten years later.

In the family of this worthy couple were eight children who reached years of maturity, but John M. is the only son. Nothing occurred to vary the routine of farm life during his youth. He attended the district schools and worked with his father on the farm until grown, when he purchased the place and has since successfully carried it on. At Geneseo he was married February 9, 1867, the lady of his choice being Miss Caroline Garland, who was born in Pennsylvania, October 25, 1844, and in childhood came to Illinois with her father, Daniel Garland, locating in Marshall county, where she was reared. To Mr. and Mrs. Hunt was born one son, James C., who grew to manhood upon the home farm and received a good practical education in the district schools of Colona. He died March 29, 1900. He was one of the prominent young men of the neighborhood, and had served on the school board and as clerk of the district for about seven years.

Mr. Hunt's political support has always been given the Republican party since he cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. His fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to office, and he has most capably served as road commissioner and path master and as school director for about twenty years. As a native son of the county he has been prominently identified with its agricultural interests throughout life, and has done much to promote the general welfare. He is widely and favorably known, and his commendable life has won for him the confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

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#### ERIC HEDBLOOM.

Prominent among the successful and enterprising agriculturists of Andover township is Eric Hedbloom, who owns and operates a valuable and well-improved farm on section 25, where he has made his home since 1877. He was born in northern Sweden, on the 12th of December, 1849, and is a son of Peter and Breta Peterson, also natives of Sweden, where the father followed the occupation of farming until his death about 1860. The mother came to America in 1876, and died at the home of our subject in 1881. To this worthy couple were born eight children, namely: Peter, who came to Andover, Illinois, in 1857 and located upon the farm where our subject now resides, was burned to death; Jonas was drowned in Sweden; Catherine resided for a time in Kewanee, Illinois, but now makes her home in Nebraska; Lars is living with our subject; Lena died in infancy; Betsy is now Mrs. Nordstrum, of Bishop Hill,

this county; Lena died in Sweden; and Eric, our subject, completes the family.

Reared in his native land, Eric Hedbloom is indebted to its public schools for his educational advantages. In 1868 he crossed the broad Atlantic and took up his residence in Kewanee, Henry county, Illinois, where he began work as a laborer on a construction train. In 1876 he visited Sweden, but returned to this country the same fall, bringing his mother with him. He then located at Bloomington, Illinois, where he worked in the coal mines for a short time, but in 1877 removed to his present farm, having purchased it from his brother's heirs. It is a well improved place, having a good house and barn, and is under a high state of cultivation.

In 1876, at Bloomington, Mr. Hedbloom was united in marriage with Miss Betsy Peterson Berg, also a native of Sweden, where her parents, Eric and Catherine (Larson) Berg, still reside. Nine children were born of this union and with one exception all are still living, namely: Peter Emil; Ida; Hulda, who died in 1880; George; Inez; Hulda; Oscar; Victor; and Alice.

In his political views Mr. Hedbloom is independent, and he has efficiently served as a member of the school board in his district. He is one of the honored and representative citizens of Andover township, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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#### HENRY JOHNSON.

This well-known merchant and leading business man of Orion, Illinois, has shown in his successful career that he has the

ability to plan wisely and execute with energy, a combination which, when possessed by men in any walk of life, never fails to effect notable results.

Mr. Johnson was born on the 22nd of July, 1832, in Linköping, Kisa Socken, Sweden, of which country his parents, Samuel and Christina (Lawson) Johnson, were also natives. In 1846 the family crossed the ocean to America, and first located in Buffalo, New York, where they spent about two years, coming to Henry county, Illinois, in 1848. The father purchased a Mexican war land warrant which he located on section 36, Western township, and for some years successfully engaged in the operation of his land, but finally sold the land and removed to Orion, where he spent his last days, dying there in 1888, at the advanced age of over eighty years. The mother of our subject passed away many years previous, dying of cholera in 1853. In her loving nature, she took into her home several emigrants suffering with that dread disease, and after caring for them she, too, was taken sick and died. After her death he again married. By his first union he had three sons: John M., who married and located in Orion, where his death occurred; Henry, of this review; and Andrew, who followed the river for many years as clerk and steward on different steamers and died in St. Louis.

Henry Johnson was brought by his parents to the new world and since 1848 has been a resident of Illinois. At the age of fifteen he began his business career as an employe in a hotel at Rock Island, where he remained for about two years, and for four years worked in a brick yard there. Returning to Henry county, he was next employed in a brick yard in Andover for two years, and then accepted a position as

clerk in the general store of Peterson & Anderson, at Andover, remaining with them until their failure during the commercial crash of 1857-57. After assisting in settling up the business, Mr. Johnson was employed as clerk by V. M. Ayers for about two years, and then was for one year farming in Western township. He next took charge as manager for V. M. Ayers in the milling business, taking charge of the grist and custom mill belonging to him, and operating it successfully for five years. It was then sold to Morrison Francis, and Mr. Johnson managed for him two years. Purchasing a tract of wild prairie land in Osco township, Henry county, he was next engaged in its improvement and cultivation for about a year, and at the end of that time rented the place and removed to Orion, in 1870, where he built a good residence. Later he erected a flouring mill in partnership with Lloyd & Peterson, and under the firm name of Johnson, Lloyd & Company carried on the milling business most successfully for seventeen and a half years, when the plant was destroyed by fire. In 1882 he had purchased a half interest in the established mercantile business of John Owen, and while he continued to engage in milling he employed John S. Smith as clerk to take his place in the store. After the death of Mr. Owen he purchased his interest from the administrators of the estate, and then sold a fourth interest in the business to his old and faithful clerk, John S. Smith. This partnership was continued until 1894, when Mr. Smith was elected county treasurer and Mr. Johnson bought his interest, and has since been alone in business. He has been actively connected with the store since 1890, and by fair and honorable dealing and courteous treatment of his patrons has succeeded in building up an



excellent trade. In years of continuous service he is now the oldest business man in Orion, and his success has been most worthily achieved, being due to his own diligence, enterprise and straightforward business course, for he started out in life for himself with no capital and from the age of fifteen years has been dependent upon his own resources for a livelihood.

On the 1st of May, 1858, in Andover, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Olson, who is also a native of Sweden, and was a miss of about ten summers when she came to the United States. Her father died during the voyage. On landing she and her mother proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois, and she grew to womanhood in Andover township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were born two children. Lineas was accidentally killed in an elevator in 1886, at the age of sixteen years; and Oliver B., a young man of good business ability and sterling character, now assists his father in the store.

Mr. Johnson cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, but is now independent in politics, voting for the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices, regardless of party lines. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Odd Fellows Lodge of Orion, in which he has filled all the chairs and is now past grand, and is also one of the leading members of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, which he has represented in the grand lodge of the state. His life has been an active and useful one, in which he has not only won success but has also gained for him the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life.

## WILLIAM N. GLENN.

If one desires to gain a vivid realization of the rapid advance in civilization which the last few decades have brought about, he can listen to the stories of men who are still living among us and by no means overburdened with years, and who can tell of their boyhood. As a native of Henry county the subject of this sketch can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer days when this region was all wild and unimproved, when deer, turkeys and other wild game was plentiful, before the days of railroads, telegraphs and telephones.

Mr. Glenn was born on the old homestead in Colona township, on the 18th of May, 1838, a son of James Glenn, who was born and reared in Kentucky, and in 1835 came to Henry county, Illinois, being one of the first to locate here. He pre-empted a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, and later entered the land, which he made his home throughout the remainder of his life. Prospering in his farming operations, he became the owner of four good farms, and was numbered among the well-to-do and substantial men of his community, as well as one of its highly respected and honored citizens. In this county he was united in marriage with Miss Nancy Kincaid, a sister of G. W. Kincaid, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. She died May 10, 1896, and his death occurred August 26, 1896.

Reared on the home farm amid pioneer scenes, William N. Glenn obtained his literary education in the district schools, and gave his father the benefit of his labors until twenty-five years of age. About 1856 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of

wild land on section 31, Colona township, where he now resides, and to its improvement and cultivation he at once turned his attention. Acre after acre was placed under the plow until the entire amount was highly cultivated, and all the improvements found thereon are of a substantial character. As a farmer and stock raiser he has met with excellent success, and is to-day the owner of a most desirable farm of two hundred and eighty-five acres pleasantly located within two miles of Coal Valley. He was one of the promoters of the telephone line and had one of the first 'phones in his vicinity. For many years he has been a stockholder in the Mutual Insurance Company. He is a large stock feeder and has fine cattle upon his farm.

In 1866, in Henry county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Glenn and Miss Ellen R. Reynolds, who was born in Moline, Illinois, but was principally reared and educated in Henry county, attending the common and high schools of Geneseo, and successfully engaging in teaching prior to her marriage. By this union was born a son, James N., who married Lina Lease and assisted his father in the operation of the farm until his death, which occurred December 30, 1897. He left a wife and two children, Lois and Jean Neva, all of whom live with our subject.

By his ballot Mr. Glenn supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He has been a member of the county central committee, and has taken quite an active and influential part in local politics. For three years he most efficiently served as supervisor, has also served as township trustee, and has filled other positions of honor and trust with credit to

himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. Fraternally he is an honored member of Coal Valley Lodge, No. 547, F. & A. M., and both he and his wife hold membership in the Eastern Star Chapter. They are people of prominence in their community and enjoy the hospitality of its best homes. Mrs. Glenn is a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Coal Valley, of which Mr. Glenn is an attendant and supporter.

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#### DANIEL S. MASCALL.

Prominent among the business men of Cambridge is numbered the subject of this review, who is one of the leading liverymen of that place. No one in the vicinity is better known, for his entire life has been spent here, and all his interests from boyhood have been closely associated with those of this locality. In his special line of business he has met with success, and by the energy and zeal which he has manifested he has won the confidence and esteem of the public.

A native of Henry county, Mr. Mascall was born in Cambridge township March 10, 1856, and is a son of James and Mary A. (Lilly) Mascall, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He is the third in order of birth in a family of five children.

In early life Daniel S. Mascall acquired a fair knowledge of the common English branches of learning in the public schools of Cambridge, in which city he grew to manhood. At the age of twenty-one he left home to make his own way in the world. He married Miss Julia Perkins, who was born in Virginia, and they have become the parents of six children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are: Mary J. and

James D., both attending the Cambridge schools; and Eva A. and Ralph, at home.

On starting out in life for himself Mr. Mascall embarked in the horse business, buying for shipment to the northern markets. Some years ago he purchased a livery stable in Cambridge, which he conducted successfully, and as he conducted the business on strictly business principles he built up an excellent trade and received the confidence of the entire community. Since then he has bought and sold the business several times, but for the past thirteen years he has had charge of the stable uninterruptedly. Besides his city property he now owns three hundred acres of fine farming land in Cambridge township, which he rents. Since attaining his majority he has affiliated with the Republican party, but has never taken an active part in political affairs aside from voting. Socially he is quite popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances and is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Cambridge.

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#### WILLIAM DURMANN.

The subject of this personal narrative is one of the most successful and progressive farmers and stock raisers within the borders of Colona township, his place of residence being the old Durmann homestead of two hundred and sixty acres on section 33. He has made his special field of industry an eminent success. He is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Black Hawk township, Rock Island county, March 15, 1856.

His father, Joseph Durmann, was born and reared in Germany, where he learned the cooper's trade, and as a young man he

came to the United States, first locating in St. Louis, where he pursued that vocation for a time. In 1836, he removed to Rock Island, Illinois (then called Stephenson), where he and John Staubach started the first cooper shop. In partnership with August Littig he also established the first brewery at that place. There he married Miss Amanda Killing, a German lady, and they continued to make their home in Rock Island and Milan for some years. They finally located on a farm one mile west of Coal Valley, where they resided for four years, and on disposing of that place Mr. Durmann bought the farm in Colona township where our subject now lives. He built a good residence on the place, and made many other improvements which enhanced its value and attractive appearance. Upon this farm he passed away March 4, 1896, and his wife died July 26, 1898.

William Durmann was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, and his early education, acquired in the common schools, was supplemented by a year's attendance at the Davenport Business College. He aided his father in the operation of the farm until thirty-two years of age, and for his services his father gave him a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Cordova, in Rock Island county.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey Mr. Durmann chose Miss Lottie Washburn, their marriage being celebrated in Henry county, on the 16th of March, 1892. She was educated in the public schools of this county, and is a daughter of C. E. Washburn, whose sketch and portrait appear elsewhere in this volume. Two children bless this union, Dorsey and Chauncey.

For a year or more after his marriage,

Mr. Durmann continued to engage in farming on the old homestead, and then removed to his own farm in Rock Island county, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he devoted five years. At the end of that period he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead in Colona township, and has since resided thereon, while he rented his farm in Rock Island county. He feeds considerable stock for market, and is accounted one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers in Colona township. Politically Mr. Durmann is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and he has been called upon to serve his fellow citizens as township collector four years; assessor one year; and school director fifteen years. He is still a member of the school board, and has done much to secure better schools and more competent teachers in his district. He is progressive and enterprising, and gives his support to all measures which he believes calculated to prove of public benefit.

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### JAMES MASCALL.

Among the honored early settlers and highly esteemed citizens of Henry county was James Mascall, who took a very active and prominent part in the development of this region. He was born in East Kent, England, on the 29th of January, 1814, and in 1830 accompanied his parents, John and Elizabeth (Neeves) Mascall, on their emigration to America. The family first located in Litchfield, Pennsylvania, where they spent eight years, and then came to Illinois. After a short time passed in Stark county, they located in Henry county the same year—1838. At that time there were but few

settlements on the prairie, and most of the land was still in its primitive condition, very few improvements having been made throughout the country.

Our subject purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 15, Cambridge township, and was interested in farming during his active business life. Although he met with many misfortunes he steadily prospered, and at the time of his death owned about fifteen hundred acres of land. Eighteen years after coming to Henry county he embarked in the grocery and provision business in Cambridge, and in that enterprise was very successful. His capital on starting out in life for himself was less than fifty dollars, but by judicious investments and the rise in value of land as the country became more thickly settled he prospered, and in all his undertakings met with success.

On the 4th of April, 1848, Mr. Mascall was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Lilly, who was born in Oneida county, New York, August 1, 1827, a daughter of Carlo H. and Wealthy (Ladd) Lilly, also natives of the Empire state, where her father died. In 1846 Mrs. Lilly came to Henry county, Illinois, and spent the remainder of her life with her eight children, her death occurring in Andover township. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Mascall were as follows: John R., who grew to manhood in Henry county, but is now a resident of What Cheer, Iowa; Jennie, wife of Peter Walline, of California; Daniel S., who is represented on another page of this volume; Annie, wife of Seth Perkins of Chicago, Illinois; and Mary, wife of Robert Melloy, of Cambridge. The children were all reared and educated in this county. The mother of this family, who was a very active member of the Methodist

Episcopal Church, died in Cambridge, in April, 1900, loved and respected by all who knew her.

Mr. Mascall was never a very healthy man and unfortunately met with a number of accidents, which finally, as a very great affliction, caused him to lose his eye-sight about 1879. His was a varied career with many ups and downs, but with indomitable energy he conquered fate, and he became one of the wealthiest and most substantial men of Cambridge, where his death occurred. For a time he was engaged in buying grain quite extensively, and was prominently identified with a number of business enterprises. As a citizen he was always true and faithful to every trust reposed in him, and an of the community, he was well worthy of the high regard in which he was uniformly held.

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#### JOHN H. LIPPINCOTT.

The deserved reward of a well-spent life is an honored retirement from business in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil. To-day, after a useful and beneficial career, John H. Lippincott is quietly living at his pleasant home in Orion, Illinois, surrounded by the comfort that earnest labor has brought him.

Mr. Lippincott was born in Springboro, Warren county, Ohio, on the 10th of August, 1837, and is a son of Pennington Lippincott, who was born at Moorstown, New Jersey, in 1808. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Lippincott, was also a native of New Jersey, in which state the family was founded at an early day by English emigrants. Reared in his native state, Pennington Lippincott there learned the black-

smith's and wagonmaker's trades, at which he subsequently worked in Cincinnati, Ohio, when a young man. Later he located in Warren county, Ohio, and opened a shop at Springboro, which he conducted some years. There he was united in marriage with Miss Susan Haines, who was also a native of New Jersey, and a daughter of John Haines, one of the early settlers of Ohio. The wife and mother died during the childhood of our subject, about 1843, and the father afterward married Mary J. Haines, who, though of the same name, was no relative of his first wife. In 1850 he came to Illinois, and purchased a farm near what is now Sherrard, Mercer county, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his attention for some years, but spent his last days with our subject in Orion, where he died December 20, 1896, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, lacking four days.

John H. Lippincott was a lad of thirteen years of age when he came with his father to Illinois, and he grew to manhood upon the home farm in Mercer county. He attended the common schools near his boyhood home, but is mostly self-educated by reading and study in subsequent years. Feeling that his country needed his services during the Civil war, he enlisted in August, 1862, in Company C, One Hundred and Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which became a part of the Army of the Tennessee. He participated in the battles of Resaca and Peach Tree Creek, and all of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign, and after the surrender of that city went with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea. He also took part in the last engagement of the war—the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina—and then marched through Richmond to

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JOHN H. LIPPINCOTT.





MRS. JOHN H. LIPPINCOTT.

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Washington, D. C., where he participated in the grand review. The war having ended and his services being no longer needed, he was mustered out at Washington, and honorably discharged at Chicago, in June, 1865, after which he returned to his home in Mercer county.

On the 19th of September, 1865, at Orion, Henry county, Mr. Lippincott was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth T. Blackfan, of Orion, who was born in Greenville, Bucks county, Pennsylvania, September 2, 1839. Her ancestors were from England and were among the Quakers who first settled in the Keystone state, where the birth of her grandfather, Samuel Blackfan, occurred. Her parents, William and Elizabeth (Trego) Blackfan, were also natives of Bucks county, where they were married September 16, 1835, and where they continued to reside until their removal to Illinois in 1841. They located at Orion, Henry county, then known as West La Grange, where Mr. Blackfan died in the fall of 1843. His wife long survived him and in the management of her affairs and in rearing and educating her children she proved a most capable and successful person, adding materially to the small farm left by her husband. Her death occurred in Orion January 16, 1871. She had a private school in her home for three winters. During her girlhood Mrs. Lippincott attended both private and public schools of Orion, and the Genesee Seminary. The first school in the school house at Orion was when she was sixteen years old and which she then attended. Prior to her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching for some time. Our subject and his wife have one son, Charles H., who is assistant secretary and treasurer of the Moline Plow Company, of Moline, Illinois.

He married Miss Nellie M. Stevens, youngest daughter of George Stevens, president of the Moline Plow Company, and they have one child, Mary Stevens Lippincott.

After his marriage our subject successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising in Mercer county for seven years, and became owner of a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres. Renting his place in 1873, he moved to Orion, where he purchased residence property and has since lived retired life. As he succeeded he added to his farm until he now owns a fine farm of five hundred and twenty acres with three sets of farm buildings. Politically he has been a life-long Republican, having cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, but he has never sought nor desired official honors, though he has served as a member of the village board of Orion and commander of the Grand Army post at that place. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lippincott were reared in the belief of the Society of Friends, and still adhere to that faith, though they now attend and give to the support of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Orion. They are widely and favorably known, and are held in high regard on account of their sterling worth and true nobility of character.

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#### GEORGE W. BUCK.

Among the honored pioneers of Henry county and the brave defenders of the Union during the Civil war was George W. Buck, whose home is on section 6, Western township, where he owns and operates an excellent farm of two hundred and ten acres. He also has an adjoining tract of three hundred and ten acres in Rock Island county, and in

the management of his property is meeting with most gratifying success.

Mr. Buck was born in Chautauqua county, New York, April 9, 1834, and is a son of Roswell and Harriet (Meech) Buck, natives of Massachusetts, where their marriage was celebrated. They were early settlers of Chautauqua county, New York, where both died, the mother when he was but three weeks old, and the father in 1861. On the death of his mother he was taken and reared by Isaac Stanbro, with whom he came to Henry county, Illinois, in May, 1838, locating in Hanna township. As soon as old enough to be of any assistance he commenced to help in the work of the farm, and continued to aid in its operation until 1851, when he started out in life for himself, being engaged in rafting on the Mississippi river for about two years. For a few years following this he worked by the month on farms in Henry county, and then purchased eight yoke of cattle and engaged in breaking prairie for three seasons. In 1859 he crossed the plains to California with oxen, the journey occupying the entire summer, and for about two years followed mining and other occupations on the Pacific slope, returning home by way of the Isthmus and New York.

In the meantime the country had become involved in Civil war, and on the 15th of August, 1862, Mr. Buck enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered into service as sergeant. He was on detached duty most of the time as wagon master, and while in North Carolina was made master of transportation of the Third Division, Twenty-third Army Corps. On the cessation of hostilities he was honorably discharged at Greensboro, North Carolina, in

June, 1865, and after being paid off at Chicago, July 7, returned to his home in Henry county.

Mr. Buck then purchased a farm of sixty-six acres on section 6, Western township, where he has since made his home. When he located thereon it was but slightly improved, and to its further development and cultivation he has since devoted his energies. He has added to the original purchase from time to time and now owns five hundred and twenty acres of very valuable and productive land in Henry and Rock Island counties, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. For many years he has rented other property, and for some years operated about one thousand acres, which under his careful management is made to yield a golden tribute in return for the care and labor bestowed upon it. He is accounted one of the most skillful and thorough farmers and stock raisers of his community, and his success has been worthily achieved as he started out in life for himself empty-handed, and his prosperity is but the just reward of continuous labor, honorable dealing and good management.

On the 8th of July, 1863, while home on a furlough, Mr. Buck was married to Miss Mary A. Glenn, a native of Henry county, and a daughter of James Glenn, who located here as early as 1835, and built the first house in the county. He was widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state, and was always a good friend of Mr. Buck. Our subject has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died June 26, 1897, and was laid to rest in Glenwood cemetery. By that union he had four children: George B., who is married and lives in Moline, Illinois; Mary Eliza, now the wife of George Miller;

Charles G., at home; and James Dana, who was married and died in this county June 16, 1895.

On attaining his majority, Mr. Buck supported John C. Fremont for the presidency in 1856, and has since been unswerving in his allegiance to the Republican party and its principles. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability have often called him to positions of public trust, and he has most capably served as justice of the peace, township collector and trustee, and supervisor for eight years. He was a member of numerous committees, and was chairman of the committee that erected the soldiers' monument at Cambridge. For the long period of twenty-one years he served as school director, and for some time was president and clerk of the district. He is past command of the Grand Army Post at Orion, and is one of the most honored and highly respected citizens of his community. As a pioneer of the county he has witnessed almost its entire growth and development, and in the work of improvement he has ever borne his part.

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#### JOHN A. FORS.

Among the native sons of Henry county is numbered John A. Fors, who belongs to one of the oldest families of Andover township, where he now makes his home on section 4, though he was born in Linn township, December 22, 1866, a son of Andrew M. and Johanna (Falk) Fors, both natives of Sweden. The mother died in Andover April 14, 1899, at about the age of sixty-eight years, and since her death the father has made his home with his children in Moline

and Andover township. He was born in 1828, and in early life learned the tailor's trade, which he followed in Sweden, but in this country he engaged in farming throughout his active business career. He was married in his native land and about 1859 came to the United States, his destination being Henry county, Illinois. He purchased eighty acres of land in Linn township, a part of which was raw prairie, the remainder timber land, and soon improved the same. Subsequently he bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 4, where our subject now resides, and located thereon about 1875, being actively engaged in agricultural pursuits here for several years. He then lived a retired life in the village of Andover, where his wife died. His father, Mr. Forsborg, came to Henry county and settled near the present site of Andover, being one of its first settlers, at which time there was not a house between his home and Geneseo. He was one of the first to locate on the prairie. He died at the age of eighty-five years, his wife at the advanced age of ninety-five, and both were laid to rest in the Andover cemetery. They had three daughters who are still living, namely: Mrs. Christina Steinholm, of Cambridge; Clara, wife of Otto Johnson, of Opheim; and Anna. Our subject's mother and two sisters were the only members of her family to come to the new world, the latter being Mrs. Eva Nelson, a resident of Andover; and Mrs. Clara Lindlove, of Woodhull, Illinois. Both her parents lived to an advanced age, one of them being about ninety-six years of age at the time of death.

Of the seven children born to Andrew M. and Johanna Fors two are now deceased. Those living are Peter, a successful farmer of Iowa; Frank O., a member of the police

force of Pueblo, Colorado; John A., our subject; Julia, wife of Frank Palm, of Moline, where he is employed in a machine shop; and William C. a farmer on section 20, Andover township. All were educated in the common schools of the district and have become useful and respected members of society. The father is a valued member and supporter of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Andover, and in politics is a staunch Republican.

On the home farm John A. Fors grew to manhood and remained under the parental roof until his marriage, December 19, 1894. Miss Ella Florence Burgman becoming his wife. She was born in Burlington, Iowa, December 7, 1873, and is a daughter of Fred and Tillie (Johnson) Burgman, who were born in Sweden and are now residents of Moline, Illinois. Mrs. Fors is the oldest of their three children, the others being Hattie and Emil, both at home. On coming to the United States, Mr. Burgman first settled in Iowa. This was in 1865, when he was about twenty years old. He made his home in various places until after his marriage, January 19, 1872, when he located in Burlington, Iowa, where he was employed as a plumber of the gas works. However, he soon moved to Moline, Illinois, and for twenty years was a salesman in the Keator lumber yards, retaining his position there until the yards were destroyed by fire. He then secured a position with the Dimmock & Gould Lumber Company, with whom he yet remains. His wife came to the United States with her parents, John F. and Johanna Johnson, the family locating in New Sweden, Iowa, which was her home until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Fors have two children: Florence Olive, aged five years; and Ruby Violet, aged one year.

For one year after his marriage Mr. Fors was engaged in farming upon land owned by his father in Knox county, this state, but since then has resided upon his present farm on section 4, Andover township, Henry county. His father was the first to improve the place, and these improvements have been added to and kept up by our subject, who is justly regarded as one of the most enterprising and skillful farmers of his community. He is meeting with good success, and is held in high esteem by friends and neighbors. Religiously he is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church and politically is identified with the Republican party.

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#### MATS ERSON.

Prominent among the honored early settlers of Andover township is Mats Erson, whose home is on section 9, where he owns a well-improved and highly cultivated farm of eighty acres. He has laid many rods of tiling, has erected good and substantial buildings and made other necessary improvements to make it a pleasant and comfortable home.

Mr. Erson was born in Sweden on the 9th of August, 1821, and is the eldest child of Eric and Breeta (Hillen) Matson, who were life-long residents of that country. They were educated in the early schools of their native land, and were honest, hard-working and highly respected people. In their family were five children, namely: Mats, of this review; Hillen, the eldest daughter, who is still a resident of Sweden; Catherine, deceased; Breeta, a resident of Sweden; and Christine, deceased.

During his boyhood and youth Mats Erson attended the schools of Sweden, and worked with his father on the farm. Hear-



MATS ERSON.



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ing such good reports of the progress of the new world and the chances for a poor man on this side of the Atlantic, he resolved to try his fortune here. Prior to his emigration, however, he was married, in 1846, to Miss Breeta Olson, who was born in 1811. On the 28th of June, 1849, they sailed for this country, and on landing proceeded at once to Andover, Illinois, where they arrived October 16, 1849.

Here Mr. Erson worked by the month for a short time. He then had but little capital, and with the hope of making money more quickly he went to the gold fields of California in the spring of 1850, being one of a party of five who made the trip overland with horse teams. After reaching the Pacific coast, they engaged in prospecting in California for eleven months, and in course of their mining operations, each made a stake for himself and then returned to their chosen home—Illinois. They took a steamer August 2, 1851, for Panama, and on the 22d of September, following, were in Andover, coming by way of New York. During the trip both ways Mr. Erson met with many adventures and endured many privations, but he felt repaid for them, however. On again reaching Henry county, he purchased forty acres of land on section 16, Andover township, and built thereon a house, in which the family lived while he began the improvement and cultivation of his land. As he prospered in his labors he was at length able to purchase another tract of eighty acres upon which he now lives.

Mr. Erson has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who passed away April 5, 1897. They had no children. In 1881 Olof Hellblom, a son of his sister Hellen, came to America, and has since rented his uncle's farm, making his home in

the house first erected by our subject. Since his wife's death Mr. Erson has resided with him, having given him the forty-acre tract on section 16. Mr. Hellblom is married and has seven children.

Mr. Erson has always lived a quiet, uneventful life and has been a supporter of all movements that have tended to advance the interests or aid in the development of the county and community in which he makes his home. On his arrival here there were but few houses in Andover or between that place and Geneseo. He has watched with interest the many changes that have since taken place and in the work of advancement has ever borne his part. Since voting for John C. Fremont, in 1856, he has been an ardent supporter of the Republican party and its principles, and has efficiently filled several minor offices of his township, as well as that of school director. He is one of the leading and influential members of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal church of Andover, and has been one of its trustees since 1854, and has also been a steward for thirty-nine years. He is one of the oldest members of the Old Settlers' Association and takes an active interest in its affairs. His has been an active and useful life, and although now well advanced in years he still enjoys excellent health, though he has retired from active labor, and in ease and retirement is enjoying the fruits of former toil. No man in the community is held in higher regard or has more warm friends than Mr. Erson, of this review.

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#### ANDREW P. NORELL.

Among the leading farmers and highly respected citizens of Andover township is numbered A. P. Norell, who was born in

Sweden, April 12, 1826. His parents, Peter A. and Christine Johnson, were also natives of Sweden and there spent their entire lives. Our subject was reared and educated in his native land, and prior to his emigration to America was married in 1850 to Miss Brita Peterson, who was also born in Sweden. He was thirty years of age when he sailed from Helsingland, and after a long and tedious voyage of eight weeks landed in New York, whence he proceeded at once to Andover, Henry county, Illinois. In that village he first worked at day labor. Saving what he could from his wages, Mr. Norell was able to purchase a tract of ten acres in Linn township in 1861, and upon that place he lived for four years. He then sold and bought one hundred and seven acres of unimproved land in the same township, upon which he erected a house costing two thousand dollars and also built large barns and other outbuildings. On disposing of that property he came to Andover township and purchased his present highly cultivated and well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on sections 11 and 14, and has since made his home on section 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Norell are the parents of three children, namely: Peter, who is married and lives in Nebraska; Eric, who is married and makes his home in Andover township, this county; and John Alvin, who resides on the home farm. The last named was married in Andover township, December 11, 1897, to Miss Olive Nordquist, a native of Andover and a daughter of E. Nordquist, who was one of the early settlers of the township. By this union there are two children, Anna Elizabeth and John Eric A. Norell.

Politically Mr. Norell is a supporter of the Republican party, and religiously is a

member of the Lutheran Church. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county where he has so long made his home, and is held in high regard on account of his sterling worth and excellent character. He is one of the self-made men of the community and his success has been worthily achieved.

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#### M. MAURY NASH.

This well known and popular resident of Osco township, whose home is on section 35, was born in Coalsmouth, West Virginia, September 21, 1847. His father, Rev. Francis Burdett Nash, was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, November 16, 1812, and when a mere boy accompanied his parents to Connecticut, where he had to sustain himself at manual labor. For a time he was with a brother in St. Albans, Vermont, where he attended the Franklin County Grammar School. In 1829 he returned to Connecticut and read medicine at Woolington. He was next a teacher at Swedesboro, New Jersey, and from there moved to Kentucky, and entered the Theological Seminary in Lexington from which he was graduated in 1837. For some years he was a missionary of his church in Kentucky, and he devoted his whole life to his sacred calling, preaching in Kentucky, West Virginia, Illinois and Minnesota, his last charge being in the latter state. At one time he was a resident of Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois, and his circuit covered several parishes. He built the Episcopal Church at Princeton, and held services at Cambridge, Geneseo and Osco, conducting the first meeting in Cambridge. In 1873 he went west, but later returned to Henry county, and was

rector of the church at Cambridge, and also at Osco until 1881 when he went to Minnesota. He was well known by all pioneers, and will long be remembered for his good works. He was an ardent and untiring worker in building up the different churches with which he was connected, and at his death left a record of which his family may be justly proud. He died October 6, 1890, at the home of his son in Nashua, Minnesota, which town was named in honor of the family. His father, Ebenezer Nash, was also a preacher of western New York, and was of old New England stock. While in Kentucky Francis Burdett Nash married Elizabeth Maury, a native of that state, who was of southern ancestry, her family being slave holders in the south before the war. She died in Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois, in 1866. Ten children were born to them, two of whom died in early childhood. The others were Susan P., a resident of Nashua, Minnesota; Miranda P., widow of Edward Morris and a resident of Minneapolis; Elizabeth, deceased; M. Maury, the subject of this sketch; Francis B., a graduate of Griswold College, of Davenport, and an Episcopal clergyman now of Newark, Ohio; Harry S., a graduate of Harvard University and a clergyman of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Fontian, a farmer of Nashua, Minnesota; and Mary L., a music teacher, who died in Chicago, Illinois. (For a full record see the "Townsend Family Record," and the "Nash Genealogy.")

In early boyhood M. Maury Nash attended the common schools near his home and later took a course at Griswold College, Davenport, Iowa. At the age of sixteen he began earning his own living, and being one of the oldest of the family, he assisted his father until he attained his majority,

when he went to Missouri, where he was engaged in farming, remaining there three years. We next find him in Nebraska, where he was engaged in the stock business. Later he moved to Iowa where he owned and operated a farm. In 1879 he moved to Nashua, Minnesota, where he purchased two sections of wild prairie land with his brother, which they broke up and put in wheat, making his home there for three years, during which time he assisted in organizing the townships and county, and was one of the first justices of peace. After leaving there in 1882 he spent about two years in hospitals having his eyes treated, and in 1883 joined his family in Iowa, where they had located on the removal of the family from Nashua. In 1889 he returned to Illinois and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 35, Osco township, Henry county, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with most gratifying results. All of the buildings found upon the place have been erected by him, and its neat and thrifty appearance indicates the careful supervision of a progressive farmer and thorough business man. He is a prominent stock feeder, buying mostly in Nebraska and feeding here.

In 1880 Mr. Nash married Miss Amelia M. Smith, a daughter of J. H. Smith, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. She was born March 15, 1857, on the farm in Osco township where her father settled half a century ago, and was graduated from the Cambridge high school, after which she successfully engaged in teaching in the district schools of Osco township for a time. By her marriage to our subject she has become the mother of six children, one of whom, Lawrence, died at the age of four years. Those living are Mary L.,

known as Lutie, born in 1882; Jared B., born in 1884; Anson M., born in 1886; Bessie, born in 1890; and Jane A., born in 1899. Those who have attained a sufficient age are now pursuing their studies in the district school.

In connection with farming Mr. Nash has always followed the stock business with the exception of the time spent in Minnesota, where he was engaged exclusively in the raising of wheat. He deserves great credit for what he has accomplished in life, for since an early age he has depended entirely upon his own resources. Diligence has been the keynote to his success, and his example is one that might be profitably followed by all who have to depend upon their own exertions. His worth is recognized and he enjoys the friendship of many of the best people of the county. In the various localities where he has resided he has taken an active and prominent part in public affairs, has always been a member of the township committee of the Republican party, and is now chairman of the same in Osco township. He has also been prominently identified with educational affairs, and is now a school director. He was one of the organizers of the Farmers Institute, has been a member of the board of management, and is now vice-president of the county institute. He is one of the leading and influential members of the Episcopal Church of Osco, and has been vestryman of the same for ten years.

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#### SAMUEL BENNISON.

This well known retired miller and honored citizen of Kewanee, Illinois, was born near Manchester, Cheshire, England, Feb-

ruary 13, 1830, his parents being Samuel and Mary (Turner) Bennison, who were married November 29, 1819. In 1845 they came to America on a sailing vessel, which was nearly six weeks in crossing the Atlantic. Landing in New York, they proceeded at once to Pottsville, Pennsylvania, where the father worked in the coal mines for six years, having followed that business in England. In May, 1851, he crossed the Allegheny mountains, and by canal and steamboat down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi river, he went to the lead mines in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, where he engaged in prospecting for five or six years, but met with failure in that venture, losing all that he had accumulated by sinking deep shafts. The mining company of which he was a member was composed of himself, his four sons and one son-in-law. They would work at their mine until their money and credit were exhausted, and then, while some of the company continued the labor, the others would work for wages to meet their expenses in the operation of their mine. In 1851 our subject came to Rock Island, Illinois, and found employment in a coal mine five miles from that city, and while working there he managed to save one hundred dollars. At that time the others were also in the employ of different mining companies, but were notified that they must either work their own claim or give it up. They had previously sunk a shaft seventy-five feet deep near Shullsburg, Wisconsin, to which our subject returned on leaving the coal mines of this state, and resumed work there. After digging about forty feet the company struck a cave, which was twenty feet in all its dimensions, and was lined with mineral and loose rock. Their labors were at length crowned with success, and the mine became

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SAMUEL BENNISON.





MRS. SAMUEL BENNISON.

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very valuable. They found another cave more valuable than the first, and the mine was worked with profit to the company. Having prospered in this venture, the father was able to lay aside all business cares and spend his last days in ease and quiet. After thirteen years spent at Shullsburg, Wisconsin, he came to Kewanee, where he lived retired until his death. He was born July 20, 1797, and died August 23, 1885. His wife, who was born in Manchester, England, May 20, 1798, departed this life January 6, 1896. During their long married life of nearly two-thirds of a century they were never separated longer than three months. The father was confirmed in the established church of England, and was a teacher in the Sunday school, but later joined the Primitive Methodists, and was a member of that church at the time of his death.

In the family of this worthy couple were nine children, namely: John, a miner and miller, who died at the age of seventy-two years; Bettie, who died in England at the age of twenty-two; Eliza, who married Richard Hill, and died October 24, 1891, at the age of sixty-six years; William, deceased; Samuel, our subject; Henry, who died in Kewanee; Mary, wife of Samuel Hill, of Mexico; Thomas, a retired merchant of Kewanee; and James, who married Lydia Hewitt October 8, 1861, and died in 1865. Only three of the family survived their mother, and these are still living.

While engaged in mining at Shullsburg, Wisconsin, our subject and his brother Henry decided to go to California on account of the latter's health, leaving the father and brothers to operate the mine. They started in January, 1855, and by way of New York and the Isthmus went to the gold fields of California, being four weeks in making the

trip. In their mining operations there they met with good success, and Henry Bennison spent twenty years on the Pacific slope. He then returned to Kewanee, where his death occurred. Samuel Bennison, of this review, remained in California only four years. After more than a year's separation he was joined by his wife, and together they returned east in 1859, by the Isthmus route. For several years he was engaged in lead mining in Wisconsin, and in 1864 removed to Kewanee, Illinois, where he has since made his home. For some years he and his brothers were engaged in the mercantile and milling business at this place, but he is now living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. He has had to overcome many obstacles in the path to success, but with determined effort he has worked his way steadily upward, and is to-day one of the prosperous and substantial citizens of the community. He is a director of the First National Bank of Kewanee, and in all business transactions his word is considered as good as his bond.

On the 27th of September, 1855, at Shullsburg, Wisconsin, Mr. Bennison was united in marriage with Miss Eleanor Wortley, also a native of England, and a daughter of George and Catherine (Wilkinson) Wortley. Her father was born in Lincolnshire, May 30, 1802, and brought his family to America in 1850, locating at Shullsburg, Wisconsin. He was a local preacher in the Primitive Methodist Church, and died in 1884. His first wife passed away during the infancy of Mrs. Bennison, who is now the only survivor of their four children, those deceased being Ann, George and Eliza. He was again married in 1843, his second union being with Mary Linager, who is still living in Shullsburg, Wisconsin, and by whom he had three children—Rebecca, Mary J. and

Musson. Mrs. Bennison was born March 21, 1835, and was fourteen years of age when she came to the United States with the family.

Of the ten children born to our subject and his wife, two died in infancy. The others are as follows: Eliza A. is the wife of Samuel Talbott, a farmer living near Sterling, Illinois, and they have four children, Fred, Grace, Walter and Floyd; James H., born December 4, 1858, died July 20, 1873; Louise G. is the wife of William Melbourn, a machinist of Kewanee, and they have three children, Harry, Edward and Eleanor G.; Samuel, a farmer of Kansas, married Helen Acre, and they have two children, Laura and Harold; George W., a member of the mercantile firm of George W. Bennison & Brothers, of Kewanee, married Elizabeth Corkill, and they have two children, Seward A. and George; Edward, a member of the same firm, married Augusta Schaefer, and they have three children, Grace, Clarence and Raymond; Alvin C., also one of the same firm, dealers in dry goods and groceries at Kewanee, married Zella Stone, and they have one child, Helen; Elizabeth; and Raymond died in infancy.

Politically Mr. Bennison is an ardent Republican, and religiously both he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Congregational Church. They are widely and favorably known, and are held in high regard on account of their sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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#### CHARLES E. CHASE.

Among the self made men and thrifty farmers of Henry county is Charles E. Chase who is proprietor of a good farm of one hun-

dred acres on section 29, Western township, within two miles of Orion. He has been a resident of the county since the 12th of March, 1869, and has been actively identified with its agricultural and stock raising interests.

Merrick Chase, father of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, in 1811, a son of Benjamin Chase, and grandson of David Chase, also natives of the old Bay state. The family is originally of English ancestry, and was founded in America by three brothers, one of whom settled in Massachusetts, another in Maine, and the third in New Hampshire. At an early day Benjamin Chase removed to Vermont, and became one of the pioneers of Windham county, where the father of our subject grew to manhood and married Miss Sarah Maria Brigham, a native of that county. There they continued to reside until after the birth of all their children. Mr. Chase followed farming, hotel keeping and various occupations. He also served as deputy sheriff of the county. In 1858 he removed to Washington county, New York, where he made his home until 1873, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, and in partnership with our subject purchased a farm in Western township. There he spent his remaining days, dying January 3, 1889. His wife survived him a few years, and passed away in 1897.

Charles E. Chase, whose name introduces this review, was born in Jacksonville, Windham county, Vermont, on the 17th of January, 1844, and was a lad of fourteen years when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Washington county, New York, where he grew to manhood upon a farm, becoming thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits and acquiring his literary knowledge in the common schools of that

locality. Coming west in 1869 he took up his residence in Henry county, Illinois, where he worked by the month at farm labor for three years, and then purchased his present farm on section 29, Western township, in company with his father.

Returning to Vermont Mr. Chase was there married February 26, 1874, to Miss Sophia H. Farnsworth, who was born, reared and educated in Windham county, that state, and prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching. For about twelve years she made her home in Boston, Massachusetts. Mr. and Mrs. Chase have one son, Arthur F., who is now in his senior year at Knox College, Galesburg.

For several years after his marriage, Mr. Chase engaged in farming on rented land in this county, but on the death of his father located on the farm which they had purchased, and here he has continued to make his home. He has made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a good residence, barns and out-buildings, has tiled the land and set out fruit and shade trees, which add to the attractive appearance of the farm. He also owns a forty-acre tract of land south of Orion, which he uses as pasture, as he raises considerable stock, keeping on hand a good grade of cattle, hogs and horses.

In his political affiliations, Mr. Chase is a staunch Republican, having always supported that party since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1868, but he has never sought official honors. He has, however, efficiently served as a member of the school board for some years, and also as township trustee. Externally he is a member of Sherman Lodge, No. 535, A. F. & M., of Orion, while religiously his wife is a member of the Meth-

odist Episcopal Church. His success in life is due entirely to his own well directed effort for he began his business career without capital, and to his diligence, industry and good management may be attributed his success.

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#### SIVILIAN LESTER.

Sivilian Lester, deceased, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Henry county, where he located in 1840, when this region was mostly wild and unimproved. In the work of development he took an active part in early days and aided in opening up the country to civilization. As the years passed he faithfully performed his duties of citizenship and his interest in the welfare and progress of the community never abated.

Mr. Lester was born in Delaware county, New York, March 17, 1828, his parents being Samuel T. and Emily (Ward) Lester, both natives of the Empire state, and representatives of old colonial families. The paternal grandfather, Jeremiah Lester, was a member of a Connecticut regiment in the Revolutionary war. After his death, which occurred in New York, his widow came to Henry county, Illinois, with a daughter, and died here at the advanced age of ninety-four years, her remains being interred in Wethersfield township. The father, Samuel T. Lester, followed farming throughout his active business life and continued to make his home in New York until 1840, when he came to Illinois, and located in what is now Burns township, Henry county. His last days, however, were spent in Wethersfield. In his family were eleven children, of whom Sivilian was the oldest. The three now living are Matilda, widow of

J. H. Hall and a resident of Minnesota; Nancy, widow of William Craig and a resident of Smith's Center, Kansas; and Charles N., a resident of Bureau county, Illinois.

The early education of our subject was obtained in New York, and for a time he attended school in Illinois after the removal of the family to this county. Although only seventeen years of age at the time of his father's death the responsibility of caring for the family largely devolved upon him, and from that time on he took a man's part. He remained at home until twenty-three years of age, when he was married, December 7, 1851, to Miss Martha W. Dudley, who was born in Monson, Maine, and is a daughter of Warren and Alvena (Barrett) Dudley, the former a native of Massachusetts, the latter of Maine. Mr. Dudley's ancestors were of English origin. At an early age he removed with his parents, Luther and Martha Dudley, to the Pine Tree state, where he was reared and educated. For a time he followed farming in Somerset county, Maine, and then removed to Piscataquis county, where he made his home until 1846, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up his residence in Andover township, where he purchased eighty acres of raw prairie land, paying for the same three dollars an acre. In 1853 he removed to Rock Island county, Illinois, where the following three years were passed, and then went to Cedar county, Iowa, where he continued to reside throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1873 of nervous prostration brought on by the death of his wife, who died very suddenly of heart failure only eight days before. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom reached man and womanhood, but Luther and Bethiah are now deceased;

Martha is the widow of our subject; Joseph B. is engaged in stock raising near Denver, Colorado; Levi is also deceased; Nelson S. is a resident of Kansas; Helen is the wife of William Tevis, who lives near Sioux City, Iowa; and Josiah W. died in Andersonville prison in 1864 while a prisoner of war.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lester, as follows: (1) Lucetta is now the wife of George W. Rogers, of Valley county, Nebraska, and they have four children: Thomas, Anthony, Daisy and Esther. (2) Rufus was killed in a snow slide in Idaho, in March, 1882, at the age of twenty-eight years. (3) Ellen Grace is the wife of Charles Leaming, of Kansas, and they have one child, Alvaretta. (4) Julia N. is the wife of Thomas R. Stanton, of Kewanee, and they have three children, Mattie E., Letha A. and Ethel L., all attending school at that place. (5) Juliet, twin sister of Julia N., married George Reed, of Neponset, Illinois, and died September 1, 1900. (6) Edmund, who lives on the old home farm in Burns township, wedded Mary Potter, and they have three children, Bessie, Rufus and Guthrie. (7) Susie is at home with her mother. (8) Samuel W., who also lives on the home farm, married Eva Wells, and they have one child, Leo.

Throughout his active business life Mr. Lester followed farming. After his marriage he purchased a tract of eighty acres with no improvements in Burns township. He building first a one-room frame house, 16x20 feet, in which he and his family lived until 1860, when it was enlarged, making a comfortable and commodious residence, and in 1865 he built a fine residence which is still standing. From time to time, as his financial resources increased he extended

the boundaries of his farm until he had four hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general farming he gave considerable attention to stock raising. In November, 1894 he removed with his family to Kewanee, where he died after a continued and painful illness, on the 1st of August, 1895, and was laid to rest in the cemetery in Wethersfield township. He was a member of the Grange and Sons of Temperance, and in politics was identified with the Republican party. Although his township was strongly Democratic, Mr. Lester was chosen to several official positions of honor and trust, which fact indicated his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He served as supervisor a number of terms, was also collector and assessor for one term each; was road commissioner a number of years; and school director for some time. He was true to every trust reposed in him, whether public or private, and in his death the community realized that it had lost a valued and useful citizen.

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#### ELON BEACH GILBERT, M. D.

Dr. Gilbert is a skilled physician and surgeon of Geneseo, Illinois, whose knowledge of the science of medicine is broad and comprehensive, and whose ability in applying its principles to the needs of suffering humanity has gained him an enviable prestige in professional circles. He was born in Geneseo, February 23, 1860, a son of E. C. and F. B. (Beach) Gilbert, natives of Allen's Hill, Ontario county, New

York. For many years the father was a successful farmer and stock raiser of this county, where he died October 14, 1889, aged fifty-two years. He attended the Congregational Church, of which his wife is a member. She is still living at the age of sixty-two, and is a resident of Geneseo. To this worthy couple were born six children, of whom the Doctor is the oldest, the others being Horace S., who operates the old home farm in Geneseo township; Anna E., who died of consumption in 1888, at the age of twenty-one years; Laura C., who is now acting as clerk in the Doctor's office; Morey and Mary, twins, who died at the age of six months.

The early life of Dr. Gilbert was spent upon the home farm and his literary education was obtained in the common and high schools of Geneseo and Knox College, Galesburg, leaving the latter institution in his junior year. He then took up the study of medicine with Dr. W. C. Brown, of Geneseo, and later attended a course of lectures at Rush Medical College at Chicago. He subsequently entered Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, where he was graduated in 1885. During his college course he did some interne work in hospitals. After his graduation he entered into partnership with his former preceptor, Dr. Brown, and that connection continued for three years, since which time our subject has been alone in practice, while Dr. Brown has gone to Los Angeles, California. He is now the oldest physician in years of continuous practice in Geneseo, and receives a liberal share of the public patronage. He has reported cases and written several able articles for medical journals, and is medical examiner for several of the old line insurance companies and for some fra-



served as local surgeon for the Rock Island railroad, and was county physician for ten years.

On the 12th of April, 1885, Dr. Gilbert led to the marriage altar Miss Cora Thomas, also a native of Geneseo and a daughter of the late H. Thomas, of that place. By this union has been born one child, Alice B. The Doctor and his wife are both members of the Congregational Church, and he is also connected with the Masonic order. In politics he is an ardent Republican. He is a general practitioner, who is well read in his profession and stands deservedly high in his chosen calling. While yet a young man he has been quite successful, and is a thoroughly enterprising and progressive citizen, alive to the best interests of his county and state.

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#### CAPTAIN ALEXANDER MURCH- ISON.

Captain Alexander Murchison, who is now living a retired life in Wethersfield, served with distinction as an officer in the Civil war and bears an honorable record for brave service in the cause of freedom and union, and in the paths of peace he has also won an enviable reputation through the sterling qualities which go to the making of a good citizen. He dates his residence in Illinois from September 12, 1849, when he located in Stark county, where he lived until 1866, and for many years he was actively identified with her farming interests.

A native of Scotland, the Captain was born in Rosshire, July 7, 1831, and there grew to manhood upon a farm. He had but limited school advantages in early life, and is almost wholly self-educated, as well as

self-made man. In 1849 he emigrated to the new world with his father and the other members of the family, taking passage on a sailing vessel at Glasgow. They were out of sight of land for eight weeks and one day, and it was nine weeks before they dropped anchor in the harbor of Quebec. They experienced one very severe storm. From Quebec the family proceeded up the St. Lawrence river and by the Great Lakes to Chicago; by canal to Peru; and by team to Elmira, Stark county, Illinois, where they joined some friends who had previously come from Scotland, where the father located permanently.

Captain Murchison first worked by the month at herding sheep, which he followed for two years. During the following three years he worked as a farm hand at Elmira, and then purchased a team and commenced breaking prairie, devoting his energies to that pursuit for nearly four years. He next purchased and operated a threshing machine and reaper. In 1852 he bought two hundred acres of land in Stark and Henry county, the dividing line crossing his farm. This place he sold at a profit three years later.

On the 4th of March, 1860, he had helped to organize a military company, which he drilled, and when the Civil war broke out in 1861, at the first call for troops, he entered the service in Company B, Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Our subject was commissioned second lieutenant, but the following October was promoted to first lieutenant, and was made captain of his company, in July, 1867, with which rank he served until mustered out when his term of enlistment expired. As a part of the Army of the Cumberland the regiment participated in the battle of Stone River, the Tullahoma

campaign, and then drove General Bragg's command across the Tennessee river after some hard fighting. On September 15, 1863, they took part in an all-day engagement at Dugs Gap, where two of Captain Murchison's men were killed and one wounded. They were in the battle of Chickamunga on Sunday, and the Captain was rendered unconscious by being hit by a piece of shell, but the following day resumed command of his company. He had command of his regiment in an engagement in front of Dalton, in February, 1864, at which time he lost two of his own company. He was in the battle of Resaca, Georgia, and was under almost constant fire for nearly a month during the Atlanta campaign. His command was ordered back on reaching Marietta, and he received an honorable discharge at Chicago, July 9, 1864.

Returning to his home he resumed farming, having previously purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Stark county, and later bought eighty acres adjoining in Henry county. This he fenced, broke and improved, and erected thereon one of the best country residences in the community, together with good and substantial outbuildings. Upon his place was a beautiful grove of forest trees covering ten acres. In connection with the cultivation of his land he engaged in the raising of cattle and hogs, and in his business affairs met with excellent success. Having acquired a comfortable competence he retired from active labor in 1897, and renting his farm he removed to Wethersfield, where he has since made his home.

In Stark county, Captain Murchison was married, July 3, 1866, to Miss Margaret N. Weed, a daughter of Rev. M. C. Weed, a native of Pennsylvania, and one of the pioneer preachers of Stark county. Mrs. Mur-

chison was principally reared and educated in Marshall county. The Captain and his wife are the parents of three children. A. Clarence, who is married and engaged in the practice of dentistry in Tontion, Illinois; Lorena L., wife of William C. Palmer, an undertaker of Kewanee; and Frances C. J., who is well educated and is engaged in teaching in the Kewanee schools.

Since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, Captain Murchison has affiliated with the Republican party, and has been a staunch advocate of its principals. He has served as a delegate to county, congressional and state conventions, and for thirty years was a member of the Republican central committee of his township, serving as its chairman most of the time. For some years he was a member of the school board, and has also filled the offices of supervisor and township trustee. He is a prominent member and past commander of the Grand Army Post at Kewanee, and stands deservedly high in the esteem of his fellow citizens. Throughout his career of continued and far-reaching usefulness his duties have been performed with the greatest care, and his business interests have been so managed as to win him the confidence of the public and the prosperity which should always attend honorable effort.

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#### NICHOLAS BECKER.

In this enlightened age, when men of energy, industry and merit are rapidly pushing their way to the front, those who, by their own individual efforts, have won favor and fortune, may properly claim recognition. Years ago, when Illinois was entering

upon its era of growth and development and Henry county was laying its foundation for future prosperity, there came thither from all parts of the world men poor but honest, and with sturdy independence and determination to succeed that justly entitles them to representation in the history of the county. Among this class was numbered Nicholas Becker, who for many years was a highly esteemed citizen of the county.

He was a native of Hetttersdorf, Saarlouis, Prussia, and obtained a meagre education in the land of his birth. In 1853 he came to the new world and began life as a stranger in a strange land, entirely unfamiliar with the English language and the customs of the country. He was, however, willing to work, and possessed indomitable courage and perseverance. He obtained employment with the Illinois Central railroad at Chicago, with whom he remained until coming to Henry county in 1856, when he began work for the Rock Island Railroad Company. He remained in their employ, his home being in Geneseo, until 1870, when he secured a position with the Haywood & Smith Company, with which he was connected for eight years. Owing to his diligence, economy and industry during these years, he managed to accumulate a comfortable competence, and throughout the remainder of his life successfully engaged in gardening and stock raising on his own account.

On the 9th of March, 1858, at Cambridge, Illinois, Mr. Becker was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Bode, a native of Grosfreden, Germany, and to them were born five children, namely: Henry R. married Jennie Reams and resides in Elden, Iowa. Mary owns and occupies the old homestead at No. 108 South Oakwood ave-

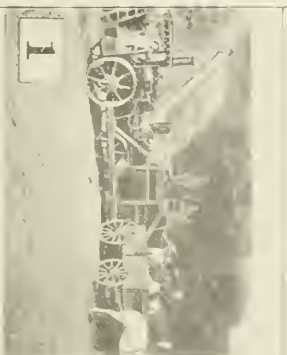
nue, Geneseo, and also owns other city property and some farm land. She is a member of the Catholic Church and is a most estimable lady. Caroline died in infancy. John J. married Bessie Kehoe and lives in Norman, Oklahoma. Carrie died in infancy.

After a useful and well-spent life Mr. Becker died February 14, 1892, at the age of sixty-eight years, and his wife passed away March 16, 1898, at the same age, the remains of both being interred at Geneseo. He was a devout member of the Catholic Church and was one of the first trustees of the church at Geneseo, which position he retained for a number of years. He was justly recognized as one of the energetic and representative citizens of his community, and he had the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact either in business or social life. His wife was a member of the German Lutheran Church, with which body she held membership during her life.

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#### V. W. CLOUGH.

Sound judgment combined with fine ability in mechanical lines has enabled the subject of this biography, a well-known resident of Geneseo, to attain a substantial success in life, and his history is of especial interest. He was born in Windham county, Vermont, January 20, 1856, a son of Harvey V. and Sophia L. (Heins) Clough, also natives of the Green Mountain state. His maternal grandfather was William Heins. The father, who was a very successful farmer, came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1857, and purchased a tract of woodland in Edford township. He converted the timber into cordwood, and that undertaking proved



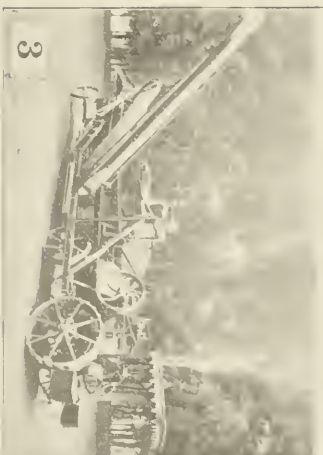
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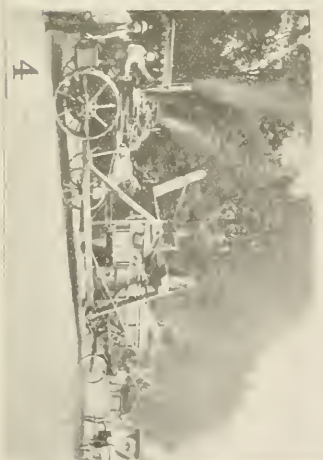
INVENTOR.



2



3



4

Clough's Steam Traction Separator, Geneseo, Illinois.

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quite profitable. He finally sold his property in that township and removed to Geneseo township, where he owned and operated a large farm, but spent the last few years of his life in retirement from active labor in Geneseo, where he died in 1899, at the age of sixty-nine years. He was an upright, honorable man, of most exemplary habits and liberal views, and was a Republican in politics. His estimable wife is still living, at the age of sixty-five years, an honored resident of Geneseo. In their family were eight children: V. W., of this review; Henry C., a resident of Davenport, Iowa; Frank, who died at the age of thirty years; Harry, who died in boyhood; Llewellyn, who died when a young man; Clyde M., a resident of Davenport; and two who died young.

Coming to this county during his infancy, V. W. Clough was educated in the public schools of Geneseo. He early became familiar with every detail of farm work in assisting his father, and grew up to be one of the most progressive and skillful farmers of his community. He made a thorough study of the business, ever seeking for the best methods of carrying on his work, and was what is properly termed a scientific farmer. For twenty years he followed that occupation with good results. Possessing much mechanical ingenuity and very handy with tools, he finally turned his attention to manufacturing enterprises. He has invented many contrivances and some very important machinery, including the first successful traction separator, which consists of a traction engine coupled to a threshing separator in such a way that it makes the two machines into one. It can be moved forward or backward without removing the main drive belt; is always set and always in line; and is absolutely safe from fire. He built his first ma-

chine in sixty days in 1898 after having devoted three years to practical observation and to the study of old machines being operated in the fields. His machine was first tested in Illinois, and then shipped to Minnesota, being used in the large wheat fields in that state, also in North and South Dakota and in Oklahoma. In this undertaking Mr. Clough has been unassisted. The practical working of the machine in the fields has been its best recommendation and has secured the most sales. A large expense is saved in help and labor as it moves one-third easier than other machines, and nearly one-fourth easier when threshing. It is consequently also a fuel and water saver. The first machine was so complete that little changes have since been made. Mr. Clough has listened to thousands of gratuitous suggestions, but has not found it feasible to change the pattern. In furnishing the engraving on another page, Mr. Clough writes:

Illustration No. 1 was taken while in operation, threshing for Chas. O. Monter July 28, 1898. I threshed about sixty acres of heavy oats, stacking the straw on a pole shed for his stock. This straw stack was over one hundred feet long, only a small portion of it being shown in photo. I moved the machine four times in threshing this job, and while moving there were no belts removed and the separator never stopped running. It was such a surprise to the grain man watching the operation he forgot to place the wagon under the grain spout, and the weigher dumped several half-bushels on the ground. The only time lost in setting this combination is waiting for the farmer to get his grain wagon in place. Time saved, however, is about one day in a week over the old way in Illinois and two days in the great wheat field of the Northwest.



No. 2 is what is called a perfect "set." This photo was taken while threshing for H. Pritchard, August 1st. This "set" eliminates all fire danger. The smoke and sparks from the engine will be noticed blowing backward, the straw stack some forty feet to one side and a little to the front. The wind may blow a gale and threshing can go on with perfect safety. This "set" will leave grain slide clear from all dirt and be clean for engine. This is a "slight catering wind set."

No. 3 shows the main or drive belt side of the traction separator.

No. 4 is the opposite side of traction separator with the inventor at the steering wheel with hand on throttle ready to move the machine backward or forward. It is guided easier, leveled quicker than can be done with two machines the old way.

Mr. Clough has also invented a self-feeder for threshing machines, which is very simple, consisting of a band cutter and carrier, having none of the complicated shake boards found in other machines. This invention is all his own and the secret of its success is the way the grain is fed to the cylinder of the thresher. With eight men pitching from four ricks into the feeder it seems hungry for more grain. It has been estimated by competent judges that this feeder is capable of receiving and threshing ten bushels of grain per minute. Another of Mr. Clough's inventions is the combination water, coal and straw tender attached to traction engines which carries the water and coal supply in the coal burning districts and the straw used as fuel in the great wheat fields of the north. These inventions will all be manufactured at the factory established by our subject at Geneseo. In business affairs he is energetic prompt and notably reliable and

his upright, honorable course in life commends him to the confidence of all. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and socially affiliates with the Masonic fraternity, Stewart Lodge, No. 92, A. F. & A. M.

On the 18th of May, 1880, Mr. Clough was united in marriage with Miss Josie Thayer, a native of New York and a daughter of Henry and Emily Thayer. After the Civil war her father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to Illinois and settled at Woodhull, Henry county. He was a most upright and worthy citizen of that place for many years, and died in 1894, at the age of sixty-five. His wife is now a resident of Aurora, Illinois, and is about sixty years of age. Their children were Josie, wife of our subject; Carrie, wife of Charlie Hart; and Robert, a resident of Alpha, Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Clough have two children: Leslie V. and Florence S. During the Spanish-American war Leslie V. Clough enlisted in Company B, Sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment went from Springfield into camp at Camp Alger, and later to Porto Rico. He was finally mustered out of service, and on his return home completed a business course at Moline. He is a young man of good habits and much promise. He has had much experience as an engineer and is a first class workman in that line, to which he has devoted considerable attention since the early age of nine years.

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#### WILLIAM A. REMINGTON.

There are in every community men of great force of character and exceptional ability, who by reason of their capacity for



leadership become recognized as foremost citizens, and bear a most important part in the development and progress of the locality with which they are connected. Such a man is William A. Remington, mayor of Geneseo, Illinois, and manager of all the stockyards on the Rock Island railroad system.

He was born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, on the 29th of April, 1830, and is a son of Samuel W. and Harriett (Reed) Remington, also natives of the old Bay state. His paternal grandparents were Enoch and Ruth (Kent) Remington, the former of whom died January 1, 1794, at the early age of twenty-five years, while the latter survived until the 24th of May, 1857. Shortly after the birth of our subject his parents removed to Warren, Rhode Island, where the father engaged in mercantile business until his death, which occurred in 1850. His wife survived him several years and died at her home in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1877. Both were active members of the Congregational Church, and he affiliated with the old Whig party, but never took a prominent part in political affairs, although he was a public-spirited man and an advocate of all that tend to improve or advance the community in which he lived. In his family were five children, four sons and one daughter, namely: Harriet, who married Simeon Tallbot, a contractor of Providence, Rhode Island, and died leaving three children, one of whom is Ella, wife of Charles H. Boyer, assistant superintendent of the public schools of Philadelphia; William A., our subject, who is second in order of birth; Samuel and John N., both retired merchants of Providence, Rhode Island; and Samuel A., who died in infancy.

Being taken by his parents to Warren, Rhode Island, during his infancy, William

A. Remington was reared in that city and educated in its common schools. In 1850 he embarked in business at that place, but four years later removed to Providence, where he conducted a mercantile establishment until going to Davenport, Iowa, in 1856. He was one of the leading merchants of that city until 1861, when he was appointed route agent on the Rock Island railroad during President Lincoln's administration. During his residence in Davenport he also served as city treasurer for eleven years. In 1872 Mr. Remington came to Geneseo, Illinois, and was made manager of stockyards for the Rock Island Railroad Company, being associated with Colonel Galligan, now deceased, for ten years. He has held that responsible position continuously since, and now has charge of all the stockyards of the system, which require his services in Kansas, Iowa and Illinois.

In 1855 Mr. Remington was united in marriage with Miss Maria L. Cole, a daughter of Ebenezer and Maria (Thompson) Cole, of Warren, Rhode Island. Throughout his active business life her father was engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods. Both he and his wife died in Warren. They were the parents of four children, of whom two are still living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Remington have been born three children, but only one survives: Henry W., born in Rhode Island, married Annie E. Watson, of Bristol, that state, and has for some years been connected with the Merchant Publishing Company of Chicago, where he makes his home. Minnie, born in Davenport, Iowa, died at the age of eight years, and William Gibbs died at the age of fourteen months.

Mr. Remington has been a director of the First National Bank of Geneseo for many years. Socially he is a prominent Mason.

having taken the degrees of the Scottish Rite and the Mystic Shrine, and politically he is an ardent Republican. On coming to Geneseo he at once became identified with public affairs, and his fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability, have called upon him to fill the highest office of their city. He is now efficiently serving his fourth term as mayor of the city, and the reins of city government have never been in more capable hands, for he is a progressive man, pre-eminently public-spirited, and all that pertains to the public welfare receives his hearty endorsement.

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### JOHN M. HATCH.

After an active and useful life, mainly devoted to agricultural pursuits, J. M. Hatch is now living retired in Kewanee, Illinois. He is a native of the Green Mountain state, his birth having occurred in Caledonia county, March 10, 1827, and is a son of Moses and Jane (Gates) Hatch, natives of Maine and Vermont, respectively. The father became a prosperous farmer of the latter state, where he owned and operated two hundred and fifty acres of land, and as one of the leading men of his community he was honored with town offices. He died in April, 1858, at the age of sixty-four years, having long survived his wife, who was only thirty-four at the time of her death. In religious belief they were Presbyterians. In their family were six children, namely: Jane, who became the wife of A. L. Clark and died in January, 1848, at the age of twenty-seven years, leaving two children, Horace and Wallace; Martha, who became the wife of Samuel Page and died in 1851, at the age of twenty-six, leaving one child, Martha, who

died in 1852, when only two years and a half old; Eliza, who died at the age of eighteen months J. M., our subject; Horace, who died in March, 1843, at the age of fourteen years and a half; and Eliza, the second of that name, who is the wife of S. D. Lyle of Neponset, Illinois, and has three children, Charles, Herbert and Maxwell.

During his boyhood and youth J. M. Hatch became familiar with agricultural pursuits upon the home farm, where he was reared and acquired a good knowledge of the common English branches in the schools of the neighborhood. After completing his education he worked in a sawmill, a brick kiln, and at the carpenter's trade for a time, and operated his father's farm one year. On coming west in 1851 he located in Stark county, the nearest town of any importance at that time being Henry. He purchased land in Elmira township, and meeting with success in his farming operations he became the owner of five hundred acres of valuable land, a portion of which he has since divided among his children. Some of this property was in Henry county. In February, 1895, he removed to Kewanee where he built a fine home with all modern appliances for comfort and economy, where he has since lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He was one of the original stockholders of the Union Bank of Kewanee.

On the 24th of February, 1853, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Hatch and Miss Roxana Lyle, also a native of Vermont and a daughter of William Lyle, who brought his family to Illinois in 1834 and became one of the pioneers of Stark county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in the fall of 1858, at the age of fifty-five years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Atlanta Darling, passed away in 1885, at the

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J. M. HATCH.



MRS. J. M. HATCH

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age of seventy-seven years. She was a member of the Congregational Church, and the mother of fifteen children, fourteen of whom reached adult ages and ten are still living. In order of birth they were as follows: Elizabeth, wife of William G. Perkins, of Elmira, Illinois Thomas, deceased; Thomas, the second of that name, who died at Pikes Peak in 1859; Stephen D., a resident of Neponset, Illinois; Roxana, wife of our subject; Walter and Jennette, twins, the former a resident of Dakota county, Nebraska, the latter the wife of John L. Price of Republic county, Kansas; Julia, deceased wife of Silas Paten; Lydia J., who died at the age of twenty years; George W., who enlisted in 1864 with the one-hundred-day men called out by Governor Yates, and died in the service at the age of twenty years; Franklin, a farmer of Elmira, Illinois; Norris, a farmer of Modena, Stark county; Emeline, wife of William Berry, of Reno, Nevada; Lucinda, wife of David Moffit; and Rufus D., a resident of Neponset, Illinois.

Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hatch, Horace died at the age of thirteen months and Burton at the age of fifteen months. Clara E. is the wife of Charles N. Good, a farmer of Elmira, Stark county, and they have two children, Maxwell C. and Martha. Cora L. married first John Wilcox, by whom she had one child, Burton B., and for her second husband she married Albert Early, a farmer of Kewanee township, this county. Martha J. died at about the age of eleven years. Orin L., a farmer of Elmira, Stark county, married Mrs. Minnie (Barry) Higgins, widow of James Higgins, by whom she had one child, Nevada. By her marriage with Mr. Hatch she had two children: Bertha; and John, who died at the age of one year and two weeks.

By his ballot our subject supports the men and measures of the Democracy, and he has filled minor township offices. Having always taken a deep interest in educational affairs, he efficiently served as school director for some time. While a resident of Stark county he served for ten years as director and treasurer of the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, but resigned the office on his removal to Kewanee. He is a man of genial disposition, is progressive and public-spirited, and holds a high place in the esteem of his fellow citizens.

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#### WILLIAM L. KIRKPATRICK.

This well-known and popular photographer of Geneseo is a native of Illinois, born in Vermilion county, February 25, 1841, and is a son of Dr. William Kirkpatrick, who was for many years a prominent and successful physician of Tiskilwa, Bureau county, this state. The father was born in New Athens, Harrison county, Ohio, July 17, 1817. In his youth his health was not the best, and for that reason his attention was called to the consideration of medicine, which resulted finally in his becoming a practicing physician. In Knox county, Ohio, he was married, April 25, 1840, to Mrs. Cornelia (Benson) Guin, who by her former marriage had two children: Abel died in Chicago, aged fifty-two years, and Lewis, who died when one year old, while on the way across the country with his parents coming west. Of the children born to the Doctor, William L., our subject, is the oldest; Sarah is the wife of William H. Whalen, of Des Moines, Iowa; Mary E. is the wife of Frank Haskins, of Sioux City, Iowa; Lyman died at



the age of nineteen years; and Margaret A. is the wife of George Dexter, of Tiskilwa, Illinois. In the fall of 1851 Dr. Kirkpatrick moved to Tiskilwa, where he was engaged in practice until 1863, when he opened a drug store at that place and conducted it until his death, which occurred July 26, 1888. He was widely and favorably known and was held in high regard by a large circle of friends. In his political views he was a strong Republican, and for a score of years was an efficient member of the board of education in his town. His estimable wife, who was born in Hartford, Connecticut, February 29, 1816, a daughter of Lyman Benson, is still one of the honored residents of Tiskilwa. She is one of the pioneers of this section. In 1836 she drove an ox team from Knox county, Ohio, to Keokuk, Iowa, her only companion being her sick husband, who died while on the journey, and the child Lewis, who also died while on that trip. She has been a life-long and active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

William L. Kirkpatrick, of this review, grew to manhood in Tiskilwa, and received a good common-school education. From the age of fifteen years he followed telegraphing at various places, and was dispatcher at Geneseo in 1857. In 1856 he began learning the old daguerreotype process of making pictures and in 1858 he learned the ambrotype process and in 1860 commenced taking photographs. He has since devoted his attention to that business, always keeping abreast with the advancement and progress made in the science. In March, 1869, he opened a studio in Geneseo, and now has one of the best equipped galleries in this section of the state, it being supplied with the latest improved apparatus

needed in the business. He has gained an enviable reputation as one of the best photographers in this section, and his patronage comes from a wide extent of territory, having at the present writing work from Cambridge and Atchison, Illinois, Grinnell, Iowa, and other cities. He is very progressive and has invented a device for taking stamp pictures, giving fifteen different positions or expressions. This instrument makes one, two, four, eight or fifteen pictures all on one plate.

On the 17th of July, 1862, Mr. Kirkpatrick married Miss R. F. Trask, a native of Maine, and a daughter of William Trask, who with his family was living in Buda, Illinois, at the time of our subject's marriage. By this union there is one child, Hali T., collector in a store in Pueblo, Colorado. The son was married, in 1895, to Emma Koster, who has been blind for the past two years, supposedly the result of an attack of smallpox. Owing to ill health Mrs. Kirkpatrick has resided with her son in Colorado for the past two years. She is a member of the Unitarian Church.

At national elections Mr. Kirkpatrick supports the Republican party, but in local affairs votes independently of party lines. He has served as secretary of the board of health for nearly five years, and was alderman from the First ward two years. He is one of Geneseo's leading business men and honored citizens, and well deserves the success that has come to him.

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#### THOMAS MCCLURE.

Among Kewanee's leading citizens and prominent business men is numbered Thomas McClure, who was born in Knox

county, Illinois, May 16, 1848, a son of Daniel and Laura Ann (Little) McClure. The Little family is of Puritan descent, and was founded in America by one of the passengers of the Mayflower. Our subject's father was born in Ireland of Scotch parentage, and when a young man came to the United States. He first located in New York, where he was connected with A. T. Stewart for some time, they having been schoolmates in the old country. Coming to Illinois, in 1836, he visited what is now Henry county, but decided to locate at Cairo, where he spent some years. He would build flatboats, which he would load with produce and float down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where he would dispose of his stock, sell his boat for wood and return to Cairo and repeat the operation. This business he followed several years and was very successful in the enterprise. Later he was engaged in general merchandising in that city with a partner for some time, but finally sold out in 1848 and returned to Henry county. He erected a store building in Wethersfield, which he stocked with everything needed by the early settlers. He was one of the pioneer merchants of the place, as only one man was engaged in business there when he opened his general store. Instead of money, which was scarce among the early settlers, he received mostly produce in exchange for his goods, and this he would sell in Lacon and Peoria, or sometimes Chicago, driving cattle and hogs to those cities, where he received for dressed hogs only seventy-five cents or a dollar per hundred. He continued in that line of business for about twelve years and later dealt in real estate, and was an extensive owner of real estate in the county. He died at Wethersfield February 16, 1893, at the age

of nearly ninety-one years, in the house which had been his home for forty-five years. His first wife had passed away in 1852, leaving two children: Thomas, our subject; and William B., also a resident of Kewanee. For his second wife the father married Matilda Case, a native of Indiana, who died in 1895. From the organization of the Republican party he was a supporter of its principles, and always took an active interest in public affairs, though he never would accept office, with the exception of school trustee, which he filled for a number of years. He was very successful in business, was a good financier and an excellent judge of men. His circle of friends and acquaintances was extensive, and he was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. He was reared in the Presbyterian faith, and, though not a member of any church, he gave liberally to all, and was very charitable and benevolent.

Reared in Wethersfield, Thomas McClure received his early education in the primitive schools of pioneer days, which he attended until fifteen years of age. In the meantime the Civil war had broken out, and, imbued with a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted in February, 1863, in Company H, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, which was assigned to General Wilson's corps and sent to Memphis, Tennessee. He remained in the service and was in all the engagements of his regiment until the close of the war. He was mustered out at Selma, Alabama, October 30, 1865.

Returning to Kewanee he attended school two winters and then commenced farming in Wethersfield township on ninety acres of land belonging to his father. He followed that pursuit successfully for twenty

years, and is still the owner of two hundred and fifty acres of land in Kewanee township and one hundred and thirty-three acres in Annawan township. On his retirement from farming he engaged in buying and selling stock for some years, but discontinued that business on his removal to Kewanee in 1893, shortly before the death of his father. He has since been interested in the real estate and loan business, and in 1899, in connection with Frank A. Cahow built the Kewanee Opera House, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, but has since purchased his partner's interest. It is one of the finest buildings of the kind in any town the size of Kewanee in the country, while the scenery and general appointments would do credit to a city ten times as large. The stage is 40x60 feet; there are ten dressing rooms, supplied with hot and cold water; and in fact all modern appliances and conveniences of a first-class theater are here found. Mr. McClure secures only the best entertainments of high moral character and does all in his power to satisfy the wishes and desires of his patrons. He is also the owner of ninety acres of land in Wethersfield township.

On the 27th of May, 1867, Mr. McClure married Miss Jane Atherton, a native of Henry county, and a daughter of Milton Atherton, now deceased, who was one of the early settlers of Stark county, Illinois, where he followed farming for many years. Mrs. McClure is the sixth in order of birth in a family of nine children, the others being as follows: Phebe A., wife of Cyrus Pratt, of Murray, Iowa; A. S., a Methodist Episcopal minister, who is now engaged in farming in Nevada, Missouri; Joseph C., a resident of West Jersey, Stark county, Illinois; Eliza Ellen, widow of

Alexander Johnson and a resident of California; Kate, wife of J. M. Jones, of Lafayette, Stark county; Jasper, a farmer of Nevada, Missouri; Emma, widow of John Coucins of the same place; and Carrie, wife of Dorington M. Good, of Wethersfield township, this county. Mr. and Mrs. McClure are the parents of three children, namely: (1) Fred D., general manager of the Gail Borden condensed milk factory at Elgin, Illinois, married Mattie McVicker, and they have three children, Leland, Sadie and Maxie. (2) Emma Edith is the wife of Ira J. Dunlap, of Johnson county, Illinois. (3) Sadie died March 15, 1888, at the age of fifteen years.

Fraternally Mr. McClure is an honored member of Julius A. Pratt Post, No. 143, G. A. R., in which he has held nearly all the offices, and politically he is identified with the Republican party. He served one term as supervisor of Kewanee, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his undivided attention to his business interests. He possesses untiring energy, is quick of perception, forms his plans readily and is determined in their execution; and his close application to business and excellent management have brought to him the high degree of prosperity which is to-day his.

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#### JOHN LEWIS.

For half a century, John Lewis, now deceased, was one of the highly esteemed citizens of Henry county, and in early life was prominently identified with its agricultural interests, though he was living a retired life in Geneseo at the time of his death, which occurred March 5, 1900. He was born in Penn-

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JOHN LEWIS.



MRS. JOHN LEWIS.

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sylvania, April 17, 1820, but was only three years old when he removed with his parents to Jackson county, Ohio, where he continued to make his home for several years. During his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the labors of the home farm, and early acquired an excellent knowledge of the occupation to which he devoted his active life.

In 1847 Mr. Lewis wedded Miss Mary Cozad, of Ohio, and three years later came to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Cornwall township, where he purchased land, and successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising for several years, accumulating a large property. In 1878 he laid aside all business cares and removed to Geneseo, where he lived retired until his death. He was called upon to fill nearly all the local offices of his township, and in all the relations of life was found true and faithful to every trust reposed in him. He commanded the confidence and respect of his associates and was held in high regard by all who knew him.

Mr. Lewis' first wife died in 1897. By that union he had fourteen children, namely: William, deceased; Abraham, a resident of Cornwall township; Samuel, who lives in Atkinson township, this county; George W., who is engaged in farming in Jasper county, Illinois; John and Stephen, both residents of Cornwall township; Francis M., of Peoria county, Illinois; Charles A., of Kansas City, Missouri; Charity, wife of James Fell, of Geneseo; Alfred, of Munson township, this county; Robert, of Kansas City, Missouri; Mary, wife of George Hudson, of Indian Territory; Albert, who died in infancy; and Andrew, of Spring Creek, Illinois.

On the 29th of November, 1899, Mr. Lewis married Mrs. Kate Crain, a native of McHenry county, Illinois. Her parents,

Horace and Rebecca (Warner) Mitchell, were born in New York state, and on coming to Illinois about 1850 settled in McHenry county. Her father was a railroad conductor, and was with the Rock Island road for nearly fifty years, during which time he made his home in Geneseo. He was killed while in the discharge of his duties in 1877. Mrs. Lewis' mother had died many years before, and for his second wife he married Eva Mitchell, by whom he had two children. There were five children by the first marriage and four of the number are still living, Mrs. Lewis being the third in order of birth. Mr. Mitchell was a prominent Mason and took an active interest in the work of that order. Mrs. Lewis' first husband was Bruce Crain, who was born in New York state, and was only two years old when brought by his parents to this county, the family locating in Atkinson township. Mr. Crain was a soldier of the Civil war and followed the carpenter's trade for many years. By her first marriage Mrs. Lewis has two sons: Albert, who was born in Kansas in 1877, now employed in the boiler shop at Kewanee, and who served as a soldier in the Spanish-American war in Porto Rico; and Frank, who was born in 1886 and lives with his mother in Geneseo, and is attending the high school.

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#### JOHN FISCHER.

Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful business men of Kewanee is the subject of this sketch, whose life history most happily illustrates what may be attained by faithful and continued effort in carrying out an honest purpose. Integrity, activity and energy have been the

crowning points of his success, and his connection with the various business enterprises and industries have been of decided advantage to Kewanee, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner.

Mr. Fischer was born in Schaffhausen, Prussia, Germany, February 20, 1858, and attended the public schools of his native land from the age of six until coming to America with his parents, Peter and Marguerite Fischer, in 1870. The family arrived on the 27th of June at Kewanee, where our subject's oldest brother, Nicholas, had located in 1867. Here the father worked in the mines for some years, having been a mine carpenter and boss in Germany. He was born in 1820, and died in 1878, while his wife was born in March, 1820, and died on the seventy-second anniversary of her birth. In their family were ten children, namely: Nicholas, who died in 1870, at the age of twenty-three years; Michael, who conducts a meat market at Kewanee; Mary, wife of Joseph Hoffrichter of the same place; Elizabeth, widow of C. G. Bauer; Margaret, widow of John Streicher; Peter, who died in infancy; John, our subject; Peter, a business man of Kewanee; Carl, who died in infancy; and Mitchell, who died in this county at the age of six years. The family are communicants of the Catholic Church.

After coming to this country John Fischer attended a country school in Kewanee township for two years and then began his business career by working in the mines with his father for three weeks, which he says was one of the happiest periods of his life. He then worked on a farm for two years, and at the end of that time began delivering groceries for the firm of Wood & Lewis. When those gentlemen

dissolved partnership he found employment with the Haxtun steam heater works at seventy-five cents per day, but three months later L. W. Lewis again embarked in the grocery business and persuaded our subject to again enter his services. He remained with him five years, and then clerked for M. C. Quinn one year, at the end of which time he purchased Mr. Lewis' store and continued in the grocery business alone for three years. He was a member of the firm of Fischer & Mahew from 1884 to 1889, and then sold out to his partner and embarked in the real estate and loan business, which he still carries on. He has a government broker's license, for which he pays fifty dollars per year, and does the largest business in his line in the city. In 1890 when C. C. Blish was president of the First National Bank he induced Mr. Fischer to buy some stock, and at the following election our subject was made a director, which position he has filled ever since. For the past five years he has served as vice-president. He is also a stockholder, secretary and treasurer of the Kewanee Coal & Mining Company. He is the owner of the Fischer building, which is the oldest brick store building in Kewanee. This he has remodeled and converted into one of the nicest store and office buildings in the city. He also owns five new store and office buildings in Chicago. He does an extensive business in buying and selling mortgages for friends and clients, having handled over three hundred thousand dollars worth, but has foreclosed only one and that was a friendly foreclosure. He makes loans in Kewanee, Chicago and elsewhere.

On the 2nd of October, 1883, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage with Miss Etta R. Lyle, a native of Kewanee and a

daughter of George and Sarah (Snugs) Lyle. Her father was also born in Henry county, but her mother's birth occurred in London, England. They were married in Kewanee, and here both died at an early age, leaving four children: George, now a farmer of Monroe, Jasper county, Iowa; William H., who married Mollie P. Shropshire and lives in Kewanee; and Etta R., wife of our subject. One son, John, died in childhood. These children were reared by the paternal grandfather, John Lyle, who was born at or near Paisley, Scotland, July 29, 1806, and was brought to America by his mother in 1816, joining his father, William Lyle, in Alexandria, Virginia. Two years later the family removed to Caledonia county, Vermont, where his father died in 1834, at the age of sixty-six. In 1836 John Lyle came to Illinois, and entered a tract of land in Elmhurst township, Stark county, where he was joined by his mother and the other members of the family a year later. The mother lived to the advanced age of ninety-five years. Mr. Lyle received only a limited education in the subscription schools, and was entirely a self-made man, who through his own unaided efforts became quite wealthy. Although almost sixty years of age he enlisted March 24, 1864, in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served until his term expired on the 25th of the following October. In Vermont he was married, June 19, 1833, to Miss Hester D. Craig, who was to him a faithful helpmate throughout a long married life. Their only child, George Lyle, the father of Mrs. Fischer, was born in October, 1834, and died May 19, 1862. The grandfather died in July, 1889, at the age of eighty-three, and his wife passed away

in May, 1897, at the age of seventy-nine. From Stark county they came to Henry county at an early day, and were numbered among its honored and highly respected citizens.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fischer have been born five children, as follows: Haydn L., who is attending the high school of Kewanee; J. Emmons; Marguerite, who died July 2, 1893, at the age of two years and a half; Lawrence, who died in 1896, at the age of fourteen months; and George Lyle. The mother and children are members of the Episcopal Church, while Mr. Fischer is a Catholic in religious belief. Since casting his first presidential vote for James A. Garfield he has affiliated with the Republican party, but has never cared for political honors. He had no capital on starting out in life for himself, and as a farm hand worked for one hundred dollars the first year and one hundred and twenty dollars the second, which amount went to the support of his widowed mother. His record is therefore that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way upward to a position of affluence. His life has been one of industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable business methods he has followed have won for him the confidence and respect of those with whom he has been brought in contact. He is a man of fine personal appearance and excellent business qualifications.

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#### EMERY C. GRAVES.

Emery C. Graves, of Geneseo, has attained distinction as one of the able members of the Henry county bar, and is now most capably and satisfactorily serving as

states attorney. In this profession probably more than in any other success depends upon individual merit, upon a thorough understanding of the principles of jurisprudence, a power of keen analysis, and the ability to present clearly, concisely and forcibly the strong points in his cause. Possessing these necessary qualifications, Mr. Graves is accorded a foremost place in the ranks of the profession in this county.

He was born in Cherry Creek township, Chautauqua county, New York, January 19, 1853, and is a son of Calvin S. and Martha K. (Kingsley) Graves, also natives of that state, the former born in Herkimer county, the latter in Chautauqua county. On first coming to Illinois, in the spring of 1853, the father located at Earlville, La Salle county, but remained there only one season before coming to Yorktown township, Henry county, where he followed farming until 1865. He then embarked in the furniture business in Geneseo and later turned his attention to the drug trade. He is still an honored resident of this place. He was seventy-six years of age on the 20th of June, 1900, and his wife was seventy-three on the 25th of February, that year. She holds membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their children are Mrs. Grace A. Sweeney, of Geneseo; and Emery C., of this review.

The first thirteen years of his life Emery C. Graves spent upon a farm. After completing his education in the schools of Geneseo, he commenced the study of law in the offices of Buckles & Twells, with which firm he remained until the former's death, when he entered the office of George E. Waite. Subsequently he attended law school at Madison, Wisconsin, and after his graduation in 1874 opened an office in Janesville, that state, where he engaged in the practice of

the law. Returning to Geneseo in 1876, he has since followed his chosen profession at this place, and has built up quite a large and lucrative practice in the state and federal courts. He has had many notable cases, and has served as city attorney ten consecutive years, while prior to that time he held the same office for about two years. In the fall of 1889 he was first elected states attorney, and so acceptably did he fill that office that he has been constantly re-elected. He has proved a most efficient man for the place, and is a veritable terror to evil doers.

Mr. Graves is married and has had two children. May, the older, received her literary education in the Geneseo common schools and the Collegiate Institute, and is now attending the Chicago Art Institute. She possesses remarkable musical and artistic talent, being specially proficient in drawing. Kathryn, the younger, died in her infancy. Mrs. Graves was for several years a successful teacher in the public schools of Geneseo, and is a member of the Congregational Church.

Socially Mr. Graves is a prominent Mason, belonging to Stewart Lodge, No. 92, F. & A. M., of Geneseo; Barrett Chapter, R. A. M., and Evarts Commandery, both of Rock Island; and Kaaba Temple, of the Mystic Shrine, of Davenport, Iowa. Politically he has always been an ardent Republican, and besides the offices connected with his profession he has twice served as mayor of Geneseo. Never were the reins of city government in more capable hands for he is pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, and gives his support to every enterprise for the public good. He is a man of fine appearance, is genial and pleasant in manner, and very popular, having a most extensive circle of friends

and acquaintances. In business affairs he has steadily prospered and is the owner of one of the most beautiful homes of Geneseo. Holding marked precedence among the members of the bar of Henry county, and retaining a clientele of so representative a character as to alone stand in evidence of his professional ability and personal popularity, Mr. Graves must assuredly be accorded a place in this volume.

### CORNELIUS HAYES.

This highly respected citizen of Geneseo is the possessor of a handsome property, which now enables him to spend his years in the pleasurable enjoyment of his accumulations. The record of his early life is that of an active, enterprising methodical and sagacious business man, who bent his energies to the honorable acquirement of a comfortable competence for himself and family.

Mr. Hayes was born in Ballaugh, Clonouty Parish, County Tipperary, Ireland, August 1, 1832, a son of Laurence and Alice (Ryan) Hayes, who spent their entire lives in that country. The father was a cooper by trade, but also followed the occupation of farming throughout life. He died at the age of seventy-six years, his wife at the age of seventy-six. To this worthy couple were born ten children, four sons and six daughters, but our subject, the youngest of the sons, is the only male representative of the family now living, though four sisters are still living. (1) Laurence engaged in farming on the old homestead in Ireland and died there about two years ago. (2) Ella married John O'Brien, a farmer of section 32, Alba township, this county, and both are now de-

ceased. (3) Mary is the wife of Cornelius Dwyer, a prominent farmer of Alba township. (4) Alice is the widow of Uriah Jennings, who was a farmer of Lyons, New York. (5) Bridget is the wife of Patrick McLaughlin, a retired farmer living on Oakwood avenue, Geneseo. (6) Margaret is the wife of James Dwyer, a retired farmer of Geneseo, Illinois.

The first twenty years of his life Cornelius Hayes spent in the land of his nativity, and received his early education in the private schools of his birthplace. On laying aside his text books he learned the cooper's trade. In 1852 he came to America, landing at New York, and in that city and at Seneca Falls, New York, he followed that occupation for a time. In the spring of 1853, however, he commenced farming at Junius, Seneca county, New York, where he remained five years, and then removed to Springfield, Illinois, where he was engaged in farming two years.

On the 4th of March, 1860, Mr. Hayes came to Henry county, having purchased land the year before on section 32, Alba township. It was a wild tract on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made, but he at once erected a good, substantial house, barns and other buildings, and finally placed the eighty acres under excellent cultivation. After residing there four years, he bought an additional tract of two hundred and forty acres on sections 20 and 21, the same township, but two years later sold the homestead of eighty acres, and purchased two hundred and forty acres on sections 29 and 20, and ten acres in section 9, Alba township. This was also a wild, uncultivated tract, which he converted into a fine farm, erecting on section 21 an elegant residence at a cost of three thousand



dollars, and two large barns on section 20. Here he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising until March, 1883, when he rented his farm of four hundred and eighty acres in Alba township and moved to Annawan, where he had built a hotel a number of years before. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of farming land on section 10, of Annawan township, just eighty rods south of the village, and while operating that farm for twelve years he used the hotel as his private dwelling. Subsequently he spent about a year and three months in Blue Island, Illinois, at the end of which time he sold his hotel in Annawan, and on the 6th of May, 1897, took up his residence in Geneseo, where he has purchased a fine home on College avenue, and is now living retired, surrounded by all the comforts that make life worth the living.

On the 1st of December, 1872, at Geneseo, Mr. Hayes married Miss Margaret J. Smith, who was born February 24, 1852, a daughter of John and Ellen (Stewart) Smith. Her father, who was a prominent farmer of Bureau county, Illinois, died at the home of our subject in Annawan, and her mother's death occurred in Gold township, Bureau county. Mrs. Hayes is the fourth in order of birth in their family of twelve children, ten of whom are still living, two sons being deceased. Our subject and his wife have one child, Alice E., who was born in Annawan, April 22, 1883, and has attended the public schools of that village, St. Benedict's school of Blue Island and the high school of Geneseo.

Mr. Hayes gives his political support to the men and measures of the Democratic party, and represented Alba township on the board of supervisors six years. He also

served as township treasurer eight and a half years, commissioner nine years, and assessor fourteen years in Alba township; and for many years was also a school director there and in Annawan. In religious faith he is a Roman Catholic and takes an active interest in church work. His success in life has been marvelous. As a young man of twenty years he came to America, and with no capital started out in a strange land to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in the path to prosperity. His youthful dreams have been realized, and in their happy fulfillment he sees the fitting reward of his earnest toil.

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#### THE SWEDISH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF KEWANEE.

The year after the organization of the village of Kewanee, in 1854, the Swedes began to move in but only a few remained permanently, and it was not until September, 1869, that a congregation could be organized with sixteen members. It belongs to the Ev. Lutheran Augustana Synod.

In 1870 a church was built for three thousand dollars. The congregation continued for sixteen years to be served by non-resident pastors. In 1886 Rev. S. A. Becklund accepted a call and staid four years, increasing the membership to one hundred and ninety-two. On account of scarcity of ministers the congregation was now left vacant for two years.

In 1891 a theological student from Augustana College and Theological Seminary, at Rock Island, Illinois, was called to have charge of the congregation until a permanent pastor could be secured. Instead

of renovating the old church a new church building was immediately begun and completed the following year, 1892, costing eleven thousand dollars. This same year Rev. S. G. Youngert, was ordained, and, having won the esteem and confidence of the congregation as a faithful student, he was called as pastor. He accepted and took charge of the congregation in June, 1892. Two years later a commodious parsonage was erected. Total value of church property fifteen thousand five hundred dollars.

After four and a half years Rev. Youngert resigned, the membership having increased in the meantime from one hundred and ninety-two to three hundred and four. The present pastor, Rev. J. M. Rydman, took up his work here June 1, 1897. The membership is now (January 1, 1901) three hundred and fifty-nine. Total income for 1900 three thousand two hundred and twenty-seven dollars and fifty-two cents. The auxiliaries are the Ladies' Sewing Society, and, among the young ladies, the Dorcas Society, and a Young People's Society.

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#### REV. J. M. RYDMAN.

Rev. J. M. Rydman, pastor of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kewanee, was born in Kronobergs Lan, Sweden, September 19, 1863, and received his primary education in the schools of that country. On coming to America at the age of seventeen years he joined some relatives in Colorado, where he attended a grammar school for one year, and then entered the first class of Bethany College at Lindsborg, Kansas; where he pursued his

studies four years. In 1887 he became a member of the sophomore class at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and was graduated with the degree of A. B. from the institution in 1890. He next attended the theological seminary connected with that college, where he was graduated in 1892, and the same year was ordained a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lindsborg, Kansas, by the president of the synod.

Mr. Rydman was first called to the pastorate of the Swedish church at Calumet, Michigan, where he remained five years, and during that time built an eleven-thousand dollar stone church and a parsonage costing four thousand dollars. He then accepted a call from the church at Kewanee, coming here on the 1st of June, 1897. He is a man of good address and winning manners. He is a zealous, active and efficient worker for the church, and is held in high esteem not only by the people of his own congregation, but by the residents of Kewanee generally.

On the 15th of June, 1892, Mr. Rydman was united in marriage with Miss Helena M. Lund, a native of Henry county and a daughter of John and Anna S. Lund. Her father was one of the early settlers of the county, having located here in 1854, and was engaged in farming in Andover township. He died some years ago, but his widow is still living and makes her home with her children. Mrs. Rydman is the sixth in order of birth in this family, comprising nine children. Our subject and his wife have two sons and two daughters, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Egbert, May 9, 1893; Annette, June 30, 1895; Philip, July 25, 1898; and Ruth, September 20, 1900.



Since coming to Kewanee Mr. Rydman has reduced the church debt two thousand dollars and has added fifty members to the church.

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### JOHN MCNEELEY.

John McNeeley, one of Kewanee's esteemed citizens, was for many years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, but at present is not actively engaged in any business. He has led an honorable and useful life, and is one of the men who make old age seem the better portion of life.

Mr. McNeeley was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, March 1, 1826, a son of John and Margaret (Redinbaugh) McNeel-ey, of Irish and German descent. His parents were both natives of Ohio, where their marriage was celebrated, and at an early day removed to Indiana, floating down the Ohio river on a flatboat. In the latter state they spent the remainder of their lives. Throughout his active business life the father engaged in farming. In the family were twelve children, nine sons and three daughters, of whom five sons are still living, and with the exception of our subject all are residents of Indiana. All have followed agricultural pursuits except William H., who is a carpenter of Crawfordsville, Indiana. He is a veteran of the Civil war, having served for over three years in an Indiana regiment.

Reared on the home farm, John McNeeley received but a limited education in the subscription schools of his native state. On reaching the age of twenty-one, he learned the carpenter's trade which he followed for six years or until coming to Illinois in 1851. On his arrival here he entered eighty acres of government land in

Henry county, and at once commenced to improve and cultivate his land. At that time the unbroken prairies stretched for miles in every direction, and abounded in wolves, deer and feathered game. Few towns had been established and Mr. McNeeley hauled his produce to Henry, which was then his nearest market place. Prospering in his new home he added to his original eighty-acre tract from time to time until he now owns four hundred and forty acres of very valuable land in Annawan township, which has been improved by him and placed under a high state of cultivation. He engaged in farming quite extensively, and also carried on stock raising, his specialty being short horn cattle. He also fed stock for shipment to the city markets. In 1890 he purchased a residence in Kewanee, and has since lived a retired life in that city, enjoying a well-earned rest.

Returning to Indiana, Mr. McNeeley was married, October 30, 1851, to Miss Catherine Slaughter, who was also born in Jefferson county, that state, October 2, 1827. She is a daughter of Jeremiah and Rebecca (Logan) Slaughter, the father a native of New York, and the mother of Ohio. They were early settlers of Indiana, where their death occurred. His occupation was that of a farmer. The father of Jeremiah Slaughter was a soldier in the war of 1812, while his grandfather, Isaac Slaughter, also a native of Orange county, New York, fought for seven years in the Revolutionary war, and later lived and died on his farm in New York. The family were of German descent. Rebecca Logan was a daughter of William Logan, who removed with his wife, Elizabeth Dement, from New Jersey to Ohio, locating in Montgomery county, where they were pioneers.

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MRS. JOHN McNEELEY.

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The children of Mr. and Mrs. McNeeley are as follows: Margaret A., wife of Seth Moon, of Annawan; John M., a farmer of Storm Lake, Iowa; Mary, at home; William H., a resident of Adair, Iowa; George, who died in infancy; Sarah Elizabeth, now Mrs. Elmer J. Troyer, of Lincoln, Nebraska; Dora, who married John Moon, and died in Iowa in 1893; Emma and Oliver. All the children received good common school educations, and Oliver was graduated from the Annawan high school, and later took a two-years' preparatory course at Knox college, Galesburg.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. McNeeley a staunch supporter of its principles, but he has never taken an active part in politics. He was officially connected with the public schools of Annawan township for many years, and has always done all in his power to maintain good schools. He was an active member and liberal supporter of the United Brethren Church, and on account of his strict integrity and sterling worth is recognized as a valued citizen of the community in which he resides.

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### THOMAS J. HUGHES.

Thomas J. Hughes, engineer of the Kewanee water works, was born in Liverpool, England, in 1856, and is a son of John and Ellen (Jones) Hughes, who are still living at Burkin Head, just across from Liverpool. The father was born in that country in 1835, but the mother's birth occurred in Wales in 1837. They are members of the established church of England, and the father served as organist for about twenty years. By occupation he, too, is an engineer, and for years has been superintendent of the Lon-

don & Northwestern Railway Company. His brother, William D., who once visited America, has also followed the life of an engineer during his entire business career. Our subject is the oldest of a family of eight children, the others being Catherine, who became the wife of Robert Evans and died in 1895, at the age of thirty-seven years; William, who died in Cardiganshire, South Wales; Anna, Ellen, and Ellen (second), who all died at about the age of two years; John, who united with the Presbyterian Church and died at the age of fourteen years; and David B., a resident of Wigan, England. Only our subject and his youngest brother are now living.

Having very limited school privileges during his youth, Thomas J. Hughes is almost wholly self-educated. He began life for himself as coal trimmer for firemen, and later was promoted to the latter position, and subsequently was made engineer. He served a two years' apprenticeship in a machine shop; went from there to the boiler shop, and later to the blacksmith shop, becoming very proficient in all of these branches of mechanics.

Before leaving England Mr. Hughes was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Roberts, who was born in North Wales, September 29, 1853, a daughter of James and Catherine (Jones) Roberts, of Anglesey, Wales, where the father is still living at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a contractor and builder in stone masonry, and for many years served as sexton of an Episcopal Church, in which he holds membership. He is well known and highly respected in the community where he has so long made his home. His parents were James and Elizabeth Roberts. In 1843 he married Catherine Jones, who died April 23, 1878,

at the age of fifty years. She was a loving wife, an affectionate mother, an excellent neighbor and a thorough Christian. In the Roberts family were eight children, namely: Elizabeth, who became the wife of Professor Richard Roberts and died at the age of fifty-six years; Thomas, a resident of New York, who first married Ellen Owens and second Mary Evans; John, a resident of Anglesey, Wales, who married for his second wife Jane Jones; Grace, wife of John E. Jones, of Carnarvonshire, Wales; Catherine, wife of our subject; Mary, who died unmarried at the age of thirty-two years; Margaret, who died in 1872, at the age of twelve; and James, who is married and lives in Wales.

In 1881 Mr. Hughes, with his wife and one child, came to the United States, arriving here a few weeks before the assassination of President Garfield. On reaching Castle Garden he had but a half penny remaining, and this was spent for an apple to appease the appetite of the child. After spending the night there in sleep upon the floor they boarded a slow-going emigrant train, and for three days, from Thursday to Saturday, were without food. Two years were spent in Wyoming county, New York, where Mr. Hughes soon found employment and was able to provide for his family. He then came to Kewanee, Illinois, and found a situation with John and Thomas Pierce in the Haxton Steam Heater Company's works, where his ability as a skilled workman was soon recognized, and in every way he proved an excellent and trustworthy employe. He remained with that company nine years, his work being core making. At the end of that time he became engineer at the Kewanee water works, and his long retention in that position plainly indicates his faithfulness to

duty and his excellent knowledge of the business undertaken.

Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes two, Maggie and James, died in infancy. Mary C., who was a type-setter before her marriage, is now the wife of Malcolm Dicks and lives at home with her parents; Darius R. is learning engineering, and being a bright boy and willing to work has become quite proficient for one of his years; Ellen J. is attending school; Grace Anna, John T. and Margaret B. are all at home.

Mr. Hughes now owns a pleasant home in Kewanee. The success that he has attained is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts and the assistance of his estimable wife, who has indeed proved a true helpmeet to him. Bright and cheerful in disposition she has made for her family a happy home, and has displayed excellent business ability in her management of affairs. She is a member of the First Baptist Church of Kewanee, having brought her letter from England, while her husband is a Primitive Methodist in religious belief. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and in his social relations is a member of the Improved Order of Red Men. He is one of the most reliable men of Kewanee, and his many admirable qualities have tended to make him popular with those with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life.

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#### NELS J. SVENSSON.

Since 1871 Nels J. Svensson has been identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, and is now the owner of a well-improved and valuable farm on section



5, Andover township. A native of Sweden, he was born December 2, 1844, and is a son of Swan and Inga Christina Nelson, both of whom were born in 1819. The mother died at the old home in Sweden in 1892, but the father is still living and continues to reside in that country. By trade he is a carpenter and blacksmith, but has also followed farming in his native land. Of his five children Nels J. is the oldest, the others being Carolina, who is married and lives in Sweden, but her daughter, Ellen Peterson, now makes her home with our subject; Carl August, a resident of Saline county, Kansas; Lonisa, wife of Knute Larson, also of Kansas; and Mrs. Victoria Swanson, a school teacher of Sweden.

Nels J. Svensson received his education in the public schools of his native land and on the home farm became thoroughly familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He worked as a farm hand in Sweden for a time, but believing that he could better his financial condition in the new world, he crossed the Atlantic in 1871, and came direct to Henry county, Illinois. Here he was similarly employed until he had saved enough to rent a farm and embark in farming on his own account. Prospering in business he was at length able to purchase seventy acres of land on section 5, Andover township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with most gratifying results. He has remodeled the buildings, built fences and otherwise added to the value and attractive appearance of the place. In connection with general farming he carries on stock raising.

In 1881 Mr. Svensson was united in marriage with Mrs. Mary Ogren, who by her first union has one son, Eddie, living at home. Mr. and Mrs. Svensson have a

daughter, Mary, born in 1882. In his political views our subject is independent and supports the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices regardless of party lines. In 1892 he returned to Sweden on a visit to relatives and friends. He gives liberally to all church work, and is regarded as one of the most valued and useful citizens of his community.

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#### ANDREW HALLIN.

The subject of this review, who is one of the leading business men of Kewanee, was born in Soderharke Soken, central Sweden, on the 1st of August, 1850, and in his successful business career has displayed the characteristic thrift and enterprise of his race. Beginning with no capital except that acquired by his own industry he has built up a large trade as a tailor and dealer in hats, caps, trunks and valises, and is to-day one of the prosperous citizens of Kewanee.

His parents, Peter and Christina Persson were life-long residents of Sweden, where the father died at the age of eighty-five, the mother when about sixty-seven years of age. Andrew is the fourth in order of birth in their family of five children. The oldest, Christina, is the wife of D. Granelund, of Minnesota, while the others are still residents of Sweden.

Mr. Hallin was reared and educated in the land of his birth, and there learned the tailor's trade. In 1869 he crossed the Atlantic, landing at Quebec, Canada, whence he came at once to Kewanee, Illinois. At first he worked at anything which he could find to do, and finding employment with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Com-

pany, he stuck the first spade into the Buda & Rushville branch of that road. For a few months he worked upon a farm, but when cold weather came he found more congenial employment in a tailor shop in Kewanee. He worked by the piece until he embarked in business for himself in 1878. From the start his trade has steadily increased, his work having always given the utmost satisfaction, and he furnished employment to from eight to twelve men, having eleven at the present writing. He carries as complete a line of goods as any establishment of the kind in this section of the state, and receives a liberal share of the public patronage. He was one of the organizers of the Kewanee National Bank, and has served as director from its inception.

In 1873 Mr. Hallin married Miss Anna Hallquist, also a native of Sweden, where her parents died during her early childhood. She passed away July 14, 1896, on the forty-fifth anniversary of her birth. She was a devout and earnest Christian, a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, and was highly esteemed by all who knew her. By this union one child was born, Forrest L., who had charge of the store during his father's absence in 1900, and is a cutter in the manufacturing department of the establishment. He is now serving as master of exchequer in the Knights of Pythias lodge of Kewanee; has been organist in the Swedish Lutheran Church for the past eight years; and is also secretary of the Sunday school.

As a Republican Mr. Hallin takes an active and commendable interest in political affairs, and has served as alderman of Kewanee. He also is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and of the Odd Fellows lodge. In 1900 he went to Europe and visited the Paris Exposition and his old home

in Sweden, thus passing four very enjoyable months. From his stopping place in Sweden he traveled seven hundred miles north to Lapland to see the midnight sun, the sun being visible there at twelve o'clock at night from the 5th of June to the 11th of July. He and his party spent five weeks in northern Sweden, viewing the beautiful and romantic scenery of that region, and they climbed the Dundret mountain, on the top of which no vegetation of any kind will grow. They were two hours in making the ascent.

In addition to his mercantile and banking interests in Kewanee, Mr. Hallin has also become one of the prominent real estate owners in the city, having built, in 1887, on Second street, a fine brick business building, 25 x 70, two stories in height, which he occupied from 1887 to 1899. In the latter year he erected an elegant three-story stone front building, also on Second street, 25x63, the first floor and part of the third floor being occupied by himself, while the remainder is leased. While not the largest, it is the finest store room in the city. He has also erected some buildings for residence purposes, and deals successfully in real estate.

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### JACOB FRANK.

No better illustration of the characteristic energy and enterprise of the typical German-American citizen can be found than that afforded by the career of this well-known harness dealer of Geneseo, Illinois, who has been prominently identified with the business interests of that place for forty-five years. Coming to this country with no capital except his abilities he has made his way to suc-



JACOB FRANK.

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cess through wisely-directed effort and he can now look back with satisfaction upon past struggles.

The early life of Mr. Frank was passed near the River Rhine, for he was born near the city of Worms, Germany, May 8, 1829, a son of Leonard and Margaret (Boas) Frank, who were born in France and from that country removed to Germany, where the father owned a large vineyard and extensively engaged in the manufacture of wine, following that business in connection with farming throughout his active life. He died in Germany at the age of eighty-four years, having long survived his wife, whose death occurred when our subject was about fifteen years of age. They were the parents of nine children, but Jacob is now the only survivor. Besides himself there was only one other member of the family who came to the United States, this being Charles Frank, who enlisted in the Mexican war, and was drowned in the Ohio river by the explosion of the steamer on which he had taken passage for Mexico. His death left our subject without a relative in this country.

The greater part of the education of Jacob Frank was obtained in the schools of his native land. In 1849, at the age of twenty, he came to America, and immediately after landing joined his brother at Ashland, Ohio. Together they went to Cleveland where they worked on a railroad then being constructed, but subsequently returned to Ashland, where our subject learned the harness and saddlery trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years and a half, in the meantime attending school for three months. He then formed a partnership with John McCulley which existed for three years, during which time they engaged in the harness business at Lucas, Ohio, and established his

present business, which he has carried on continuously since, and has met with marked success.

During his residence in Ohio, Mr. Frank was married, September 5, 1854, to Miss Delilah Bowman, a native of that state and a daughter of David Bowman, a prosperous farmer of Ashland county, Ohio, who, after the death of his wife, came to Illinois, to make his home with Mr. Frank, but died while on a visit to a daughter in Iowa and was buried there. To our subject and his wife were born five children, namely: (1) Leonard D., a harness maker, born in Ohio, married a Miss Daly and died in Oregon, in July, 1884, at the age of thirty years, leaving two sons, Sharmey and William, who are still residents of that state. (2) Charles, born in Geneseo, died in that city at the age of fourteen years. (3) William, a farmer of Alabama, married Kate Celner, now deceased, by whom he had one son, Leonard. (4) Alice is the widow of David McLaughlin, who was overseer of a large packing house at San Francisco, California, and was formerly with the Armour Company of Chicago. Her son, Earl, is now a stenographer and expert penman. (5) Minnie is now the wife of William Brown, a barber of Elgin, Illinois, and they have several children. Mrs. Frank, who was a faithful member of the Baptist Church, and a devoted wife and loving mother, died at Geneseo on Thanksgiving Day, 1883, at the age of fifty-five years, and was laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery. For his second wife Mr. Frank married Mrs. Mary Orr Hall, widow of William Hall, a prominent farmer of Henry county, now deceased. By this union was born a son, Ira, and by her first marriage, Mrs. Frank also has a son, Frank Hall, a cattle raiser of Idaho.

As a business man Mr. Frank has steadily prospered, and his success is due entirely to his industry, perseverance and good management, for he started out in life empty-handed and has had to make his own way unaided. That he is a man of good business ability is shown by the wonderful success that he has achieved. In addition to his handsome residence on North College avenue, he is the owner of two business blocks on West Exchange street, in one of which he carries on his business, and rents the other, and also has five vacant business lots adjoining and a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres in Cornwall township, which he leases. Mrs. Frank also owns one hundred and sixty acres in the same township. These are well-improved places, each having a good residence and other buildings found upon the model farm of the twentieth century. He also owned three hundred and twenty acres of land near The Dalles, Oregon, one-half of which he gave to his son who is now deceased. The other one hundred and sixty he has since sold. Mr. Frank has been quite an extensive traveler making, among others, four trips to the Pacific coast. Mr. Frank is president of the Oakwood Cemetery Association of Geneseo, which embraces sixty-six acres of land and is beautifully situated just outside of the corporation, south of the city. Many improvements are constantly being made to the grounds. Mr. Frank is public-spirited and progressive, and advocates all measures that tend to advance the interests of the city and county. He was formerly a Democrat in politics, but now affiliates with the Republican party. Religiously he is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and socially is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge of Geneseo, in which he has held office.

#### DANIEL D. SHELLHAMMER.

Among the representative farmers of Henry county is the subject of this review, whose home is on section 15, Geneseo township. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Luzerne county, October 11, 1834, and is a son of David and Catherine (Gottschall) Shellhammer, who spent their entire lives in the Keystone state. The father, who was a millwright by trade, died at his home in Pennsylvania, at the age of seventy-eight years, and his wife passed away two years later at about the same age. In their family were seven children, five of whom are still living, namely: Joseph, a carpenter of Hazelton, Pennsylvania; George W., a carpenter of Indianola, Iowa; Daniel D., our subject; Rebecca, wife of John Wagner, foreman of a coal mine of Drifton, Pennsylvania; and Hannah, wife of Alexander Shiner, a farmer of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania.

In the county of his nativity, Daniel D. Shellhammer grew to manhood, while his education was obtained in its common schools. On leaving home, in 1857, at the age of twenty-three years, he came to Illinois, and first located in Whiteside county, where he worked at his trade of a carpenter for a few years. Subsequently he spent a year in Phenix township, this county, working at his trade and at farm labor. After the inauguration of the Civil war, he enlisted at Geneseo, in August, 1862, becoming a member of Company K, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until hostilities ceased, being mustered out at Chicago, in July, 1865, and discharged at the same place. He was engaged in some of the principal battles of the war, including the siege at Knox-



ville, Tennessee. He did considerable scouting and was wounded while in Georgia, in 1864.

When discharged, Mr. Shellhammer returned to this county and located in Phenix township, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for three or four years, after which he rented a farm in Cornwall township, which he operated two years. He then removed to his present farm of forty acres on section 15, Geneseo township, which has now been his home for twenty-eight years. He has erected thereon a fine residence, a good barn and other outbuildings, and now has a well-improved place, whose neat and thrifty appearance stands as a monument to his industry and diligence. In connection with farming he continued to work at his trade up to within the past six years, when he retired from that occupation. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, and fraternally he holds membership in the Grand Army of the Republic.

On the 30th of November, 1869, Mr. Shellhammer was united in marriage with Miss Wilhelmina Barnhart, only daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Rinck) Barnhart, mentioned below. By this union were born five children, namely: Frank, born October 25, 1872, died March 30, 1881; Ada, born June 21, 1878, is at home; Bessie, born January 30, 1882; Grant, born November 11, 1884; and Lucy, born October 27, 1887, are all at home.

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#### JACOB BARNHART.

Prominent among the pioneers of this section of Illinois was Jacob Barnhart, who was for several years actively identified with

the early development and upbuilding of Henry county. He was a native of Nassau, Germany, and was about twenty years of age on his emigration to the United States. He first located near Galveston, Texas, where he followed farming for some years, and about 1847 came north. For about two years he worked at the stone mason's trade in Rock Island, Illinois.

In Whiteside county, this state, Mr. Barnhart was married in December, 1849, to Miss Catherine Rinck, and later they came to Henry county, locating in Phenix township, where he followed farming until the Civil war broke out. He manifested his love for his adopted country by enlisting, in 1862, in Company I, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until hostilities ceased, being honorably discharged in Tennessee, in 1865. He served as scout much of the time and was disabled in the service. Returning to Illinois, Mr. Barnhart resumed farming in this county, where he continued to make his home until his death. He died in the city of Geneseo, in 1871, from the effects of injuries received in the war. He was a faithful member of the Evangelical Church, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. As a pioneer of this section of the state he endured all the hardships and privations incident to such a life. His upright and honorable career commanded the respect and confidence of all, and as one of the honored early settlers and leading citizens of this section of the state, he is certainly entitled to prominent mention in its history.

Mr. Barnhart left a widow and one daughter to mourn his loss, the latter being Wilhelmina, wife of Daniel D. Shellhammer, mentioned above. Mrs. Barnhart, who now



lives with her daughter, was born in Alsace, France, now a province of Germany, and was three years old when brought to this country by her parents, Louis and Veronica (Schatta) Rinck, natives of the same place. It was about 1828 that they crossed the Atlantic and took up their residence in Warren, Pennsylvania, and in 1837 came to Whiteside county, where Mr. Rinck took up a tract of government land, on which he built a log house. To the improvement and cultivation of that farm of eighty acres he devoted the remainder of his life, dying there in December 25, 1857, at the age of sixty-six years. His wife passed away October 20, 1857, at the age of sixty. Both were members of the Evangelical Association and he was a Jackson Democrat until the organization of the Republican party. In their family were five children, but only Mrs. Barnhart, and her brother, Frank J. Rinck, a marble cutter of Geneseo, are now living.

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#### MRS. CAROLINE W. HURD.

The state of Illinois owes its high standing among the sovereign commonwealths that make up the United States to the high character and dauntless spirit of the settlers who made their home within her borders in the early days. To their inspiration and work is due her wonderful progress in agriculture, manufacturing and the arts. Among the honored pioneers of Henry county the Little family occupy a prominent position. Mrs. Hurd, who is a worthy representative of this family and a highly esteemed citizen of Wethersfield, came to Illinois in 1836, and therefore has witnessed almost its entire development.

She was born in Hollis, New Hampshire, September 15, 1821, and is a daughter of Abner B. and Nancy (Tenny) Little, also natives of the old Granite state, the former born in Salem, the latter in Hollis. Their marriage was celebrated January 20, 1802. Coming west in 1836, Mr. Little located in Wethersfield township, Henry county, Illinois, where with the assistance of his sons he opened up and improved a farm, making his home here until called to his final rest, at the advanced age of ninety years. In his family were eleven children, all of whom reached years of maturity and became heads of families, but only Mrs. Hurd and her sister, Mrs. Sarah F. Stewart, of Duluth, are now living. Five of the family, however, lived to celebrate their golden weddings. One son, Hon. H. G. Little, was the last of the survivors of those who assisted in organizing this county. In early days he was one of its most prominent and influential citizens, and was called upon to represent his district in the state legislature and serve as sheriff of the county. He voted at the first election held in Wethersfield. He was born in Gosstown, New Hampshire, in 1813, and died in Grinnell, Iowa, November 3, 1900, having removed to that place in 1867. There he also became prominently identified with public affairs, did much to advance the interests of its schools, colleges and churches, and efficiently served as mayor of the city. He was very public spirited and enterprising, and with two others bought the land on which Kewanee is now located and laid out the town. His first home in Wethersfield was a little one-room house, sixteen by eighteen feet.

Mrs. Hurd was about fifteen years of age when she came with the family to this county, and can well remember when this re-

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DR. LEWIS HURD.



MRS. CAROLINE W. HURD.

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gion was very sparsely settled and almost entirely unimproved. On the 22nd of August, 1837, at the age of sixteen, she gave her hand in marriage to Dr. Lewis Hurd, theirs being the first recorded wedding in Henry county. The Doctor was born in Hamilton, Madison county, New York, August 19, 1811, and was reared and educated in his native state. In early life he determined to become a physician, and attended medical lectures. On first coming to Illinois, in 1836, he located in Lafayette, Stark county, where he engaged in the practice of his profession for a time, and while there boarded with Mrs. Wheeler, a sister of Mrs. Hurd. In this way he became acquainted with his future wife. After their marriage they located in Wethersfield, where the Doctor engaged in practice for a few years, and then removed to Chicago, Illinois, and later to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he made his home for a number of years, his time being devoted to his profession. Later he owned and conducted an electric institute at Talmage, Ohio, and in that enterprise met with excellent success. He was also engaged in the practice of medicine at Ann Arbor, Michigan, for a few years, but in the fall of 1865 returned to Wethersfield, and practically lived retired throughout the remainder of his life. He died here in 1892, at the age of eighty-one years, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was a very prominent physician and was remarkably successful, his specialty being chronic diseases.

For over half a century Dr. and Mrs. Hurd traveled life's journey together, and in 1887 celebrated their golden wedding. To them were born seven children, but only one reached years of maturity, Lewis Gardner, who was educated at Ann Arbor, and at the

opening of the Civil war enlisted at the first call for three year men. He went with his regiment to Washington, D. C., but was soon afterward taken ill with typhoid pneumonia, and died there March 15, 1862. His remains were brought back to Wethersfield for interment. The other children were Ann Caroline, who died at the age of nine years; Julius A., at the age of six years; Ann C., at the age of seven months; Eliza A., at the age of four years; William L., at the age of one year; and Edwin H. N., also at the age of one year. Mrs. Hurd is widely known throughout Henry county, and is highly respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends, who appreciate her sterling worth. As a pioneer of the county she is certainly worthy of prominent mention in its history.

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#### ALBERT W. BLAIR.

Among the highly esteemed citizens of Geneseo is Albert W. Blair, one of Henry county's native sons and a representative of one of her honored old families, whose identification with her history dates from an early period in the development of the county. He was born in Phenix township, on the 23d of September, 1844, and is a son of Asa Blair, whose birth occurred June 6, 1810, in Ontario county, New York, where he lived until twelve years of age. Going to Ohio, he worked for three years in a distillery at ten dollars per month, and being very economical he saved a part of his small earnings. Afterward he engaged in farming near Detroit, Michigan, for about six years, and from that state came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1838, locating in Phenix township, where he purchased land and engaged in farming for a short time. Selling his claim

he removed to Geneseo township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, but after residing there for a time, he was taken ill and moved about three miles northeast of that place, where he took up government land in Phenix township, making it his home for fifteen years. In the meantime he had purchased a farm in Loraine township where his last days were spent, dying there January 15, 1873. These several farms were all wild land when they came into his possession, and by his labors were placed under cultivation and improved with good buildings. He was actively identified with the early development and improvement of the county, and in its transformation from a wild uncultivated tract into one of the best farming districts of the state he ever bore his part. In his political views he was a Republican, but never took an active part in politics, though as a public-spirited man he advocated all measures tended to advance or improve the community in which he lived. For some years he served as school director in Loraine township. Religiously he was a member of the United Brethren Church.

On the 24th of September, 1835, in Wayne county, Ohio, Asa Blair married Miss Abigail Sinnott, who was born in St. John's, New Brunswick, September 18, 1812, and whose parents continued to make their home in St. John's throughout life. She died at the home of her daughter in Loraine township, this county, March 17, 1888. By this union were born eight children, namely: (1) Marilla first married Daniel Beers, by whom she has three children, Frank, Byron and Dora, but she is now the widow of Lorenzo Norton, a farmer of Loraine township, and resides in Geneseo. By her second marriage she has two children, Hugh and Mrs. Elma Carson. (2) Nancy is the wife of Will-

iam Kemmis, a retired farmer of Geneseo. (3) Hiram was a member of Company I, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil war, and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh. He was then brought home and died from the effects of his injuries two weeks later at the age of twenty years. (4) Albert W., our subject, is next in order of birth. (5) Sinclair married Emma E. Munger and follows farming in Loraine township. (6) John, also a farmer of Loraine township, married Ada Haskins and has two children, Malcolm and June. (7) Anna died in 1896 at the age of forty-five years. (8) Abigail died in infancy.

During his boyhood Albert W. Blair pursued his studies in the common schools of Phenix township, and assisted his father on the home farm. After the latter's removal to Loraine township, he continued to operate the farm in Phenix township until he took up his residence in Geneseo in 1892. He added to the place until he had one hundred and seventy-one acres of valuable land on section 25, and made a number of improvements thereon, while he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising throughout his active business life.

On the 7th of October, 1861, at Geneseo, Mr. Blair enlisted in Company I, Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served two years and two months, being engaged in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Meeding Station, Tennessee, and Raymond, Port Gibson, and Champion Hills, Mississippi. During the engagement at the last named place, May 16, 1863, he was wounded in the left leg, which has left him a cripple for life, after undergoing a very painful operation. The bullet taken from the wound he still has in his possession. He was on the extreme right of the line, be-



ing one of twelve from his company detailed to watch that the army was not flanked. The sergeant in command ordered a charge on the enemy entrenched in a ditch, and they captured a cannon, but in this encounter Mr. Blair was wounded after having his gunstock knocked from his hand by a ball. He was wounded while in the act of capturing a rebel who had hidden behind a tree. He was first taken to the plantation belonging to Jefferson and Joseph Davis, where he was captured about a week later by a squad of Confederate soldiers, but was paroled after taking the oath not to take up arms until his exchange. He was sent to the barracks at St. Louis, and honorably discharged in November, 1863. He now draws a pension of thirty dollars per month as a sort of compensation for his injuries.

Mr. Blair was married, March 5, 1872, to Miss Mary E. McClellan, who was born in Geneseo township, this county, December 10, 1850, a daughter of John Wesley and Juliana (Murray) McClellan, natives of Indiana. When he was about twenty-five years of age her father came to Illinois, and for many years engaged in farming in Geneseo township, where he died in 1896 at the age of seventy-two years. His widow is still living at the age of seventy and now makes her home with our subject. They had a family of four children, namely: Mary E., now Mrs. Blair; Mrs. Evaline Roberts, of Oklahoma territory, who has one child, Nora, wife of Wilbur Green; Thomas, clerk in a hardware store in Latham, Kansas, who married Laura Fisk, and has two children, Hugh and Elsie; and Sarah Jane, who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Blair have one child, Cora E., born January 12, 1873. She is now the wife of Edgar McHenry, who occupies the old Blair homestead in Phenix township.

Our subject and his wife have a pleasant home on West Cemetery street, Geneseo, where they delight to entertain their many friends. Both are active members of the Methodist Church, and are held in high regard by all who know them. The Republican party finds in Mr. Blair a staunch supporter of its principles, and he efficiently served as school director in Phoenix township for many years. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Home Forum, while his wife holds membership in the Circle of the G. A. R., the Home Forum, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Geneseo, of which she is at present secretary.

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#### ANDREW WEIDLEIN.

This gentleman, who is a prominent and successful farmer of Geneseo, Illinois, is a native of Pennsylvania, his birth having occurred in Bedford county, that state, on the 16th of April, 1840. His father, John Weidlein, was born in Germany, January 17, 1812, and emigrated to America with his parents during the '20s. The grandfather died many years ago. In early life John Weidlein married Miss Elnora Emmert, also a native of Germany, who died February 20, 1894, at the age of seventy-five years, having celebrated her birthday on the 2nd of that month. He is still living, however, at the ripe old age of eighty-nine years. In 1851 he came west from Pennsylvania, and first located in Osco township, this county, but subsequently removed to Edford township, and died at the home of our subject in

Geneseo on the 30th of December, 1900. He was widely and favorably known and was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, to which his wife also belonged. Andrew was the oldest of their twelve children, the others being as follows: Philip, a grain inspector of Kansas City; Lavina, who died unmarried at the age of twenty-five years; Lewis, a resident of Kansas; Jake, a resident of Missouri; George, a farmer of Iowa; Edward, a resident of Augusta, Kansas; Carrie, wife of George Drehmer, of this county; Wallie, a resident of Muscatine, Iowa; and three others deceased.

Andrew Weidlein accompanied his parents on their removal to Henry county, Illinois, and his early life was spent in plowing, planting and reaping on the home farm. At the age of twenty-four he started out in life for himself, and has always followed farming, in which he has met with marked success. He is the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of four hundred and sixty-five acres in Osco township, which he himself operates, and also has a couple of other farms now occupied by his sons.

Mr. Weidlein was married April 3, 1864, to Miss Sarah E. Conrad, also a native of the Keystone state, and a daughter of Almon and Elizabeth (Pierce) Conrad, who came to Illinois in 1856, and after spending a short time in Rock Island county, located in Henry county, where both died. The father was fifty-five years of age at the time of his death and was long survived by his wife, who died August 2, 1898, when lacking only a month and five days of being ninety years of age. Both were earnest members of the Lutheran Church. Of their children, Frederick, John, Mary J., James, Thomas and Elvira are all deceased. Those living are

J. H., a resident of Dodge City, Kansas; Margaret, wife of George Enderton, of Mercer county, Illinois; and Sarah E., wife of our subject. Her maternal grandparents were John and Mary (Rice) Pierce, farming people of Butler county, Pennsylvania, and active members of the Presbyterian Church. Both lived to an advanced age, Mr. Pierce being over ninety-six years at the time of his death, and his wife over ninety-three.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Weidlein, namely: (1) W. Elmer, a resident of Galesburg, Illinois, married Kittie Marlatt, and they have three children, Grace, Cleone and Lysle. (2) Joseph C., a farmer of Edford township, this county, married Anna Glenn and they have two children, Boyd and Mildred. (3) Vina is the wife of Harry King, of Champaign, Illinois, and they have five children, Jessie M., Nellie H., Laura I., Florence M. and Henry W. (4) Nora E. is the wife of John Schroeder, and they have one child, Lucile. (5) L. Arthur, of Edford township, married Gertie Rogers and they have one child, Marie. (6) Carrie A. is the wife of Lewis Schroeder, of Osco. (7) Laura Edith is attending the Geneseo high school, where she will graduate in 1903. (8) Margaret J. died September 28, 1885, at the age of eleven years.

Mr. Weidlein takes little interest in politics but generally supports the Democratic ticket. He has served his fellow citizens in a most creditable manner as road master, supervisor of his township two years, and a member of the school board many years. Religiously he and his wife are earnest members of the Lutheran Church, and enjoy the hospitality of many of the best homes of

Geneseo. They receive and merit the high regard of the entire community, and those who know them best are numbered among their warmest friends.

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GEORGE W. WEST.

This well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Geneseo is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Henry county. He was born near Ithaca, New York, March 25, 1835, and on the paternal side belongs to an old Colonial family, his ancestors having come to this country on the Mayflower or soon afterward. They took quite an active part in public affairs and are supposed to have fought in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war. They were of English descent and had much to do in organizing both the Maryland and Virginia colonies.

Gardner West, our subject's father, was a native of Rhode Island, and a son of Johnnie West, who at an early day removed with his family to New York. There Gardner engaged in farming and dairying quite extensively, and as one of the leading men of his community he served in several local offices. He and his wife visited here but never came west to live. She bore the maiden name of Lavina Pease and was a native of New York, where she died at the age of seventy-four years. The father was eighty-six at the time of his death. Both were devout members and zealous workers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he was officially connected, and their home was always the stopping place of the itinerant ministers. Mrs. West's paternal grandfather was a native of Eng-

land, and she was also of Scotch extraction, her ancestors being sturdy and reliable people. Her father, Thaddeus Pease, was a life-long resident of New York, where he died at the advanced age of ninety-nine years. Owing to an accident his days were shortened. He was a man of powerful build and was very active for one of his years. In early life he was an athlete, and had the name of being the most powerful man in Tompkins county.

George W. West, of this review, is the sixth in order of birth in a family of ten children, the others being as follows: Mary A. wedded R. Marsh and died at about the age of fifty years; Lydia J. is the wife of Thomas Space, of Tompkins county, New York; John T., a successful farmer of Osceola township, this county, died at the age of forty years, and his widow subsequently married Robert Fleming, of Cambridge; Harriet, deceased, was the wife of Frank Tuttle, of Beloit, Wisconsin; Caroline died unmarried at the age of twenty-eight years; Nancy J. died unmarried at the age of twenty-four; Delphine married Henry Lormore, and died at the age of forty-one; Adaline married George Lormore, a brother of Henry, and died in Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of thirty-seven; and Emily, died at the age of eighteen years.

Mr. West was reared on a farm at Dryden, New York, and after completing his education in the public schools of that locality, he followed farming until he attained his majority. At Cortland, New York, he boarded a train—the first on which he ever rode—and went to Beloit, Wisconsin, and from that city came to Henry county, Illinois, riding across the country on an unbroken colt and arriving here in the spring of 1855, at which time there was only one

house between Geneseo and Cambridge, a distance of twelve miles, it being the property of Job Price. With his colt and ox teams, Mr. West assisted his brother, John T., in breaking prairie and improving the latter's farm, being thus employed for a year. He then went to Iowa, where he spent the cold winter of 1856, when the thermometer for forty degrees below zero much of the time, and the crust on the snow was so thick that he could ride over fences indiscriminately. He was engaged in buying furs and deer skin, which he sold for a good profit in Galesburg the following spring. Mr. West was next employed as collector for G. W. Brown, and later engaged in the fruit tree business until the Civil war broke out, when he turned his attention to buying horses and delivering them to the United States authorities at Galesburg. In the meantime he purchased and improved eighty acres of land in Munson township, this county, though he made his home in Galesburg during the war, and for nearly two years was engaged in the crockery and stoneware business in Chicago, under the firm name of West & Tomlinson, being burned out at the end of that time. Since then he has carried on farming and stock raising in this county, and has owned some fine blooded cattle and also a good grade of horses and hogs. Success has attended his well-directed efforts and he and his wife now have a well improved and valuable farm of over four hundred acres. The Hennepin canal crosses this property and cuts off about eighteen acres. Mr. West still operates his farm with the aid of a tenant. In 1890 he purchased and brought to this county six thousand sheep from Montana, and in 1897 three hundred head of cattle from Colorado. He has found stock raising and feeding

quite profitable, and is to-day one of the most substantial men of his community.

In politics Mr. West is an ardent Republican, and takes a commendable interest in public matters, especially educational affairs, which he has done much to promote. He was chairman of the committee that had in charge the erection of the second brick public school building in Henry county (?). Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order, and religiously both he and his estimable wife are active and consistent members of the Congregational Church, in which she has been a member of the choir for over forty-two years.

It was on the 6th of June, 1865, in Henry county, that Mr. West led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Amelia Allan, and by this union were born three children, namely: (1) James Allan, a resident of Rock Island and postal clerk on the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad between that city and Chicago, married Fay Cinnamon, in January, 1891, and they have two children, Allan C. and Harold T. (2) George G. is a graduate of the Northwestern Normal School, and is now engaged in farming near Geneseo. (3) John Edward is a graduate of the same institution and also of the dental department of the Northwestern University, and is now engaged in the practice of dental surgery at Geneseo. He married Minerva E. Benedict, in January, 1897, and they have one child, Stewart Benedict.

James M. Allan, Mrs. West's father, was born in Sumner county, Tennessee, November 23, 1814, a son of John and Nancy (Hodge) Allan, and grandson of Joseph and Euphemia (Agnew) Hodge. During the Revolutionary war Joseph Hodge, a native of North Carolina, captured a Tory, who had wounded him most severely with

a ramrod. In 1836 James M. Allan came to Henry county, Illinois, and became prominently identified with public affairs here. He spent the winter of 1836-7 at Vandalia, where the legislature was then in session, and succeeded in getting Henry county set apart from Knox. He served as the first county and circuit clerk, and also filled the office of county judge. In 1850 he was elected to the state legislature and succeeded in getting a charter for what is now the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific railroad. Strange as it may seem it was a difficult matter to obtain the support of the governor and many of the leading men of the state, who were much afraid that a railroad constructed in the vicinity of the canal would prove detrimental to the best interests of the state. Mr. Allan also held the office of provost marshal during a part of the Civil war. In his journal he wrote: "One of the hardest jobs I have undertaken with others is the construction of the Hennepin canal. I have now been twenty years actively working to secure this important improvement. I think the Hennepin canal will come soon. I have spent much time and money in its behalf. I spent winters in Springfield endeavoring to get the legislature to pass laws for its construction. The result of such effort was the beginning of the improvement of the Illinois river and the passage of the law to cede to the general government the Illinois & Michigan canal. Its enlargement and the improvement of the Illinois river, with the Hennepin canal completed, would give the northwest excellent facilities for cheap transportation, both for the Mississippi river and the Great Lakes." Mr. Allan was in early life a member of and was ever in deep sympathy with the church and its work, and was highly respected and es-

teemed by all who knew him. After a long and useful life he passed away December 20, 1885. His father, John Allan, was a native of Hereford, England, was a Presbyterian minister, who for the long period of thirty years had charge of one church in Huntsville, Alabama. He sent his sons, James M. and William T., to college in the north, where they imbibed the northern spirit of enterprise, and soon began to see the wrong of slavery. This was more than their reverend father had bargained for in sending them to school. William T. Allan was licensed to preach, and for many years lectured on the wrongs of slavery, being a contemporary worker and in sympathy with the anti-slavery views as promulgated by Owen Lovejoy.

On the 6th of March, 1839, James M. Allan married Miss Susannah D. Stewart, who was born in New York, January 28, 1820. Their wedding was the first performed in Henry county, and she had the honor of teaching the first school within its borders. She was a life-long member of the Congregational Church and one of its most zealous workers. Her death occurred June 8, 1889. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Allan, as follows: Sarah A. resides in Geneseo. She taught under the A. M. A. in the south for several years. Mary Amelia, wife of our subject; Clara F., wife of William Harrington; Emily I., who died at the age of two years; and Anna L., wife of Frank Williams, of Geneseo.

Mrs. Allan was a daughter of Roderick R. Stewart, who, in 1836, was one of the first three to locate in what is now Geneseo, the others being Messrs. Bartlett and Cone. His grandfather, Elisha Stewart, aided the colonies in their struggle for independence, which makes Mrs. West and her descendants



sons and daughters of the Revolution. In 1812, Roderick R. Stewart married Clarissa Dresser, a native of Massachusetts, who served her country during the war of 1812 by devoting her spare time to molding bullets for the army. She furnished a full choir for the church from her own family, and was called the mother of "the Geneseo colony." She died in 1867, at a ripe old age, honored and respected by all who knew her. Roderick R. Stewart organized the Masonic lodge at Geneseo, which bears his name.

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### JAMES RAMSEY.

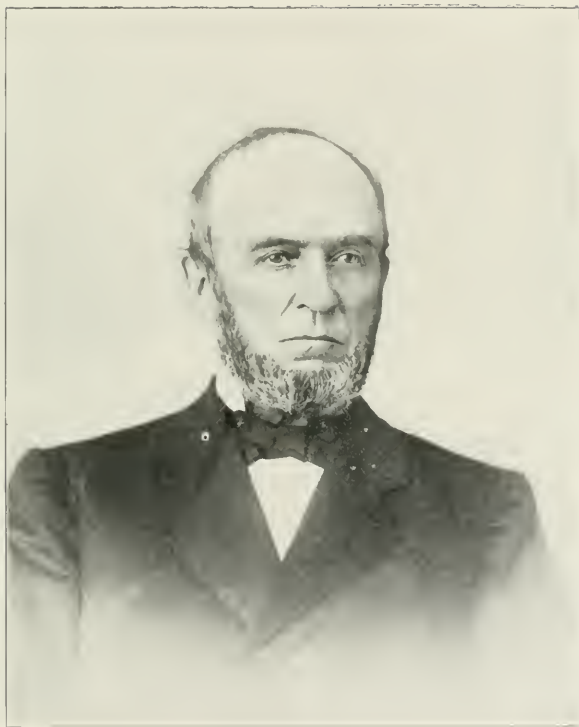
James Ramsey, deceased, was for many years prominently identified with the business interests of Geneseo, and was one of its most highly esteemed citizens. A native of New Hampshire, he was born in Marlow on the 20th of June, 1812, and remained at the place of his birth until seventeen years of age. His parents, James and Nancy (Tinney) Ramsey, were life-long residents of Marlow, where both died at an advanced age.

On leaving home Mr. Ramsey went to Boston, Massachusetts, where he was employed for some years, and first embarked in business on his own account at Newton, Massachusetts, where he conducted a grocery store for several years. On disposing of his business there he returned to New Hampshire and engaged in the general mercantile business at Alstead, where he remained until 1866. He then went to Nashua, where he was engaged in the grocery business until coming west in 1870. Locating in Geneseo, Illinois, he purchased a grocery store, which he and his eldest son, Allen, conducted until a few years before his death, when he re-

tired from active business and spent his remaining days in ease and quiet at his pleasant home on Oakwood avenue, which he built shortly after his arrival in Geneseo. Here he was surrounded by all the comforts which usually attend a well spent life of industry. His son continued the business until 1896, when he sold out.

Mr. Ramsey was twice married, his first wife being Miss Sarah Jane Hopkins, of Nashua, New Hampshire, who died in Alstead, that state, leaving three children, namely: (1) Allen, who was his father's partner in the grocery business, married Ellen Brady, who died leaving one child, Frank. Allen died in Chesterville, Texas, October 24, 1900. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Eighteenth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, and after serving some time was taken ill and sent home. In the spring of the following year, however, he re-enlisted, and remained in the service until the close of the war. (2) Emily J. is the wife of Nathan Smith, now probate judge at Sabetha, Kansas, and they have three children, Daisy, Edith and Blanche. (3) John E., who died in Erie, Pennsylvania, about twelve years ago, served for some years in the United States navy, and was quartermaster on the U. S. S. Brooklyn for a time.

On the 8th of September, 1863, at Hebron, New York, Mr. Ramsey was again married, his second union being with Miss Laura J. Wilson, a daughter of Isaac and Phoebe (Temple) Wilson. Isaac Wilson was a son of James Wilson, of Hebron, New York, who served as a major in the Revolutionary war. The father was a native of that place, and about 1868 came to Henry county, Illinois, purchasing a farm in Edford township, where he continued to make his home until a short time before his death, which



JAMES RAMSEY.



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occurred at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Ramsey, March 10, 1875, when he was eighty-one years of age. His wife passed away a week previous, at the age of eighty years. By his second marriage Mr. Ramsey had two children: (1) Eugene W., born in Alstead, New Hampshire, April 16, 1865—and the day President Lincoln was assassinated—and was educated in the public schools of Geneseo and Wood Business College at Davenport, Iowa. He is a painter by trade. On the 13th of September, 1899, at Indianapolis, Indiana, he married Annie Kile, a daughter of John W. Kile, a farmer of Lapel, Indiana, and they have one child, Harold, born in Geneseo June 5, 1900. (2) Gertrude P. is the wife of Dr. Harry Brown-ing, of Oskaloosa, Iowa, and they have one child, Floy L.

While a resident of Alstead, New Hampshire, before his removal to Nashua, Mr. Ramsey served as representative to the state legislature on two different occasions, and held the office of justice of the peace for many years at that place. Religiously he was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Church, and a regular attendant upon its services. He was held in high regard by his fellow citizens on account of his upright dealings and Christian charity, and in his death, which occurred April 17, 1894, the city lost a prominent and valued citizen; his family a devoted husband and father. His remains were interred in Oakwood cemetery.

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#### LOWRY BROTHERS.

This enterprising firm of liverymen of Geneseo, Illinois, is composed of Andrew P. and Thomas M. Lowry, both natives of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and sons of

William C. and Mary J. (Duncan) Lowry, who were also born in that state and are still living on the farm in Indiana county where the birth of our subject occurred. The father is now about seventy-five years of age, while his wife is sixty-five. Throughout his active business life he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the old homestead upon which he lives is composed of one hundred and fifty acres of rich and valuable land. For several terms he has efficiently served as supervisor of his township, and has held other minor offices. During the Civil war he joined a Pennsylvania regiment and served for about a year, being honorably discharged when hostilities ceased. Religiously he and his wife are faithful and consistent members of the Presbyterian Church. Her parents were Thomas and Jane (Machesney) Duncan. Her father was also a native of the Keystone state and a tanner by trade, which occupation he followed until his death. He died about thirty-five years ago, but his widow is still living and makes her home in Marion, Indiana county, Pennsylvania.

William C. and Mary J. (Duncan) Lowry are the parents of six children, all born in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and all still living, namely: Sadie J., at home; Andrew P. and Thomas M., of this review; Olive B. resides with parents in Pennsylvania; Harry L. resides in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and Settie resides at home.

Andrew P. Lowry was born September 30, 1858, and remained on the home farm until he attained his majority, receiving his literary education in the common schools of the township in which he lived. In 1879 he came to Illinois and located in Annawan township, Henry county, where he engaged in farming for seven years, and then re-

moved to the city of Geneseo, and embarked in his present business with his brother Thomas M. They conduct a general livery and feed stable, and enjoy a liberal patronage. They are energetic and progressive business men, and have met with well-merited success in their undertakings. On the 24th of May, 1892, Andrew P. Lowry was united in marriage in Geneseo with Mrs. Elsie McFadden, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Colon and Catherine (Bowen) Fick. Her mother is now deceased, but her father is still living at Annawan, where he is engaged in the manufacture of wagons and also operates a feed mill.

Thomas M. Lowry was born on the 11th of August, 1860, and was a young man of twenty years when he left the parental roof and came to this state, being engaged in farming in Annawan township, Henry county, for about three years. He then came to Geneseo and established himself in the livery business with his brother as previously stated. He is a member of Geneseo Lodge, No. 172, I. O. O. F., and is also connected with the Mystic Workers of the World, while politically he is identified with the Republican party. He was married in Rock Island, Illinois, September 8, 1887, to Miss Celia Fick, a sister of his brother's wife, and by this union were born three children: Charles William, who was born in Geneseo and is now twelve years of age; Oral Mary, who was born in the same place and is now four years old; and Bessie, who was a twin of Oral M. and died in infancy.

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#### AARON PALMER.

For about forty-five years the subject of this sketch has been a resident of Kewanee, his home at present being at No. 210 West

Sixth street, and during all this time he has been actively identified with its business interests. He is now engaged in draying and general teaming and controls the greater part of that business done in the city.

Mr. Palmer was born in Lake county, Ohio, November 20, 1833, and is a son of Norris and Lucy (Emerson) Palmer, natives of New York and Ohio, respectively. The father became a well known farmer of the Buckeye state, where he died at about the age of forty years. The Palmer family is quite prominent in Concord and Mentor, Ohio, and each year its members hold a reunion either at Concord or Painesville. For her second husband the mother of our subject married Alexander Livingston, and by that union had four children, while by the former marriage she had five. She was an earnest member of the Methodist Church and died in that faith when less than forty years of age. Of the children born of the first union only our subject and his sister, Mrs. J. S. Stone, of Omaha, now survive. Those deceased are Grove N., Isaac Gideon and George, the last named having died young, while the others grew to manhood.

Aaron Palmer was educated in the public schools of Ohio and Illinois, having come to this state with his step-father in 1849, and located on a farm in Wethersfield township, Henry county. For a time he and his brother, Grove Norris, conducted a general store in the village of Wethersfield, and later were engaged in running a threshing machine and separator for eight seasons threshing much of the wheat raised in their section of the county. They at first used an old Elgin thresher, and later a J. I. Case separator, manufactured at Racine, Wisconsin. On discontinuing that business Mr. Palmer engaged in raising and selling hedges and

fruit trees. Since then he has devoted his time and energies to his present business, and in connection with general teaming and draying has also run a hack, and engaged in funeral work, keeping four teams constantly busy.

On Christmas day, 1856, at the Methodist Episcopal parsonage on West Fifth street—then considered the finest residence in Kewanee—was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Palmer and Miss Prudence Tunnicliff, a native of Derbyshire, England, who came to America with her parents, Edward and Sarah Tunnicliff, and first located in Zanesville, Ohio. In 1855 the family came to Kewanee, where the father is now living retired at the age of eighty-seven years, the mother at the age of eighty-two. He was a manufacturer of brown and yellow pottery ware, his family in England being potters. Mrs. Palmer is the eldest of his thirteen children, the others being George, now deputy poor master in Kewanee, who took his brother William's place in the Civil war and served three years; William C., who enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and died at Tipton, Missouri, after having served five months; Joseph S., who was also one of the boys in blue and is now living in Bingham, Iowa; John, a resident of Moline, Illinois; Edward M., clerk of the circuit court and a ranchman of Burwell, Nebraska; Mary, widow of Daniel Holt, and a resident of Kewanee; Anna, wife of J. S. Minor, who is connected with the shoe department of Lay & Lyman's store in Kewanee; and five children, deceased.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have been born ten children, as follows: Lucy E., who died at the age of fifteen months; Sarah, who died at the age of two months and six-

teen days; Addie M., wife of Bert Roulston, of Bingham, Iowa; William C., who is mentioned below; Ernest E., at home; Nora J., who died at the age of fifteen months; Walter A., a physician of Redwood, Minnesota, who married Alice Bonny, of Chicago, and has two sons, Walter L. and Donald; Bessie M., wife of G. C. Stratton, head clerk in Hoffman's store of Kewanee, by whom she has three children, Frank P., and Prudence F., twins, and Genevieve; Grove G., who is his father's assistant in business; and Frank N., who died at the age of five years.

Mr. Palmer, his wife and family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he sang in the choir for over twenty years, and has also served as class leader and leader in the young people's meeting. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Honor and served as its secretary and treasurer for many years. Since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont he has been an ardent Republican, and for one year he filled the office of tax collector of Kewanee. He is one of the worthy citizens of that place and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

William C. Palmer, son of our subject, was born on the 29th of October, 1863, in Kewanee, and was educated in the public schools of that city and at a business college in Quincy, where he was graduated in 1892. Prior to taking the commercial course, he had clerked in a grocery store for five years, and for ten years was similarly employed by the firm of Lay & Lyman, of Kewanee. He then embarked in the furniture and undertaking business on his own account as a member of the firm of Roadstrand & Palmer, but fifteen months later Mr. Roadstrand sold

his interest to Mr. Good, and the name was changed to Palmer & Good. In February, 1900, Mr. Good took the furniture department, while Mr. Palmer kept the undertaking business, which he has since carried on with marked success, doing the largest business in that line in the city. Politically he is a supporter of the Republican party, socially is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, while religiously he is officially connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was married, June 25, 1890, to Miss Rena Murchison, by whom he has two children, Willie M. and Merwyn. Mrs. Palmer was born in Illinois, and is a daughter of Captain Alexander and Maggie Murchison, who were natives of Scotland and Pennsylvania, respectively, and are now residents of Wethersfield township, this county.

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### MARTIN ROOS.

Martin Roos comes from the Fatherland, and the strongest and most creditable characteristics of the Teutonic race have been marked elements in his life and have enabled him to win success in the face of opposing circumstances. He possesses the energy and determination which mark the people of Germany, and by the exercise of his powers he has steadily progressed, and has not only won a handsome competence, but has commanded universal respect by his straightforward business methods. He is now living a retired life in Genesee.

Mr. Roos was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, September 22, 1816, a son of Henry and Margarette (Hinkel) Roos, who spent their entire lives in that country. The

father, who was a prosperous and progressive man, as well as an honorable and upright citizen of his community, died at the age of forty-two years, when our subject was only two years old. The mother survived him, and was sixty-five years of age at the time of her death.

In their family of six children our subject is the youngest and only one now living. Of the others, Henry, born in 1800, came to the United States in 1852, and located in Loraine township, Henry county, Illinois, where he owned and operated a farm of two hundred and forty acres until his death, in 1872. He left a widow and six children. Jacob, born April 10, 1803, spent his life as a farmer in Germany, where he died at the age of eighty years. He married and had one child. Philip, born December 5, 1805, came to America in 1853, and died about twenty years ago, leaving a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Loraine township, this county, which is now operated by his son Jacob. Edward P. died in Germany in the fall of 1839, at the age of twenty-seven years.

Martin Roos grew to manhood upon a farm in his native land, and received a good common school education. In 1840 he sailed for the new world, and after a voyage of thirty-two days the vessel cast anchor in the harbor of New York, on the 3d of June. On landing our subject found that he had only five dollars with which to begin life in a strange land, but he was willing to work and possessed the determination to succeed, which have been important elements in his career. For a year he was employed as a farm hand in Pennsylvania for six dollars per month, and then went to Delaware, where he obtained work at double the salary. A year later he returned to Pennsylvania,



MARTIN ROOS.

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where he made his home until going to Chicago in 1843. Failing to find a situation in that city, he went into the country, where he worked two years in a grist and saw mill, and also hauled flour into the city, a distance of forty miles.

In the spring of 1845 Mr. Roos came to Henry county, and took up eighty acres of government land on sections 8 and 17, Loraine township, on which he erected a log house. He at once commenced to break and improve his land, and added to his original purchase until he had over four hundred acres of land, on which he successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising for forty years, but since 1885 has lived a retired life in Geneseo, having a comfortable home on Russell avenue. He still owns two hundred and forty acres of his farm, and from it derives a good income.

In 1845, in Loraine township, Mr. Roos was married to Miss Magdalena Lehmann, a native of Alsace, Germany, who died December 7, 1855, and was buried in Loraine township. She was a devoted wife and a kind and loving mother. By that union there were five children, all born in Loraine township, namely: (1) Martin J. enlisted at the last call for troops during the Civil war, and served until hostilities ceased. He is now engaged in merchandising and farming in Bon Homme county, South Dakota. He married Tillie Voigt, and they have four children, Mary, Eddie, Rebecca and Blanche. (2) Philip, a farmer of Whiteside county, Illinois, married Eveline Sand, and they have four children, Lydia, Leonard, Wesley and Howard. (3) Ann Sarah is the wife of Lewis Arnett, a farmer of Portland township, Whiteside county, and they have eight children, Clara, Stacey, Roy, Ida, Aggie, Winnie, Maude and Harley. (4) Rebecca

is the wife of Lavinus Heller, who was engaged in farming in Atkinson township for many years, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo, and they have four children, Albert, Frank, Clara and Inez. (5) Salome is the wife of Julius Lemuel, who is employed in a factory in Kewanee, and they have four children, Frank, Grace, Edward and Mary.

On the 6th of March, 1856, Mr. Roos was united in marriage with Miss Eva Barbara Knapper, a native of Germany, and to them were born the following named children: (1) William, a resident of Buffalo county, Nebraska, married Sarah E. Lodge, and they have four children, Edward M., Blanche, Jennie and Frank. He owns and operates a farm of four hundred and eighty acres. (2) Louisa is the wife of Solomon J. Heller, a farmer of Loraine township, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume, and they have four children, Daniel, Nettie, Ralph and Harold. (3) Christina is the wife of John Butzer, a merchant and grain dealer of Hillsdale, Rock Island county, Illinois, and their children are Ada, Clarence, Glenn, Frank, Birdie, Vernie, Goldie and Martin J. (4) David was shot and killed by a tramp while in the exercise of his duty as city marshal of Tindall, Bon Homme county, South Dakota, and left a widow and three children, Harry, Clara M. and David. (5) George F., a farmer of Marshall, Minnesota, is married and has one child, Cecil. (6) Wesley died in infancy. (7) Samuel W., a resident of Luverne, Minnesota, married Rachael Cripp. (8) Henrietta M. is the wife of Frank Grant Humphreys, a farmer of Annawan township, this county, and they have four children, Cecil, Fay, Ada Verne and Eva M. (9) Lydia M. is the wife of Otis Hannah, a painter

and paper hanger of Geneseo, and they have three children, Lester O., Gladys and Jessie M. (10) Benjamin H., a barber of Geneseo, married Lillie Drain, and has one child, Cassie J. (11) Marcella E. B. is the wife of W. M. Baker, of Muscatine, Iowa, and they have one child, Wilbur.

Mr. Roos is a prominent and influential member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneseo, to which he is a liberal contributor, and in which he has served both as treasurer and deacon, filling the latter office for over thirty years. He also officiated as steward and exhorter for many years, and has taken an active part in all church work. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability, have called upon him to fill public offices of honor and trust, and he has most capably served as school trustee and road commissioner, serving three terms in the latter office. He has voted the Republican ticket ever since the party was organized.

### LEONARD SIEBEN.

Through many years of active labor, mainly devoted to stock raising and agricultural pursuits, Leonard Sieben acquired a comfortable competence which now enables him to lay aside all business cares in ease and retirement at his pleasant home in Geneseo. A native of Germany, he was born on the 15th of February, 1844, in Hesse Darmstadt, of which province his parents, Joseph and Aboline Sieben, were also natives. In 1852 the family emigrated to the new world, thirty-five days being spent on the water. The mother was taken ill during the long voyage, and died in Chicago at the age of forty-five years, the family having remained in that city during the winter of

1852-53. The following spring they moved to Whiteside county, Illinois, where the father worked at anything which he could find to do in order to support his large family of seven children, five sons and two daughters. In 1857 he married again, his second wife being a Miss Fisk, by whom he had one child. He died in Whiteside county, January 1, 1859, at the age of forty-nine years. In religious belief his parents of our subject were Catholics. Their children were as follows: John, a resident of Lorain township, this county; Teresa, wife of Henry H. Hammann, of Osco township; Valentine, who was instantly killed by a horse in 1886, at the age of forty-four years; Margaret, wife of George Arnett, of Geneseo; Leonard, of this review; and Henry and Jacob, both of Montana.

By the death of his father, Leonard Sieben was thrown upon his own resources at the tender age of thirteen years, and has since made his own way in the world unaided. For a short time he was employed by neighboring farmers, but in 1864 went west to that part of Idaho which has since become Montana. In company with three others he crossed the plains, and after traveling three months and seven days landed in Virginia City, where he was first employed as teamster and continued to follow that occupation until the spring of 1866, when he bought a team and engaged in freighting between Fort Benton and Virginia City to Helena and other towns in the interior, which were then the sites of mining camps. To that business he devoted his attention until the spring of 1870, when he went to Utah and bought a herd of young cattle which he drove to Montana to sell, being engaged in that enterprise for three years, at the end of which time he located on a stock ranch in Meagher,

now Cascade county, Montana, and made his home there until the fall of 1879. Selling his interests in the west, he returned to Illinois, in January, 1880, and purchased a farm on section 28, Phenix township, Henry county, where he successfully followed agricultural pursuits for several years, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo. He still owns a fine farm of three hundred and thirty-one acres of rich and arable land in Cornwall township, this county, which he rents, and also has twenty and a half acres of timber land in Phenix township. In addition he also has two hundred and forty acres of improved land in the same township which was the old homestead.

On the 9th of April, 1878, Mr. Sieben married Miss Sarah J. Hines, a native of Illinois. Her father, Henry Hines, was born in Germany, February 19, 1819, but was only three years old when brought by his parents to America, the voyage being made in a sailing vessel and lasting many weeks. The family landed in Baltimore, Maryland, and proceeded to Wayne county, Ohio, where Mr. Hines grew to manhood and married Miss Susan Henney, a native of that county, and a daughter of Peter and Christina (Strayer) Henney, who were both born in Pennsylvania. Mr. Henney died in 1873, at the age of eighty-three and a half years, his wife in 1870 at the age of seventy-four. In 1850 Mr. and Mrs. Hines removed from the Buckeye state to Illinois, and took up their residence in Phenix township, this county, where he followed farming throughout his life, his death occurring March 18, 1870. Religiously he was connected with the Evangelical Association. His wife, who still survives him, is an honored resident of Geneseo, and an active member of the United Evangelical Church of that place. She is

now seventy-five years of age. To this worthy couple were born the following children: John H., a farmer of Kansas; Lucy A., wife of George W. Rowe, a retired farmer of Geneseo; Christina S., wife of Aaron Rapp, of Geneseo; Mary E., wife of Abner Offerley, of Edwards county, Kansas; Sarah, wife of our subject; Mattie A., wife of John Goemmel, of Geneseo; Peter H., a resident of Geneva, Nebraska; and Frederick A., a farmer of Phenix township. Besides their own children Mr. and Mrs. Hines reared Emma Weeks, now the wife of Charles W. Young, of Geneseo.

Mr. and Mrs. Sieben are the parents of five children, namely: Olive S. has successfully taught school for several terms in this county, and is now a student at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, where she will graduate in 1903; Sylvia B. is also a student at Oberlin College and is giving special attention to music, in which she takes great delight and in which she is quite proficient; Ira L. is attending the Geneseo high school; Ward H. is a pupil in the eighth grade of the public schools of Geneseo; and Ruth E. is also attending the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Sieben are prominent members of the Evangelical Church of Geneseo, in which he has served as steward and trustee for some years. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and gives a liberal support to all enterprises which he believes calculated to advance the moral and material welfare of town and county.

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#### OLIVER W. BROWN.

Since 1839 this gentleman has been an honored resident of Henry county, and has therefore witnessed almost its entire growth

and development. As an agriculturist he materially aided in transforming the wild land into highly cultivated fields, and in other ways has advanced the interests of the county. After a long and useful career he has now laid aside all business cares, and is living a retired life in Wethersfield.

Mr. Brown was born in the town of North Coventry, Tolland county, Connecticut, on the 20th of June, 1820, and is a son of Selah Brown, whose birth occurred at the same place December 11, 1783. His paternal grandfather was Josiah Brown, one of the early settlers of Connecticut. There Selah Brown grew to manhood, and married Miss Betsy Dunham, who was born in the same state in 1786, and was a daughter of Stephen Dunham, a Revolutionary soldier, who lived to the advanced age of ninety-nine years, and died in North Coventry. There the parents of our subject spent their entire lives as farming people.

During his boyhood Oliver W. Brown attended the common schools near his home and remained under the parental roof until eighteen years of age. On leaving home in 1838 he came west with four families from Connecticut, and after eight weeks spent upon the road landed in McDonough county, Illinois. In the fall of 1839 he came to Henry county, where he worked by the day and month for a year, receiving ten dollars per month. In 1841 he purchased one hundred acres of unbroken prairie land in Kewanee township, and at once commenced to improve the same and place it under cultivation. Subsequently he purchased more land and had a fine farm of two hundred acres, which he improved in an excellent manner, receiving one year the second premium offered for the best farms in the county. He continued to actively engage

in agricultural pursuits until 1875, when he sold his place and bought a home in Wethersfield, where he still resides. Being a natural mechanic he has worked at the carpenter's trade to some extent during his residence here, but is now living a retired life, having laid aside all business cares. At one time he owned a well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres in Otter county, Nebraska, but has since disposed of that.

In Henry county, September 6, 1846, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brown and Miss Elizabeth Maria Kent, a native of Wyoming county, New York, and a daughter of Ebenezer Kent, who was born in Vermont and when a young man removed to the Empire state. The Kent family is of English origin and the first to come to America was Richard Kent, who crossed the Atlantic in 1634, and settled in Newbury, Massachusetts. Ebenezer Kent was twice married, his second wife being Polly Bolt, the mother of Mrs. Brown. In 1844 he came to Illinois, and after two years spent in Bureau county, took up his residence in Henry county. He lived to be over ninety-one years of age. Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Brown seven are still living, namely: Clark K., who is married and lives in Nebraska; George Oliver, who is also married and resides in that state; Frank G., who is married and makes his home in California; Eben S., also a resident of California; Milton H., who is married and lives in Nebraska; Cyrus A., who is married and lives in Kewanee; and Mary O., wife of James Van Eman of Dwight, Illinois. Those of the family now deceased were Charles H., who died at the age of eighteen months; Laura P., who died at the age of thirteen months; and Emily M., the first born, who married Stephen Hurd and died

in Kewanee, leaving two children: Elizabeth A., now the wife of Alfred Watkinson, of California, and Harry M. of Kewanee.

Originally Mr. Brown was a Democrat in politics, but in 1856 supported John C. Fremont for the presidency, and has since affiliated with the Republican party, though at local elections he often votes independent of party lines. He has been a delegate to the county conventions of his party, and has served as constable, assessor, road commissioner and school director, discharging his various official duties in a commendable and satisfactory manner. He is one of the few remaining old settlers of the county, and is to-day the oldest voter in Wethersfield township. He was a pall-bearer at the first funeral held there. He well remembers when this section of the state was all wild and unimproved, when wolves, deer and feathered game were abundant, furnishing many a meal for the early settlers, whose larder would otherwise have been scant, as those who had money were often unable to procure even the necessities of life in the sparsely settled country. As years have passed all this has been changed and although the wild game has disappeared the residents of Henry county are now able to secure all the delicacies which the markets of the world afford.

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#### J. E. STACY.

J. E. Stacy, the present alderman of the Second ward of Kewanee, and a manufacturer, wholesale and retail dealer of cigars and tobacco, his place of business being at No. 222 Second street, was born in Havana, Illinois, July 17, 1865, a son of John and Ellen (Murphy) Stacy, both na-

tives of the Emerald Isle and members of the Catholic Church. The father died in 1866, at the age of thirty-five years, leaving two children, J. E., our subject; and William E., a manufacturer of cigars at Farmington, Illinois. For her second husband the mother married James Ennis, by whom she also had two children: Philip, deceased; and Christopher, who is working for our subject. Mrs. Ennis is still living at the age of fifty-seven years, and is an honored resident of Kewanee.

During his minority J. E. Stacy lived on a farm, and as he was compelled to earn his own livelihood his educational advantages were limited, though he attended the country schools for a time. On starting out in life for himself he engaged in teaming in Canton, Illinois, and then learned the cigar maker's trade, at which he worked for others until the 23d of May, 1897, when he formed a partnership with James Finin, and embarked in the same line of trade under the firm name of Stacy & Finin. One year later this connection was dissolved by Mr. Stacy purchasing his partner's interest in the business, which he has since carried on under the name of James E. Stacy. He manufactures on an average about two hundred thousand cigars per year, and was engaged in the wholesale business only until November 1, 1900, when he opened a retail department. He has built up a good trade in both branches, and the products of his factory being of a superior grade find a ready sale on the market.

Mr. Stacy was married, May 27, 1896, to Miss Maggie Killeen, a resident of Wyoming, who was born in Illinois, and is a daughter of Patrick and Bridget Killeen, natives of Ireland. Both our subject and



his wife are members of the Catholic Church, and he is also connected with the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. He is also a member of the L. D. of A. of Kewanee, and holds a retiring card of the Cigarmakers International Union of America. He was president of the cigar union of Canton during the strike of March, 1897, which lasted two years, but resigned that position on his removal to Kewanee. He has been a member of the trades council of this city nearly two years and secretary of the local cigar union about a year; and in connection with his special trade has been an important factor in union circles for the past four years. As a Democrat he also takes an active part in politics, and on that ticket was elected alderman in April, 1900, for a term of two years. For his success in life Mr. Stacy deserves great credit, as it is due entirely to his own unaided efforts. His first business transaction was at the age of fifteen years, when he trade an old carbine rifle, which was a present to him, for some tin-type pictures and seventy-five cents in money. He has worked his way steadily upward until he is now at the head of a good and constantly increasing business. In his career he has displayed that energy, enterprise and determination which marks the successful business man.

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#### WILLIAM OLIVER.

Since pioneer days William Oliver has been a resident of this section of the state, having located in Stark county in 1838, and since 1854 he has made his home in Henry county. During his active business life he followed the occupation of farming with

marked success, but is now living retired in Wethersfield, enjoying a handsome competence which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

Mr. Oliver was born in Rossshire, Scotland, February 7, 1827, and is a son of Thomas and Margaret (Fife) Oliver, both natives of Roxburghshire, where their marriage was celebrated. In 1837 the family emigrated to the United States, and the following year took up his residence in Stark county, Illinois, being among the first settlers of what is now Elmira township. There the father of our subject opened up and improved a farm, which he made his home until called to his final rest, having survived his wife for some years.

There our subject grew to manhood, and the education which he acquired in the pioneer schools was supplemented by a course at Knox College, Galesburg. He remained at home until his marriage, which occurred April 3, 1854, in Stark county, Miss Elizabeth Trumbull becoming his wife. She was born and reared in Scotland, and was a daughter of William Trumbull, also a pioneer of Stark county. By this union were born ten children. The sons of the family were Thomas, who is married and now operates the home farm; William P., a resident of Adams county, Iowa; Adam E., who was admitted to the bar and engaged in the practice of law at Kewanee until his death in 1894; George and Andrew, who both died in 1891, after reaching years of maturity; and John, a graduate of the St. Louis Medical College, and now a physician of Kewanee. The daughters were Mary E., wife of Archie Turner, of Adams county, Iowa; Anna, who died in 1898; Nellie and Jane, both at home.

After his marriage Mr. Oliver located on a farm in Wethersfield township, Henry county, where he purchased two hundred acres of wild land, which he broke and placed under cultivation. He added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had six hundred and forty acres, on which he built a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He continued to successfully engage in farming until 1898, when he rented his place and erected a pleasant residence in Wethersfield, where he has since lived retired. As a boy he commenced work for ten cents per day; his wages were subsequently increased to twenty-five cents per day; and he was finally given ten dollars per month; but being industrious, ambitious and enterprising, he steadily prospered as time advanced until he is now one of the most substantial men of the community, and his success has been worthily achieved. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never sought official honors for himself. For some years he efficiently served as a member of the school board and as school director in his district, having always taken a commendable interest in educational affairs. He and his family are earnest and consistent members of the United Presbyterian Church of Elmira, and are people of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### JOHN H. MURPHY.

John H. Murphy, one of Kewanee's well-to-do and highly respected citizens who is now living a retired life, was born in

county Wexford, Ireland, March 7, 1832, and is the only survivor in a family of seven children, four sons and three daughters, whose parents were Gregory and Mary (O'Farrel) Murphy, lifelong residents of the Emerald Isle, where the father died at about the age of eighty years, the mother at the age of fifty-five. The first of the family to come to America was our subject's brother, James, who crossed the Atlantic in 1846 and took up his residence on a farm in Will county, Illinois, where he lived for many years, dying when quite an old man. Michael came to this country in 1877 and settled in Chicago, where he died at the age of sixty. The first of the members of this family were Margaret, who married Nicholas Holden and died in Ireland; James; Patrick and Ellen, who also died in Ireland; John H.; and Michael.

Our subject was reared and educated in the land of his birth. It was in 1850, at the age of eighteen years, that he emigrated to the new world and located in Chicago, where he was engaged in mercantile pursuits for a number of years. In 1882 he came to Henry county and has since made his home in Kewanee, where he worked in the shops for a time, but for the past ten years has lived a retired life. He owns a pleasant home at No. 707 East Third street, where he and his estimable wife expect to spend their declining years. They are worthy members of the Catholic Church, and are highly esteemed by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

On the 22nd of October, 1864, Mr. Murphy married Miss Kate Smith, a native of New York and a daughter of John and Mary (Burns) Smith, who were born in Ireland and were the parents of six children, namely: Margaret, John, Mary, Kate, Will-



iam and Ann. Besides Mrs. Murphy only Mary is now living. The children born to our subject and his wife are James, a resident of Kewanee, who wedded Mary Cochran and has one child, John; John, who is engaged in the mining business in South Dakota; Ellen, at home; Margaret, wife of Frank Reynolds, of Wethersfield; Frank, who is clerking in Kewanee; Kate, wife of Gould Hulburt, a railroad man of Wyoming; and William A., at home.

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#### HENRY EKLUND.

Sweden has furnished to the United States many bright, enterprising young men who have left the old world to enter the business circles of this country with its more progressive methods, livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured. Among this number is Henry Eklund, a prominent architect of Kewanee, Illinois. He was born in Boros, province of Westergotland, Sweden, May 2, 1868, a son of Andrew and Sophia (Sund) Eklund, natives of the same province. The father is a well educated man, who served for over twenty years as a non-commissioned officer in the Swedish army, and after retiring from military service embarked in the lumber and real estate business in Boros, which he still carries on. He has ten children, all living, namely: Alma, wife of John Josephson, of Boros; Henry, our subject; Mary, wife of Jacob Johnson, of Kewanee, Illinois; Hilda, wife of Rev. John Miller, a minister of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church at Bloomington, Illinois; Elizabeth, wife of John Nordine, of Boros, Sweden; Carl, who is married and is now

pastor of the Swedish Methodist Church at Des Moines, Iowa; Hilma, also of Des Moines, Iowa; Judith, Cornelia and Fritz, who are living with their parents in Boros, Sweden.

Henry Eklund began his education in the public schools of his native town and later attended a private school, where he studied for a professorship. In 1887 he came to the new world, sailing from Gottenborg to Hull, England, and from Liverpool to New York. He remained in the latter city for a short time and then came to Kewanee, Illinois, where he took private lessons in drafting. Later he took a special course in architecture at the University of Illinois, and by studying hard completed the same in one year, after which he returned to Kewanee, and has since devoted his time and energies to his profession, in which he has met with marked success. In 1898 he designed and supervised the construction of the Washington school building, which is one of the finest in the state, and in 1900 he received the commission to plan and supervise the construction of a large addition to the Irving school, the Hallin Block of Kewanee, a modern three-story building with all the latest improvements; Thomas McClure's residence on Prospect street in 1895; one for John Wilsey on Tremont street; one for Asa Barney on Chestnut street; and one for X. Caverno on South Tremont street, beside many other residences and buildings. Mr. Eklund also has had considerable work throughout this, Stark and Knox counties. He conscientiously fulfills his part of every contract, and, being a skilled architect, the buildings erected by him are among the finest and best in this section of the state.

On the 25th of October, 1899, was cele-

brated the marriage of Mr. Eklund and Miss Esther Nelson, of Chicago, a daughter of Swan Nelson of that city. She has a brother Arthur, who is still at home with his parents. Mr. Eklund is an active and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; has been a member of the board of directors of the Young Men's Christian Association at Kewance for eight years, and is now vice-president of the same. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and is trustee of the former lodge. Since coming to this country he has affiliated with the Republican party, and has taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs, as every true American citizen should. For three years he has been a member of the public library board, and he gives a cheerful support to all enterprises which have for their object the betterment of mankind.

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#### THOMAS PORTER LIKEN.

One of the early settlers and prominent citizens of Henry county, Mr. Liken is now living a retired life in the city of Geneseo, his home being on South Mechanic street. He was born near Pittsburg, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, November 20, 1846, and is a son of Thomas and Sarah (Sands) Liken. The father was a native of Ireland, who came to Pennsylvania when nine years old, living there until 1865, when he came to Illinois and settled in Munson township, Henry county, where he purchased a farm, making it his home until called from this life, in 1895, at the age of seventy-three years. Throughout his active business career he followed the occupation of farming.

His wife survived him about two years, dying on the old homestead in Munson township, at the age of seventy-two. Of their nine children four are still living, Thomas P. being the oldest of the family.

During his minority our subject assisted his father in the labors of the farm, and remained under the parental roof until his marriage. He began his education at his birthplace, and attended the public schools of Geneseo after coming to this state. On the 28th of December, 1870, in Munson township, he married Miss Rachel V. Hill, who was born in Augusta county, Virginia, April 27, 1851, a daughter of William T. and Elizabeth (Lockhart) Hill. The birth of her father occurred in Rappahannock county, the same state, April 10, 1821, and about 1855 he came to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Munson township, being engaged in farming and stock raising on section 24 until his death, which occurred in 1890, when he was well advanced in years. His wife had passed away a number of years previously. They had a family of fourteen children, eleven of whom are still living, Mrs. Liken being the sixth in order of birth. Mr. Hill was a large land owner and one of the most prosperous men of his community, as well as one of its most highly respected citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Liken are the parents of five children, all of whom were born in Munson township. In order of birth they are as follows: William E., born February 24, 1872, was educated at the Collegiate Institute of Geneseo, and now follows farming, while he makes his home with his parents; Maude E., born March 16, 1875, is the wife of Joseph F. Combs, a farmer residing on section 23, Osco township, this county, and they have one child, Herbert P.; Clyde T.,

born May 7, 1878, is now editor of the Geneseo Daily and Weekly Arena, and is represented on another page of this volume: Myrtle M., born June 14, 1880, was educated in the schools of Geneseo and a young ladies' seminary at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and is now at home with her parents; and Grace M., born January 27, 1884, is attending the Geneseo high school.

After his marriage Mr. Liken embarked in farming for himself on a place adjoining that owned by his father in Munson township. He purchased one hundred and eighty acres of land on section 7, and to it he subsequently added until he had a fine farm comprising five hundred and fifty acres in Munson township, besides a tract of two hundred acres in Iowa. In this county he engaged in general farming and stock raising quite extensively until 1895, when he gave up active business and removed to Geneseo, where he has since lived a retired life at his pleasant home on South Mechanic street, surrounded by the comforts which usually attend a well spent life of industry. His beautiful residence is surrounded by a large and well-kept lawn, and is situated on one of the principal residence streets of the city.

While living in Munson township Mr. Liken served as school director for some years, but has never cared for political honors. He is, however, a public spirited man, and advocates all measures tending to advance or improve the community in which he lives. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party, and fraternally affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For many years he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church of Munson; has always been an active Christian worker, and a liberal donator to the support of his church.

At present he is a member of the board of trustees of the Geneseo Collegiate Institute, and has for some years served as treasurer of that organization. In his farming operations he has met with that success which usually follows the industrious and enterprising man, and is now enabled to live in ease and comfort upon the proceeds of his former toil. He still retains his farms in Munson township, which are now occupied by tenants. He has witnessed almost the entire development of the county, and in its upbuilding he has ever borne his part. His life has been manly, his actions sincere, and his example is well worthy of emulation.

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#### CLYDE THOMAS LIKEN.

Clyde T. Liken, editor and proprietor of the Geneseo Daily and Weekly Arena, is the third child in order of birth in the family of Thomas P. and Rachel V. (Hill) Liken, of Geneseo, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. He was born on the old homestead in Munson township, May 7, 1878, and at the age of five years commenced attending the district school of that locality, where he pursued his studies until sixteen. In the fall of 1894 he entered the Geneseo Collegiate Institute, where he was graduated after taking a three years' course. He was a close and careful student, who did good and conscientious work, and always stood well in his classes. He was president of his class during his senior year, and was chosen, as a representative of the institute, to take part in several oratorical contests. At present he is a member of the Alumni Association of that school. In the fall of 1897 he entered the Northwestern Univer-

sity at Evanston, where he continued his studies until January 1, 1898, when he entered the freshman class at Knox College, Galesburg. He was a student there two years, taking the scientific course, and identified himself with the different phases of college life, taking part in the literary societies and the athletic sports.

Returning to his home in the fall of 1899, Mr. Liken became a reporter on the *Geneseo Daily Arena*, and a few months later purchased a half interest in the paper, being a partner of H. W. Buckle in the publication of the same. In March, 1900, he purchased the interest of Mr. Buckle, and has since been sole proprietor. The *Daily Arena* is a four-page, seven-column paper, independent in politics; while the *Weekly*, which is published every Thursday, supports the Democratic party. The paper was established in 1895 by the Henry County Publishing Company, and under the able and efficient management of our subject has become one of the leading journals of the county.

Mr. Liken is a member of Stewart Lodge, No. 92, F. & A. M., and also of the Presbyterian Church of Geneseo. He stands deservedly high in both church and social circles, and is one of the most popular young men of the city.

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### J. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

This well-known citizen and successful agriculturist of Wethersfield, was born in Kansas City, Kansas, January 4, 1858, and is a son of J. W. Johnson, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1816, and was educated at Williams College, of which he was a grad-

uate. The paternal grandfather was Dr. J. V. Johnson, who was born in Washington county, New York, in 1786, and became a prominent physician. The father of our subject fitted himself for the legal profession, and at an early day located in Princeton, Illinois, where he engaged in the practice of law for a time. While there he was united in marriage with Mary Eliza Winship, a daughter of Horace and Sarah Winship, who settled in Princeton in 1833. Later Mr. Johnson removed to Wyandotte, Kansas, now Kansas City, and there engaged in the practice of his profession until his death in 1859. His widow returned to her people in Princeton, Illinois, but later married John Jacobs and resided at Morris, Illinois, where she departed this life in 1865.

Being left an orphan at the age of seven years, the subject of this sketch was early thrown upon his own resources to battle with the world. In 1869 he came to Wethersfield to make his home with Dr. and Mrs. Hurd, by whom he was reared as their own son. A sketch of this worthy couple will be found elsewhere in this work. Mr. Johnson was provided with good school privileges, and completed his education at the high school of Kewanee. He remained with the Doctor and his wife until nineteen years of age, when he commenced earning his own livelihood by working by the month as a farm hand in different parts of the state. In 1885 he located permanently in Wethersfield township, this county, upon a farm of ninety acres, which he has operated in connection with other land. He is a thorough and skillful agriculturist, and in his labors is meeting with excellent success.

At Princeton, Illinois, in 1891, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Johnson and Miss Daisy M. Garman, a native of that

place and a daughter of Samuel Garman. By this union were born two children, Caroline and Mary E. The latter died May 11, 1899, at the age of one year. In his political views Mr. Johnson is a staunch Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for James A. Garfield. He is public spirited and progressive, and takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs.

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#### REV. M. F. FOLEY.

There is no position held by man more important than pastor of a church, nor is there a position that has attached to it greater importance or responsibility when properly conceived and consciously discharged. This is more essentially the case with the clergymen of the Catholic faith, for he is held more as an instructor and guide, not only in religious matters, but in moral and social conduct, by his congregation. There are few men by character and education better fitted to preside over a people in all these relations than the reverend gentleman whose name stands at the head of this biography.

A native of London, England, Father Foley was born in Horse Ferry Road, Westminster, November 1, 1867, and is a son of Martin and Catherine (O'Brien) Foley, the former a native of County Waterford, Ireland, the latter of County Cork. His paternal grandfather was taken from his bed one night and pressed into the English navy. He jumped overboard, but was recaptured and sentenced to forty-eight lashes. He was pardoned from this, however, by his landlord, but was not released from the

navy. The press gang also captured his eldest son. Father Foley's parents crossed the ocean about the same time he came to America and located in Canada. Two years later they removed to Spring Valley, Illinois, where the father engaged in the shoe business until his death. Subsequently the mother removed with her family to Peoria, where she is now living. Of their ten children, five died in Ireland, the others being M. F., our subject; Thomas, of Peoria; Michael P., who lives with his mother; and Katie, who died in Peoria.

In November, 1875, Father Foley went to County Cork, Ireland, and entered the Brothers school at Fermoy, a great military town, where he remained ten years, half of this time being spent at St. Colman's College. Those were the days of the martial and coercion laws, when citizens had to be in at eight o'clock at night. Father Foley belonged to a reading club, which the police would raid to see if the members had any firearms about them, and this proved very trying to the independent spirit of the young Irish boy. While there he received a great many prizes. When only sixteen years of age he carried off an exhibition prize of sixty pounds sterling, which amounts to about three hundred dollars in our money. This made him an eligible candidate for subsequent examinations for any government position, and he was offered a position as military engineer. Coming to America the 10th of April, 1885, Father Foley entered St. Michael's College at Chatham, New Brunswick, where he remained until September 15, 1888. He was next a student at Le Grande Seminary in Montreal, Canada, until June 26, 1890, when he went to Baltimore, Maryland, and took up higher the-

ology at St. Mary's College, which is one of the oldest institutions in America.

On the 29th of January, 1892, Father Foley left Baltimore for Milwaukee, and there was ordained a priest on the 26th of May, by Bishop Messmer, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, he being the only priest ordained at that time. He was first appointed assistant pastor at Chebanse, Iroquois county, Illinois, where he remained eleven months; was then at Odell two months; Keithsburg six months; and Peoria three years. On the 27th of June, 1896, he received the appointment as pastor of the Catholic Church at Carthage, where he remained until November, 1898, when he was appointed pastor of St. Malachy's Church at Geneseo. He has already done a good work here, and has made many friends among all denominations as well as his own parishioners.

Father J. G. Alleman, a celebrated German missionary, was the first priest to say mass in this part of the state, his district lying along the Mississippi river from St. Louis to Rock Island and across the state to Peoria, and he built the first Catholic church at Rock Island, taking the material from the Nauvoo Mormon temple which he had purchased. He traveled all over the country on horseback, and organized the first parish in Geneseo, saying the first mass in James Warren's house. He was succeeded by Father Mueller, of Chicago, who said mass in the seminary building, and he in turn was followed by Rev. John Dolan, who succeeded Father Alleman at Rock Island. He also said mass in James Warren's house, as did Father Murphy, who next had charge of the parish. Later Father McElherne said mass in Perry's hall. He was succeeded by Father Corbinian, a famous missionary from Chicago, who said mass in Sniff's hall. A

church was built in 1866, and was under the charge of Fathers Meinrod, Shuitbert, Mathias and Dionisius, all of Chicago. At that time the congregation numbered ninety-nine families. The first resident priest was Rev. Thomas J. Ackley, who was succeeded by Rev. F. W. Smythe, an Englishman, who had been converted to the Catholic faith. He also had charge of the out missions at Hoopole, Atkinson, Annawan, Sheffield, Bradford and Kewanee, and during his pastorate here baptized six hundred and forty people. This English priest on his coal-black horse was a familiar sight in and around Geneseo. After seven years of faithful service he returned to England, where his death occurred. He was followed by Rev. Hugh O'Gara McShane, who remained until 1877, when the Chicago diocese was divided, and the Geneseo parish became a part of the Peoria diocese. Father McShane is now the pastor of the Enunciation Church at Paulina street and Wabansia avenue, Chicago. The next pastor was Father L. J. Dunne, who remained seven years, and was then succeeded by Father Fallihee, now of Arlington, Illinois. In 1880 Rev. William O'Hara became pastor, and nine years later was succeeded by Father Foley. When our subject took charge here the church was three thousand dollars in debt, but this has all been paid off, and he has made many improvements in the church property, including steam heat and electric lights. The furnace and heating apparatus was the gift of J. H. O'Brien, a prominent grocer of Geneseo, and an elegant bath room has been put in the pastor's residence, it being the gift of Cornelius Hayes. The Geneseo congregation consists of about four hundred adults. Father Foley also has charge of Colona, where there is also a church; Cam-



bridge, where he says mass in private houses; Orion, Briar Bluff, Carbon Cliff and Cleveland.

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### GEORGE A. MORTON.

George A. Morton, an energetic and enterprising farmer residing at No. 517 East Prospect street, Kewanee, is a native of Henry county, his birth having occurred in Anawan township, August 9, 1866. His parents, Daniel and Catherine (Potter) Morton, were natives of Ohio and Connecticut, respectively, and early settlers of this county, where the father took up a tract of government land and improved a farm. This tract remained in his possession until his death, but at that time he was living a retired life in Kewanee. Prior to coming to Illinois he owned and operated a farm in Michigan, which he sold on his removal. He and his wife made the journey to Henry county in a wagon, and first settled in Anawan township, where she died. There he owned one hundred and sixty acres of land, and also had two hundred and sixteen acres in Kewanee township, seventy acres in the corporation of Kewanee, one hundred and twenty acres in Wethersfield township, and one hundred and twenty acres in Bureau county. He was prominently identified with the early development and upbuilding of Henry county, and experienced many of the hardships and difficulties of pioneer life. On first locating here he sold all his grain in sacks and his hogs dressed. In 1875 he removed to Kewanee, which at that time was a mere village. He owned considerable property in the city and was quite well-to-do. He was a man of affairs, taking an active interest in all enterprises for the bene-

fit of his community, and served as constable at an early day. While living in the east he held membership in the United Brethren Church. He was born May 15, 1815, and died August 19, 1899. For his second wife he married Mrs. Catherine (Potter) Buckley, of Princeton, who had been a resident of Bureau county for many years, and is now living with her son-in-law in Galva. She was seventy years of age on the 31st of December, 1900. Mr. Morton was the father of five children by the first marriage. The three by the second marriage were Helen, who died at the age of four years; Mrs. Edna Taylor, who has two children, Addie and Lloyd; and George A., our subject.

During his boyhood and youth George A. Morton pursued his studies in the public schools of Kewanee, and early became familiar with agricultural pursuits, and now owns one hundred and sixty acres of well improved land in Neponset township, Bureau county, Illinois. He has made farming and stock raising his life occupation, and is meeting with excellent success. On the 8th of August, 1888, he was united in marriage with Miss Emma Duff, a native of this city, whose parents, James and Eliza Duff, came to this country from Ireland. She was only two years old when she lost her mother, but her father survived for many years, dying November 1, 1897, at the age of seventy-four. Their other children were Ada, wife of Wesley Kimball, of Kansas; James, a resident of Lonetree, Iowa; William, of Stockton, California; and Lida, wife of Wright Smith, of St. Joseph, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Morton have one child, Ethel, who is the pride and joy of their home. They are members of the Baptist Church, and Mr. Morton is also connected with the Improved Order of Red Men. In his political views



he is an ardent Republican. He is a worthy representative of one of the old and prominent families of the county, and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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### LIBERTY STIMSON.

Liberty Stimson, deceased, was one of the honored pioneers of Henry county and a leading representative of its farming and stock raising interests. He was born in the town of Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1804, and came to Illinois in 1836, locating first in Bureau county. In 1838 he entered three eighty-acre tracts of land in Henry county, and at the land office in Galena he received the government patents, which are now in possession of his widow. He located upon his property in 1840, and later added to it, but subsequently sold a portion of the estate, though his widow still owns one hundred and eighty-two and a half acres in Geneseo township. The Geneseo colony was organized in Bergen, Geneseo county, New York, in 1835, but did not locate here until a year or two after his arrival. He was therefore one of the first settlers of this part of the county, and for many years was known to almost every resident within its borders. He bought stock in all parts of the county, became quite an extensive farmer, and bought and sold much land, though he always retained the tract on which he originally located and which is still in possession of the family. His brother, Moses, also owned a large tract of land in Geneseo township, their homes being near each other. The latter never married, and died before our subject's death.

With the early development and improve-

ment of this section of the state Mr. Stimson was prominently identified for many years, and was recognized as one of the most useful and valued citizens of his community. He was an earnest and consistent member of the Congregational Church, and died in that faith, July 26, 1878, at the age of seventy-two years and five months. Becoming widely and favorably known, he made many friends, and his death was a loss to the entire community.

On Christmas day, 1837, Mr. Stimson married Miss Leah Clark, of Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois, who died December 17, 1863, and the two children born of this union are also deceased. In 1844 Mr. Stimson was again married, in Geneseo, his second wife being Mrs. Remembrance Ogden, *nee* Evans, who by her former marriage had five children, namely: Elizabeth, widow of John Taylor and a resident of Burns township, this county; Mrs. Emline Dawson; Samuel, who married Amanda Tibbs; Thomas, who died at the age of eighteen years; and John, who married a Miss Graff.

On the 13th of February, 1867, at the residence of the bride's brothers in Rock Island, Mr. Stimson was united in marriage with Miss Hannah E. Reynolds, a native of Montpelier, Vermont, and a daughter of E. P. and Betsey (Stuart) Reynolds. Her father was born in Kinderhook, New York, and was a descendant in direct line from Sir Joshua Reynolds, the famous painter of England, while the mother was a native of Jeffries, New Hampshire, and traced her ancestry back to Mary, Queen of Scots. They were married in Albany, New York, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Mr. Reynolds followed contracting and building for some years, and served as captain of a company in the war of 1812. He was a fine

looking man, being over six feet tall and of commanding appearance. He took quite a prominent part in public affairs, and was thus identified with several counties of Vermont. In early life he was a minister of the Free Will Baptist Church, but after his removal to the Green Mountain state he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, there being no church of the former denomination in his community. He was ever active and influential in religious work, and was a personal and valued friend of Bishop Elisha Scott. He was accidentally killed at Shoreham, Vermont, by a wagon load of boxes tipping over on him, when fifty-five years of age. His wife survived him five years and died at the same age. She was a Congregationalist in religious belief, and was an earnest Christian worker.

Mrs. Stimson is the eighth in order of birth of the ten children born to this worthy couple, the others being as follows: Harmon G., an attorney, married Louisa Thompson, now deceased, and he died at the age of eighty-one years. Nazro B., who died at the age of seventy-nine, first married Sarah Bennett and second Sarah Dillon. Mary A., a good Methodist, married Palmer Stearns, now deceased, and she died at the age of eighty. Elisha P., who died at the age of seventy-eight, married first Eliza Young and second Mrs. Amanda Ogden, who is still living. Betsey S. is the wife of B. H. Kimball, of Rock Island, Illinois. Martha W. is the widow of Thomas B. Woods and a resident of Woodstock, Vermont. Lucy H. married Hosea V. French, and died at the age of sixty-eight years. Both she and her husband were consistent members of the Universalist Church. John R., an Episcopalian in religious belief, married Elizabeth Bennett and died at the age of seventy-one,

in Los Angeles, California, where his widow still resides. Record S., a member of the Congregational Church, was married in San Francisco, California, and died at Gold Hill, Nevada, at the age of forty-one years.

Mrs. Stimson, who is familiarly known by her many friends as Aunt Hannah, was educated at Montpelier and Woodstock, Vermont, and Lebanon, New Hampshire. She then taught school for one year in the latter state; two years in graded schools in Massachusetts; three years in graded schools in New York; six months in a parish school in Louisiana; and two years and a half in a select school at Marshall, Harrison county, Texas, on the Red river, near Shreveport. She was at the last named place when the Civil war broke out, and had much difficulty in reaching her friends in the north. She obtained a passport signed by the governors of Texas and Louisiana, with which she was able to travel as far as Vicksburg, where their jurisdiction ended. Here thirteen lady teachers were recommended to the tender mercies of General Kirby Smith, of the Confederate army, who was a native of New York, but had married a southern lady. They spent ten days at Vicksburg during the siege in the fall of 1862, stopping at the American House, and saw General Grant's forces kept at bay by shot and shell. The leading Confederate generals at that place were Bragg, Stonewall Jackson, Van Doren, Beauregard, Todd and Slaughter. Major Watts was there for the exchange of prisoners. They were all very gentlemanly and nice to the lady teachers, who were finally taken to the gunboat *Monarch* in closed carriages, as the people of the city were very hostile to northerners. On this boat were several hundred exchanged prisoners under Captain La Salle, a Union officer. They

stopped at Lake Providence, on the Arkansas side of the river, and four more teachers came on board, under Captain Dubb, also a Union officer. Between that place and Helena a battle was fought between the contending forces, which lasted four hours. No one on the Monarch was injured, though one man who was ill died from fright and disturbance. The battle was precipitated by a man on Lieutenant Pritchard's boat being shot by a Confederate from the Mississippi side. They finally reached Memphis in safety. At Helena some gentlemen came on board for the purpose of buying their Confederate money, but they were not allowed to sell. At Memphis, however, Mrs. Stimson disposed of what Confederate money she had, receiving only thirty-seven and a half cents on the dollar. At Cairo, Illinois, the company separated and Mrs. Stimson came back to Rock Island, where she had been mourned for lost many days, and was looked upon as one risen from the dead. She then taught in the graded schools of that city and the schools of Hampton, Illinois, until her marriage, in 1867. That she was considered an excellent instructor is evinced by the number of years she was retained in the same school. She was progressive in her methods, was a great student, and had that love for her profession without which there can be no success. She is an active and prominent member of Grace Evangelical Church of Geneseo, being converted at the early age of ten years under the ministry of Bishop Scott, and she is highly respected and esteemed by all who know her on account of her sterling worth. Previous to uniting with the Grace Evangelical Church she was connected for many years with the Episcopal Church, being confirmed by Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont. The mother of Mr. Stimson

was a first cousin of Benjamin Franklin, and the family is one of the most prominent in and around Boston.

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#### JAMES STEELE HAMILTON.

Among the early settlers and highly respected citizens of Henry county was Mr. Hamilton, of Geneseo, who was affectionately known by many as Uncle Steele. He was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 12th of June, 1812, and lived at the place of his birth until coming to Illinois. His father, Alexander Hamilton, was a native of Ireland, and when a young man came to this country, settling in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he married Miss Elizabeth Steele. There he engaged in farming throughout his life, and died November 18, 1845. His wife had passed away November 10, 1834. They were the parents of seven children.

For a number of years our subject engaged in farming in the county of his nativity, and when but a young man came to Henry county, Illinois. He purchased a farm in Cornwall township, which he operated for several years, and then removed to Benton county, Iowa, where he was also engaged in agricultural pursuits for nine years. At the end of that period he returned to this county and took up his abode in the city of Geneseo, where he lived a retired life until his death, which occurred March 15, 1889, at the present home of his widow.

On the 5th of March, 1840, in Cornwall township, Henry county, Mr. Hamilton was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Taylor, a daughter of Andrew and Polly (Brown) Taylor. Her father was born

January 17, 1789, in New Hampshire, where he grew to manhood. After his marriage he removed to New York, where he engaged in farming for some years, and then went to Indiana, where he continued to follow that pursuit until coming to Henry county, Illinois. Locating in Cornwall township, he bought a farm, which he operated until called from this life at an advanced age. Mrs. Hamilton's mother had died in New York some years previous.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, namely: (1) Priscilla died at the age of about five years. (2) John T., who is engaged in the hardware business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, married Annie Jones, and they have two children, James E. and Faun. (3) Alexander died at the age of one year. (4) William W., who is in partnership with his brother John T., in the hardware business at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, married Josephine Allsop, and they have three children, Louise, Jane S. and Josephine. (5) Porter H., who is also connected with his brothers in business at Cedar Rapids, but is now in California, married Carlota Sargent, and they have six children, Alfred, Richard, Guy, Clifford, Porter and Carlota. (6) Sarah is the wife of William Orr, a retired farmer of Geneseo, and they have three children, Mary E., Viella and Roy.

By his ballot Mr. Hamilton always supported the men and measures of the Democratic party, but never cared for the honors or emoluments of political office, though he was a public spirited citizen and was an advocate of all that tended to improve or advance the interests of the community in which he lived. He was a man of many friends and no enemies, was a devoted husband, a kind and indulgent father, and true

friend. He won the confidence of all by whom he was surrounded. A man of powerful physique, he was also a man of firm mind and strong will power, and was unswerving in what he believed to be right. He had the courage of his convictions, and was honored for his strict integrity and upright character.

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#### THERON H. CHESLEY.

Theron H. Chesley, a prominent attorney of Kewanee and president of the Star-Courier Printing Company, was born in Caledonia county, Vermont, October 22, 1857, a son of Albert and Lucretia (Smith) Chesley. He traces his ancestry back to two brothers who came to this country from England in the early part of the seventeenth century and settled in New Hampshire, where they were given land grants. From that state the paternal grandfather removed to Vermont, and it was there that the father of our subject was born in 1828. Completing his education in the local schools he engaged in farming and finally embarked in business as a boot and shoe dealer at Sheffield, Vermont, and continued the same until after the Civil war broke out. In the spring of 1862 he entered the army and remained in the service until hostilities ceased. He died in June, 1867. His widow made her home with our subject in Illinois from the spring of 1878 until her death in 1888. Their children were Theron H., of this review; and Ella, wife of Dr. T. B. Keene, of Montezuma, Iowa. By a former marriage the father had two sons, M. A., publisher of the Democrat at Chetopa, Kansas; and Albert S., a grocer of Kewanee.

The early education of our subject was acquired in the common schools of the Green Mountain state, and there he served an apprenticeship to the printer's trade, at which he worked in different places in Vermont, first at Lyndon. In 1877 he came to this state and at once found employment with the Kewanee Courier. He spent a few months in Cambridge, and in 1878 became local editor of the Kewanee Courier. In the fall of 1879 he leased the paper in connection with his brother, and they carried it on together for six years. In 1882 Mr. Chesley purchased the whole stock and continued its publication until 1892, when he formed a partnership with L. W. Chandler, now of Independence, Iowa. In the spring of 1896 our subject started a daily, but in October of the same year sold out to Delano & Henderson, who continued its publication for about eighteen months. Mr. Chesley then bought back the Courier plant and organized a company. In 1898 he consolidated the Star and Courier, and became president of what is known as the Kewanee Printing and Publishing Company, which issues both a daily and weekly journal and also does job printing of all kinds. He started in business here on a small scale, but his office is now equipped with the most modern improvements, including folding and type-setting machines. He owns the building occupied by him, it being a good brick structure, which, with adjoining buildings, occupy 64x100 feet on the corner of Main and Third streets, and also has a pleasant residence in Kewanee besides farm land in Nebraska. Mr. Chesley took up the study of law in 1891, and four years later entered the Kent College of Law at Chicago, where he completed his

studies and was graduated in 1896. In the spring of the following year he commenced the practice of his profession in Kewanee, and has already met with fair success in that enterprise.

In October, 1881, Mr. Chesley was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Whitney, who was born in Hastings, Minnesota, October 28, 1861, but was living with her parents in Kewanee at that time. Her father, Dr. C. N. Whitney, founded the Kewanee Courier in 1876, and at different time has edited the Quincy Whig and various papers in the state. He is a well-educated man, who has been a Methodist preacher and temperance lecturer, but is now living retired at Kingston, Jamaica. Mr. and Mrs. Chesley have four children, namely: Merton W., born in 1882; Willis F., in 1884; Ella, in 1887; and Theron H., Jr., in 1893. All are now attending school, and the oldest son also aids his father in the printing office.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Chesley has been identified with the Republican party, and has done all in his power to advance its interests and insure its success. He served as postmaster of Kewanee under President Harrison's administration, from 1891 to 1895. He is a typical business man of the west—wide-awake and energetic—and in his undertakings has been eminently successful. Fraternally he is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and council of the Masonic fraternity at Kewanee, and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Circle and the Mystic Workers of the World. Socially he is quite popular, being genial and pleasant in manner, and has the happy faculty of making friends readily, and as easily retaining them. He

gives his support to the Congregational Church, of which his wife is an earnest member.

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### GEORGE ALLEN VAWTER, D. D. S.

Among the representative professional and business men of Henry county, none stand higher in the estimation of the general public than the subject of this sketch, who has been a prominent factor in business, professional and political circles of the county for more than twenty-one years. He is a native of the state, born in Macomb, the county seat of McDonough county, January 4, 1858. His father, Allen T. Vawter, was born in Cumberland county, Kentucky, December 14, 1830 and came with his parents to McDonough county, Illinois, in 1833. On a farm near Macomb, he grew to manhood. He then moved to the city of Macomb, in 1851, when he engaged in the nursery business, being one of the earliest nurserymen in central Illinois, in which line of business he is still engaged, having a record of forty-nine years of continual service in one line of business.

The first ancestor of the family settled in Virginia, where the great-grandfather of our subject, Russell Vawter, was born. He always lived in his native county, Culpepper. His son, Beverly Vawter, was born in Culpepper county, Virginia, September 22, 1782, and when twenty-one years old he moved to North Carolina where, on the 13th of January, 1807, he married Elizabeth Hutchins. In 1813 he moved with his family to Kentucky, and from thence to McDonough county, Illinois, in 1833, becoming a pioneer farmer in that county, where he died, April 21, 1845. He was a soldier in the war of

1812. On the 14th of March, 1854, Allen T. Vawter was united in marriage with Miss Florida Elizabeth Kellogg, a native of Ohio, born June 9, 1836. Her father was a native of New York, and in the Civil war gave his life for his country. Of the seven children born to Allen T. Vawter and wife but three survive—Lemuel E., now of Macomb, Illinois; Harry M., a dentist of Knoxville, Iowa, and a director in one of the leading banks of that city; and our subject. The parents are both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Macomb, the father having been for many years one of its trustees.

In the public schools of Macomb, Illinois, our subject received his education, being a graduate of the high school of that city in the class of 1876. Soon after his graduation he commenced the study of dentistry with Dr. H. H. Whissen, of Macomb. At that time there were but few dental schools in existence, and the different states had no definite requirements for the practice of dentistry. In after years the Doctor, for his own gratification, took a full course in dentistry in the dental department of the State University of Iowa, graduating from that institution in March, 1894. He located, however, in Cambridge, in 1879, and there he has since continued to reside in the practice of his profession. Few dentists, even in the larger cities have had a larger or more lucrative practice. In 1892 he built a model dental office of the cottage type, surrounded by a nice lawn, and complete in every detail. It is equipped with a mantle and fireplace, and is supplied with hot and cold water, with fountain cuspidor. Telephones and electric lights show evidence of twentieth century progress. It has a large plate glass window in the front and



another one in the north which furnishes the light with which to operate by, and with the aid of a lady assistant his office is always kept neat and tidy.

Dr. Vawter is a stalwart Republican, and he has always been a hard worker for his party. At present he is chairman of the Republican central committee of Cambridge, in which position he has shown good executive ability, doing much to advance the interests of the party. He has served on the town board as trustee, and also as president of the board. While on the board he was one of the committee that put in the splendid water works plant of Cambridge. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, Knights of Pythias, Eastern Star, and Si Psi Phi, the latter being a dental society. In each of these organizations he has taken an active part.

On the 14th of November, 1883, Dr. Vawter was united in marriage with Miss Nellie I. Gould, daughter of L. Y. and Orlando Paddock (Mead) Gould, and they reside in a good home in the south part of the city, where their many friends always receive a cordial welcome. They attend and support the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they have taken much interest, though not members. For a number of years the Doctor has been president of the board of trustees.

Dr. Vawter has been a successful business man, and he is essentially a self-made man. Inheriting no property, all that he has gained has been acquired by his own exertions and good management. He assisted in organizing one of the banks in Cambridge, and has also been interested in the organization of others. He is now connected with some large business enterprises, among which is the Philippine Lumber and

Development Company, of which he is a director. The company is composed of some of the wealthiest and best business men in the country. The Philippine islands contain vast quantities of timber, of which there are more than four hundred varieties of hardwood, at least fifty having a high commercial value. The company, with its ample capital, propose acquiring and developing the vast resources of the country, and, being the first to enter the field, will doubtless reap bountifully. The Doctor is also a stockholder in the Coliseum Company of Chicago, the directors of which are nearly identical with those of the Philippine Company. Few men, with the limited means at their disposal in commencing life have accomplished more than Dr. Vawter, and while he has been prosperous, he is unaffected by his gains, is easily approached, and enjoys in a high degree the respect and confidence of the people with whom he has so long been associated.

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#### ADAM DUNLAP.

Among the honored citizens and retired farmers of Geneseo none is more worthy of notice in this volume than Adam Dunlap, who is enjoying a well-earned rest at his pleasant home on North State street. A native of Ohio, he was born in Wayne county on the 18th of December, 1833, and is a son of William and Nancy (Finley) Dunlap, whose birthplace was the north of Ireland. Coming to America in the early part of the nineteenth century, the father located in Wayne county, Ohio, where he became owner of a good farm of three hundred acres, on which he made his home throughout the remainder of his life. He was born



in 1798, and died February 23, 1852, having only survived his wife nine days, her death occurring on the 14th of the same month. Both were earnest and faithful members of the Presbyterian Church, and were most estimable people. Their children were as follows: Margaret is now the widow of A. J. Burns, and a resident of San Francisco, California; Thomas, born in 1832, died September 15, 1885; Adam, our subject, is next in order of birth; Elizabeth, born November 23, 1836, died in 1838; Mary E., born in 1838, married John Schnebly, died in Lucas county, Iowa, in 1869; Alexander, born January 13, 1841, is engaged in farming near Winterset, Iowa; Nancy J. was married and died in California, August 15, 1866, at the age of twenty-three; James P., born April 18, 1845, is a druggist and express agent in California; William, born October 9, 1847, died in 1857; Archibald F. is editor of the "Reporter," a newspaper in West Salem, Ohio; and Andrew J. is section boss on the Erie railroad at that place.

The early life of Adam Dunlap was passed upon his father's farm, and his education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood. In 1852 he started out to make his own way in the world, and two years later came to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Phenix township, where he worked on a farm until after the Civil war broke out. In 1862 he responded to his country's call for aid by enlisting in Company K, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His first engagement was the battle of Richmond, Kentucky, and the winter of 1862-3 was spent in that state. The following spring the regiment went in pursuit of Morgan, and was later at Camp Nelson on the Cumberland river. Being ill

and unable to engage in active army service Mr. Dunlap was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, and sent to Jeffersonville, Indiana, and later to Madison, Wisconsin, where he remained until his term of enlistment expired, being mustered out in 1865.

Returning to Illinois, he was married on the 10th of August, that year, to Mrs. Malinda Merriman, who was born on the 26th of May, 1813, in New York state, and died March 24, 1891. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew her. There were no children by this union but by her former marriage Mrs. Dunlap had six children, of whom mention is made in the sketch of William Merriman on another page of this volume. Our subject was again married December 5, 1895, his second union being with Mrs. Caroline Sieben, widow of Valentine Seiben, of this county. She was born November 19, 1839, and died November 29, 1898. She held membership with the United Evangelical Church. On the 23d of October, 1900, Mr. Dunlap married Mrs. Lavilla Schmaufer, widow of Jacob Schmaufer, and daughter of Daniel and Mary Fatzinger, natives of Pennsylvania, where Mrs. Dunlap was also born. By her first marriage she had two children, George D., who is living with our subject, and Frank J., now attending Northwestern College, Napierville, Illinois.

Mr. Dunlap is a Methodist in religious belief, and officially connected with the church of that denomination at Geneseo. Fraternally he is a member of Jenkins Post, G. A. R., and politically is identified with the Democratic party. For many years he was one of the active and progressive farmers of Henry county, as well as one of its most reliable and honored citizens, and now

in his declining years he is enjoying a well-earned rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. Throughout the county he is widely and favorably known.

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### JOHN M. DAVIS.

John M. Davis, the well-known alderman of the first ward of Kewanee, Illinois, was born in Wales, on the 20th of June, 1865, and the following year was brought to America by his parents, Morgan and Joanna Davis, who first settled in Utah, but two years later removed to Joliet, Illinois. Throughout his active business life the father was employed as a roller in a rolling mill. He died in 1885, at the age of seventy-seven years, and his wife departed this life in 1882, at the age of sixty-three. They were formerly connected with the Latter Day Saints, but later held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. To this worthy couple were born fourteen children, of whom our subject is the youngest. His brothers and sisters who are still living are William, who has spent his entire life in Wales; David, a resident of Idaho; Morgan, of Illinois; Jane, wife of William Pickerel, of South Chicago, Illinois; May A., widow of James Mathews; and Miriam, wife of John Fellen, a coal miner of Kewanee, all of whom are living.

John M. Davis was reared in Joliet, Illinois, and received his education in its public schools. He began his business career as a nail packer; then for over a year he was engaged in the manufacture of nails in Chicago as an employe; later was employed in the steel department of a rail mill and subsequently learned the puddler's trade, to which

he has since devoted his energies. In 1884 he came to Kewanee, and has since been employed in the rolling mill at this place, as a puddler.

Here Mr. Davis was married, in 1886, to Emily Jones, who was born in Kewanee township, this county, a daughter of George and Margaret Jones. She is one of a family of thirteen children, of whom the following are living: William, a resident of Kewanee, who married Martha Jenkins and has five children, John, Lizzie, Cassie, George and James; Jennie, who is the wife of Carr Mittin, of Kewanee, and has two children, George and Andrey; and Cassie, wife of James Mercer, of Kewanee, by whom she has three children, Jessie, Lola and Claude. Mary J., another sister of Mrs. Davis, wedded Thomas Palmer, and died in 1893, at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving four children, Margaret, Abram, Emma and May. To Mr. and Mrs. Davis were born five children, of whom the eldest, David, died at the age of twenty-one months. Those living are Raymond, Opal, Harry and Mary A. George Jones was born in Wales, January 1, 1830, and his wife, Margaret Birch, was also born in Wales June 20, 1832, and was there married and came to Pennsylvania where they located about 1865. About 1867 they moved to Kewanee township where he bought a farm and lived until retiring to Kewanee in 1887. They are members of the Latter Day Saints. He was tax collector of the city one term.

By his ballot Mr. Davis supports the men and measures of the Republican party, with which his father and the other members of the family also affiliated. He takes an active interest in public affairs, and in April, 1900 was elected alderman of the first ward of Kewanee, which office he is now most creditably

and satisfactorily filling. He is now serving as chairman of the hall committee, and is also chairman of the committee on sewers and nuisances. He belongs to the Royal Circle and Kewanee Lodge, No. 3, of the Amalgamated Association of the Iron, Steel & Tin Workers of which he is now treasurer. Mrs. Davis is a member of the Baptist Church.

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### JOSEPH H. RINK.

The motto "merit always commands its reward" is well exemplified with the career of the subject of this sketch, who after many years of active labor is now living a retired life in Geneseo, surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life which have been gained through former toil. He was born in Alsace, Germany, October 24, 1833, and was a lad of thirteen years when he came to the United States with his parents, Joseph Herman and Magdeline (Smith) Rink. After spending a short time in Buffalo, New York, they came west and settled on the Rock River bottom. It was not long after this, however, that the family took up government land in Loraine township, this county, and transformed the wild tract into a good farm. There the parents both died at an advanced age, and were buried in Eight Mile Grove cemetery, Loraine township. In their family were six children, five of whom are still living, Mr. Rink being the only surviving son.

Joseph Rink continued to reside on the old homestead in Loraine township until 1899, when he removed to Geneseo, and has since lived a retired life. On first coming to this county he took up forty acres of land, to which he added from time to time as his

financial resources permitted until he owned seven hundred and forty acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. Since his removal to Geneseo he has erected a large and modern city residence on Palace street, where he is now living in ease and quiet.

At Hoopole, Illinois, he was married, March 11, 1857, to Miss Helen Egert, also a native of Alsace, Germany, and one of a family of six children, five of whom are now living. She was fifteen years of age on her emigration to the new world in company with her parents, George and Anastasia (Yagley) Egert, who located at Hoopole. There the father died at the age of sixty-three, the mother at the age of seventy-nine.

Of the thirteen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Rink six are living, namely: (1) Frank is a prosperous farmer of Loraine township, this county, though a part of his farm is in Whiteside county. He married Kate Kirshner and they have four children, Ida, Lawrence, Cletus and Etta. (2) Lewis lives on the old homestead in Loraine township. (3) Joseph, a farmer of the same township, married Nellie Collins, and they have two children, Ruth and an infant. (4) Sarah and (5) William are both with their parents. (6) Mathias lives on the home farm.

Mr. Rink and his family are communicants of the Roman Catholic Church, and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. Their new home, erected in 1900, is one of the finest of Geneseo. Mr. Rink was very poor when he started out in life for himself. As his father was paralyzed and unable to care for himself and family thus the burden fell upon the shoulders of the young man who, however, was equal to the emergency, and well did he perform its arduous duties. By industry, energy and

good management he worked his way steadily upward until he became one of the most prosperous citizens of Loraine township, having accumulated a handsome property. Recently he has been afflicted with deafness, now being unable to carry on a conversation except in writing, but he bears patiently his great affliction, and takes a deep interest in all that is going on about him, especially in that pertaining to the welfare and happiness of his family.

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### ERICK HANSON.

Erick Hanson, whose home is at 711 South Tremont street, Kewanee, Illinois, was born near Stockholm, Sweden, on the 24th of January, 1844, and is a son of Hans and Anna Anderson, who spent their entire lives in that country. The father learned the carpenter's trade in early life and ever afterward followed contracting and building. He died at the ripe old age of eighty-three years, and his wife's death occurred when she was seventy-four years of age. In their family were twelve children who reached years of maturity, namely: Mary, John, Anna, Peter, Erick, Carrie, Sophia, Emma, Letta, Axel, Hattie and August. Peter is now deceased; Sophia is the wife of Mr. Bergren of Michigan; and the others are all residents of Sweden with the exception of our subject.

Erick Hanson was educated in the schools of his native land. When his school days were over he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed until he attained his majority, and then gave his attention to carpenter work, being a natural mechanic and skillful in the use of all kinds

of tools. In 1870 he crossed the Atlantic to America and took up his residence in Moline, Illinois, where he spent two years and a half. He then removed to Geneseo, where he built a fine home and he followed shoemaking until 1892, since which time he has engaged in carpentering in connection with otherwork. Since the fall of 1900 he has made his home in Kewanee, and although his residence here is of short duration he has gained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life. He is the owner of a nice home in this city, having sold his Geneseo residence.

On the 13th of September, 1872, at Geneseo, Mr. Hanson married Miss Christina L. M. Ericson, a native of Sweden, born December 1, 1849, who came to America in 1871. Six years later her parents, Alexander and Stinagreta (Swanson) Erickson, also came to the United States, settling first at Geneseo. The father died at the age of eighty-two years, but the mother is still living at the age of seventy-eight, an honored and highly respected resident of Kewanee. Mrs. Hanson is the oldest in a family of four children, the others being Caroline, who became the wife of Charles Peterson and died at the age of thirty-three years; Peter, who died February 1, 1898, at the age of forty-two years; and A. G., a farmer of Kewanee township.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are the parents of eight children, namely: Almina M., a successful dressmaker of Kewanee, takes a great interest in church work and has been a teacher in the Sunday school for the past ten years. Nellie D. was educated at the Geneseo high school, and for seven years has taught in the schools in Henry county, in the meantime attending the teachers'

training school, known at the N. I. T. I., for five summers. Ellen E. is a photographer of Geneseo. Martin E. was graduated from the Geneseo Collegiate Institute in 1900, and is now taking a post-graduate course. He took first prize in a declamatory contest held at Geneseo May 25, 1900, receiving ten dollars in gold, and was president of his class which numbered eighteen. Susan M. is clerking in Kewanee. Florence C. and Paulus F. are both attending the public schools. Otelius L. died January 5, 1896, at the age of two years, three months and nineteen days. The family hold membership in the Swedish Lutheran Church, and while a resident of Geneseo Mr. Hanson served as janitor of his church for four years, and and also acted as librarian, having charge of three hundred volumes published in both English and Swedish. Both he and his wife are also members of the Fraternal Tribune of which he is now trustee and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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#### LEVI FRONK.

Among the honored pioneers and representative citizens of Henry county was numbered Levi Fronk, now deceased. He was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, on the 4th of December, 1815, a son of Henry and Sarah Fronk. Dauphin county was also the birth place of his father, who throughout his active business life followed the occupation of farming. About 1841 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and settled in Cornwall township, where he made his home until called to his final rest, about thirty years ago, at the age of eighty years. His wife died two years previous at the age

of sixty. They were the parents of five children of whom one is still living.

Levi Fronk grew to manhood in the place of his birth, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits until coming to this county in 1838. He became the owner of a farm of one hundred and sixty acres of rich land in Cornwall township, which was all wild when it came into his possession. He erected thereon a log house in which the family lived while he broke the virgin soil and improved the place. He was a hard working, industrious man, and through his well directed efforts accumulated a comfortable competence. In connection with general farming he engaged in stock raising to some extent. About 1885 he laid aside business cares and removed to Geneseo, where he spent his remaining days in ease and quiet at his pleasant home on East Pearl street. There he died after two years' illness November 14, 1900, and was laid to rest in Liberty churchyard.

Before leaving Pennsylvania Mr. Fronk married, January 1, 1838, to Miss Nancy Shields, a native of Juniata county, that state, where she resided until her marriage. Her parents, Frank and Mary (Barickeman) Shields, were life-long residents of Pennsylvania, and the father was a farmer by occupation. She is the only one of their ten children now living. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Fronk were born twelve children, as follows: Henrietta, wife of John Murphy, a retired farmer of Geneseo, by whom she has three children, Flora, Nancy and Emma; Sarah, wife of Sheldon H. Ayres, a farmer of Olathe, Kansas; Rebecca, wife of William Bellairs, of Valley Junction, Iowa; Cyrus, who died November 29, 1883, at the age of twenty-eight years; Matilda, widow of George Armstrong, of Cornwall

township, this county, who died August 9, 1900, aged forty-seven years; Joseph L., a resident of Grant City, Missouri; Clementine, wife of Bryan Rumler, of Cambridge, Illinois; Henry B., a resident of Kansas City; Margaret, wife of a Mr. Rowe, of Grass Valley, California; Tamson, wife of Andrew Rush, of Chicago, by whom she has one son, Edward; Ellen, who died in infancy; and John, a resident of Hamilton, Missouri.

On coming to Henry county Mr. Fronk found this region nearly all wild with very few settlements; the houses were widely scattered and deer and wolves were often seen on the prairies, but during his residence here this was all changed, the county became thickly settled, and highly cultivated farms and thriving cities and towns were to be seen in every direction. In the work of development and progress he ever bore his part and was accounted one of the most useful and valued citizens of his community. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and as a public-spirited citizen he advocated all measures tending to improve or advance the interests of the community in which he lived. He was an active and consistent member of the Baptist Church, and was a man who made many friends and no enemies, being generous, honest, and upright in all his dealings.

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#### WILLIAM WILSON STEVENS.

William Wilson Stevens, deceased, was one of the honored and highly esteemed citizens of Kewanee. He was born in Pembroke, New York, August 13, 1822, his

parents being Ira and Elizabeth (Webb) Stevens, who came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1850 and settled on a farm in Wethersfield township, which the father operated until his death. His wife had died several years previously, passing away in 1853. They were members of the Congregational Church, and were held in high regard by all who knew them. Of their five children William W. was the oldest; Charlotte first married a Mr. Harding and second a Mr. Wood, and is now deceased; Adelaide is the wife of Rev. John Thompson, district superintendent of the Bible Society in California; Isabel married Andrew Ziegler and died in California; and Ira is a farmer of Iowa.

In his native state William W. Stevens was reared and educated. In early life he traveled extensively through the southern states as salesman for a New York concern, and made his home in St. Louis, Missouri, for many years. From there he came to Wethersfield, where he owned a large farm and other property. He was married November 2, 1854, to Miss Nancy M. Loomis, a native of Connecticut and a daughter of Celah and Easther (Howard) Loomis of that state, but who located in Wethersfield township in 1850, where he lived a retired life. The father was born April 25, 1785, and died February 8, 1872, while the mother was born November 2, 1784, and died December 14, 1870. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Congregational Church, in which the father served as deacon during the greater part of his life. To them were born nine children, of whom two died in infancy. The others were Mary S., who wedded Joseph A. Talcott and both are now deceased; Harriet E., who married Albert Kellogg and died in Wethers-



field, this county; William C., who married Emeline Isbel and died in Henry county, his widow being still a resident of Kewanee; Lyman, who died in Michigan; Cynthia, deceased wife of A. Chapin; Orin H., who is represented on another page of this volume; and Nancy M., now Mrs. Stevens. The five children born to our subject and his wife were as follows: Elizabeth W., wife of William H. Lyman, who is a member of the well-known firm of Lay & Lyman, merchants of Kewanee, and by whom she has one son, W. H., Jr.; Clark L., who is engaged in the real estate and insurance business in Kewanee; Mary C., wife of C. B. Platt, of Van Meter, Iowa, by whom she has one child, Allen S.; Helen L., and William Howard, who was the second in order of birth and died in 1859, at the age of three years.

It was in 1854 that Mr. Stevens came to Henry county, and throughout the remainder of his life made his home in Wethersfield and Kewanee. He was here engaged in the hardware business for a few years, but practically lived retired, although serving as one of the early directors of the Union National Bank. He was a member of the school board for nine years, and also served on the town board for a time. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and was an active and consistent member of the Congregational Church, to which his widow also belongs. He died March 23, 1900, at the age of seventy-seven years, and his death occasioned the deepest regret throughout the community. He was a man of the highest respectability, and those who were most intimately associated with him speak in unqualified terms of his sterling integrity, his honor in business and his fidelity to the

duties of public and private life. He was faithful to his church, to his country and to his friends, and in his home was a most exemplary husband and father. Mrs. Stevens is an estimable lady of many sterling qualities, and has a large circle of friends in the community.

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### JAMES BLAIR.

James Blair, deceased, was for thirty years a prominent farmer of Kewanee township, owning and operating one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 18, where his widow now resides. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 5th of July, 1829, a son of James and Margaret (Hall) Blair. The father was born in Cadiz, Ohio, and removed early to Peoria county, Illinois, where his death occurred in 1850. The mother was a native of County Armagh, Ireland, and was seventeen years of age when she came with her parents to the United States. She died in this county about 1866. Of her seven children only one is now living, David, a resident of Silver Creek, Nebraska.

On reaching manhood James Blair was married in La Salle county, Illinois, December 26, 1854, to Miss Lucy E. Emerson, who was born in Greenbriar county, West Virginia, May 18, 1830, and is a daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Hinkley) Emerson, born in Massachusetts and Ohio, respectively. He came to Ohio, where he was married, and soon after moved to West Virginia, where he died December 28, 1859, and his wife December 20, 1893. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The children born to our subject and his wife were as follows: (1) Amos, born June



LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA



JAMES BLAIR.



MRS. LYDIA E. BLAIR.

LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA

6, 1856, married Evelyn Lorey, and lives on the adjoining farm. (2) Augusta, born January 16, 1858, is the wife of William D. Oliver, a farmer of Burns township, and they have three children, James C., Perry A. and Harold C. (3) John L., born in Kewanee township August 31, 1859, married Fannie Scott, and they have two children, Florence F. and Ellis S. (4) Benjamin V., born February 12, 1862, is a farmer of Elmira township, Stark county, Illinois. He wedded Mary H. Avery, and they have four children, Orlando V., Alice A., Elsie I. and Virgil. (5) Mary Elma born December 30, 1863, is the wife of Robert Milburn, of Burns township, Henry county, and to them have been born three children, Lee, Edith May and Cecil. (6) Sarah Ella, twin sister of Mary Elma, died in 1868, at the age of four years and four months, having been accidentally burned, from the effects of which she never recovered. (7) Lucy Ida, born August 3, 1874, is the wife of Elmer H. Ensminger, a farmer of Wethersfield township, and they have two children, Alta May and Hazel Fern.

In 1856, soon after his marriage, Mr. Blair came to Henry county, and rented the John Rathbon farm in Burns township for three years. His first purchase of land consisted of ten acres in Kewanee township, for which he paid fifty dollars, and from which he cut the timber. Later he bought twenty acres for twenty dollars per acre, and subsequently sold the tract to F. Gunther for five hundred and seventy-five dollars. He then purchased eighty acres of the homestead, to which he later added another eighty-acre tract. He placed the land under cultivation and made many permanent improvements thereon. Here he made his home until called to his final rest, on the 15th of July,

1883. He was widely and favorably known throughout the county where the best years of his life were passed, and he always commanded the confidence and respect of those with whom he came in contact either in business or social life. Mrs. Blair is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Ebenezer, Burns township, and, like her husband, she is held in high regard by all who know her.

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#### SAMUEL GOEMBEL.

The subject of this sketch is a leading representative of the business interests of Geneseo, Illinois, where he is extensively engaged in buying and shipping grain, and also deals in hard and soft coal. A native of this state, he was born in Tazewell county, March 12, 1850, his parents being Jacob and Louisa (Luther) Goembel. The father was born in Niederaula, Kreis Herschfeld, Kurfeustenthun, Hessen, Germany, on the 17th of May, 1824, and in 1834 came to America with his parents, Sebastian and Anna (Schaeffer) Goembel. After sixty-three days upon the water, the family landed at New Orleans, June 9, 1834, whence they proceeded up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers to Peoria, and across the country to Tazewell county, Illinois, where Sebastian Goembel bought a farm and also secured a quarter section of government land. His last days were spent in Washington, that county, where he died at about the age of seventy-six years. His wife was over eighty-three years of age at the time of her death. For many years they held membership in the Evangelical Association, and were highly respected by all who knew them. Of their nine children only the

eldest daughter, Catherine, wife of John Minch, of Washington, and Jacob, father of our subject, are now living.

Jacob Goemmel was reared on the home farm and educated in the German language, having never attended English schools. The family came directly to Peoria, Illinois. They located five miles from that city, in Tazewell county, where he assisted his father and older brother in opening up a farm. They marketed their grain in Chicago, conveying it thither with a four-horse team, such as is now seldom seen in this part of the west. At the age of twenty-one, he left the farm and went to Chicago, where he worked as a teamster for ten dollars per month. In 1846 he was married in Lake county, Illinois, to Miss Louisa Luther, a native of New York, born January 28, 1826, and a daughter of John Jacob Luther, who came to this country from Germany about 1821. She is one of a family of ten children, three of whom are still living. After his marriage Mr. Goemmel worked in a slaughter house in Peoria for a year, and then purchased eighty acres of land on Farm creek, Tazewell county, which he sold in 1851 on coming to Henry county. Here he entered a tract of government land on section 30, Yorktown township, and engaged in its cultivation until 1863, when he bought another farm in the same locality, and made his home there until his removal to Geneseo in 1876. He is still the owner of a valuable tract of ninety-one acres in Yorktown township, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo. His political support is given the Republican party, and he filled the office of school trustee for many years. He and his wife are prominent members of the Evangelical Association, and he is now a trustee of the church.

This worthy couple are the parents of nine children, namely: W. Sydney, a resident of Geneseo, married Laura Early and had three children, Lowell (deceased, Ethel and Leanora; Samuel, our subject, is next in order of birth; Edward, a farmer of Yorktown township, married Emma Rapp and has three children, Ada, Harvey and Bessie; Peter, a farmer of Minnesota, married Christina Rapp and has six children, Olive, Arthur, Jesse, Perry, Edith and Vernon; Anna is the wife of Henry Glabe, a contractor of Tazewell county; Lydia is the wife of Isaac Krimbill, of Minnesota, and has five children, Blanche, Vera, Winnie, Clarence and Archie; John E., an attorney of Rockford, Illinois, married Minnie Grosskopf; Wilhelmina died at the age of seven years; and Catherine died at the age of eighteen months.

Samuel Goemmel attended the district school until fourteen years of age, and then assisted his father in the work of the home farm until he attained his majority. After leaving the parental roof he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until July 31, 1897, when he came to Geneseo and embarked in the grain and coal business, which he is now so successfully carrying on. He owns three hundred and twenty acres of well improved and highly cultivated land in Yorktown and Loraine townships, this townships, this county, besides his pleasant residence and two lots in Geneseo, where he resides. He also has a half interest in the Arnold & Goemmel elevator at this place.

On the 27th of March, 1872, Mr. Goemmel was united in marriage with Miss Rebecca Zinser, of Washington, Tazewell county, who was born in Clark county, this state, a daughter of Solomon and Catherine (Tobias) Zinser. Her father, who was

born in 1818, died in 1884, while her mother died in October, 1899, at the age of nearly seventy-six years. In their family were eleven children as follows: Frank, married Agnes Casebeer, of Pennsylvania, and is now engaged in dairy farming in Colorado; Mary is the wife of Adam Coker, a farmer of Tazewell county, Illinois; Elizabeth is the wife of John Ott, of Clear Lake, Iowa; Caroline is the wife of Amos Smith, of Plainfield, Illinois; Rebecca, wife of our subject, is next in order of birth; George married Priscilla Boyer, and is engaged in the hardware business of Manhattan, Illinois; Solomon married Lizzie Bloomershire and follows farming in Tazewell county; Amelia is the wife of George Ferner, of Washington, Illinois; Daniel married Sarah Goesle and lives in Chicago; Sophia is the widow of Edward Kale and a resident of Washington, Illinois; and two died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Goembel are the parents of nine children: Harry S., who married Ida Apples and has two children, Russell and Harold; Franklin J., who married Sarah Weiterholt and lives on a farm in this county; Sylva Etta, wife of William Countryman, living on section 20, Yorktown township; Lottie Viola, wife of Edwin Countryman, a carpenter and contractor of Hoopole, by whom she has one child Ruth; and Mabel B., Emory W., Estella, Roscoe G. and Cassie L., all at home.

Mr. Goembel and wife hold membership in Grace United Evangelical Church, of which he is a trustee, and he also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Globe. In political sentiment he is independent. For twelve years he filled the office of justice of the peace and was township clerk eight years. Of ex-

cellent business ability and broad resources, he has attained a prominent place among the substantial citizens of his part of the county, and has won success by his well-directed, energetic efforts, his prosperity being well deserved.

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#### A. C. TAYLOR.

Among Henry county's native sons is this well-known business man of Kewanee, whose birth occurred in Wethersfield township on the 23d of May, 1855. His father, John Taylor, was a native of Pennsylvania, of which state the grandfather, David Taylor, was a life-long resident, his occupation being that of farming. In the latter's family were five children, namely: David; Enoch, a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; John, father of our subject; Ellen, wife of Garfett Brown, of Kewanee, Illinois; and Mary, widow of E. T. Bevan, who was a farmer of Wethersfield township, this county. John Taylor received his education in the common schools of his native state, and in early life learned the trade of broom making. In 1850 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up his residence in Wethersfield township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, the only improvement thereon being a small house. He broke his land with oxen and placed it under cultivation. As his financial resources increased he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had six hundred and sixty acres, of which five hundred and sixty acres were in Henry county, while one hundred and sixty acres of this amount were in Galva township and the remainder in Wethersfield township. He



married Deborah Barrett, whose parents died during her childhood, and by this union four children were born, namely: Mary Ellen, wife of Benjamin Glyde, of Milburn, Dallas county, Iowa, by whom she had one child, Raymond; A. C., our subject; Frank; and James G., who married Cora Potter and lives on the old home place. The father died June 4, 1898, at the age of sixty-nine, but the mother is still living, and continues to reside on the old homestead with her son, James G. She is a native of New York.

During his boyhood A. C. Taylor acquired a fair knowledge of the common English branches of learning in the schools of Wethersfield township, and when old enough to be of any assistance commenced work on the home farm, remaining under the parental roof until he attained his majority. He then rented land of his father in the same township, and while operating it he boarded at home for two years.

Mr. Taylor was married, February 18, 1879, the lady of his choice being Miss Mary A. Glyde, who was born in Henry county, but was living in Aurora, Kane county, at the time of their marriage. Her parents, Frederick and Sarah (Barber) Glyde, were natives of England and Ohio, respectively. For many years the father was engaged in mercantile business in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and on leaving that place came to Henry county, Illinois, where he followed farming for a number of years, but his last days were spent in Aurora, where his death occurred. His widow still makes her home in that city. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have two children: Earl, born April 24, 1888, and Irene, born February 21, 1890. Both are attending school in Kewanee.

For about four years Mr. Taylor con-

tinued to rent his father's land, and then purchased eighty acres of Jerry Bickford, and later one hundred and sixty acres of his father, making two hundred and forty acres on sections 8 and 17, Wethersfield township, which he still owns. Besides this property he also has eighty acres of land in Murray county, Minnesota. He continued to actively engage in farming until 1897, when he removed to Kewanee, and is now erecting a beautiful residence with all modern conveniences on Chestnut street. Since 1893 Mr. Taylor has been connected with the Minneapolis Thresher Company as a traveling salesman, and is now engaged in business in Kewanee as a dealer in threshers, shellers and iron bridges. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man, whose sound judgment and capable management have brought to him a well merited success. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, but he has never cared for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. His wife holds membership in the Congregational Church.

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#### WASHINGTON DUNBAR.

There is probably no man in Wethersfield township wider or more favorably known than Washington Dunbar, who has been identified with its agricultural interests for almost half a century and is recognized as one of the important factors in its progress and development. He was born in Breckinridge county, Kentucky, September 21, 1822, his parents being William and Mary (Prayter) Dunbar, natives of Pennsylvania and Kentucky, respectively. In 1833 they came to La Fayette, Stark county, Illinois, and settled at Fraker's

Grove, when there were only three families in that locality. The family endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. As it was a long distance to mill they often ground their meal in an old hand mill. In those early days the father, who was a hatter by trade, would catch the beavers and manufacture the fur into hats, which he would then strap on his back and start out to sell to the settlers. He also cleared and improved a farm of one hundred acres in Stark county, where he made his home for some years, though his last days were spent in California. In his family were thirteen children, and those still living besides our subject are Robert R., a lawyer of Argentine, Kansas; Mrs. Jane Driscoll, of Eagle Grove, Iowa; and Mrs. Missouri Lee, of Twin Springs, Kansas.

Washington Dunbar's early educational advantages were meager as there were but few schools in this section of the state when the family located here. In 1852 he came to Henry county, and purchased forty acres of land on section 31, Wethersfield township, to which he added from time to time as his financial resources merited until he now has three hundred and twenty acres of valuable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. In past years he has probably cleared and improved more land in Henry county than any other of its citizens, but is now living a retired life while his sons operate the farm. He has been eminently successful, having by hard work and tireless energy accumulated a handsome property.

On the 24th of December, 1846, Mr. Dunbar was united in marriage with Miss Anna Lee, who was born in Warren county, New York, June 10, 1825, and was the third in order of birth in a family of twelve

children, whose parents were Josephus and Elizabeth (Bennett) Lee, also natives of New York state. This family removed to Stark county, Illinois, about 1844. Mrs. Dunbar died on the 1st of April, 1897, at De Funiak Springs, near Pensacola, Florida, whither she had gone in company with her husband with the hope of recovering her health, which had been bad for a number of years. Her remains were interred in La Fayette cemetery, Stark county, Illinois. Religiously she was a member of the Universalist Church. By this union Mr. Dunbar had nine children, namely: Oscar; Orville, deceased; Orson; Alburtus, who married Nellie, daughter of Louis Clark, of Sheffield; Adelia, wife of De Witt Wimney, of Knox county, Illinois; Burwell, deceased; Charles, who married Viola White, of La Fayette; Effie L., wife of Bradford Eynder of Sark county, Illinois; and Harry, who married Bessie Newell, of Galva.

Mr. Dunbar was again married, June 7, 1900, his second union being with Miss Anna Cardiff, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of William F. and Catherine (Sipes) Cardiff, both of whom died and were buried in Galva, this county. She is one of a family of thirteen children, seven of whom are still living. Mr. Dunbar is a man of sterling character, whose word is considered as good as his bond, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him. In politics he is a strong Republican and for many years he efficiently served as school director.

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#### WILLIAM DONALDSON.

Among the honored and highly esteemed citizens of Wethersfield is numbered William Donaldson, who was born in county Lon-

donderry, Ireland, February 2, 1827, and there grew to manhood, receiving but limited educational advantages. He is therefore a self-educated as well as a self-made man. With the hope of bettering his condition in the new world, he took ship at Belfast, in 1848, and on the Charles of Baltimore, a sailing vessel, crossed the broad Atlantic, being six weeks and three days upon the water. In a fog on the banks of New Foundland the ship on which he sailed ran into another vessel, but was only slightly damaged and reached New York in safety in May of that year. Mr. Donaldson proceeded at once to Philadelphia, and there went to Pottstown, Pennsylvania, where he joined a cousin who was foreman on railroad construction. After working there for a little while he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, where other cousins were living, and where he engaged in draying for some time. On coming west in 1855, he first located near Elmira, Stark county, Illinois, where he rented land and engaged in farming for six years.

While a resident of Cincinnati, Mr. Donaldson was married, December 6, 1852, to Miss Eliza Blackwood, who was born and reared in County Tyrone, Ireland, where her father, Robert Blackwood, spent his entire life. They have seven children living, namely: Robert, who is married and lives in Kewanee; George, who is married and is employed as boss in the Kewanee tube works; Tillie, one of the teachers of Wethersfield; Lizzie, wife of Norman Oliver, of Kewanee; Emma, a teacher in the Kewanee schools; William, a carriage trimmer in Chicago; and Clara, wife of Fred Shepherd, of Peoria. They also lost two children: Thomas, who died at the age of

four years; and Maggie, who married Robert N. Martin and removed to Nebraska, but died at the home of her father in 1888, leaving five children, two of whom, William and Alfred N., reside with their grandparents. The others are Harry, Ella and Elsie.

Mr. Donaldson's first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and twenty acres of timber in Kewanee township, Henry county, which he bought on coming to this county in 1861. This he cleared, fenced and placed under cultivation, but after residing thereon for about six years he sold the place and purchased eighty acres of prairie land in Burns township, to which he subsequently added until he has a tract of one hundred and sixty acres. He made many excellent improvements upon the place, and continued its cultivation until his removal to Wethersfield in 1886. Here he purchased a residence which he has since remodeled, and now has a very pleasant and attractive home. To his diligence, perseverance and industry may be attributed his success in life for he came to the new world empty handed, and has had to make his own way in the world unaided.

Originally Mr. Donaldson was an old line Whig and cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor, but since the formation of the Republican party in 1856, he has been a supporter of its principles, and has supported all of its presidential nominees. He was once elected justice of the peace but refused to qualify, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He has, however, served as school director and given his children good educations, fully realizing the advantages of such a training. He and his wife were reared in the Presby-

terian Church and still adhere to that faith, while his daughters hold membership in the Congregational Church. The family is widely known and highly respected.

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### E. N. PETERSON.

Numbered among the prominent and successful young farmers of Andover township is E. N. Peterson, who resides on section 34, where he was born February 3, 1875. His father, C. P. Peterson, was a native of Sweden and was single on his emigration to America. Coming to Henry county, Illinois, he located in Andover township, and was one of its honored early settlers. It was in 1849 that he bought the land on which our subject now resides, it being at that time all wild prairie, which he at once began to break and improve. He was married in Andover township, in 1854, to Miss Wilhelmina Bloomberg, who was also born in Sweden, and they became the parents of four children, of whom our subject is the youngest, the others being Mrs. Clara Almeda Lofgren, a resident of Knox county, Illinois; C. A., who is married and lives in Clover township, Henry county; and Frank William, of Knox county. The mother died in 1875, during the infancy of our subject, but the father long survived her, passing away in Andover township July 4, 1897, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was one of the prominent Republicans of his community and took quite an active part in political affairs.

E. N. Peterson was educated in the public schools of Andover township and reared upon the old homestead which he now owns and occupies. It is a good farm of one hun-

dred and sixty acres, being well improved and under a high state of cultivation. In 1900 he built a fine barn, fifty-two by fifty-six feet, with a capacity of forty tons of hay, and has made an addition to his house, so that it is now one of the best residences in the locality. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and in his labors is meeting with excellent success.

On the 3d of June, 1897, in Andover township, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage with Miss Matilda V. Hultgreen, a native of that township and a daughter of Andrew V. and Christina Hultgreen, pioneers of Andover. Mr. Peterson gives his political support to the Republican party and its principles, and is a member of the Lutheran Church at Andover.

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### GEORGE WESTON.

George Weston, deceased, was for thirty years one of the leading farmers and honored citizens of Kewanee township, his home being on section 16. He was born on the 28th of January, 1827, in Morgan county, Ohio, and was a son of Jeremiah and Matilda (Anderson) Weston, the former a native of New Hampshire, the latter of Maryland. In the Buckeye state he was reared to manhood and was educated in its public schools. Coming west in 1850 he first located in Iowa, but after spending a short time in that state he removed to this county, and took up his residence on section 16, Kewanee township, where he followed farming throughout the remainder of his life. Here he steadily prospered, and at the time of his death owned about three hundred acres of valuable farming land.

On the 23d of October, 1863, Mr. Weston was united in marriage with Mrs. Helen (Stark) Stephenson, widow of Henry Stephenson, who was born in New York and died in Michigan in 1856, leaving two children: Iona, wife of J. W. Adams, of Kansas City, Kansas, and Isett, wife of Henry Spurlock, of Kansas City, Kansas. Mrs. Weston is a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of Stutely and Eliza Ann (Stevenson) Stark, natives of Massachusetts and New York, respectively. Her paternal grandfather was born in Vermont and his wife in New Hampshire. In 1832 her family removed to Medina county, Ohio, where they made their home until coming to Illinois in 1864, when they took up their residence in Bureau county. Three years later they removed to Galesburg, where Mr. Stark lived retired until his death in 1869. By occupation he was a farmer. Subsequently his widow went to Kansas, and died in Perry, that state, in 1889. They reared a family of eight children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Weston were born five children, namely Ina, wife of Warren Lester, who now lives on Mrs. Weston's farm; May, a dentist of Kansas City, Missouri; Stutely, a farmer of Kewanee township; Tillie, wife of U. G. Pyle, of the same township; and Lee, at home with his mother. Mrs. Weston has a fine farm of three hundred and eighty acres, and from it derives a good income. She is a faithful member of the Congregational Church of Kewanee, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know her.

Fraternally Mr. Weston was an active member of the Grange. He always took a deep and commendable interest in educational affairs, and efficiently served as school director in his district from the time of its organization until his death, which occurred

August 11, 1886. He was recognized as one of the valued and useful citizens of his community, and his death was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances who esteemed him highly for his sterling worth.

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#### SIMEON HELLER.

Simeon Heller, deceased, was for many years one of the leading citizens of Loraine township, owning and operating a fine farm of two hundred acres on section 5. He was born March 21, 1821, in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, of which state his parents, David and Catherine Heller, were life-long residents. By occupation the father was a farmer.

During his boyhood and youth our subject attended school only three months, the remainder of the time being devoted to the work of the home farm. On leaving the parental roof at the age of twenty-one, he came by way of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to Illinois, where his brother David was living, and worked for him for a time. At the age of twentythree he was united in marriage with Miss Maud Arnett, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, France, who came with her parents to this county and settled in Whiteside county, Illinois, in the early '30s.

After his marriage Mr. Heller preempted a tract of government land in Loraine township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until the discovery of gold in California, when he crossed the plains with his wife's brothers, George, Jacob and William Arnett. The trip was made with an ox team and consumed six months. While engaged in mining he received news of his wife's

death, but being penniless he was unable to return home at that time. The news was such a shock to him that for several months he was hardly conscious of where he was. He remained on the Pacific coast for twelve years, and met with good success before returning home. On again reaching this state he located upon the land which he had pre-empted in Henry county, and throughout the remainder of his life engaged in agricultural pursuits. He died on the 30th of June, 1887, honored and respected by all who knew him, and his remains were interred in Loraine cemetery. In his political views he was a Republican, and religiously he was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which his wife also belonged.

Mr. Heller's first wife died in the early 'fifties, leaving one child, Susan, now the wife of Peter Lininger, of Boone, Iowa. He was again married February 15, 1864, his second union being with Miss Mary Pobanz, a native of Prussia, Germany, where her parents, David and Mary Pobanz, were also born. In 1863 the family came to America and located in Osco township, Henry county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming for five years, but spent the remainder of his life in Dodge county, Nebraska. He had three children: John, deceased; Mary, now Mrs. Heller; and a daughter, who died in infancy. By his second marriage Mr. Heller had twelve children, namely: Lewis D., who first married Josephine Egert and second Annie Wahlheim and lives in Loraine township; Emma E., a trained nurse now in St. Paul's hospital, Butte, Montana, and a member of the Eastern Star at Prophetstown, Illinois; Joseph S., who is mentioned below; William D., a barber of Twin Bridge, Montana, who

married Clara Polinger, and is a member of the blue lodge and Eastern Star chapter of the Masonic fraternity at Erie, Illinois; Levi A., a farmer of Dodge county, Nebraska, who married Rose Kopisky and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America; Annie M., wife of Clarence Bollen, of Taylor county, Iowa; Phebe and Alice R., both at home; Louisa Matilda, who died at the age of three years; Elsie, who died at the age of four months; Perry O., at home; and Leonard, who died at the age of one year and nine months.

Joseph S. Heller, son of our subject, was born December 1, 1867, and was educated in the home school and the Northwestern Normal at Geneseo. He assisted in the labors of the farm until 1893, when he went to Twin Bridge, Montana, where he was on a ranch for a time, and from there went to Minnesota and Iowa. On his return to this county in the spring of 1894, he took charge of the home place and has since successfully managed the same, being a man of good business ability and sound judgment. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and fraternally is a member of Bollep Lodge, No. 412, F. & A. M., of Spring Hill, in which he has served as junior warden.

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#### SAMUEL RUSSELL.

Samuel Russell, who is practically living a retired life in the city of Kewanee, Illinois, was born in Wilmington, Clinton county, Ohio, on the 6th of October, 1834, but was only seven years old when he removed to Delaware county, Indiana, with his parents, John and Susanna (Wickersham) Russell,



the former also a native of the Buckeye state, and the latter of Virginia, although she was only three years old when she became a resident of Ohio. Our subject's paternal grandfather, James Russell, was born in Ireland, and was a lad of thirteen years when he came with his parents to the United States, the family being among the early settlers of Ohio, where he grew to manhood and spent the greater part of his life. His death occurred in Delaware county, Indiana. In his family were eleven children, of whom nine reached years of maturity.

John Russell, the eldest of this family and the father of our subject, received but a limited education, learning to read, write and cipher after he attained his majority. He was only able to attend school a short time during the winter and then had to wade through the snow three miles to the school house. His early life was devoted to agricultural pursuits, and at the age of nineteen years he learned the plasterer's and brick mason's trades, at which he worked for about twenty years. In 1841 he removed to Delaware county, Indiana, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and was engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. Politically he was first a Whig and an abolitionist and later a Republican, and religiously was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he served as class leader and steward for a number of years. He died in 1857 at about the age of fifty-two years, and his wife, who long survived him, passed away in 1881. She had made her home in Henry county, Illinois, from 1859. They were the parents of four children, namely: James, who died at the age of four years; Samuel, our subject; Miriam, wife of Jeremiah Bickford, a retired citizen of Kewanee; and Caroline, wife

of James Stafford, a retired citizen of Albany, Delaware county, Indiana.

When the family located in Delaware county, Indiana, that region was very wild, and on starting his children to school the father blazed the trees through the heavy forest that they might find their way home. There was scarcely a frame house in the county, outside of Muncie, the county seat, where there were a few. The dwellings were nearly all built of logs, with one door and one window, with large fire place built of rough stone and mud, the chimnies being of split sticks and mud. Nails were not known, with the exception of a few made by the blacksmith. Wooden pins were used instead of nails, an auger or a gimlet being used to make the hole, in which the wooden pin was inserted and driven in solidly. The school houses were also built of logs, with seats made of small logs split in two parts, wooden pins being inserted on the round side for legs, thus giving a flat surface on which to sit. There was neither back or cushion to the seats. The roofs of the houses were made of split boards about two and a half or three feet long called clapboards, which were laid on timbers called ribs, and held there by poles laid on them, one pole being used to a tier of clapboards. The floors were made of puncheons, that is slabs split out of large timber from three to four inches thick, while a board placed on pins formed a desk on which the scholars practiced writing about ten or fifteen minutes a day, that being all the teacher thought necessary to devote to that accomplishment. Amid such primitive surroundings, young Russell acquired his education, walking a mile and a quarter to school each morning and returning home at night. He was only permitted to attend in the winter, and never



longer than thirty-five days in one year. At the age of eighteen his education was completed, so far as his school life was concerned, and he then devoted his entire time to work. He remained at home until his removal to Illinois in 1859, with the exception of a few months spent in Minnesota and Illinois.

On the 31st of March, 1859, Mr. Russell married Miss Matilda Zehner, who was born in Wayne county, Indiana, and is the third in order of birth in a family of nine children, whose parents were Benjamin and Hester Zehner, natives of Pennsylvania, and early settlers of Wayne county, Indiana, from which they later removed to Delaware county, the same state. Of the six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Francis died at the age of two years, Cora at the age of three, and Mary at the age of fourteen. John B., a graduate of Wheaton College and now superintendent of the public schools of Wheaton, Illinois, married Isabel Gumm, and they have two children, Edna L., and Everett C. Frank H. is a physician, now connected with the Presbyterian hospital of Chicago. He is also a graduate of Wheaton College, Rush Medical College and the Theological Seminary of the Congregational Church of Chicago. Eva M. is a graduate of the Kewanee high school, and is now taking the literary course at the Chicago University.

In 1859 Mr. Russell and his family came to Henry county, Illinois, and located on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he had purchased in 1856 in Clover township, at that time all wild and unimproved. He erected thereon a house, fourteen by twenty feet, in which he lived while breaking his land and placing it under cultivation. On disposing of that property in 1865 he

bought a partially improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Wethersfield township, where he made his home until his removal to Kewanee on the first of January, 1891. During his youth he learned the brick mason's and plasterer's trades with his father, but has not followed that occupation for forty years. While engaged in farming he gave considerable attention to the raising and feeding of stock, generally keeping about one hundred hogs and twenty head of cattle. He still oversees the management of his farm, though he has retired from active labor. He is an active member and steward of the Free Methodist Church. Politically he is a Prohibitionist.

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#### LEWIS URICK.

The subject of this sketch is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Loraine township, his home being on section 9, and is also prominently identified with public affairs. He was born November 5, 1860, on the farm where he still resides, his parents being Rudolph and Mary (Shafer) Urick, the former a native of Switzerland, the latter of Germany. In his native land the father learned the mason's trade which he followed for many years. At the age of twenty-one he crossed the board Atlantic and located in Pennsylvania, where he was thus employed for five years. On coming west he settled at what is known as Dutch Bottom, Portland township, Whiteside county, Illinois, in 1844, and took up government land, which he operated for a few years. He then purchased a farm in Loraine township, Henry county, on which he located, and became quite a large land

owner, though he divided his property among his children prior to his death. He died April 10, 1899, at the age of ninety years and nine months, and his remains were interred in Loraine cemetery. He retained his mental faculties until the last, but for fifteen years was blind, owing to some mortar getting in his eyes while working at his trade. He continued to follow that occupation in connection with farming for many years, and in all his undertakings was eminently successful. He affiliated with the Republican party from its organization, and was an earnest member of the Evangelical Church.

Rudolph Urick was twice married, his first union being with Catherine Rapp, by whom he had six children, four still living, namely: Catherine, wife of Samuel Arnett, of Geneseo; Isaac, a resident of Portland township, Whiteside county; Jacob, a ranchman of Colorado; and Louisa, wife of Joseph Kopp, a farmer of Audubon, Iowa. The mother of these children died in 1856, and the father subsequently wedded Mary Shafer. To them were born two sons: David, who married Matilda R. Huntington and is engaged in farming in Portland township, Whiteside county; and Lewis, our subject. The mother is still living at the age of seventy-seven years and lives on the old homestead with her son Lewis.

In early life our subject attended the district school near his home and remained under the parental roof. Prior to his marriage he took charge of the farm, and has since successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He also feeds cattle and hogs for market. He has some fine stock upon his farm, his specialty being Aberdeen Angus cattle. He is now the owner of three hundred and twenty acres of land in one

body, two hundred acres of which he received from his father, and since then has added one hundred and twenty, and is one of the most prosperous citizens of his community.

On the 5th of February, 1889, Mr. Urick married Miss Hattie M. Sieben, a native of this county, and a daughter of John Sieben, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. The children born of this union were Clarence, who died at the age of three years; Perry and Ira. Religiously the parents are members of the Evangelical Church, of which Mr. Urick is a trustee. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, and has been a delegate to various county conventions. He is now serving his tenth year as township clerk, and has filled the office of school director a number of years. In the spring of 1900 he was census enumerator for Loraine and Phenix townships, and devoted eighteen days to the work of that office. He is quite prominent in local politics and in church work, and is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of his community.

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#### AMBROSE MATHEWS.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war and representative citizens of this county, who are now living a retired life in Wethersfield is Ambrose Mathews, who since 1845 has been a resident of Henry county. He was born in Seneca Falls, Seneca county, New York, on the 20th of December, 1830, and on the paternal side is of Scotch ancestry, his grandfather, Henry Mathews, being a native of Scotland and a pioneer farmer of Seneca county, New York. There the father, A. W. Mathews, was born

and reared, and on reaching manhood married Miss Margaret Conner, a native of the same state and of Irish extraction. From his native county he removed to Geauga county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming for about sixteen years and also owned and operated a saw and grist mill. He traded his farm in that county for a share in the property of the Wethersfield colony in Henry county, Illinois, receiving one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land, twenty acres of timber land, and a village lot of two and a half acres. By team he removed to this county, arriving here July 31, 1845. He purchased a house and lot in Wethersfield, where he made his home while his older sons improved the farm. Here he died in 1884, at the advanced age of nearly ninety-three years. His first wife, who was the mother of our subject, had passed away some years previously, and he married again, his second wife surviving him. He served as a drummer in the war of 1812.

During his boyhood and youth Ambrose Mathews attended the common schools, completing his education in this county. He was seventeen years of age when he came to Illinois with his father, but after spending two years here he returned to Chardon, Geauga county, Ohio, where he learned the shoemaker's trade with a brother, remaining there two years. On his return to this county he worked at his trade in Wethersfield with his brother, who carried on a shop there for some years.

Our subject was thus employed until after the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted July 17, 1862, in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee under command of Generals Grant and Sherman. He was first

under fire at Thompson Hill, Mississippi, and later participated in the battles of Port Gibson and Bakers Creek. He was in a hunting fight at Jackson Crossroads, and in the battle of Champion Hills, which was one of the most important engagements of the war. He was also in the battle of Black River Bridge and for forty-seven days participated in the siege of Vicksburg, being a member of General Logan's brigade, which was the first to enter the city after its surrender. He has a picture of Generals Grant and Pemberton taken after the surrender and mounted in a case made from the famous Pemberton Oak, under which the surrender was made. Later Mr. Mathews was on guard and provost duty in that city for some time, and then marched with his command through Louisiana to Monroe, which place they captured, after which they returned to Vicksburg, remaining there on provost duty until the following spring, in the meantime going on several scouting expeditions to Jackson. They then went to Mobile, and took part in the siege of Spanish Fort, which lasted three weeks. They dug under the walls, and entered the fort at two o'clock in the morning much to the surprise of the rebels. Mr. Mathews' command then marched to Montgomery, Alabama, which the rebels evacuated after rolling cotton in the streets and setting fire to it. In August they were ordered north to Chicago, where Mr. Mathews was honorably discharged August 9, 1865, and then returned to his home in Wethersfield. He entered the service as corporal, and was serving as commissary sergeant when mustered out. He was never seriously wounded, but at Bakers Creek a ball passed through his clothing and cut his shoulder, and at Vicksburg another ball pierced his clothing and grazed

the flesh, finally lodging in his cartridge belt. He kept the latter ball for several years as a sort of memento of his army life.

For two years after the war Mr. Mathews worked at his trade in Kewanee, and then followed farming in Kewanee, Burns and Wethersfield townships for several years. Subsequently he worked at the carpenter's trade and at various occupations in the village of Wethersfield, but for some years has lived a retired life, enjoying a well earned rest.

On the 1st of January, 1852, in Henry county, Mr. Mathews was united in marriage with Miss Maria Cline, who was born in Dutchess county, New York, but came here in 1845 during her girlhood with her brother. Her father, Abraham Cline, had died in the Empire state. Mrs. Mathews passed away August 4, 1890, and was laid to rest in the Wethersfield cemetery. By that union were born five children who are still living, namely: Cordelia, wife of James Wiley, of Wethersfield, by whom she has four children, May, Lillian, Laura and Frank G.; Edward, a mechanical engineer in the tube works at Kewanee; Rosa, wife of George E. Dustin, of Wethersfield, by whom she has four children, Emory, Clara, George and Blanche; Melva, who is now her father's housekeeper; and John L., who is married and works in the shops of Kewanee. Jane Ann, the oldest of the family, died in early childhood.

Politically Mr. Mathews is a stalwart Republican, and has supported every presidential candidate of that party since casting his first vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. He has been honored with several local offices; was elected constable and township collector on the organization of Wethersfield

township, and served in that capacity three years; has also filled the office of road commissioner; was assessor of Wethersfield township for the long period of twenty years; and has frequently served as a delegate to the county conventions of his party. He and his daughter are members of the Congregational Church, and he is also connected with the Grand Army post, of Kewanee, in which he has filled all the chairs and is now past commander. He has always been found true to every trust reposed in him, whether public or private, and has been found a loyal and patriotic citizen in days of peace as well as in time of war.

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#### N. C. GILBERT.

N. C. Gilbert is one of Geneseo's highly respected citizens, whose useful and well-spent life has not only gained for him the confidence of his fellow men, but has also secured for him a comfortable competence which enables him to lay aside all business cares and spend his declining days in ease and retirement. He was born in Ontario county, New York, February 10, 1834, and is a son of Horace and Ann E. (Carpenter) Gilbert, the former a native of Connecticut, the latter of Herkimer county, New York. His maternal grandparents were Nathaniel and Betsey (Green) Carpenter. Throughout his active business life the father followed the occupation of farming in Ontario county, New York, where he owned about three hundred acres of land. For many years he served as deacon in the Congregational Church, to which he belonged, while his wife was a devout and active member of the Baptist Church. He died in 1862,

at the age of sixty years. She long survived him, dying in 1897, when within seven days of the eighty-seventh anniversary of her birth. Their children were as follows: Mary, deceased wife of J. R. Hopkins; N. C., the subject of this review; E. Curtis, a farmer of this county, who was born in 1836 and died in 1889; H. C., formerly a farmer and now a banker of Lima, New York; Elon H., who died at the age of twelve years; and Elizabeth G., wife of Gilbert W. Peck, of Canandaigua, New York.

N. C. Gilbert was reared on his father's farm and educated in the public schools of the neighborhood. When his school days were over he took up the occupation of farming, which he has made his life work. Coming to Henry county, Illinois, in 1856, he purchased a farm in Geneseo township where he resided four years and then removed to Munson township, where he purchased a farm of eighty acres, to which he has added and now owns four hundred acres in that township, and successfully operated it until 1893, since which time he has rented his land and lived a retired life. His farm has been occupied by his son, H. Mark, or his son-in-law, D. S. Brown, since 1893. He was a charter member of both the Farmers National Bank and the First National Bank, of Geneseo, and was a stockholder and director of the former up to January 1, 1901. He is also a charter member and president of the Geneseo, Ediford & Munson Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and has ever been identified with those enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his town and county.

On the 9th of August, 1860, Mr. Gilbert was united in marriage with Miss Francelia Amsden, a native of Rochester, Vermont, and a daughter of R. P. and Lora Ann

(Buck) Amsden, who were also born in the Green Mountain state. The father died at the age of eighty-four years, but the mother is still living at the age of eighty-five. In religious belief they were Baptists. They came west in 1854, and settled on a farm in Geneseo township, this county, where they reared their family of children, namely: Lucien C., now a farmer of Missouri; Francelia, wife of our subject; Viola, wife of Aaron Wilson, of Menlo, Iowa; Darwin R., a farmer of Scranton, Iowa; John L., also a resident of that state; Lorenzo S., a resident of Los Angeles, California; Myra, who married W. E. Tipton, and died at the age of thirty-four years; and Minnie, wife of J. A. Phillips, an attorney of Dunlap, Iowa. Three children have been born to our subject and his wife: May, at home; H. Mark, a farmer of North Yakima, Washington, who is married and has four children, Curtiss, Lois, Elon and Margaret; and Lora, wife of D. S. Brown, a farmer of Munson township, this county, by whom she has one child, Ethel, who died at the age of seven years.

In early life Mr. Gilbert was a staunch Republican, but since 1892 has been a supporter of the Populist party. While living on his farm he served as treasurer of Munson township for thirteen years, resigning that position on his removal to Geneseo in 1893. He was also supervisor of the township for over ten consecutive years, and has always taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs, doing all in his power to advance the general welfare. He was president of the Henry County Fair Association for nine consecutive years. He possesses great energy, good judgment and indefatigable industry and these elements have brought to him a well-deserved pros-

perity, which now enables him to put aside active labor and enjoy the competence which former toil gained for him.

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### WILLIAM R. GOODRICH.

No state in the Union can boast of a more heroic band of pioneers than Illinois. Their privations, hardships and earnest labors have resulted in establishing one of the foremost commonwealths of America, and its wonderful advancement has been largely secured through the sturdy and intelligent manhood of descendants of Puritans with their moral, intellectual and physical stamina; but their work is nearly complete, and all too soon the last of those sturdy pioneers will have passed away; but their memory will ever remain green among those who loved them and appreciated their efforts.

The oldest settler of Henry county now residing within its limits is William R. Goodrich, of Kewanee, who was born in the town of Hilo, on the island of Hawaii, February 20, 1832. His parents, Joseph and Martha (Barnes) Goodrich, were both natives of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and of English descent. The father was reared in the Congregational faith and educated at Yale University. After his graduation he learned the trade of ship carpenter, which he followed for a time, and then studied for the ministry. After being ordained he was sent as a missionary to Hawaii in 1822, being the second to locate there, and the first sent there by the Congregational Church. He did an excellent work in preaching to the natives all over the island and made many converts, his church

afterward becoming the largest in the world, with a membership of five thousand. After spending fourteen years there, he returned to America in the spring of 1836, and joined his family in Wethersfield, Connecticut, where he had left them. In the fall of that year, in company with Norman Butler and John F. Willard, he came to Henry county, Illinois, by wagon, and settled in what is now Kewanee township, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres of prairie land and one hundred and twenty acres of timber land, purchasing the same when it came into market. He erected a log cabin, twenty-two by thirty feet, upon his place, but it was only partially roofed that winter, though it was the home of the three men until spring. They endured many hardships, and their food consisted of only a quarter of a beef, two pounds of butter and some cracked corn. In the spring of 1837 Mr. Goodrich returned to Connecticut for his family, and by way of the Erie canal and Great Lakes, proceeded at once to Chicago, which was then a small village, one of its principal features being the block house. There he purchased a team of Indian ponies and drove across the country to Henry county. Immediately after his arrival he commenced to improve and cultivate his land, making it his home throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1852, in his fifty-eighth year, and his first wife died in 1840, at the age of forty years, being the first person interred in the burying ground at Wethersfield. For his second wife he married Rachel Curtis. His children were all by the first union and were as follows: Lelah, who died at the age of six months; Nancy, wife of Dr. William H. Day, of Kewanee; Jane L., widow of E. E. Slocum and a resident of Lodi, Illinois; Joseph, a retired citizen of



Ravenswood, Illinois; William R., our subject; Charles B., who died at the age of forty-six years; and Martha, who died at the age of forty.

William R. Goodrich began his education in Wethersfield, in a log building which was used as a school house and church, and the knowledge he acquired in the school room has been greatly supplemented by reading and observation in subsequent years. As soon as he was old enough to be of any assistance he commenced aiding in the work of the farm and give his father the benefit of his labors until twenty-two years of age, when he began work at the carpenter's trade, which he had learned with his father. In 1855, he built for H. G. Little and Nelson Lay the first school house erected in Kewanee, it being a one-story structure, fourteen by twenty-four feet, and considered very fine at that time. He followed that trade for four years, and in 1857, erected a building and started the first bakery in Kewanee. After conducting it as such for three years, he turned it into an eating house, which he carried on in connection with work at the gunsmith's trade. In 1886 he sold out and has since lived retired.

On the 22d of November, 1857, Mr. Goodrich married Miss Harriet M. Slocum, a native of New York and a daughter of L. O. Slocum, who was also born in that state, and removed to Kewanee in 1856, making his home here until 1880, when he went to Adair county, Iowa. By trade he was a shoemaker. Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich are the parents of five children: William B., a painter, of Chicago, who married Ella Rinebeck, and has one child, Lena May; Roland S., a resident of southern Oregon, who married Idella Berry; Frederick G., a foundryman, of Rock Island, who married Jennie Henry, and

has three daughters, Mattie, Minnie and Grace; Charles E., a carpenter by trade, who is now working in the rolling mills of Kewanee; and L. J., who married Nellie Williams and is engaged in the practice of osteopathy at Flint, Michigan.

Since the organization of the Republican party, Mr. Goodrich has been one of its staunch supporters. He is a member of the Independent Order of Mutual Aid, and both he and his wife hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he was trustee for six years. In 1893 they went to Oregon and spent seventeen months on the Pacific coast for the benefit of his health. Mr. Goodrich can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life, when this country was all wild and unimproved. On one occasion he was within ten rods of a herd of deer that must have numbered at least six hundred.

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#### GEORGE T. FRELS.

This well-known and prominent citizen of Edford township, who owns and operates a good farm of one hundred and thirty acres on sections 21 and 16, was born in the neighboring county of Rock Island on the 22d of March, 1859, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Mantler) Frels. The father was a native of Germany, and was nineteen years of age when he came to the United States. For five years he followed the life of a sailor on the ocean, and the same length of time was spent on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. At the end of that period he came to Illinois, and took up his residence in Rock Island county, where he purchased one hundred and eighty acres of government land at the regular price of one dollar and a quarter



per acre. He also became owner of two hundred acres of land in Edford township, Henry county, but continued to make his home in the former county throughout life, dying there in 1880, at the age of sixty-one years. His wife passed away in 1861. Of the eight children born to them, two died in infancy, the others being Margaret, wife of Mark Hauberg, a farmer of Rock Island county; Mary, deceased wife of Adam Garnent, a farmer of Henry county; Henry and William, both farmers of Rock Island county; George T., our subject; and Henrietta, wife of Fred Schmoll, a farmer of Osco township, Henry county.

During his minority, George T. Frels remained at home and gave his father the benefit of his labors. He attended the common schools and completed his education at the business college of Clinton, Iowa. On leaving home at the age of twenty-two he settled on his present farm in Edford township, and to its cultivation and improvement has since devoted his energies. As a general farmer and stock raiser he has met with good success, and is to-day one of the well-to-do citizens of his community.

At Barstow, Rock Island county, Mr. Frels was married November 10, 1882, to Miss Nettie Golden, who was born June 29, 1865, a daughter of Benjamin and Addie (Franklin) Golden, agriculturists of that county. The father was born in Peekskill, Westchester county, New York, March 26, 1844, and came to Illinois in 1853. He was four years in the Union army during the Civil war, enlisting first in May, 1861, in the Nineteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and in December, 1861, in the Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in which regiment he served until October, 1865, when he was discharged. His regiment formed part of the

Fourth Corps, Army of the Cumberland. He was wounded on the 27th of June, 1864, at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, in Georgia. He was married September 14, 1864, to Miss Addie Franklin. He now resides in McCune, Crawford county, Kansas, engaged in farming. His wife was born in Hampton township, Rock Island county, Illinois, March 3, 1843, her parents being Joel Grout and Betsy F. (Edwards) Franklin. Her mother died about ten years ago at the age of seventy-six years, and her father continued to reside on the farm in Hampton township, Rock Island county, where he located on coming west in pioneer days, until his death, December 10, 1900, at the age of ninety years. He was a native of Vermont, and was ninety years of age on the 24th of October, 1900. Mrs. Frels is the oldest in a family of seven children, the others being May, deceased wife of Warren Sykes, a farmer of Hampton township, Rock Island county; Luther, a farmer of Kansas; Arthur; Flora, wife of Sherman Scott, a farmer of McCune, Kansas; Nellie, wife of Claude Willis, a barber, of McCune; and Frederick, who died at the age of one year.

To Mr. and Mrs. Frels were born the following named children: Genevra Pearl, born in Rock Island county, September 19, 1883, and Addie May, born in Edford township, Henry county, May 12, 1885, are both at home; George Royal, born December 21, 1886, died at the age of four years and five days; Rilla Blanche, born June 10, 1892, died at the age of sixteen months; Benjamin Arthur, born October 2, 1895, Goldie Irene, born August 13, 1897, and Mildred, born April 16, 1899, complete the family.

Mr. Frels is one of the leading and influential men of his community and has held public office almost continuously during

his residence in this county, at present serving as commissioner and school director. At different times he has filled the position of assessor, collector and road commissioner, discharging his duties in a commendable and satisfactory manner. He attends the German Lutheran Church, and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

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#### DANIEL MCCARTHY.

Daniel McCarthy, deceased, was for forty-five years one of the trusted and faithful employes of the Rock Island Railroad Company, and for over a quarter of a century was an honored resident of Geneseo, Illinois. He was born in 1835, in county Kerry, Ireland, where his parents, Timothy and Mary (O'Brien) McCarthy, spent their entire lives. The other members of the family were Mary, who wedded William O'Neal, and lived for a time in Bureau and Rock Island counties, Illinois, and died in Rock Island January 31, 1900; Nora, who married Edward Sweetney, and both died in Montreal, Canada; Johannah, who married a Mr. Hogan, and died in Boston, Massachusetts, in February, 1898. Her husband died in Boston, also. Catherine, who died in Ireland unmarried, and Michael, who went to St. Louis, Missouri, and has not been heard of in thirty years.

On his emigration to America, in 1846, Daniel McCarthy located at Ottawa, Illinois, and soon afterward entered the service of the Rock Island Railroad Company. On the 18th of November, 1855, he led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Maher, who was also born in county Kerry, Ireland, August 15, 1831, and is a daughter of Jeremiah and Catherine (Ford) Maher, life-long residents

of that country. Mrs. McCarthy is the fourth in order of birth in a family of five children, the others being Patrick, who married Margaret Errit, and lived in Ottawa, Illinois, but after her death and his second marriage, he removed to Tiskilwa, Bureau county, this state; Daniel H., who died in Texas; Bartholomew, who married Margaret Wolf, and resides in LaSalle county, Illinois, and John, who wedded Mary Bartell, and died in Minnesota, in June, 1897.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy were born seven children, namely: Mary, now the wife of Edward Shields, of Hancock county, Iowa; Catherine, wife of John O'Brien, a grocer of Geneseo, by whom she has two children, Gertrude and Florence; Daniel, who died in infancy; Nannie, who died at the age of eighteen years; Nellie, who married John Carney, of Rock Island, and died March 13, 1897, leaving two children, Mary, who now lives with Mrs. McCarthy, and Maud, who lives with her aunt, Mrs. Shields; Lizzie, wife of James Kidney, superintendent of the water works of the Rock Island railroad at Davenport, by whom she had four children, Edward, deceased, Mary, Daniel and Catherine; and Agnes, a teacher in the public schools of Henry county.

From Ottawa Mr. McCarthy removed to Bureau county, and in 1867 came to Geneseo, where he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred August 27, 1894. As previously stated, he was in the employ of the Rock Island Railroad Company for forty-five years, and had the entire confidence of the railroad officials, as well as the respect of his fellow citizens. He read a great deal and was well posted on the affairs of the country. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Democratic party. He was a devout member of

the Catholic Church, to which his wife and family also belong, and for nine years during his residence in Tiskilwa, Bureau county, the priest made his home with him. He contributed most liberally to the support of his church and gave generously to all charities. As a man he was public spirited and progressive and his word was considered as good as his bond.

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#### WILLIAM A. NEVILLE.

This well-known real-estate dealer, contractor and builder of Kewanee, with office over the First National Bank, is a true type of western progress and enterprise, and the city owes not a little of its property to his energetic efforts. His diligence, prudent business methods and reliable sagacity have all combined to make him one of the ablest business men of the community, and he has achieved an enviable success.

A native of Henry county, Mr. Neville was born February 3, 1855, and is a son of Patrick Neville, who was born in Ireland, and died in early life. The father came to America when quite young, and believing this county to be a desirable locality, he entered a tract of government land, the southwest quarter of section 24, Burns township, which is still in possession of the family. His house, built of lumber hauled from Chicago with ox teams, is still standing, and was occupied until 1883. At the time of its erection, it was surrounded by saplings which have grown into large and beautiful trees. Throughout life the father followed agricultural pursuits. He was married in Henry county, about 1840, to Miss Jane Pounds, who was born in Pennsylvania, March 12, 1812, and later lived in Canton, Stark coun-

ty, Ohio, and being left an orphan at an early age was bound out according to the custom of that time. She long survived her husband, dying on the 14th of February, 1896, when nearly eighty-four years of age. During her girlhood in Ohio she united with the Christian Church, of which she was a devout and active member throughout life. Her children, were Thomas P., now a resident of Stuart, Iowa; Mary A., who died in infancy; James L., a resident of Belleville, Kansas, who was a soldier of the Civil war and was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry, enduring all the hardships of southern prison life; P. H., who lives on a farm adjoining the old homestead; and William A., our subject. Mrs. Neville came to Illinois in 1840, first stopping in Fulton, but soon after coming to Henry county, and at the time of her death she was one of the earliest pioneers left.

The boyhood and youth of William A. Neville were passed in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, attending the district schools, where he conned his lessons on slab seats. Having become thoroughly familiar with agricultural pursuits he engaged in farming for several years in Iowa after his school days were over, and then turned his attention to the carpenter's trade. He has since engaged in contracting and building. It has been his plan to erect houses, which he would then sell, thus dealing extensively in real estate, as he has built hundreds of houses in Kewanee. In this way he has done much to improve the city. Indeed, few persons have done more to advance its interests than Mr. Neville. He has also erected several large brick buildings, his first being Hotel Main. In design and structure his own residence is one of the most beautiful in the city. In 1895 he laid out a tract of six acres, known as Neville's

addition to the city of Kewanee, on which he has built and sold many houses. He has paid out large sums for help in his work.

On the 14th of February, 1878. Mr. Neville was united in marriage with Miss Cynthia West, who was born in Ohio, and in 1863, when a child of six years came to Illinois with her parents, Michael and Phebe (Mettler) West, also natives of the Buckeye state. By this union have been born four children, namely: Russell T., who is now a traveling salesman for a firm engaged in photographic work; Frank R., Ralph L. and Edna H., all at home. Mrs. Neville is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and socially she and her husband are very popular with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. In politics he is a Prohibitionist.

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#### GEORGE R. W. ARNOLD.

George Richard W. Arnold, a member of the well-known firm of Arnold & Goemmel, dealers in grain and coal, is one of the important factors in the business circles of Geneseo. He was born on the 21st of May, 1857, in Cook county, Illinois, and is a son of J. George and Salome (Windling) Arnold, both natives of Alsace, now a province of Germany. In early life the mother came to America with her parents, Philip and Mary Windling, and at the age of thirteen years the father crossed the Atlantic in company with his mother and five children, his father having died in Germany at the age of thirty-five years. It was in 1844 that the Arnold family reached this country and took up their residence in Cook county, Illinois. They improved a farm in Northfield township, where the grandmother of our subject

spent her remaining days, dying there at the age of fifty-five years. She was an earnest member of the Evangelical Association, and her husband held membership in the Lutheran Church in Germany.

Our subject is the oldest in a family of five children, the others being Lavina Sarah, wife of Samuel Rapp, a farmer of Whiteside county, Illinois; Ashton and Henrietta, who both died in infancy; and Flora, at home with her mother, who is an honored resident of Geneseo, and is now in her seventieth year. It was in 1883 that the family came to Henry county, and took up their residence on a farm on section 17, Geneseo township, just outside the corporate limits of the city of that name.

During his boyhood George R. W. Arnold acquired a good practical education in the common schools of his native county, and also gained an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. He came with the family to this county in 1883, and successfully operated the home farm in Geneseo township, which consists of ninety-five acres of very valuable and well improved land. He continued his farming operations until 1895, when he embarked in his present business at Geneseo, as a partner of Aaron Rapp, under the firm name of Rapp & Arnold. That connection continued two years, and he has since engaged in business with Samuel Goemmel under the style of Arnold & Goemmel. There are only two elevators in Geneseo, and this firm receives a liberal share of the patronage.

Mr. Arnold was married, April 29, 1897, to Miss Lorena L. Offerle, and to them has been born a daughter, Onida Lois, the joy and pride of the home. She was named after the ship "Onida," in which Mr. Arnold's father came to America. Mrs. Arnold

was born in Pennsylvania, and is a daughter of John and Catherine Offerle, the former a native of Alsace, Germany, the latter of the Keystone state. They are still living at the ages of seventy-one and sixty-five years, respectively, and are highly respected citizens of Geneseo. Religiously they are members of the Evangelical Association. Their children are Josie, wife of John Minch, of Hoopole; Henry, who married — McKinley and follows farming in Kansas; Anna, wife of Philip Somers, a farmer of Hoopole; Cora, deceased; Lorena L., wife of our subject; Alfred, who married Lou Wildermuth and is a farmer of this county; and Aaron, a resident of Enid, Oklahoma.

Politically Mr. Arnold is identified with the Republican party, and socially affiliates with the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Globe. Both he and his wife are members of the Evangelical Association, and he has served as steward of the church and superintendent of the Sunday-school for several years. By untiring industry and sound business judgment he has won merited success in all his undertakings, and is in all respects worthy the high regard in which he is held by his fellow men.

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#### NELS M. RONSTRUM.

For a quarter of a century this gentleman has been identified with the business interests of Kewanee as a painter and contractor, and having become one of its leading citizens he is now serving as alderman of the fifth ward. He comes from across the sea, his birth having occurred April 14, 1851, in the southern part of Sweden, where his parents, Muns and Hannah (Paulson) Gunnason, spent their entire lives. His father, who was a manufacturer of ale, died at the age of sev-

enty-three years, but the mother is still living and is about eighty years of age. They were the parents of eight children, of whom one daughter died in infancy, the others being Johanna, now a widow and a resident of Sweden; Nels M., our subject; Mary, Augusta and Annie, also residents of Sweden; Elsie, wife of Joseph Schronover, of Kewanee; and Nellie, wife of Nels Anderson of the same city.

On completing his education in the public schools of Sweden Mr. Ronstrum engaged in clerking in a general store there for three years. In 1869, at the age of seventeen years, he decided to try his fortune in America, where he believed better opportunities were afforded ambitious young men than in the countries of the old world. He sailed from Guttenberg to Hull, England, and at Glasgow, Scotland, took passage on a vessel bound for New York. On arriving in that city he proceeded at once to Knoxville, Knox county, Illinois, where he had relatives living. For about six months he clerked in a dry-goods store at that place, and then spent two years in Iowa and Nebraska, following painting and railroading most of the time.

On his return to Illinois Mr. Ronstrum spent a short time in Galesburg, and then came to Kewanee, where he has since made his home. After working on a farm for a few months he obtained a situation in the grocery store of L. W. Lewis, with whom he remained about a year, and for the same length of time was in the employ of C. A. Shulton, a dry-goods merchant of Kewanee. Since his marriage, in 1876, he has engaged in the painting business, and as a contractor receives a liberal patronage.

On the 26th of November, 1876, Mr. Ronstrum married Miss Julia Kleiner, who

was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, but was only two years old when brought to this county by her parents, George and Monroe Kleiner, the family locating in Kewanee when it was a small village. Throughout life her father followed the mason's trade. Mrs. Ronstrum is the oldest of his children, the others being Clara, now the widow of M. L. Frank and a resident of Chicago; Ella, wife of Dr. S. J. Sharp, of Kewanee; and Johanna, who died at the age of eighteen years. Unto our subject and his wife have also been born four children, namely: Carrie, now the wife of G. W. Page, of Kewanee; George, who is with his father in the painting business and resides at home; Mayne, who is also at home and a compositor in the office of the Star-Courier; and Emmet, attending the Kewanee schools.

Formerly Mr. Ronstrum was an Odd Fellow, but at present is not connected with that order. He is, however, a member of the Royal Circle and Cyprus Camp, No. 84, M. W. A. Since casting his first presidential ballot for James A. Garfield, he has affiliated with the Republican party, and in the spring of 1900 was the first Republican alderman ever elected in the fifth ward, receiving a majority of thirty-six. This fact plainly indicates his personal popularity and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He is now serving as chairman of the park and cemetery committees, and is also a member of the committees on finance and streets.

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#### ROBERT F. STEELE.

Robert F. Steele, deceased, was for thirty years identified with the business and political affairs of Geneseo, and during all that

time enjoyed the respect of his fellow townsmen by reason of his strict integrity and true manliness. His devotion to the city's welfare made him a valued factor in public life, and in his death Geneseo was deprived of one of her best citizens.

Mr. Steele was born in New Hampshire, January 10, 1831, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, his parents being Robert and Betsey Steele, also natives of the old Granite state, where the father followed farming for many years. He came west in 1856 and spent his last days in Geneseo, Illinois, where his death occurred in 1887. In New Hampshire he had served as deacon in the Presbyterian Church for many years, and during his residence here held the same office in the Congregational Church. His wife, who was also an active member of the same church, died in 1876, at the age of eighty-four years. In their family were four children: Robert F., of this review; Mary, who wedded Elihu Bryant, and both are now deceased; Elizabeth, a resident of Arizona, who first married John Milton Taylor, and after his death John Van Suyl; and Samuel, who died in Geneseo many years ago.

Amid New England scenes Robert F. Steele grew to manhood, and he was married in Methuen, Massachusetts, April 21, 1857, to Miss Anna E. Hardy, who was born in Antrim, New Hampshire, of which town her husband was also a native. Her parents were Silas and Abigail (Farley) Hardy, both of English extraction, and the former a son of Sarah Spofford, who belonged to a very noted family in American history and a relative of Spofford, the librarian at Washington, D. C. His father, David Hardy, fought for American independence, and thus Mrs. Steele is a daughter of the Revolution. Her father, who



was by occupation a farmer, died in Antrim, New Hampshire, in 1855. Her mother, Mrs. Abigail Hardy, was born June 1, 1800, and died in February, 1887. Mrs. Steele is the younger in a family of two children. Her sister, Sarah Abigail, is the wife of Dr. A. J. French, of Lawrence, Massachusetts. They have no children living. To our subject and his wife was born a daughter, Abbie, now the wife of Colonel H. V. Fisher, who is represented on another page of this volume.

Soon after his marriage, in 1857, Mr. Steele came to Geneseo, Illinois, and embarked in the shoe business under the firm name of Bryant & Steele, which connection was continued until 1860, when he sold out. In August, 1862, he entered the Union army as a private of Company I, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, but was later made commissary sergeant. He went with his regiment to Kentucky and remained in the service until hostilities ceased. The exposure of his army life brought on disease, the effects of which probably caused his early death. After his return home he was engaged in the insurance business as a member of the firm of Hosford & Steele until about two years prior to his death, when he commenced handling real estate.

Mr. Steele died September 6, 1887, at the age of fifty-six years, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was an active member of the Congregational Church and was serving as deacon at the time of his death. His political support was given first to the Whig and later the Republican parties, and in his social relations was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Grand Army of the Republic. He was quite prominent and influential in public affairs, serving as chairman of the board of

supervisors for some years, and also efficiently filled the office of justice of the peace for many years. In 1867 he was appointed postmaster of Geneseo, and while filling that office he also served as city clerk. He was mayor three terms, and such was his popularity as chief executive that he might have held the office indefinitely had he not refused to accept the honor longer. He was also a member of the board of education several terms, and director in the Farmers National Bank, and his various official duties were discharged with promptness and fidelity worthy of the highest commendation. No man in the community stood higher socially and those who knew him best speak in unqualified terms of his sterling integrity, his honor in business, and his fidelity to all the duties of public and private life. At his death of Mayor J. H. Mitchell, of Geneseo, issued the following ordinance: "As an evidence of our esteem for Mr. Steele and our deep regret at his weath, and as a mark of respect, I hereby request merchants, bankers and other places of business to close from ten o'clock a. m. until noon on Thursday, September 8, 1887."

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#### JOHN P. BRADY.

Among the prominent young business men of Kewanee is John P. Brady, a wholesale and retail liquor dealer, who was born in that city on the 27th of February, 1868, and is a son of Thomas and Rosanna (Trainer) Brady, who are represented on another page of this volume. For many years the father carried on the business now conducted by his son, and was also interested in the ice business.



John P. Brady was reared and educated in Kewanee and since attaining to man's estate has been prominently identified with its business interests. His place is one of the finest of the kind in the city, everything about it being first-class, while the goods handled are the best that money can buy. He makes a specialty of fine bottled goods and high grade cigars, in which department he has the largest and finest line in Kewanee. A finely equipped billiard hall occupies the second floor of the building, where all lovers of the game can while away an hour in a most pleasant manner. Mr. Brady also conducts a regular bottling works, manufacturing soda water and all kinds of soft drinks, which he supplies to the trade. Buying his goods directly from the manufacturers, he receives the benefit of cash discounts, and is thus able to give a better article for the same amount of money than those who buy on credit. His house is conducted in a quiet and orderly manner, and as a consequence his trade is both large and far-reaching. Mr. Brady is a genial, accommodating gentleman, and treats his patrons in a manner which makes them feel like calling again. He manages his business upon strictly business principles and has scored a signal success in the prosecution of the same. Mr. Brady has also leased what is known as Crystal Lake, which he has converted into an ideal resort, with boating, bathing and shooting the chutes. This he now rents for picnic purposes. There is also a base-ball ground attached. He has been manager of the base-ball team of Kewanee, which is one of the best amateur organizations of the kind in the state, and which has at times defeated the professionals.

In September, 1894, Mr. Brady was united in marriage with Miss Mary Martin,

a daughter of P. K. Martin, who was born in Ireland. For two terms Mr. Brady was secretary of the township Republican central committee, and took an active part in the campaign of 1900 for McKinley, Roosevelt and Yates. He is well liked by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, and enjoys the respect of the entire community.

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#### GEORGE W. ROWE.

George W. Rowe, of Geneseo, is now living a retired life in the enjoyment of a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserves by reason of his industrious efforts of former years. Accomplishment and progress ever imply labor, energy and diligence, and it was those qualities that enabled our subject to rise from the ranks of the many and stand among the successful few.

A native of New York, Mr. Rowe was born in the town of Bath, Steuben county, May 20, 1825, and is a son of John Smith and Rachel (Sherrer) Rowe, who were also born in the Empire state, and made their home there until their removal to Illinois in 1835, when they took up their residence in Whiteside county. The father secured a tract of government land and built a log house, into which the family moved the next fall. There he engaged in general farming and stock raising until his death when fifty-two years of age. In political sentiment he was a Republican. His wife died a few years after locating in Whiteside county. They were the parents of eight children, namely: Delanson, who was killed in a tornado at the home place in Whiteside county when twenty-one years of age; George W., our subject; Lovina, widow of La Fayette

Crandall, of Erie township, Whiteside county; Elvira, who married Jackson Warner and died at the age of forty years; Eliza Ann, deceased wife of Henry Kempster, a farmer of Portland, Whiteside county; Mary Jane, wife of James Calkens, a farmer of Hillsdale, Rock Island county; William, who was killed at the same time as his brother Delanson, when about twelve years old; and Robert E., who entered the Civil war as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the battle of Chickamauga at the age of nineteen.

George W. Rowe attended school at the place of his birth and also in Whiteside county, Illinois, and supplemented the knowledge there acquired by home study. He remained under the parental roof until he married at the age of twenty-four years to Miss Julianna Kempster, of Portland, Whiteside county, and then moved to a farm on section 18, Phenix township, Henry county, where he had purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land. He soon placed the farm under a high state of cultivation, and erected thereon a good set of buildings. There his wife died in August, 1889, and her remains were interred in the Sharon churchyard of Portland township, Whiteside county. There were four children by this union, all born in Henry county with exception of Ann Eliza, the eldest, who died at the age of three years and nine months. (2) Viola M. married John J. Guild, a farmer of Portland township, Whiteside county, and died at the age of forty years, leaving three sons, Edward, Frank and Elias. (3) Edith is the wife of J. B. Walker, a farmer of the same township, and they have two children, Edna and

Charles. (4) Arthur H. died at the age of three years and nine months.

After the death of his wife, Mr. Rowe rented his farm and lived with his children for a time. Later he married Mrs. Lucy Urick, of Portland, Whiteside county, a daughter of Henry and Susanna (Henney) Hines. The father was born in Germany, but was only six months old when brought to this country by his parents. His mother died shortly after landing in America. The family located on a farm in Wayne county, Ohio, where Mr. Hines grew to manhood. On coming west he took up his residence at Pink Prairie, Phenix township, Henry county, where he followed agricultural pursuits until called to his final rest in 1869, at the age of fifty-three years. His widow is still living at the age of seventy-five years, and now makes her home in Geneseo. In their family were eight children, as follows: (1) John, a farmer of Brown county, Kansas, married Amanda Hershman and has four children; (2) Lucy, wife of our subject, is next in order of birth. (3) Christina is the wife of Aaron Rapp, a prosperous citizen and retired farmer of Geneseo, and they have five children: Alice, wife of John Bollen, of Geneseo; Flora and Cora, twins; Emma; Roy, who died at the age of seventeen years; and Stella. (4) Mary is the wife of Abner Offerle, a farmer of Offerle, Kansas, which place was named in honor of his father, and they have two children. (5) Sarah is the wife of Leonard Seiben, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. (6) Hattie is the wife of John Goembel, a retired farmer of Geneseo. (7) Peter, pastor of the Congregational Church, of Kearney, Nebraska. (8) Adam, a farmer of Phenix township, this

county, married Sadie Bollen, daughter of John Bollen, of Geneseo, and they have two children, Floyd and Gertrude. Mrs. Rowe was born in Wayne county, Ohio, and first married Andrew Urick, a life-long resident of Whiteside county, Illinois, and a farmer by occupation. He became quite well-to-do and died April 4, 1895, at the age of fifty-one years. During the Civil war he served nine months in Company G, One Hundred and Fifty-six Illinois Volunteer Infantry. To Mr. and Mrs. Urick were born six children: (1) Mary is the wife of Charles Smith, of Searstown, Rock Island county, who is employed in the plow factory at that place, and they have three children. Effie, Lester and Harold. (2) Henry, a farmer of Portland township, Whiteside county, married Myrtle Kempster and they have one child, Jessie. (3) Albert resides on the home farm in Portland township, Whiteside county. (4) Julia and (5) Earl live with their mother in Geneseo. (6) Frank died in infancy.

In his farming operations Mr. Rowe met with most excellent success and acquired over seven hundred acres of valuable land in Phenix township, this county, most of which he has divided among his children, though he still retains the homestead farm. He always devoted considerable attention to the raising of stock, and found that branch of his business quite profitable. He is now living retired at a pleasant home on North Aldrich street, Geneseo. In his political affiliations he is a Republican. He has seen almost the entire development of this section of the state, having located in Whiteside county when the timber was inhabited by Indians, while wolves, deer and wild game was plentiful. When he took up his residence in Henry county most of the land was

wild and unimproved, and he built the first house on what is called the Rock river bottom in Phenix township. In the work of advancement and progress he has ever borne his part. He is now one of the highly respected citizens of Geneseo, and his long residence in this section of the state and the active part he has taken in its development well entitle him to representation in the history of his adopted county.

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### CARL KIRCHNER.

Carl Kirchner, a well-known retired farmer of Geneseo, is a man whose successful struggle with adverse circumstances shows what can be accomplished by industry and economy, especially if a sensible wife second his efforts to secure a home and competence. Coming to the new world empty-handed they were obliged to make their way without any of the aids which are usually considered essential to success.

Mr. Kirchner was born in Prussia, Germany, January 28, 1830, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Foughrodt) Kirchner, also natives of that country. At the death of his parents he was the only representative of the family living. He was reared and educated in the land of his birth, and there he was married, January 14, 1852, to Miss Margaret Moak, who was born in Germany, December 31, 1831. In 1855 they bade good-bye to the fatherland and came to America as passengers on the "Bremen," which sailed from Bremen, Germany, and at length dropped anchor in the harbor of New Orleans. From the Crescent City they came up the Mississippi river to Davenport, Iowa, where Mr. Kirchner had an uncle living.

The young couple both found work on the bluff near Rock Island, he receiving eight dollars per month and board for his services. Mrs. Kirchner often did a man's work in the fields, stacking hay, planting corn or hauling grain. In this way she earned thirty-seven and a half cents per day. Her uncle paid two hundred dollars for ten acres of land, which he gave the young couple, and by their combined efforts they were able to add to it from time to time until they now own three hundred and forty acres of well improved and valuable land in Hanna township, this county. They continued to reside upon the farm until 1896, when they removed to Geneseo, where they bought a lot and built a large and handsome home. Here they are now living retired from active labor and are enjoying a well-earned rest.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirchner are the parents of five children, namely: (1) Lizzie is now the wife of William Oberly, of Hoopole, this county, and they have nine children, Francis, Charles, Henry, Lawrence, Anna, William, May, Clarence and Josie. (2) Catherine is the wife of Frank Rink, who is engaged in farming near Geneseo, and they have four children, Ida, Lawrence, Henrietta and Clayton. (3) Henry, residing at Scranton, near Des Moines, Iowa, married Edith Russar and they have one child, Flossie. (4) George, a farmer living near Geneseo, Illinois, wedded Mary Steiger, and they have one child, Hazel. 5) Lena is the wife of Joseph Friend, of Davenport, Iowa.

Religiously Mr. Kirchner and his family hold membership in the Catholic Church, and politically he is identified with the Democratic party. For the success they have achieved in life he and his wife deserve great credit, it being due entirely to their

untiring industry, good management and indomitable perseverance. They are widely and favorably known and have many friends throughout the county.

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#### CHARLES A. KELLOGG.

Among the thrifty and well-to-do agriculturists of Henry county is Charles A. Kellogg, who owns and operates a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 9, Wethersfield township, two miles south of Kewanee. A native of Michigan, he was born in St. Joseph county, April 14, 1848, and is a son of A. B. Kellogg and grandson of Hosmer Kellogg. The birth of the father occurred October 22, 1799, in Massachusetts, where he grew to manhood and married. His first wife died in that state in 1843. The following year he removed to White Pigeon, St. Joseph county, Michigan, where he engaged in merchandising with his brothers for several years. During his residence there he wedded Mrs. Harriet Stanley, *nee* Loomis, a native of Connecticut. In 1850 they came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up their residence in Wethersfield, where Mr. Kellogg worked at the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and also conducted a cooper shop and dealt in agricultural implements. During the last few years of his life he lived with our subject upon the farm, where he died July 23, 1887, at the age of eighty-eight years. His second wife survived him, and passed away March 5, 1891, the remains of both being interred in Wethersfield cemetery. By their union were born three sons and one daughter, namely: Henry L., who died in March, 1894; Charles A., of this review; George

G., a business man of Tiskilwa, Bureau county, Illinois; and Cynthia M., wife of E. J. Ray, a farmer of Wethersfield township.

Being only two years old when brought by his parents to this county, his boyhood and youth were passed in Wethersfield, and he was educated in the schools of that place and Kewanee. On starting out in life for himself he worked by the month as a farm hand, and then engaged in farming upon rented land. In Bureau county, Illinois, he was married February 20, 1868, to Miss Kate S. Weeks, who was born on the Hudson river, near Newburg, Orange county, New York, of which county her parents, George C. and Susan A. (Brewster) Weeks, were also natives. In the spring of 1856 her father brought the family to Illinois, and after spending four years in Galesburg, took up his residence upon a farm in Bureau county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits for some years. His last days, however, were spent in retirement from active labor in Tiskilwa, where he departed this life in the spring of 1874. Since his death Mrs. Weeks has resided with her children, and now makes her home with our subject and his wife. Mrs. Kellogg was reared in Galesburg and Bureau county, and by her marriage has become the mother of ten children: George A., who is married and holds a responsible business position in Atlanta, Georgia, and he has three children, Albert Frederick, Florence C., and George A.; Frederick B.; Susan E., wife of J. G. Hoffman, a merchant of Kewanee, by whom she has one son, J. Brewster; Edwin L., who holds a responsible position in the Kewanee bank; and Harry C., Ellen K., Charles F., Matilda W. and C. Herbert, all at home. Matilda is now attending the high school of

Kewanee, and Herbert is pursuing his studies in the Wethersfield school.

Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg began their domestic life on a farm in Bureau county, where they made their home for a few years, and in addition to his farming operations he was engaged in business there for two or three years, and also operated a corn sheller for some time. In January, 1875, he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 9, Wethersfield township, Henry county, where he has since made his home. He has made many permanent improvements upon the place, and has successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, his specialty being short horn cattle.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Kellogg has always affiliated with the Republican party and cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant, in 1872. He has been a delegate to a number of county conventions of his party, and has taken quite an active part in public affairs, serving as a member of the school board some years; as assessor about eight years; and justice of the peace of Wethersfield for four years. In whatever position he has been called upon to fill he has proved a faithful and efficient officer. He and his family attend the Congregational Church of Kewanee, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### THOMAS BRADY.

Thomas Brady, deceased, was for many years a well-known business man of Kewanee as a wholesale and retail dealer in liquor and cigars. He was born in county Cavan, Ireland, May 3, 1845, and was a



son of Patrick and Catherine Brady, who spent their entire lives in that country. In their family were eight children but Patrick is now the only survivor.

It was in 1862 that our subject emigrated to America and took up his residence in Chicago, where he commenced work for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. In their employ he came to Kewanee, and remained with them for seven years, at the end of which time the shops were removed to Mendota. He then embarked in the saloon business and later engaged in the manufacture of all sorts of carbonated beverages and soft drinks, and conducted one of the most popular saloons of the city. He has paid as high as thirteen hundred dollars for freight at one time on a shipment of ice and he did a very large and profitable business for some years.

Mr. Brady was married in Kewanee, February 3, 1866, to Miss Rosanna Trainer, a native of county Tyrone, Ireland, and a daughter of James and Mary Trainer. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, was born in the same county, October 18, 1818, and died in that country in 1866, while the mother was born in 1819, and died in 1870. They were married in 1840 and were the parents of nine children: Owen, John, Kate, Mary, James, Mary, Patrick, Katie and Rosanna. Mrs. Brady is the youngest and only one of the family now living. She was eighteen years of age when in 1866 she and her sister, Mary, came to America, landing in New York. They came direct to Kewanee, where their brother John was living, and where Mrs. Brady has since made her home.

Unto our subject and his wife were born eleven children as follows: Katie A., a noted singer and a graduate of the Chicago Cen-

tral Musical College, is now the wife of Oliver P. Hamilton, of Nashville, North Carolina, and they have one child, Mary; John P., a prominent business man of Kewanee, is represented on another page of this volume; Thomas is a resident of Butte, Montana; James died at the age of twenty months; Frank married Bertha Connell and resides in Kewanee; Mamie, living at home, is also an excellent singer and a pupil of her older sister; Rosa died at the age of eleven months; Martha is now in Asheville, North Carolina; Willie plays on the piccolo, flute and piano, and is now pursuing his musical studies at St. Bede College, Peru, Illinois; Joe is attending school in Kankakee, Illinois; and Morris is a student in the Kewanee schools. The family are all communicants of the Catholic Church, and Mrs. Brady is also a member of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Mr. Brady died May 13, 1895. He was a man of affairs and was represented in all enterprises which he believed would prove of benefit to the city and community in which he lived. He was a stockholder in the Henry County Fair Association, and was one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of this section of the city. In his death the community therefore lost a most useful and valued member of society.

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#### THOMAS TAYLOR.

Among the brave men who went to the defense of their country during the dark days of the Rebellion was the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, now residing on West Main street, Geneseo, Illinois. He was born in Albany, New York, May 18, 1846, and from that city came to

Illinois at the age of eight years with his parents, Thomas and Jane (Westbury) Taylor, locating in Chicago. The father was a native of Bambrayshire England, and was twenty years of age on his emigration to the United States. For some years he was engaged in business as a carriage manufacturer at Albany, and in 1853 moved to Chicago, where he followed the same occupation for about five years. In 1858 he accepted the position of overseer and master mechanic of the convict prison in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he died of yellow fever the following year, leaving a widow and five children. Two children died previous to his death. The mother long survived her husband, dying at her home in Chicago, April 2, 1894, at the age of sixty-nine years. She was born in Greenbush, New York, of English parentage.

Thomas Taylor, our subject, is the oldest of the family of seven children, the others being: Sarah, born in Albany, is the wife of Albert Pfangle, of Aurora, Illinois; Elisha, born in Albany, is engaged in the tinsmith business in Geneseo, Illinois; Harriet died at the age of thirteen years; George, born in Chicago, is a carpenter and contractor of that city; Mary J., born in Aurora, died in infancy; and Mrs. Harriet Smith, died at the age of twenty-two years, leaving one child, Nellie, now deceased.

Our subject was principally educated at Aurora, Illinois, where he attended Clark Seminary, and after the Civil war he was also a student at the Soldiers' State College, in Fulton, Illinois. On the 1st of January, 1863, he enlisted at Aurora, in Company B, Fifty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry for three years or during the war, and was mustered into the United States service at Springfield, Illinois, as a private, under

command of Captain David J. Lynch and Colonel William F. Lynch. The regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Sixteenth Corps, Army of the Tennessee, and was in the following engagements: Nashville, Pleasant Hill, Fort De Russey, Meridian, Iuka, Jackson, Canton and Yellow Bayou. At Iuka Mr. Taylor was wounded by a minie ball splitting his chin; at Mayfield, Kentucky, he was also slightly wounded in the right foot; while at Yellow Bayou he was very seriously wounded, May 18, 1864, by the explosion of a shell, breaking his collar bone and fracturing his shoulder blade. This necessitated the amputation of his left arm at the shoulder. For eight months Mr. Taylor was confined at Jefferson Barracks hospital, St. Louis, Missouri, at the end of which time he was transferred to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained until August 25, 1864, when he was honorably discharged. He was in the service one year before his enlistment, acting independently, as he was under age.

After his discharge our gallant young soldier returned to Aurora for a short time and entered the Soldiers' College at Fulton, where he pursued a four years' course and was graduated. For the following five years he was employed as clerk for the Diamond Jo Steamer Company, and then came to Geneseo, in 1874, where he has since made his home. He attended a course of lectures at the Chicago School of Psychology, and was graduated at that institution May 1, 1900. Religiously he is a member of the Unitarian Church of Geneseo, and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 40, and the Home Forum. As one of the honored veterans of the Civil war, and a highly esteemed citizen of Henry



county, he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in this volume.

Mr. Taylor was married in Geneseo, in 1885, to Miss Augusta Priebe, who was born in Germany, and was eight years old when she came to the new world with her parents, William and Rosine (Welke) Priebe, locating in Geneseo. Both in his native land and for some years after coming to America, Mr. Priebe followed the carpenter's trade, but later purchased a farm in Geneseo township, this county, just outside the corporation, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. There he and his wife still reside. They are the parents of eleven children, of whom the following are still living: William F., born in Germany, married Matilda Simater, and resides in Minonk, Woodford county, Illinois. He is extensively engaged in the poultry business, having about two dozen branch houses throughout the United States and also an office in England, to which he ships large quantities of poultry. Mrs. Taylor is the second in order of birth in this family. Herman married Lizzie Warren and is engaged in the poultry business in Bradford, Stark county, Illinois. Pauline, born in Germany, is the wife of Frederick Glawe, who is engaged in the same business in Guthrie Center, Iowa. Minnie, born in Geneseo, is now teaching in the public schools of that place. Louis is engaged in farming on the home place in Geneseo township. Matilda is also at home. Henry has charge of his brother's branch house at Peoria, Illinois. Those of the children now deceased are Emil, who died in Chicago at the age of twenty-three years; Hannah, who died in Geneseo, at the age of twenty-nine; and Otilla, who died in Germany, in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have two children: May, born in Geneseo,

May 21, 1886, and Thomas, Jr., born in the same place August 5, 1889. Both are now attending the local schools. Mrs. Taylor is also a Unitarian in religious belief and is a member of the Eastern Star Chapter of the Masonic fraternity and the Woman's Relief Corps of the Grand Army of the Republic. The family is one of prominence in Geneseo.

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#### HARRY A. REHERD.

The subject of this review is one of the younger members of the Henry county bar, but his prominence is by no means measured by his years; on the contrary he has already won a reputation which many an older practitioner might well envy. One must work to attain greatness in any walk of life, but in this profession, probably more than in any other, success depends upon individual efforts.

Mr. Reherd is a native of Henry county, born on his father's farm southeast of Geneseo, July 18, 1871, his parents being Jacob Keller Reherd and Lucy Louise (Ware) Reherd, who are presented on another page of this volume. The boyhood of our subject was passed amid rural scenes. He received his early education in the country schools where he was given the credit of being a diligent and faithful student. Later he attended the Geneseo Collegiate Institute, graduating therefrom in the year of 1890, being president of his class. He has twice held the position of president of the Alumni Association of that institution and was one of the speakers at the corner-stone-laying at Atkinson hall, one of its school buildings.

He was for several years an efficient and popular teacher in the public schools in the



H. A REHERD.

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county, reading law during vacation, in the office of Judge George E. Waite, of Geneseo.

In September, 1895, he became a student in the law department of the State University of Iowa, at Iowa City, where, during his year's work, he was recognized as an able student and forcible debater. A year later he entered the office of the prominent law firm of Benjamin & Morrissey, of Bloomington, Illinois, and attended the sessions of the Bloomington Law School. On February 24, 1897, he was admitted, with high honors, to practice law by the supreme court of Illinois, and soon after entered the law office in Geneseo, of Judge George E. Waite, master in chancery of Henry county, where he practiced for nearly two years, when he opened an office for himself in Geneseo.

Personally Mr. Reherd is a very pleasant man to meet and impresses those who come in contact with him with his energy and sincerity.

Always diligent and painstaking in his legal work, he has built up a strong law practice which is rapidly increasing. He is possessed of a strong personality, and ease of manner, a good personal appearance, and splendid self control—qualities so desirable in a successful trial lawyer.

Mr. Reherd has taken a somewhat active part in campaign work, and has more than a local reputation as a public speaker. In the fall of 1900 he was the Democratic nominee for state's attorney for Henry county. During the campaign he proved himself to be the possessor of a powerful, well-modulated voice, a good command of language, and to have the ability and energy to deliver an eloquent, argumentative speech. Although he failed of election, yet

his campaign was a remarkable one. His vote was the largest ever received by a Democrat for that county office. The majority of the opposition, was reduced by over a thousand votes.

Mr. Reherd is especially interested in the educational affairs of the county. He is a man of even temperament and intensity of purpose and has been a consistent member of the First Presbyterian Church of Geneseo since November, 1889. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs and supports all enterprises which he believes will prove of public benefit. He is one of the energetic capable young men of the county who lives not for himself alone but to also use his ability and his influence for the benefit of the community in which he resides, and the county and state of which he is a citizen.

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#### JACOB KELLER REHERD.

Among the practical, progressive and highly esteemed farmers of Geneseo township, Henry county, is numbered Jacob Keller Reherd, who was born in Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, Virginia, September 9, 1834, and is of the good old Pennsylvania Dutch stock.

His father, William Reherd, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, in 1792. He was a man of great energy, industry and thrift and highly esteemed by those who best knew him. At the time of his death he was ninety-two years old. William Reherd in his young manhood went to Harrisonburg, Rockingham county, Virginia, and engaged in business and in farming. He married Anna Keller, who was born in Harrisonburg in 1802 and died in 1867. Hers

was a life of great usefulness and unselfish devotion to their large family of children, seven of whom are still living, one having died in infancy and one at middle age.

The boyhood of Jacob Keller Reherd was spent in the Shenandoah valley in Virginia, he receiving his education in the public and private schools of Harrisonburg. In 1856 he came to Henry county, Illinois, locating on the farm on sections 26 and 27, Geneseo township, where he now resides. At that time the land was all wild and unimproved, but he soon broke the land, fenced it, and erected good and substantial buildings thereon, making a pleasant home for himself and family.

On January 10, 1865, at Geneseo, Mr. Reherd married Lucy Louise Ware, one of the four children of Joel and Lucy (Crossett) Ware.

Joel Ware was born in Swanzy, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, June 23, 1809, of Scotch ancestry, being a direct descendant of Robert Bruce, of Scotland. In 1860, he came to Illinois where he taught in the public schools of the county for many years, also engaging in farming. He died at Geneseo in April, 1897, at the age of eighty-eight years. Up to the time of his death he was very active both in body and mind and was a constant student of public events, being for his age an exceptional man in this respect.

Lucy (Crossett) Ware was born at Prescott, Massachusetts, December 16, 1813, and is still living in Geneseo, at the age of eighty-seven, while her mother lived at Amherst, Massachusetts, to the ripe old age of one hundred and two years. On her centennial birthday her photograph was taken, showing her to be well preserved and her hair to be still black as a raven's wing.

Lucy Louise (Ware) Reherd was born at Wellsville, Allegany county, New York, March 2, 1844. She is a woman of intelligence and education; the possessor of quiet, friendly, helpful ways; a woman whose "children rise up and call her blessed."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Reherd are members of the First Presbyterian Church of Geneseo, and were among the ones who founded the church in 1868. They are the parents of five children, all grown to manhood and womanhood: William Robert, who was, until recently, connected with the Geneseo Arena as editor; Herbert Ware, who married Louise M. McClure, of Mediapolis, Iowa. He was pastor at Milan, Illinois, for four years, and is now pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church of Detroit, Michigan; Harry Arthur, a prominent attorney of Geneseo, who is represented on another page of this volume; Mary Louise, a student at the State University of Iowa; and Fanny Fern, a student of music at Rock Island, Illinois; all of whom are capable, industrious young people.

Mr. Reherd is a conservative man of good judgment and of broad intelligence. A man unselfishly devoted to his family and who has ever taken an active interest in public affairs, especially educational and political. Since attaining his majority he has been a staunch supporter of the Democracy and is one of the most influential representatives of the party in his community. For eight years he represented his township, which is strongly Republican, as assistant supervisor, being for that length of time an invincible opponent to the Republican nominees for that office.

Mr. Reherd represented his school district as director for eighteen years, was a

member of the Geneseo township library board for several terms, was one of the promoters of the Geneseo Collegiate Institute, and a member of the board of directors of that institution for over ten years. He is one of the men who has helped to make the county what it is to-day, one of the richest agricultural districts in the state, and has taken an active interest in all that tends to its improvement and the advancement of its people.

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### JEFFERSON W. TAYLOR.

This well-known retired agriculturist of Geneseo, is an honored representative of one of the earliest families of this state, and is a true type of the energetic, hardy men who have actively assisted in developing and improving this beautiful and fertile agricultural country. In fact Mr. Taylor is a native of Illinois, his birth occurring near New Haven, White county, on the 22nd of February, 1818, before the state was admitted to the Union. His parents were Ephraim Merritt and Ebbie (Hayes) Taylor. The father was born on the Roanoke river in Rollin county, Virginia, and when about sixteen years of age moved with his parents to North Carolina, and later to the Blue Ridge mountains in Tennessee, where our subject's grandfather, Richard Taylor, died. The father, Ephraim Taylor, then took care of his mother, and together they came to Illinois in 1812, locating in White county, where he died in 1845, at the age of fifty-seven years. He followed the occupation of farming throughout life, and both he and his wife were earnest and consistent members of the Baptist Church. She also died in White county about a year before his

death occurred. Their family numbered seven children, of whom our subject is the eldest. (2) Hudson R., a retired farmer and carpenter, of Geneseo, wedded Mary A. Porter, and has six children, William H., George H., Frederick L., Mary Ida, John J., and Daniel A. (3) Sarah is the widow of Rodney Linnell, a farmer, and resides in Geneseo with her daughter, Mrs. Cann. She has two children: Lucy, wife of Thomas Cann, a meat merchant of Geneseo; and Mary, wife of James Searls, a farmer of Hanna township, this county. (4) Asadie married Irson Olinger and both are now deceased; (5) Eliza married Ephraim Merritt Stokes and they are also deceased. (6) Bradley H. died at the age of forty years. (7) William died in childhood.

Being the oldest son, Jefferson W. Taylor was obliged to work on the farm during his boyhood and youth, and was unable to attend school until twenty-two years of age. He remained with his parents in White county until twenty-five, when he and his cousin came up the Mississippi river on a steamboat to Davenport, Iowa, and after passing the winter with his cousin at that place, he came to Henry county, Illinois, and bought a farm in what is now Hanna township. He also purchased the ferry, which crossed the river at Cleveland, known as the Cleveland ferry, which he operated about seven years. He then sold the ferry and gave his entire attention to farming for a time, but later embarked in the dry goods business at Colona Station, where he built a store and dwelling house. Not meeting with success in that enterprise, he soon returned to farming in Hanna township, where he had previously purchased five hundred acres of wild land, though he afterward sold two hundred acres of that amount.

After operating his farm for about eleven years he sold the place, taking a note and mortgage on a farm in Whiteside county. After living upon the latter place for five or six years, he disposed of it and came to Geneseo, where he has since led a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. He has a comfortable home on South State street, which is the abode of hospitality and good cheer.

In 1845 Mr. Taylor married Miss Alfre'd Linnell, a daughter of Rufus and Lucy (Melvin) Linnell. Her father was born on an island between the United States and Canada, known as Linnell's Island, which was settled by his father, a native of France. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were born six children, as follows: (1) Ephriam Merriitt, named for his grandfather, is now engaged in the insurance business at Chariton, Lucas county, Iowa. He was in the regular army for five years, taking part in Indian warfare, and lost his health in the service. For his second wife he married Eva Lewis, of Wayne county, Iowa, and they have seven children, Jefferson W., Florence, Jennie, Elmer, Maude, Lewis and Blaine. (2) Mary married first Elijah Gove, a farmer, and carpenter of Hanna township, by whom she had two children, Clinton D. and one who died in infancy; and for her second husband she married Wilbur Hobson, a prominent farmer of Lucas county, Iowa, by whom she had one child, Ernest. (3) George W., station agent on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad at Burlington, Iowa, wedded Mary Deem and had two sons, Frank and Edwin. (4) Rilla is the wife of George Bills, a farmer of Edford township, this county, and they have two children, Archer and Roy. (5) Lisse is the wife of George Detrick, a laundryman of

Dixon, Lee county, Illinois. (6) The youngest died in infancy unnamed.

Mr. Taylor cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, in 1840, and continued a supporter of the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party when joined its ranks and has continued to fight under its banner. He has held several township offices of honor and trust, and has always faithfully performed any duty devolving upon him whether public or private. For many years he was a member of the Masonic fraternity, and in early life was connected with the Methodist Church, but is now a Presbyterian. During the long years of his residence in Henry county, Mr. Taylor has become widely known, and his many excellent traits of character have gained for him the high regard of many friends.

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#### HORACE J. COMBS.

Horace J. Combs, an active and enterprising farmer whose farm of ninety-five acres is pleasantly located on section 10, Wethersfield township, within two miles of Kewanee, was born in Marshall county, Illinois, November 29, 1856, and is a son of Warner Combs, who was born in West Virginia, in January, 1825. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Combs, was one of the early settlers of West Virginia, and later became one of the pioneers of Wyandot county, Ohio. There the father grew to manhood and married Miss Elizabeth Wood, a native of Wyandot county, and a daughter of Francis Wood, also one of its pioneer settlers. In 1852, Warner Combs came to Illinois and located in Marshall county, where he transformed a tract of



wild land into a good farm. His last days were spent in retirement from active labor at Sparland, where he died in 1896. His first wife, who was the mother of our subject, passed away in 1870, and he was again married.

By the first union there were five children, namely: Sarepta, who is now her brother's housekeeper; Horace J., of this review; Mrs. Emma Duncan, a widow, who also resides with her brother; Electa, wife of George Joseph, of Peoria; and Sherman who successfully engaged in teaching school for five years, and is now with his brother on the farm. By his second marriage the father had two children: Harry, a resident of Kewanee, and Viola, wife of James Stinson, of Hamlin, Indiana.

On the old homestead in Marshall county Horace J. Combs passed the days of his boyhood and youth, and early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturalist. On leaving the parental roof he engaged in farming upon rented land in that county for four years, and then purchased a farm there, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivated for several years. Selling that place in 1892 he purchased his present farm on section 10, Wethersfield township, Henry county, upon which he located the following year and which he has since successfully operated. He has remodeled the buildings and made other improvements upon the place. In connection with his general farming he carries on stock raising, and in that branch of his business he has also prospered.

In his political views Mr. Combs is independent and supports the men whom he believes best qualified for office regardless of party lines. He has never aspired to office but takes a deep and commendable interest

in public affairs. He and his sister Serepta hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church of Kewanee, while the other members of the family are either Baptists or Presbyterians in religious belief. Miss Combs is an active church worker and is now president of the Home Missionary Society of Kewanee. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside and its members are held in high regard by all who know them.

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### JOHN WENKE.

Among the old and honored residents of Geneseo is John Wenke, who was for many years actively engaged in farming, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo. A native of Germany, he was born in Oldenburg on the 14th of December, 1820, and is a son of Frederick and Anna (Myer) Wenke, who passed their entire lives in that country. There our subject grew to manhood, and was married in Germany March 19, 1852, to Miss Helena Oltmanns, a daughter of John and Anna (Koelke) Oltmanns, who also made their home in Germany throughout life.

In 1850 Mr. Wenke crossed the briny deep, and on landing in New Orleans proceeded up the Mississippi river to St. Louis, whence he came to Hampton, Illinois. The following year he returned to his native land and was married and in April, 1852, came back to America with his wife. When he returned to Hampton he purchased a farm and for thirty-nine years he was successfully engaged in farming in Rock Island county. He purchased two hundred acres of unbroken prairie and timber land, for

which he paid seven dollars per acre, and after clearing the same he placed it under a high state of cultivation, converting the wild tract into a most desirable farm. This place he sold in 1890 for fifty-six dollars per acre, and then removed to Geneseo, where he has since lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil.

Mr. and Mrs. Wenke have a family of five children living, namely: Johannah, wife of Rev. C. Seuel, living near Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Eliza, wife of Frederick Rastede, a merchant of Geneseo; John, who married Lena Oltmanns and lives on a farm near Geneseo; Fred, who married Tillie Herges, and resides on the old homestead in Hampton, Illinois; and Henry, a merchant, who married Emma Salto and makes his home in Geneseo. Two children died in infancy; Helen and one unnamed.

Mr. Wenke and his family hold membership in the German Lutheran Church, and in politics he is identified with the Democratic party. Wherever known he is held in high regard, and well merits the confidence and respect which he receives, for his life has been an upright, honorable and useful one.

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#### WILLIAM D. HOHMANN, M. D.

Dr. Hohmann is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Kewanee, Illinois, and has that love for and devotion to his profession which has brought to him success and won him a place among the ablest representatives of the medical fraternity in Henry county. He was born in Cassel, Germany, September 18, 1867, a son of William M. and Sophia (Volkmar) Hohmann, who spent their entire lives in that

country. They were representatives of very old and highly respected families, the Doctor's maternal ancestors being manufacturing and mercantile people. His paternal grandfather, John Hohmann, served in the German army during the Napoleonic wars, and during the latter part of his military career was superintendent of the military prison at Cassel, Germany. He died in that country in 1868. William M. Hohmann, the doctor's father, was a machinist by trade, and followed that vocation throughout life, mostly in the employ of the government. During the Franco-Prussian war he had charge of the round house of the government at Fulda, Germany, where he died in 1872, at the age of thirty-eight years. His wife long survived him, dying at Cassel, August 9, 1894. They were parents of six children, four of whom are still living, namely: J. H., a traveling man living in New York city; Louis, who is connected with the Whitlock Printing Press Manufacturing Company, with headquarters at Derby, Connecticut; William D., our subject; and Marie, a resident of Kansas City.

Dr. Hohmann received a good education at Hersfeld, Germany, and had an excellent knowledge of the English language prior to his emigration to America which materially assisted him in making his way rapidly in his adopted home. At the age of sixteen he crossed the Atlantic alone and took up his residence in Baltimore, Maryland, where he secured a position in a drug store, working there uninterruptedly from 1883 until 1887. In September, 1885, he entered the Maryland College of Pharmacy, at the same time continuing his connection with the drug store. After graduating from that institution in 1887 he matriculated at the Baltimore Medical College in

the fall of that year, and received the degree of M. D. on the 15th of April, 1890, having spent the last eight months in the Maryland General Hospital as resident student. He then engaged in the practice of medicine in Baltimore until the fall of 1891, when he came to Kewanee and opened an office. As a general practitioner he has secured a liberal patronage, but he also makes a specialty of skin diseases, in which he took a post graduate course in Berlin attending the clinics of the Imperial Charities and other noted hospitals, his time mostly being spent in hard work. He is a member of Kewanee's Physician's Club, of which he has held office of secretary.

On the 7th of June, 1899, Dr. Hohmann was united in marriage with Miss Anna Frederickson, of Kewanee. In his social relations the doctor is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery of the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. In 1895 he returned to his native land, and spent five months delightfully in visiting Germany, France and many places of note in Europe. He possesses the broad culture which only travel can bring, and is one of the most popular and prominent citizens of Kewanee.

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#### ISAAC M. FLEET.

As an agriculturist this gentleman was for many years actively identified with the development and improvement of Henry county, and now after a useful and well-spent life is living retired in Geneseo. A native of New York, he was born in Suffolk county on the 28th of October, 1815, and is a son of Gilbert and Keziah (Jarvis) Fleet. The father was born in Huntington, Long Island, and engaged in farming at

his birthplace throughout his active business life, dying there at the age of fifty-six years. His widow long survived him and lived to the advanced age of ninety-five years. In their family were four children, all born on Long Island, our subject being the oldest of the number and now the only survivor.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed under the parental roof, and he engaged in farming upon the old homestead for some years. At the age of about twenty-eight he became interested in the coasting trade from New York harbor, and followed that business for seven years, at the end of which time he sold his vessel and resumed farming upon the home place, where he continued to reside for several years.

In 1843 Mr. Fleet was married at Huntington, Long Island, to Mrs. Susan Stratton, widow of Ustick V. Stratton and a daughter of Eliphalet and Phoebe (Ketchum) Oakley. Her father, who was a soldier of the war of 1812, spent his entire life in Suffolk county, Long Island, New York. For a few years he followed farming, then operated both a flouring and woolen mill on Long Island, and for a great many years led the life of a sailor, running a coasting vessel from New York harbor. He finally built another flouring mill at Islip, Long Island, which he operated during the remainder of his life. He died at his home in Babylon, about 1867, at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife passed away in 1858, at the age of seventy-seven. Of their seven children Mrs. Fleet is the fifth in order of birth and the only one now living.

Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Fleet, but Isaac M. and one unnamed died in infancy. The following still survive: Gilbert, traveling salesman for the

Wilson Buggy Company of Moline, Illinois, and a resident of that place, married Eliza Barton and has one son, Fred E. Eliphale O., superintendent of a fruit farm in Arizona, married Ada Sneider, and has four children, James S., Ray B., Helen Josephine and Lawrence. Frances Elizabeth and Clara Augusta are both at home with their parents. Mortimer, superintendent of the farm at the state insane asylum at Hampton, Rock Island county, Illinois, married Miss Helen Richmond. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Fleet were all born in New York state except Mortimer, the youngest, who was born in Henry county, Illinois.

Selling his interests in the east in 1857, Mr. Fleet came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased a quarter-section of wild land in Munson township, which he at once began to improve. He erected thereon a large and substantial farm house, barns and other buildings, and placed the entire farm under a high state of cultivation. He continued to operate his land until 1897, when he removed to the city of Geneseo and purchased his present comfortable home on West Main street, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of his early industry and surrounded by the comforts which he has so truly earned and richly deserves. The Republican party finds in him a staunch supporter of its principles, and although he has never sought or held office, he is public spirited and an advocate of all measures that tend to improve or benefit the community in which he resides.

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### JOHN H. RULE.

Numbered among the well-to-do farmers and highly esteemed citizens of Wethersfield township is John H. Rule, who

owns and operates a well-improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23. A native of Illinois, he was born in Elmira township, Stark county, June 4, 1836, and is a son of John and Jone (Hume) Rule, who were born, reared and married in Scotland and emigrated to America in 1852. They sailed from Liverpool, England, and landed in New York. After spending about six months in the Empire state they came to Illinois, and took up their residence in Stark county, where at first the father operated a rented farm. Subsequently he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Bureau county, which he broke and placed under cultivation, and later added to it an adjoining tract of eighty acres. About 1879 he bought the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Wethersfield township, Henry county, where our subject now resides, it being all under cultivation at that time. There he continued to successfully engage in general farming and stock raising throughout the remainder of his life. He was a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. He died in 1890, at the age of seventy-seven years, and his wife passed away in 1892, at the age of seventy-two, the remains of both being interred at Alnira, Illinois. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Alexander, Jane, Mary, Charlotte, James, William, Robert, John, Catherine, Walter and Thomas.

John H. Rule was reared upon his father's farm, which he aided in operating as soon as old enough to be of any assistance, and thus acquired a good practical knowledge of agricultural pursuits. His literary education was obtained in the country schools

of the neighborhood. February 6, 1879, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Longmate, a daughter of Tunnard and Susan (Brown) Longmate. By this union he has had five children, namely: Elsie J., Bertha L., Robert F., John E. and Frank A., all living. Mrs. Rule died March 30, 1890, and for his second wife Mr. Rule married Emma Richardson, a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Natress) Richardson, and to them has been born one child, Mary E. Lillian, whose birth occurred January 30, 1896.

Mr. Rule owned and operated the old homestead until a short time ago, which is a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 23, Wethersfield township, and in connection with its cultivation he successfully engaged in stock raising. For eighteen years he owned and operated a steam thresher, doing a profitable business with it. He had on his farm a new and handsome residence, built in modern style of architecture, and supplied with all the conveniences and accessories of a city home. He owns four hundred and eighty acres in South Dakota. In his political affiliations Mr. Rule is a Republican, and he takes a deep and commendable interest in all enterprises which he believes will prove of public benefit.

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#### ERICK ERICKSON.

This well-known expressman of Kewanee, Illinois, was born on the 28th of September, 1845, in Bolnas, Sweden, of which place his parents, Erick and Betsy (Johnson) Erickson, were also natives. There the father followed farming throughout his active

business life, dying there at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife also died in Bolnas at the age of seventy-four. Their children were Erick, of this review; Jonas, who died at the age of twenty-five years; Olaf, who is engaged in the shoe business in Sweden; Betsy, who died at the age of four years; and Peter, who died in Kewanee at the age of thirty-two.

Mr. Erickson is indebted to the public schools of his native land for his educational privileges. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until fourteen years of age and then worked as a farm hand in Sweden until his emigration to this country in 1868. He sailed from Guttenberg, and after fourteen days spent upon the water landed in New York City, whence he proceeded at once to Altoona, Knox county, Illinois. After four days spent at that place he went to Peoria, and was engaged in railroad work between that city and Bushnell for about a month. He then returned to Altoona, where he was employed as a farm hand for four months, and at the end of that time came to Kewanee. Here he found employment in the coal mine of G. L. Platt, about a mile east of town, where he remained two years, and then worked on the farm of C. C. Blish, in Wethersfield township, for the same length of time. During the following year and a half he was with Crawford & Gerhart, of Kewanee, and remained with his successor, A. F. Bigelow, for twenty-three years. Mr. Erickson was with Mayhew Brothers a year and a half, and in 1900 bought the express line of J. R. Keggly, which he is now carrying on with good success, doing a general express business.

On the 25th of October, 1876, Mr. Erickson married Miss Carrie Johnson, who



was also born in Bolnas, Sweden, a daughter of John and Engburg (Peterson) Johnson, natives of the same place. The mother died in Sweden at the age of thirty-nine years, but the father is still living in that country at the age of seventy-five. By occupation he is a laborer. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Erickson are Adolphie, who lives at home and is engaged in the millinery business; Ernest, who is assisting his father in business; and Morris, who is attending school. The family are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. In politics Mr. Erickson is a Republican, and faithfully served his fellow citizens as tax collector in 1900.

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### JAMES WARREN

James Warren, deceased, was for many years one of the highly esteemed citizens of Geneseo, Illinois. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in county Clare, Ireland, in 1814, and was one of a family of thirteen children, whose parents never left the Emerald Isle and have long since been dead. His brother, Andrew, came to America and settled in Lima, Ohio.

Our subject spent the first thirteen years of his life in his native land, and then resolved to try his fortune in America. After his emigration to the new world he lived for seven years in the east, and then came to Henry county, Illinois, locating here long before the Rock Island railroad was built. His was the first house built in Geneseo, and he witnessed almost the entire development of this region, in the work of which he bore an important part. In early manhood

he engaged in farming, but spent the last forty years of his life in Geneseo.

On the 3d of October, 1887, Mr. Warren was united in marriage with Miss Bridget Murray, also a native of county Clare, Ireland, and a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Sullivan) Murray, who were lifelong residents of that country. The mother died on Christmas day, 1898, but the father is still living. Their children were Kate, a resident of Ireland; Bridget, widow of our subject; Maggie, who is employed at the Geneseo House in Geneseo, Illinois; Anna, wife of Burford Howell, a barber of Geneseo; and two daughters, now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Warren had two children, namely: James, who was born September 3, 1887, and is now living with his mother while attending school in Geneseo; and Mary, who died in infancy.

In religious belief Mr. Warren was a Catholic, and in politics was a Democrat. He died March 17, 1899, honored and respected by all who knew him. As one of the pioneer and representative citizens of Geneseo, he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in this volume.

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### DAVID L. PURVIANCE.

This well-known and highly respected citizen of Geneseo, was born near Paris, Preble county, Ohio, on the 4th of October, 1833, and is a son of Levi and Sophia (Woods) Purviance. His paternal grandfather was David Purviance, one of the founders of the Christian Church in Kentucky, being engaged in preaching in that state and Ohio for many years. His death occurred in Ohio. The father was a native of Tennessee and was a young man when he moved to

the Buckeye state. He, too, became a minister of the Christian Church, and followed that sacred calling in Ohio for almost half a century. In 1856 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and for a time engaged in farming in Osco township, but returned to Ohio, where he died at the age of eighty-two years. His wife passed away in the same state. They were the parents of five children, of whom our subject is the youngest and only survivor; one died in infancy; Andrew made his home in Henry county for fifteen years, but spent his last days in Nebraska; Mary died at the age of twenty-one years; Sophia died at the age of six.

David L. Purviance received his education in the schools of Ohio, and after reaching man's estate he was engaged in general merchandising at New Paris for some years. Subsequently he was engaged in the dry-goods business with his brother Andrew at Indianapolis, Indiana, for a short time, and then returned to Ohio. Disposing of his interests there the same year, he came to Illinois, in 1855, and located near what is now Morristown, Osco township, Henry county, where he followed farming for about seven years. He was next engaged in the grocery business at Morristown and in the fall of 1871 removed to Osco, where he also conducted a grocery store, and served as postmaster of the village for eighteen years under the administrations of Presidents Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur. Closing out his store in 1890, he came to Geneseo, where he has resided ever since. He has not engaged in any active business for himself, and is at present employed in the wall paper store of Mr. Johnson on South Main street.

On the 2nd of June, 1853, Mr. Purviance married Miss Hannah M. Morton, a

daughter of Thomas and Eleanor (Schenck) Morton, both natives of Ohio. Mrs. Purviance died November 2, 1875, leaving nine children, namely: Charles W., a merchant of Wyoming, Illinois; Thomas L., who is employed in the freight office of the Monon railroad at Chicago; Frank M., general agent for the American Stock Food Company at Jacksonville, Illinois; Annie M., wife of Albert Ankney, of Peoria; William G., station agent at Abingdon, Illinois; Nellie E., wife of Henry Bestor, a farmer of Osco township, this county; Kate, wife of D. O. Hinman, a farmer of Osco township; Walter, an employe of Swift & Company, packers, of Chicago; and Hannah L., a resident of Geneseo. Those of the family now deceased were Ella J., who died at the age of sixteen months; George J., who died at the age of two months; and Winfield S., who died at the age of one year. Mr. Purviance was again married, July 31, 1890, his second union being with Mrs. Harriet Edwards, widow of Herbert R. Edwards, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume together with a more extended mention of herself and family. Mr. and Mrs. Purviance have a pleasant home on South Oakwood avenue, Geneseo, where they are surrounded by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who esteem them highly for their sterling worth. During his residence in Osco township Mr. Purviance was a member and constant attendant of the Christian Church.

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#### JAMES CAVANAGH.

The subject of this review is the owner of a well-improved and highly-cultivated farm of one hundred and sixty acres pleas-



antly located on section 23, Wethersfield township, within six miles of Kewanee. He was born on an adjoining place, August 31, 1844, and throughout life has been identified with the interests of this county, and has done much to advance its welfare, especially along agricultural lines.

Patrick Cavanagh, the father of our subject, was a native of county West Meath, Ireland, where he was reared upon a farm, and when a young man came to the United States, locating first in New York, where he learned the stone mason's trade, which he followed for some years. There he married Bridget Hunt, also of Irish birth, and in 1840 they came to Illinois. After spending two years at Almira, Stark county, they removed to Henry county, Mr. Cavanagh having previously purchased a small tract of land in Wethersfield township. It was a piece of unbroken prairie, on which he erected a log cabin, in which the family lived for a few years while he fenced the land and placed it under cultivation. He added to his original purchase until he had three hundred and twenty acres in the home place, and also owned property elsewhere, becoming one of the substantial farmers of his community. Here he died August 27, 1884, and his wife passed away August 17, 1886, both being laid to rest in St. Mary's cemetery on the Cavanagh farm. They were the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity.

On the home farm James Cavanagh grew to manhood, and was educated in the Saxon school. On the 20th of February, 1872, he led to the marriage altar Miss Bridget Joyce, who was reared and educated in Kewanee, of which place her father, Matthew Joyce, was an early settler. For

two years after his marriage he lived upon a part of the old homestead, and then located on the farm where he now resides. He has erected thereon a commodious and pleasant residence, good barns and other outbuildings, and now has one of the most desirable farms of its size in the community. As a farmer and stock raiser he has gained a well-merited success, and is to-day one of the well-to-do citizens of Wethersfield township.

Mr. and Mrs. Cavanagh are the parents of five children, namely: John P. and Albert M., both of whom now hold business positions in Kewanee, although the latter was formerly a school teacher; and James M., Leroy D. and Lottie Ann, all at home. The family are communicants of the Catholic Church of Kewanee, and are people of the highest respectability. In early life Mr. Cavanagh supported the Democratic party, but is now a Republican in politics, but at local elections votes for man and not for party. He is public spirited and progressive and gives his aid to all enterprises for the public good.

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#### WILLIAM OURS.

Among the honored residents and representative citizens of Wethersfield township none are more deserving of mention in this volume than William Ours, who has been successfully engaged in farming and stock raising on section 29 for many years. He was born near Clarksburg, Virginia, on the 26th of April, 1822, and is one of a family of three children, whose parents were Jacob and Nancy (Kushlipp) Ours.

Our subject remained in his native state until he attained his majority and then removed to Indiana, where he spent the fol-

lowing eighteen years. There he was united in marriage December 2, 1840, with Miss Eliza Goodale, born October 15, 1826, a daughter of Joel D. and Eliza Goodale. By this union were born six children, namely: Emma; William, who married Tillie Berge; Samantha, wife of John Lindstrom; Charles, who married Ida Metler; Eliza, wife of Dudley Craig; and Mary, wife of Frederick Paswalk.

On leaving Indiana Mr. Ours came to Henry county, Illinois, and after renting a farm in Wethersfield township for one year he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially broken land on section 29, the same township, which he has since placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. In connection with his farming operations he is engaged in stock raising, making a specialty of sheep and hogs. Although he is now nearly eighty years of age he is still remarkably active and retains his mental faculties unimpaired. He cast his first presidential vote for General Harrison, a Whig candidate, and is now a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles. His has been an upright, honorable and useful life, and he has gained the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has come in contact either in business or social circles.

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### JOHN CRONAU.

For many years this gentleman has been actively identified with the business and agricultural interests of Henry county, but is now living a retired life in Kewanee, having acquired a comfortable competence, which enables him to lay aside all business

cares. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Hessen, Germany, February 4, 1830, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Tripp) Cronau, lifelong residents of that country, where the father followed farming as a means of livelihood. He died at the age of forty-eight years, and his wife passed away at the age of forty-four. In their family were five children, namely: John, still a resident of Germany; John, our subject (there being two by the name of John); Henry and Elizabeth, who both died in Germany; and Annie, who continues to make her home there.

Our subject received his education in the public schools of his native town and in early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he continued to follow until coming to this country in 1854. He sailed from Bremen and landed in New York after a good voyage of six weeks, during which time he was never seasick and thoroughly enjoyed the trip. For about four months he worked at his trade for a Mr. Coleman in New York City, and then proceeded to Chicago, which at that time was quite small. He remained there for eight months and then came to Kewanee, arriving there on the first of May, 1855, just one year after landing on the shores of this country. After working for Enoch Mathews for a time, he started a shoe shop of his own, which he carried on successfully until 1863, giving employment to several men. He then turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, having purchased sixty acres of wild prairie land in Kewanee township, which he placed under cultivation, and to which he added until he had one hundred and ninety acres. In 1888 he returned to Kewanee and has since lived a retired life, though he still owns eighty acres, including his first purchase.

He was engaged in general farming, and met with well-deserved success in his labors.

September 29, 1857, Mr. Cronau was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Wagner, also a native of Hessen, Germany. Her father, John Wagner, came to this country in 1869, and made his home in Sheffield, Illinois, until his death. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Cronau, namely: Henry, a teamster of Kewanee, who married Minnie Minks and has five children: Elizabeth, wife of Robert Pyle, of Kewanee township, by whom she has six children; Caroline, wife of Henry Minks, of Kewanee, by whom she has two children, Bert and Harry; and Emma, wife of William Minks, of Kewanee, by whom she has three children. Mrs. Cronau died January 25, 1888, and was laid to rest in the German church cemetery in Kewanee township. Our subject now makes his home with his daughter Caroline. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, having voted for all its presidential candidates since Fremont. He has served as school director six years, and has also filled the office of road commissioner in a most creditable and satisfactory manner.

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### JOHN H. FULPER.

Among the representative farmers of Wethersfield township is John H. Fulper, residing on section 25. He was born in Hunterdon county, New Jersey, January 9, 1848, and on the paternal side is of German descent, his ancestors being numbered among the early Quakers who settled in Pennsylvania. His grandfather, John Fulper, was a native of that state, and his fa-

ther, Charles T. Fulper, was born there in 1820, and when a young man went to New Jersey, locating in Hunterdon county, where he worked at his trade as a wheelwright. There he married Miss Sarah Hoppock, a native of New Jersey, and a daughter of John Hoppock, who owned and operated the old Hoppock homestead in Hunterdon county. The great-grandfather was John Hoppock, who came from Germany before the Revolutionary war. He had one son, Peter, in that war, who was wounded in the hand. The great-grandfather was a large land owner in New Jersey. In 1851 Mr. Fulper and his father-in-law came to Illinois and took up their residence in Henry county. The same fall the latter purchased a large amount of land in Wethersfield township, and at length became owner of thirteen hundred acres all in one body, around which he built a fence. He broke and improved this place. Charles T. Fulper also purchased a tract of land, which he improved, and later bought more land, making a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. There he died in 1884. His widow still survives him, a hale and hearty old lady of seventy-three years, and makes her home with a daughter. They were the parents of nine children, two sons and seven daughters. The brother of our subject is W. T. S. Fulper, of Evanston, Illinois.

During his boyhood and youth John H. Fulper assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, where he remained until grown, and then commenced farming for himself upon rented land. While thus employed he saved nine hundred dollars and invested his capital in forty acres of land on which he now resides. Subsequently he added to it an adjoining forty-acre tract, making a good farm of eighty acres, on

which he has built a neat and substantial residence and good barns and outbuildings, surrounding these with fruit and shade trees, which add much to the beauty of the place.

In Wethersfield township, February 24, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fulper and Miss Minta Claybaugh. Her father, N. H. Claybaugh, was born in Ohio, December 3, 1822, and in 1830 came to Illinois with his father, Nicholas Claybaugh, who was a native either of Pennsylvania or Ohio, and a son of Frederick Claybaugh, who was born in the former state in 1763. The Claybaugh family is of German extraction and Mrs. Fulper's ancestors were among the first settlers of Pennsylvania. On coming to this state the family located in Schuyler county, where they improved a farm. There N. H. Claybaugh grew to manhood and married Rhoda Marr, a native of Tennessee, and a daughter of Rev. J. B. Marr, who was born in South Carolina. His father was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Rev. J. B. Marr came to this state in pioneer days and was one of the first school teachers of Schuyler county, where he also engaged in farming. About 1873 Mrs. Fulper's father removed to Wethersfield township, Henry county, but spent his last years with his son, C. B. Claybaugh, in Stark county, where his death occurred. The children born to our subject and his wife are Mabel, Lena, Virgil, Edna, Dean and John H., Jr. They also have an adopted son, Charles Fulper, whom they took when a small child, and who has been reared and educated by them. He is now working at his trade as an interior decorator and paper hanger.

Originally Mr. Fulper was a Republican in politics and cast his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872. He

continued to support that party until after the election of James A. Garfield, since which time he has been identified with the Prohibitionists, being a strong temperance man. He served three years as road commissioner, but has never cared for political honors. He is one of the official members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Saxon, with which his wife is also connected, and she has served as organist for over twelve years. They take an active part in all church work and their lives have ever been in harmony with their professions.

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#### PETER HYER.

Among the prominent foreign-born citizens who have aided so materially in the development and upbuilding of Henry county is Peter Hyer, a well-known farmer and stock raiser residing on section 24, Wethersfield township. A native of Sweden, he was born in Skone, on the 27th of April, 1852, and is a son of Pers and Bengta (Trulson) Hyer, who spent their entire lives in that country. In their family were four children, two sons and two daughters, all of whom are still living, with the exception of one son.

With the hope of bettering his financial condition in the new world, Mr. Hyer sailed from Guttenberg, in April, 1886, on the steamer Victoria of the Allen line, and, the weather being pleasant and favorable for such a voyage, he landed in Quebec, Canada, fifteen days later. He came immediately to the United States, and a week after reaching America he arrived in Galesburg, Illinois. He spent about two years at work in various parts of this section of the state, and then located in Kewanee, where for a

time he worked at the painter's trade, which he had learned in Sweden. Subsequently he engaged in farming upon rented land for about five years, and then bought one hundred acres of improved land, to which he added in 1889 a tract of seventy acres, making a fine farm of one hundred and seventy acres, which he has since successfully operated. About eight years ago he erected a good residence, and has also built good barns, while everything about the place betokens the thrift and enterprise of the owner. In addition to the cultivation of his land he is extensively engaged in farming and stock raising, his specialties being Durham cattle, Shropshire sheep and Norman horses, and to this branch of his business he gives considerable attention.

On the 24th of October, 1877, Mr. Hyer was united in marriage with Miss Eliza J. Rule, a daughter of Alexander and Beatrice (Oliver) Rule, both natives of Scotland and early settlers of Wethersfield township, this county, where they located in 1848. The mother crossed the Atlantic from Greenock to Illinois in about three months, while the father sailed from Liverpool to Boston. On reaching Henry county, Illinois, he took up a government claim in Wethersfield township, which he improved and placed under cultivation. His first house was 12x14 feet. In later years a more commodious and substantial residence was erected, but it was subsequently destroyed by fire. Mr. Rule was one of the honored pioneers and one of the most highly respected citizens of his community. He died at the age of seventy-nine years, his wife at the age of seventy, and both were laid to rest at Elmira, Illinois. They were faithful members of the United Presbyterian Church, and in politics Mr. Rule was a Republican.

Mr. and Mrs. Hyer have a family of five children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Anna Beatrice, August 3, 1878; George Alexander, February 28, 1880; Nellie Jean, April 10, 1883; John Walter, June 26, 1886; and Robert Leslie, December 7, 1891. The parents are both earnest and consistent members of the United Presbyterian Church, and enjoy the good will and confidence of the entire community in which they live. By his ballot Mr. Hyer supports the men and measures of the Republican party. He owes his present prosperity to hard labor and close attention to business. In 1882 he made a visit to his parents in Sweden, crossing the ocean on the steamer *Algeria*, in November. After three delightful months spent in his native land, he took passage on the steamer *Bothnia* for the return voyage. On the North Sea the vessel encountered one of the worst storms known for years, and it required six days to cross that body of water, which is usually accomplished in twenty-four hours, from Copenhagen to Hull.

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#### OTIS W. HOIT.

The subject of this review, who now owns and occupies a valuable farm of four hundred acres on section 24, Edford township, has throughout life been actively identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, and is a worthy representative of one of its oldest and most highly respected families. On the paternal side his great-grandfather, John Hoyt, was a Revolutionary soldier, and just after his return from the war moved from his early home in Hopkinton to Canaan, that state.

Levi W. Hoyt, the father of our sub-



OTIS W. HOIT.

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ject, was born in Canaan, November 15, 1827, a son of Bartlett and Prudence (Wilson) Hoit. Bartlett Hoit was a native of the same place and there spent the greater part of his life. In 1854 he came to Illinois and located on the farm in Edford township, Henry county, where our subject now resides, making it his home until his death, which occurred November 3, 1864. In his family were only two children and one died in infancy.

Reared in his native state, Levi W. Hoit was educated at Canaan and Meriden, New Hampshire, taking an academic course, and with his father he learned the carpenter's and millwright's trades. At the age of twenty-one he went to Louisiana with his father, working there for two or three years. He came to this county with his parents in 1854, and assisted in breaking and improving the home farm, consisting of two hundred and forty acres, on which not a furrow had been turned or an improvement made when the family located thereon. Throughout life he successfully followed general farming and stock raising, and converted his place into one of the most highly cultivated tracts and desirable farms in the county. In 1881 he removed to Geneseo and purchased a city home on the corner of West Main and Henry streets, but continued to look after his farming and stock raising interests. For some years he was a director of the First National Bank of that city. He was killed in a cyclone on the 1st of May, 1892, while returning home from the bank. Mr. Hoit was an exceedingly active man, was pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, and took a deep interest in all that tended to the development and improvement of the community in which he lived. In his political views

he was a Republican, and for many years served as supervisor of Edford township, besides filling several minor offices. In early life he was a Baptist, but later attended the Congregational Church, and gave liberally to all denominations. He was a man of sterling worth and strict integrity, and wherever known was held in high regard. On the 22nd of May, 1856, at Geneseo, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah E. French, a native of Coventry, Connecticut, and a daughter of Oliver B. and Jane K. (French) French. Her father was also born in that state, where he continued to make his home until 1846, when he removed to Branch county, Michigan, and was engaged in farming there until coming to Henry county, Illinois, in 1853. For some years he followed the same occupation in Geneseo township, but was living a retired life in the city of Geneseo at the time of his death, which occurred October 25, 1890, when he was about seventy-nine years of age. His wife had passed away January 18, 1879, at the age of sixty-three. Of their four children two died in infancy, the others being Mrs. Hoit and Ella J., wife of Allen B. Cady, of Geneseo.

Otis W. Hoit, whose name introduces this sketch, is the only child of Levi W. and Sarah E. (French) Hoit. He was born on the home farm in Edford township, May 24, 1857, and was educated in the common schools of Geneseo and the State University at Champaign, where he pursued the agricultural course and was graduated in 1879. Returning to his home he has since successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of polled Angus cattle—a breed from southern Scotland.

At Champaign, Mr. Hoit was married,

in 1879, to Miss Maggie E. Stewart, a daughter of John P. Stewart, a retired farmer of Champaign county. The only child born of this union died in infancy unnamed, and Mrs. Hoit departed this life May 19, 1885, being laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery, Geneseo. Our subject was again married, in Edford township, October 11, 1888, his second union being with Miss Henrietta P. M. Schroeder, a daughter of Henry and Wilhelmina (Weigand) Schroeder. For many years her father has been one of the prominent farmers of Edford township. Mr. and Mrs. Hoit have one child, Maurice E., born June 23, 1893.

Religiously Mr. Hoit is a Congregationalist, and politically is an ardent supporter of the Republican party. He has held a number of minor offices in his township, and for the past seven years has served as supervisor, with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He takes an active interest in promoting the welfare of his county, aiding all enterprises tending to benefit the public, and enjoys in a high degree the confidence and esteem of his fellow men.

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#### PATRICK O'DAY.

Among the old and honored residents of Geneseo we take pleasure in mentioning the name of Patrick O'Day, who was for many years prominently identified with the business interests of this locality, but is now living a retired life. He was born eight miles from the city of Limerick, county Clare, Ireland, and is a son of Patrick and Biddie (O'Connor) O'Day, who spent their entire lives in that country. He had six half

brothers and sisters, John, Donald, Thomas, Bridget, Catherine and Nora, all of whom came to America and died in this country.

During his boyhood and youth our subject had no educational advantages, but he has always made the best use of his opportunities and is a well informed man. At the age of twenty-three he crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel named the "Breeze," which dropped anchor in the harbor of Quebec, Canada, after seven weeks and three days upon the water. He spent two days in Montreal and then went to Waterloo, where he worked on the farm of a Mr. Foster until fall when he returned to Montreal. By boat he proceeded to St. John's, and then went to Vermont, and on to Boston, where he met Michael Crosby, who had driven into the city with a load of wood. He returned home with him and worked on his farm for a time. The following spring he returned to his native land with a man taking a load of horses to England, and remained in Ireland four years.

At the end of that time Mr. O'Day again came to the new world, bringing with him his brother, Donald O'Day. On landing in New York they proceeded at once to Fetlock Falls, and from there went to Goshen, Connecticut, where both found employment at farm labor. Our subject's duties were principally in connection with the manufacture of cheese. About 1855 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of land from John McCoy, for which he paid one thousand dollars, and upon which he lived for fifteen years. On disposing of this farm he bought seventeen acres of land now within the city limits of Geneseo, and there he has since made his home.

Being a man of sound judgment, keen

discernment and good business ability. Mr. O'Day made considerable money during the Civil war by taking advantage of the rise in prices. He bought three thousand bushels of corn for six cents per bushel, and afterward sold it for one dollar and ten cents per bushel, investing the proceeds in a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Cambridge. Half of this he subsequently sold at a great profit. He put up two large ricks of hay when it was practically worth nothing, and before the close of the war he shipped the same to St. Louis, where he received fifty-five dollars per ton. He also got a good price for his straw, fifty dollars per ton. Hogs were then worth twelve dollars per hundred, live weight, and he disposed of a herd of one hundred and fifty for which he received twenty-six hundred dollars, selling the same to two men from Chicago, who were packing pork to ship to the West Indies.

Mr. O'Day has been twice married. His first wife having died, he married, in February, 1871, Miss Isabella McNally, who was born in Port Lanone, county Derry, Ireland, a daughter of Hugh and Isabella (Carney) McNally, the former a native of county Antrim, the latter of county Londonderry. Of their eight children only Mrs. O'Day and Catherine came to the United States, the latter being Mrs. Peter Heninan, of Dwight, Illinois. The others died in Ireland.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. O'Day a staunch supporter of its principles, and he cast his last presidential vote for William McKinley. Both he and his wife are devout members of the Catholic Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. Although nearly ninety-five years of age, Mr. O'Day

still possesses an excellent memory and is able to sing a number of old Irish ballads with a voice that denotes the fact that in his prime he must have been a splendid singer. His life is a living illustration of what ability, energy and force of character can accomplish, and to such men the west owes its prosperity, its rapid progress and its advancement.

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### JOHN REDUS.

After many years of active labor as an agriculturist this gentleman is now living a retired life in Geneseo. He was born in Holstein, Germany, on the 17th of November, 1837, and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States. His parents, John and Johanna (Luren) Redus, spent their entire lives in Germany, where the father followed the blacksmith's trade, and also conducted a country inn near Oldenburg. He died at the age of seventy-two years, having survived the mother of our subject some years. John is the oldest of their three children. Henry entered the cavalry service of his native land, and although he took part in no war he died while on garrison duty in the city of Schleswig, when about twenty-three years of age. Eliza is now the wife of a Mr. Wolff and has charge of the inn which her father conducted during his life time. She was born after our subject came to the United States and he has never seen her.

It was in 1854 that Mr. Redus crossed the ocean and took up his residence in Dayton, Iowa, where he worked for nearly a year. In April, 1855, he came to Geneseo, Illinois, and was employed in the city and surrounding country until the Civil war

broke out. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services he enlisted in September, 1861, for three years, or during the war, as a member of Company E, Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg, and also many skirmishes. He was discharged from the Veteran Reserve Corps in the city of Washington, September 23, 1864, and returned to his home in Geneseo. He resided there until the spring of 1867, when he rented a farm and turned his attention to its operation. Later he purchased land on section 2, Munson township, and to this eighty-acre tract he subsequently added until he now has a fine farm of two hundred acres, a part of which is on section 3. He continued to actively engage in general farming and stock raising until 1895, when he returned to Geneseo and has since lived a retired life at his present home on South State street.

On the 22nd of January, 1868, in Munson township, Mr. Redus married Miss Maranda C. Goleanor, a native of Lebanon, Indiana, and a daughter of David and Jane (Smith) Goleanor, who died in Boone county, that state, of which locality the father was a prominent farmer. Of their eight children four are still living. Seven children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Redus, all born in Munson township, with the exception of the two eldest, whose births occurred in Geneseo township. They are as follows: Hattie, born November 13, 1868, is the wife of Edward Klavohn, who owns and operates one hundred and sixty acres of land in Cornwall township, this county, and they have four children, Elmer, Henry, Lewis and Re Roy. Annie L., born January 19, 1870, is the wife of Fred Peter-

son, a farmer living on section 36, Geneseo township, and they have one child, Florence R. Malvina F., born October 11, 1871, died in Munson township, March 1, 1890. Henry W., born April 28, 1873, married Minnie Saupe and lives on the home farm in Munson township. Ernest D., born June 21, 1875, aids in the work of the farm during the summer season, and lives with his parents in Geneseo during the winter months. Cora, born January 5, 1879, died January 21, 1881. Elva L., born August 24, 1883, is at home.

In politics Mr. Redus is independent, and has never taken a very active part in public affairs, although he served as school trustee and director for many years. He is a supporter of the Presbyterian Church, of which his wife is a member, and he holds membership in E. V. Jenkins Post, No. 452, G. A. R. During his long residence in this county he has made a host of warm friends, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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### THOMAS WALKER.

Among the leading farmers and highly respected citizens of Kewanee township is Thomas Walker, whose home is on section 19. He was born near Hull, Yorkshire, England, on the 10th of December, 1833, and is a son of Harison and Sarah (Moore) Walker, who spent their entire lives in that country, the father being engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born July 23, 1810, and died July 16, 1883, while his wife was born May 8, 1808, and died June 10, 1898. In their family were seven children, all of whom remained in England with exception of our subject. Two are now deceased

John, who was born November 11, 1842, and died unmarried; and Edward, who was born April 13, 1847, and died at the age of sixteen years. The others are Frank, who was born August 26, 1837, and is unmarried; Phoebe, who was born September 7, 1840, and is the wife of Henry Foster, of Yorkshire, England; William, who was born April 2, 1845, and is married; and Harriet, who was born June 26, 1835, is now Mrs. McBride, of Hull, England.

Thomas Walker grew to manhood in his native land, but had no educational advantages. With the hope of bettering his condition in the new world, he crossed the Atlantic, landing in New York on the 11th of January, 1854. It had taken him seven years to save enough money to pay his passage. When he set foot on American soil he had but two dollars in his pocket, and by the next morning only forty-seven cents remained. Realizing the need of finding employment immediately, he set out on foot for New Jersey. Meeting an old farmer on the road, he told him his circumstances, and was given two weeks board by that gentleman, who then hired him for ten dollars per month. There he cradled grain, mowed grass for the stock, and plowed corn with a one-horse shovel plow. After eight months devoted to such labor in New Jersey, Mr. Walker came to Kewanee, Illinois, in October, 1854, at which time the village contained only two general stores, these being owned by the firms of Morse & Willard and Tenney & Brother. Most of the surrounding country was unbroken prairie, and the Pratt farm extended to the site of the present Congregational church of Kewanee. As there was no warehouse in the place the grain for shipment was piled along the side of the railroad track. Mr. Walker

at once became identified with the agricultural interests of the county, and in a few years purchased eighty acres of land on section 19, Kewanee township, paying for the same seventeen hundred dollars. His wife also owned eighty acres, making a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which he still lives. He also has another farm of one hundred and eighty-nine acres, on which his son William now resides. He makes a specialty of stock raising and feeds most of the grain raised upon his place to his stock.

January 20, 1856, Mr. Walker was married on his present farm to Mrs. Delia A. Folsom, a native of New York, who came to Henry county in 1840 with her parents, Samuel and Emma Lester Folsom. She was one of a family of six children, of whom one died in infancy. The others, Sylvester, Sylvillian, William, Champley and Charles, are all now deceased except Charles, who lives in Mineral, Bureau county, Illinois. Mrs. Walker, who was an earnest and consistent member of the Christian Church, died at Kewanee, on the 31st of December, 1895, leaving seven children, namely: (1) William, born November 13, 1856, a farmer, living six miles north of Kewanee, married Alice Bates and they have one child, Raymond. (2) Henry, born October 24, 1858, an engineer of New Mexico, married Emma Hill, and they had two children, Carl, deceased, and Jessie. (3) Matilda, born January 20, 1861, is the wife of A. P. Engles, a resident of Rock Island, who is a fireman on the Rock Island railroad running from that city to Valley Junction, and they have one child, Mabel. (4) Sarah, born May 18, 1863, is the wife of John Archer, a farmer of Burns township, this county, and they have one child, Grace. (5) George,

born December 15, 1865, who is engaged in the transfer business in Kewanee, married Celia Carrins, and they have two children, Orville and Hazel. (6) Myrtie, born January 5, 1868, is the wife of William Leonard, a fireman on the Rock Island railroad and resident of Rock Island; they have one child, Paul. (7) Richard, born October 15, 1870, who operates the home farm, was married in Burns township, January 18, 1894, to Lizzie Carwin. Mr. Walker is a member of the Christian Church, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know him. Looking backward through the vista of the past we see a friendless young man who came to the new world in search of home and fortune, and at present we see his ambitious dreams realized, for he is in possession of a handsome property. For the success that he has achieved in life he deserves great credit for it is due to his untiring labors, perseverance and good management.

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### THOMAS T. HANNON.

For many years Thomas T. Hannon was actively identified with the agricultural interests of this county, and having acquired a handsome competence he is now able to lay aside all business cares and spend the sunset of his life in ease and retirement from active labor at his pleasant home in Geneseo. Like many of our best citizens, he comes from across the sea, his birth having occurred in county Kerry, Ireland, December 24, 1823. His parents, Thomas and Hannah (Quilter) Hannon, were also natives of the Emerald Isle. In the family were four sons and four daughters, all of

whom are now deceased with exception of our subject. His brothers and sisters who came to America were Mathew, who married Mary Callahan, and made his home in Geneseo, Illinois, and is now dead. Hannah, wife of Thomas Callahan, of Terre Haute, Indiana; and Catherine, wife of Timothy Carroll, of Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mr. Hannon grew to manhood in his native land, and in 1850 came to the United States on a sailing vessel, which was five weeks and three days in making the passage from Cork to New York. He first located at Elizabethtown, New Jersey, where he worked on a farm for four weeks, and then went to Buffalo, New York, where he remained a short time while in the employ of the New York & Erie Railroad Company. In the fall of 1850 he went to Strasburg, Ohio, near Cleveland, where he worked for the railroad three years, and subsequently made his home at Terre Haute, Indiana, for four years.

Later Mr. Hannon conducted a store at St. Marys, Indiana, and while there he was married, July 2, 1853, to Miss Hannah Cronin, also a native of county Kerry, Ireland, who came to this country in 1850, sailing from Cork and landing at Boston. Her father, John Cronin, died in Ireland, but her mother, who bore the maiden name of Ella Scanlin, came to America and settled in Indiana. She was accompanied by her children, consisting of five sons and three daughters, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Mrs. Hannon and John, who married Mary McCarthy and lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hannon are as follows: (1) Thomas F., born in Lacon, Illinois, December 19, 1856, married Anna Collins and resides in Rock Isl-



and. They have two daughters, Regina and Blanche. (2) Mary, born in Peru, Illinois, September 26, 1858, lives with her parents. (3) Ellen, born September 27, 1860, is the wife of John Hughes, of North English, Iowa. (4) Kate, born October 27, 1862, is the wife of Robert Summit, of North English, Iowa, and they have four children, Frank, Grace, Thomas and Mary. (5) Mathew, born October 23, 1864, married Catherine Boyle and resides on a farm in Geneseo township, this county. They have one child, Evaline. (6) Patrick, born July 16, 1870, married Anna Weimer, and is engaged in farming in the same township. They have one child, Adley. (7) William, born April 23, 1872, married Della Weimer and is a resident of Geneseo. They have one child, Raymond. (8) Lucy, born March 1, 1874, is the wife of James Lawery, a farmer of Geneseo township. (9) Edward, born December 24, 1875, married Susie Oll and is engaged in farming in Geneseo township.

On coming to Illinois, Mr. Hannon spent two years in Peru, and then removed to Bureau county, where he was engaged in the grocery business for a time. Having saved some money he purchased forty acres of land in Geneseo township, Henry county, to which he subsequently added tracts of one hundred, twenty and eighty acres. This was either raw prairie or swamp land when it came into his possession, and he kept a skiff, in which he rowed over parts of his farm shooting wild ducks. After tiling and draining his place, he put it under excellent cultivation, and had one of the best improved farms in the locality. He continued to actively engage in farming until 1896, when he sold the place to his sons and removed to Geneseo, where he bought a lot

and built a good residence. Here he is now enjoying a well-earned rest. He is a man of affluence and has provided for each member of his family in a substantial manner.

In his political views Mr. Hannon is a staunch Democrat, but has cared nothing for public office, having served only as school director. He and his family are devout Catholics. While he has not sought nor desired prominence in public life, he is a man the weight of whose counsels has been felt throughout his community, and he is pre-eminently public-spirited, taking an active interest in all that tends toward the advancement of his town and county. His faithful labors have won for him the ease and comfort which should always follow a well-spent and useful life. He is exceedingly generous and is ever ready to relieve the poor or distressed.

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#### PHILIP SHANER.

The subject of this review is one of the oldest and most honored citizens of Henry county, his home being on section 27, Wethersfield township. Years of quiet usefulness and a life in which the old fashioned virtues of sobriety, industry and integrity are exemplified have a simple beauty that no words can portray. Youth has its charms, but an honorable and honored old age, to which the lengthening years have added dignity and sweetness, has a brighter radiance, as if some ray from the life beyond already rested upon it.

Mr. Shaner was born in Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, April 14, 1814, and is a son of Jacob Shaner, a native of Germany, who came to America with his parents when a young man of nineteen years and settled in Pennsylvania, where he spent



the remainder of his life. He was married near Philadelphia, and reared his family upon a farm.

On leaving the old homestead at the age of seventeen years, Philip Shaner went to Cattaraugus county, New York, where he worked upon a farm for a few years, and while there he was married January 18, 1835, the lady of his choice being Miss Melinda Jackson, who was born near Wilkes Barre, Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1818, a daughter of Cyrus and Zeraviah (Winters) Jackson, but was reared in Cattaraugus county, New York, whither her parents removed when she was quite young.

For a year or so after his marriage Mr. Shaner engaged in farming upon rented land in that county, and in 1838 came west by team, the journey occupying about a month. He located in what is now Stark county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for about eight years, and in 1846 came to Henry county and purchased eighty acres of land in Wethersfield township, on which was erected a small frame house and stable. To the further improvement and cultivation of his place he at once turned his attention, and in his pioneer home experienced all the hardships and privations of frontier life. Prosperity at length crowned his well-directed efforts and he added to his original purchase until he now has three hundred and twenty acres of land in one body. He has erected thereon two sets of good buildings, has planted shade and fruit trees, and to-day has a very valuable and well-improved farm. In his labors he has always been aided and encouraged by his estimable wife, and to their combined efforts is due his success, for he started out in life for himself without capital.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaner have lived together as man and wife for the long period of sixty-six years, being the oldest married couple in the county. They are the parents of ten children, all of whom reached adult age, namely: Mary became the wife of Alexander Johnson and died, leaving five children; Sarah Jane married Draper Hitchcock and died, leaving one son; John is married and lives in Nebraska; Charles is married and carries on a part of the home farm; William is a resident of Kewanee; Eliza is the wife of John Peterson, of Wethersfield township; Oliver is a farmer of the same township; Washington is also a farmer of this county; Electa is the wife of George Paterson, of Wyoming, Stark county, Illinois; and Albert is a farmer of Henry county.

In 1840 Mr. Shaner voted for "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," and continued to support the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks and has since been an earnest advocate of its principles. He and his wife are consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and receive and merit the high regard of the entire community in which they live. Although both have passed the eightieth milestone on life's journey, they are still hale and hearty, and now in the evening of life are surrounded by a large circle of friends and acquaintances who have for them unbounded respect.

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#### ISAAC THORP.

The well-known farmer, residing on section 7, Kewanee township, Henry county, Illinois, is a native of Ohio, his birth having

occurred in Belpre township, Washington county, February 16, 1836. His father, Moses Thorp, was born in Bedford, Pennsylvania, in 1817, and came west in 1848 by steamboat to Peoria, his destination being Burns, Illinois. By trade he was a cooper but devoted the greater part of his life to farming, and on his arrival in this county settled on a farm in Burns township. The country at that time was nearly all wild prairie and wild game was very plentiful, prairie chickens even roosting upon trees near the house. They endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, and in the development of the county they bore an important part. The father died in 1880, and his wife passed away in 1870. She bore the maiden name of Sarah Clark, and was born in Ohio in 1815.

In the family of this worthy couple were eleven children, namely: (1) Hannah, now a resident of Altoona, Illinois, has been three times married, her first husband being Elias Thrasker, the second Thomas Weeks and the third a Mr. Foster. Her children are Jane, Mira, Julia, Emma, Evelyn, Ada, Rose and Elias. (2) Jonas, deceased, served through the Civil war as a member of the Sixty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He married first Sarah Wybrough, by whom she had three children, Emma, William, and Elsie, and for his second wife married Elliza Mort, now a resident of Kewanee, by whom she had the following children, John, Edward, Cora, Sarah, Gertrude, Charles, Lewis, Maggie and Maud. (3) Samuel, who was also a member of the Sixty-fifth Illinois regiment, and is now a resident of Burns township, this county, married Jane Mooney, and has one child, Lillie. (4) Isaac, our subject, is next in order of birth. (5) Sarah Ann is the widow

of Edwin Vincent and resides at Stromburg, Nebraska, with her family, consisting of five children, Albert, John, Frank, Hettie and Lottie. (6) Jacob a resident of Burns township, this county, married Sarah Clark and they have two children, Eugene and Flora. (7) Mary died at the home of her father, in Burns township. (8) Arthur, deceased, married Loretta Folsom, now a resident of Colorado, and they had three children, Ernest, Ira and Asa. (9) Lydia married Joseph Mooney, and they died, leaving four children, Sarah, Alice, Pearl and Alva, now residents of Munson township, Henry county. (10) Frank, a resident of Decatur county, Iowa, married Sarah Whitehouse and they have three children, William, Cynthia and Thomas. (11) Hettie is the wife of Robert Garland, of Decatur county, Iowa, and they have six children, Bertha, Elizabeth, Ethel, Pearl, Harrison and ———.

Isaac Thorp was a lad of twelve years on the removal of the family to Henry county, and amidst pioneer scenes he grew to manhood. He remembers when the town of Wethersfield had but one store, that of McClure & Penny, and the early settlers did most of their trading at Peoria, while most of the lumber was hauled by ox teams from Chicago, it requiring one week to make the trip. His father first rented a farm of Patrick Neville, in Burns township, on which a log house had been built, but later purchased forty acres of land at the government price of one dollar and a quarter per acre, but so rapidly did land rise in value that the second year it was worth eight dollars per acre, and is today worth eighty dollars. Mr. Thorp entered the service of his country during the dark days of the Rebellion, and served for seven months in the

Illinois Infantry. In 1879 he purchased forty acres of land in Kewanee township, for which he paid fifteen hundred dollars, and to its improvement and cultivation he has since devoted his energies. As time has passed he has prospered in his labors, and has added to his landed possessions from time to time until he now has one hundred acres. He is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never cared for political honors, preferring to give his entire attention to his business interests.

On the 27th of February, 1861, in Burns township, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Thorp and Miss Eliza Adams, a daughter of Charles and Mary Ann (Sims) Adams. The father, who was a native of New Jersey and a farmer by occupation, came to Kewanee with his family in 1852. Of his twelve children, Rhoda, Jane, Mary A., John, Martin, Caroline, Samuel and Harriet, are all now deceased. John deserted the Rebel army and joined the Union forces during the Civil war; Martin was a member of the Missouri Volunteer Cavalry; and Samuel of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Those of the family now living are as follows: (1) James, a resident of Weiser, Idaho, married Ellen Clark, and they have six children, Elias, Charles, James, Madison, Ida and Nora. (2) Eliza, wife of our subject, is the next of the family. (3) Lucy is the wife of Alonzo Collins, of Geneseo, Illinois, and their children are Alfreta, Carrie, Lee, Wealthy, Annetta, Edith, Clyde, Addie, Mary, Kate, Harry, Grover and John. (4) Louisa married first William Kiser, of Kewanee, by whom she had two children, Samuel and Clara, and for her second husband married John Wolf, by whom she had four children, Robert, Bertha, Nellie and Minnie.

(5) Joseph, a resident of Bureau county, Illinois, was also a member of the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois regiment during the Civil war. He married Waitstill Wilsey (known as Dot), and they have six children, Roxey, William, Frank, Hattie, Agnes and Grover.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Thorp have been born nine children: (1) Mary, born June 24, 1862, is the wife of Oran De Witt, who lives near Arispee, Iowa, and they have two children, Myrle and Oma. Samuel, born January 11, 1864, is a carpenter of Kewanee. He married Lena Whetzig, and they have two children, Mabel and Lloyd. (3) John, born December 4, 1865, is represented on another page of this volume. (4) Stella, born April 6, 1868, has been three times married, her first husband being Grant Williamson, the second Charles Kern, and the third Robert Wolf, a resident of Burns township. Her son Clifford resides with our subject. (5) Carrie, born June 14, 1871, is the wife of William Carter, of Lahonta, Colorado, and they have three children, Etha, Emmet and Helen. (6) Nellie, born July 13, 1874, is the wife of Charles Buffat, of Kewanee, and they have one child, Hazel. (7) Norman, born July 9, 1877, married Emma Whetzig and lives in Kewanee. (8) Nora, born February 16, 1880, died May 10, 1880, and was buried in Burns township. (9) Jessie, born July 9, 1881, resides in Kewanee.

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### JOHN THORP.

John Thorp is one of the energetic and progressive farmers of Kewanee township, where he is now successfully engaged in the operation of one hundred and sixty acres of

land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. His entire life has been spent in Henry county and he is indebted to its district schools for his educational privileges. He was born in Burns township, December 4, 1865, a son of Isaac and Eliza (Adams) Thorp, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

May 11, 1890, Mr. Thorp was united in marriage with Miss Hattie Williamson, of Kewanee. Her father, Chester Williamson, was born and reared in New York state and there married Miss Electa Jane Rogers. They came to Illinois at an early date and took up their residence in a log cabin on a farm in Bureau county. Mrs. Williamson is still a resident of that county, but her husband died there in April, 1899. Their family numbered ten children, namely: Lafayette, who died leaving a family living in Oregon; Seymour, a resident of Iowa, who married Melissa Hackett, and has four children, Gertrude, Roy, Blanch and an infant; Sarah, a resident of Iowa and widow of Samuel Keppler, by whom she four children, Josie, Maud, Tillie and Cecil; Par-don, deceased, who resided in Oregon, but was buried in Kewanee; Lousetta, wife of Frank Lewis, of Kickapoo, Peoria county, Illinois, by whom she has five children, May, Ira, Elmer, Fred and Eddie; Gilbert, a resident of Bureau county, Illinois, who married Augusta Knight and has five children, Nellie, Myrtle, Knight, May and Ray; Grant, deceased, who married Stella Thorp, now a resident of Burns township, by whom he had one child, Clifford; Chester, who died unmarried in Bureau county, in July, 1900; Hattie, wife of our subject, and Effie, who died unmarried in Bureau county in May, 1900.

To Mr. and Mrs. Thorp were born four

children, Blanch, Ruby, Roy and Nora, but Roy and Nora are now deceased. Mr. Thorp casts his ballot with the Republican party and has efficiently served as school director in his district. Socially he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of his community.

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#### GEORGE W. FERGUSON.

Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity, and to pursue this with a resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued labor, and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles of the community with which he is connected. Through such means Mr. Ferguson has attained a leading place among the substantial citizens of Western township, his home being on section 11. He was born near Quincy, Adams county, Illinois, June 18, 1847, and is the son of Robert G. and Nancy (Wilson) Ferguson, the former a native of Ohio, born near Steubenville, Jefferson county, the latter part of December, 1815, and the latter at Chelsea, five miles from Boston, Massachusetts, December 13, 1825.

When a young man Robert G. Ferguson left his native state and came to Illinois, becoming one of the pioneers of Adams county. He there married Nancy Wilson, daughter of Benjamin and Mary (Webster) Wilson, pioneers of Adams county, locating there in 1836, when their daughter was but eleven years of age. For some years after their marriage, Mr. Ferguson engaged in farming in Adams county, but in 1850 he made an overland trip to California, and

after working in the mines of that state for about ten months he returned to Illinois by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New Orleans. After his return he followed farming in Adams county until 1863, when he removed to Henry county and purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres on section 11, Western township, where our subject now resides. This place he improved and operated until called to his final rest, October 10, 1869, at the age of fifty-three years. His widow survives him and makes her home with our subject. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church. In politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. As road commissioner he assisted in laying out the roads in an early day.

In the public schools of Adams county, and in Prairie Academy, at Orion, George W. Ferguson was educated, and after the death of his father he took charge of the farm and business, and has since added to the original farm until he now has four hundred acres, which he has converted into one of the best improved places of the township. He has erected a large and pleasant residence, two barns and other outbuildings, has set out fruit and shade trees, and has a most attractive country home. Besides his valuable property he owns another well-improved farm of two hundred and forty-seven acres on section 4, Western township. He has always given considerable attention to the raising and feeding of stock for market, and annually ships from six to eight carloads of cattle and hogs. As a farmer and stock raiser he has been eminently successful, but has not confined his attention alone to these industries. On the re-organization of the Farmers Bank of Orion he became a stockholder and was elected

president of what is now one of the most substantial financial institutions in the county and not a little of its success is due to his business ability and sound judgment, as he is one of the ablest financiers of his community. He was one of the charter members of the Osco, Western and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, and at its organization was elected one of its directors and treasurer of the same. He has not missed a meeting of the board since its organization, and it is not too much to say that much of its success is due to him. In 1897 he was one of the promoters of the Western Telephone Company, which has an instrument in nearly every home in Western township.

In Osco township, Henry county. Mr. Ferguson was married, January 20, 1872, to Miss Inez E. Hitchcock, a native of Fulton county, Illinois, and a daughter of Walker L. Hitchcock, who came to this state at an early day and finally located in Henry county. By this union were born six children as follows: Grace, wife of M. L. Love, a farmer living near Orion; Roy T., who assists in the operation of one of his father's farms; Helen M., now a student at Knox College, Galesburg; Harry, who is attending the high school in that city; and Harriet and Alice, both at home.

Politically Mr. Ferguson has been identified with the Republican party since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant, and has ever taken an active interest in political affairs, though he has never sought office. For some years, however, he efficiently served on the school board, and has always been a friend of education. With the Methodist Episcopal Church of Orion he and his wife hold membership, and in social circles of the com-



munity they occupy an enviable position. His strict integrity and honorable dealing in business commend him to the confidence of all; his pleasant manner wins him friends and he is one of the popular and honored citizens of the section of the county.

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P. H. NEVILLE.

The subject of this sketch is one of the most prosperous farmers and stock raisers of Burns township, as well as one of its most popular and influential citizens. He was born near his present home, November 11, 1848, his parents being Patrick and Jane (Pounds) Neville, the former a native of Ireland, the latter of Pennsylvania. In 1833, when about twenty-two years of age, the father emigrated to the new world and spent some time in Baltimore, Maryland, and from that state removed to Illinois prior to 1835. In early life he was variously employed, but afterwards he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land on the southwest quarter of section 24, Burns township, Henry county, and to its cultivation and improvement devoted the remainder of his life. He owned one hundred and seventy acres of land at the time of his death, which occurred in April, 1849. He was one of the earliest settlers of this county, and was a man honored and esteemed by all who knew him. His wife long survived him and died at the home of our subject, February 14, 1897. Their children were T. P., a resident of Stewart Iowa; J. L., of Republic county, Kansas; P. H., of this review; and W. A., of Kewanee, Illinois.

Our subject attended the public schools if this county and grew to manhood upon the home farm. On reaching maturity he took charge of the family affairs and cared for his mother until her death. Throughout his active business life he has followed farming and stock raising extensively, and now feeds about one hundred and fifty head of cattle and about five hundred hogs per year. He ships his own stock to the city markets. In business affairs he is energetic and progressive, and has met with most excellent success. He is now the owner of seven hundred and ten acres of valuable farming land, which is under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. He has been one of the directors and stockholders of the Kewanee National Bank since its organization.

On the 31st of August, 1886, Mr. Neville was united in marriage with Miss Frances Ann Tossell, a native of Devonshire, England, and a daughter of Thomas and Grace (Berry) Tossell. Her father is still a resident of that country, but her mother is now deceased. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Neville, the eldest, George Henry, is deceased. Those living are Nora Edna, born November 26, 1889; Florence E., May 16, 1891; and Olive Myrtle, March 8, 1896.

Fraternally Mr. Neville is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and politically is a staunch supporter of the Republican party. For over twenty years he has served as school director in his district; filled the office of assessor two years; and is at present supervisor of his township, to which responsible position he was elected in 1899. He is connected with the Kewanee District Agricultural Fair Association, and takes

considerable interest in the agricultural exhibits of the county. He was one of the organizers of the fair and has for the past two years been director and has every year had some official position. He is public-spirited and progressive, and gives a cheerful support to all enterprises calculated to advance the interests of his community along any line.

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#### DAVID M. MARTIN.

Throughout his business career this gentleman has been identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, and is now successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising on section 5, Kewanee township. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 18th of February, 1862, and was only a few weeks old when brought to this country by his parents, Joseph and Mary Ann Martin, natives of Ireland, who emigrated to America in 1856, landing in Philadelphia. On the Emerald Isle the father had followed carpet weaving and continued to carry on that business during his residence in Philadelphia, but in this county he engaged in farming. His death occurred in Cornwall township on the 7th of July, 1892, but his wife is still living and continues to reside there. They were the parents of nine children, namely: (1) Robert died in Annawan township, in January, 1869. (2) Eliza is the wife of A. S. Cosner, a farmer of Cornwall township, and they have one child, Sarah, now the wife of Mart Farnum. (3) John, a resident of Burns township, married Luella Potter and they have two children, Marion and Elsie. (4) Joseph, who is engaged in the stock business in Ke-

wanee, married Hulda Dunmyer, and they had two children, Clair and Carl, deceased. (5) David M., our subject, is next in order of birth. (6) Samuel, a farmer and stock raiser of Annawan township, married Alice Wright, and they have five children, Leah, Wilbur, Elmer and Roy, and an infant son. (7) George, who is engaged in the creamery business in this county, married Ella Girkin, and they have two children, Arthur and Earl. (8) Mary Jane died in Burns township in 1862.

The father of our subject was one of a family of seven children, the others being as follows: (2) John was married in Ireland to Elizabeth McKrell and on coming to this country settled on a farm in Burns township, Henry county, Illinois. He died in October, 1899, leaving five children, Hugh, Robert, John, William J. and Sarah J. (3) Hugh, a retired farmer of Kewanee, married Jane Graham and has five children, Henry, Anna, Robert, David and Mary. (4) Robert, a retired farmer of Charles City, Floyd county, Iowa, married Belle Anderson, and they have eight children, George, Anna, Hugh, Albert, Jennie, David, William and Samuel. (5) Samuel, a farmer, who died in 1898, married Kate Walker, now a resident of Eldora, Iowa, and they had five children, Wallace, Harry, William, Charles and Effie. (6) William, unmarried, was a soldier of the Civil war and died in the service at Cairo, Illinois. (7) Mary Ann wedded Hugh Hawthorn, of Wethersfield, and died in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1877, leaving six children, Elizabeth, Robert, Martin H., David, Anna and James.

Mr. Martin, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon a farm and acquired his early education in the district



schools, but in 1876 went to Iowa, where he completed his studies, returning home in 1882. He then commenced farming in Burns township, but a year later removed to Cornwall township. He subsequently spent another year in Burns township, and at the end of that time returned to Cornwall township, where he made his home for thirteen years. Since then he has been a resident of Kewanee township. In 1894 he purchased a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Cornwall township, which he still owns. In connection with general farming he is still engaged in raising stock for market, and as he thoroughly understands his chosen calling he is meeting with marked success in his undertakings.

On the 23d of February, 1888, in Burns township, Mr. Martin married Miss Sarah C. Anderson. Her father, David Anderson, was born in Ireland, in 1818, and came to America with his parents, locating on a farm in Ohio. There he married Sarah Henderson, and shortly afterward removed to Wisconsin, but after a year spent in that state he came to Henry county, Illinois, and made his home on a farm in Burns township throughout the remainder of his life, dying there May 18, 1895. His widow is still residing upon that place. In their family were seven children, namely: (1) Maggie is the wife of Samuel Warner, of Burns township, and they have four children, Burt, Lartie, Margaret and Lowell. (2) George, a farmer of Burns township, married Esther Corkrell, of Kewanee, and they have two children, David and Lolla. (3) Mamie died in 1867. (4) Sarah C., wife of our subject, is next in order of birth. (5) Ollie Belle is the wife of Ernest Couve, a farmer of Burns township. (6) Mary is the wife of William Robson, a farmer and stock

raiser of Burns township, and they have one child, Wilbur. (7) Albert lives on the home farm with his mother.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Grover Cleveland, Mr. Martin has affiliated with the Democratic party, but has never sought nor desired public office, though as a public-spirited and progressive citizen he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs and gives his support to all enterprises for the good of the community. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

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#### DANIEL SELNER.

Among the practical and progressive agriculturists of Edford township is this gentleman, who resides on section 36. He was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 21st of May, 1842, and is a son of John and Margaret (Vothers) Selner, both of whom were Dunkards. The father, who was a native of Germany, came to the United States at an early date and settled in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1856, at the age of fifty-two years, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife, who was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, survived him for some years, dying in Bucks county in 1882, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight. This worthy couple were the parents of seven children, namely: Mary Ann, deceased wife of Richard Corson, a carpenter of Bucks county; Elizabeth, wife of Isaac Wolfe, a farmer of the same county; Hiram, a farmer of Bucks county, who died at the age of about fifty years; Bar-

bara, wife of James Flack, a carpenter and contractor of Bucks county; Wilhelmina, wife of Henderson Van Pelt, a farmer of Maryland; Daniel, our subject; and Catherine, widow of Alfred Boileau, a merchant of Southampton, Pennsylvania.

During his boyhood and youth Daniel Selner attended the public schools of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and remained at the place of his birth until 1865. In the meantime the Civil war broke out, and he enlisted in July, 1864, in Company D, Thirty-first Pennsylvania Volunteer State Militia, and was honorably discharged at Philadelphia, in July of that year. Returning home, he remained on the farm until the following spring, and then came west, locating in Geneseo township, Henry county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming upon rented land for eleven years. His first purchase consisted of eighty acres of land on section 31, that township, where he made his home for nine years, and then operated a rented farm of eighty acres for the same length of time. In 1894 he bought eighty acres of land on section 36, Edford township, and to its development and cultivation has since devoted his energies with marked success. He has made all the improvements on the place, and its neat and thrifty appearance plainly indicates his careful supervision.

At Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Mr. Selner was married September 19, 1864, the lady of his choice being Miss Annie M. Brown, also a native of the Keystone state, and a daughter of George and Maria (Closson) Brown. The father, who was a retired farmer, died in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. To Mr. and Mrs. Selner were born three children, namely: Jennie, born in Osco township, this county, is now the wife of Frank L. Butler, who is engaged in the

creamery and poultry business in Geneseo. Kate married William Frank, of Geneseo, a son of Jacob Frank, and is now a farmer of Alabama, and she died leaving one child, Leonard Ray, who resides with our subject. Arthur Bertram, born in Geneseo township, is now twenty-four years of age and assists his father in the operation of the home farm.

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### JAMES S. HADSALL.

Burns township has no more honored or highly esteemed citizen than James S. Hadsall, whose home is on section 34. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, September 26, 1822. His ancestry were of English descent and among the very earliest settlers of the Wyoming valley, owning a large tract of land at the mouth of Sutton's creek, four miles up the Susquehanna river from the head of the Wyoming valley. There his great-grandfather, together with his negro servant, was killed by the Indians while hoeing corn, in 1776, the day before the Wyoming massacre. His brothers, Stephen and John Hadsall, were serving in the Colonial army and were then located at Wyoming, where they were captured by the Indians, but their lives were saved by reprieve. To Stephen was allotted the task of carrying a keg of paint to Connecticut, it being used to paint the reprieved prisoners every morning.

Edward Hadsall, the grandfather of our subject, removed from Connecticut to the Wyoming valley prior to the massacre, but fortunately was away when that terrible crime was committed, having gone to New England for some cattle. Subsequently he returned and made his home on the original



J. S. HADSALL.

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Hadsall farm at the mouth of Sutton's creek until 1805, when he sold his property there and with other members of the family removed to Martinsville, Ohio, just across the river from Wheeling, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was twice married and reared a large family. By his first union he had three sons: James, Edward and Benjamin. The latter came west at an early day and built the first tavern in Rock Island, Illinois, at which place he later erected a large hotel. By profession he was a physician. After his wife's death he went to California and there died.

James Hadsall, our subject's father, was born in Exeter township, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1787, and spent his early life in the Wyoming valley. When his father removed to Ohio, he remained in Pennsylvania, being engaged in farming in Luzerne county. On the 4th of February, 1810, he married Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was born in Connecticut, December 29, 1795, and died in 1885. His death occurred the same year. All of their fourteen children were born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania. The two eldest died in infancy. Edward, born January 26, 1813, married Jane Diamond, of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and in 1856 removed to Michigan, where he now resides.

In the county of his nativity James S. Hadsall grew to manhood, and after completing his education in the local schools he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed until 1896. In 1852 he first came to Henry county, Illinois, and entered the southwest quarter of section 34, Burns township, but spent the following four years in Pennsylvania, locating permanently here in 1856. In connection with farming he has engaged in contracting and building,

and has also operated a coal bank located on the southern part of his farm. He first discovered coal and opened up his first bank in 1857, since which time he has worked the mines, and at times has employed as many as twenty men. He has done a large amount of building in Burns and adjoining townships, as well as in Nebraska and Iowa, and has built many bridges in this and other localities. This was his principal occupation during the summer months, during which time he employed from four to eight men. He has thoroughly improved the home farm, and also owned a farm in Saunders county, Nebraska, that he later gave to his daughter.

Mr. Hadsall was married January 13, 1848, in New Troy, now Wyoming, Pennsylvania, to Miss Malinda Brace, whose parents, William and Anna (Munson) Brace, were natives of New York state. Five children were born to this union: Medora, who died in infancy; Anna E., wife of Edgar Kimerling, of Nebraska; Henry, who was born September 23, 1855, and was killed by falling from a building December 3, 1882; one who died in infancy; and Smith, a farmer of Burns township, who was born September 12, 1860, and married Julia Zeigler, of Kewanee.

During the Civil war Mr. Hadsall enlisted in the spring of 1864, in the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered into the United States service at Chicago. He was honorably discharged in the fall of the same year and is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is also connected with the Masonic fraternity. He cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay and supported the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, with which he has since been identified. Since coming

to Henry county he has taken an active and prominent part in public affairs, and has been honored with several local offices, having served as school trustee and director and commissioner of highways. In 1860 he was first elected justice of the peace, which position he creditably filled for sixteen years and then declined to longer serve. He was appointed postmaster of Hawley, June 16, 1879, and filled the office for the long period of twenty-two years to the entire satisfaction of all concerned.

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#### AUGUST WALTERS.

Residing on section 2, Burns township, is one of the representative German-American citizens of Henry county. He was born in Prussia, Germany, on the 2d of October, 1824, his parents being Martin and Hannah (Withaus) Walters, also natives of Prussia, where they spent their entire lives. In their family were five children. Our subject had one brother who came to America but afterward returned to the fatherland, and a sister who became a resident of Michigan, where her death occurred.

During his boyhood Mr. Walters attended the public schools of his native land, and continued to live in the land of his birth until after reaching man's estate. There he was married March 31, 1850, to Miss Augusta Wolgost, who was also born in Prussia, July 16, 1825. In 1857 they came to the United States, taking passage at Bremen on the Augusta, which after a pleasant voyage of six weeks dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. By way of Chicago Mr. Walters came direct to Kewanee, Illinois, where he was employed at general labor for a

time. In 1861 he made his first purchase of land, but the tract was unbroken and covered with brush; four year later he added to it forty acres of timber land. He cleared and placed under cultivation the entire tract with exception of five acres, and in 1869 traded it for eighty acres of improved land on section 3, Burns township, to which he subsequently added another eighty acres on section 2. He still owns the latter tract and to its cultivation and further improvement is now devoting his time and attention. He is also engaged in stock raising.

Mr. and Mrs. Walters became the parents of six children: August F., born in Germany, February 20, 1851, married Helena Spengel and is engaged in farming; two others, both of whom were born in Germany, died in infancy; Amelia, born in Kewanee, Illinois, November 18, 1858, is the wife of W. F. Berg, a native of Germany, and a farmer of Burns township, living with our subject; they have three children, Carl, Hulda and William; Carl, born October 2, 1860, died from the effects of a sunstroke and was buried in Cosner cemetery; and Lizzie died in Kewanee and was buried at Wethersfield.

Politically Mr. Walters is identified with the Republican party, and for two years he capably filled the office of pathmaster in his township. Religiously he and his wife are both members of the German Lutheran Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### MRS. JULIA E. DUNHAM.

One of the well-known and highly esteemed ladies of Geneseo, Illinois, is Mrs. Julia E. Dunham, who was born in Chardon, Ohio, December 8, 1855, and is a

daughter of Erastus and Nancy (Dimmock) Foot, both natives of Stafford, Connecticut, the former born July 25, 1794, the latter August 15, 1801. Her maternal grandfather, Amzi Dimmock, was chaplain of a regiment in Washington's army during the Revolutionary war, and returned to his home bare-footed and penniless when hostilities ceased. Mrs. Dunham's parents were married at their birth place, June 10, 1821, and eight children blessed their union, namely: Eliza N. married James Current, and died on Christmas day, 1870, in Painesville, Ohio. Her husband died in Cleveland, that state. His son Warren is now chief clerk in the United States railway postal service. Sophronia M. married Daniel Warner, and died in Osco township, while here on a visit, October 20, 1888, having survived her husband some years. Francis E. married Harriet Eldridge and lives in Munson, Ohio. Martha J. married Harding Stoughton and died in Osco, this county, in 1892, while her husband died in 1890. Wealthy C. is the wife of John Folder, of Rock Creek, Ohio. Cyrus S. married Catherine Potter, now a resident of Menlow, Iowa, and he was killed by a cannon ball at the battle of Knoxville, Tennessee, November 18, 1863. Julia E. died at the age of sixteen years. Julia E. (second) completes the family.

Reared in Chardon, Ohio, Mrs. Dunham acquired her education in its public schools. On the 18th of August, 1863, she gave her hand in marriage to Addison A. Dunham, who was a native of Union City, Erie county, Pennsylvania, who was born February 5, 1844, a son of George and Catherine (Wilson) Dunham, natives of the Buckeye state. He was one of a family of eight children, the others being Sidney, a resident of Union City, Pennsylvania;

Adolphus, who died at the age of eighteen years; Charles, an oil merchant of Sistersville, Ohio; Samuel, a resident of the same place; Henry, of Warren, Pennsylvania; William, who died at the age of five years; and Lilly, wife of Frank Zinn, Sistersville, Ohio.

During the Civil war Mr. Dunham enlisted at Union City, Erie county, Pennsylvania, in Company L, Twelfth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and was discharged at Philadelphia, June 20, 1862, on account of disability. He never recovered from the effects of his military service, and died February 24, 1871, at the age of twenty-seven years, from illness contracted shortly after his enlistment. He was engaged in the flour and feed business in Union City. He was five feet, seven and a half inches in height, and of dark complexion, gray eyes and dark hair, and as a man was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

In 1871, after her husband's death, Mrs. Dunham came to Henry county, Illinois, and located on a farm in Osco township, where she made her home until 1890. Since then she has resided in Geneseo. In the management of her affairs she has displayed excellent business and executive ability, and those womanly qualities which have endeared her to all. She is a member of Colonel Galligan Circle of the Grand Army of the Republic, and is an active and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Aid Society.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were born three children, namely: (1) William, born November 11, 1864, died January 22, 1896. (2) Warren, born September 26, 1866, is a farmer of Geneseo township, and a member of Eutopia Lodge, No 312, K. P., of Geneseo. He was married January 2, 1894.



to Miss Lotta Lewis, who was born February 12, 1873, and is the only child of Abram and Mary (Reese) Lewis, natives of Ohio and Illinois, respectively. By this union there are two children: Blanch, born February 1, 1895, and William, born October 6, 1899. (3) Nettie, the youngest child of our subject, was born November 7, 1870, and died May 15, 1871.

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### ELIJAH STOREY.

The stock raising interests of Henry county find in Mr. Storey a worthy representative. He has owned some of the most noted animals in this section of the state, and in his chosen line of occupation has been eminently successful. He was born in Kewanee on the 29th of October, 1851, and belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of the county. His father, Jarius Storey, was born in Oneida county, New York, March 18, 1828, and attended the common schools of that locality. At the age of twelve years he removed to Canada with his parents, Elijah and Louise (Wheeler) Storey, also natives of Oneida county, New York. While in Canada the father of our subject worked for a man who was in the employ of the English government as Indian agent and trader, and remained with him until seventeen years of age. Two years later he came with his parents to Illinois, reaching Kewanee on the 23d of July, 1847. Here his father died in 1850, and his mother passed away soon afterwards. Her parents were natives of Dutchess county, New York, and spent their lives in that state. The paternal greatgrandparents of our subject were also born in this country.

On coming to Henry county, Jarius Storey entered forty acres of land on sec-

tion 4, Kewanee township, and later entered two other forty-acre tracts. At that time there was not a single building on the present site of Kewanee, it being covered with tall prairie grass. A few Indians were still encamped here, and deer and other wild game was plentiful. About four times a year Mr. Storey would go either to Peru or La Salle, on the Illinois river, to obtain provisions, these being the nearest market places at that time. In those early days he cut all his grain with a cradle and threshed it with a flail. Throughout life he has successfully engaged in farming and is still living on the land which he entered from the government. He was married in Kewanee, in 1850, to Miss Nancy Dingman, who was born in Canada, and came to this county with her parents in 1849. They were also natives of that country and had eleven children, of whom Mrs. Storey was seventh in order of birth. The others were as follows: (1) Mary, wedded James Bradford, a blacksmith of Annawan, who during the Civil war enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Regiment, but was confined in the hospital at Indianapolis during the most of his service. He and his wife died, leaving three children, Lucy, Lovina and Josephus. (2) David, a farmer by occupation, married Mary Showers, of Kewanee, and moved to Kansas, where both died, leaving a family. (3) William married a Miss Hodge, and they died, leaving four children who are residents of Dayton, Iowa. (4) Joseph married Jane Rockey and lived in Kewanee when the Civil war broke out. In 1864 he enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry, and was wounded during Morgan's raid. After the war he removed to Kansas, where he followed farming until his death. He left three chil-

dren. (5) Jennette married George Minord and they died, leaving nine children, who reside in Iowa. (6) Margaret wedded George Mesker, and at their deaths they left four children, Merritt, Hattie, Elizabeth and George, residents of Kewanee. (7) Nancy was the mother of our subject. (8) Eliza married James McNeal and they died, leaving two children, William and John, of Alba township. (9) James and his wife died in Iowa leaving no family. (10) Lawrence was married in Abingdon, Illinois, and at his death left a family. He was a contractor and was killed in the erection of a building. (11) Frank enlisted in 1861 in Company I, Twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry, was wounded in the battles of Look-out Mountain and Chattanooga, and was mustered out in 1865. He first married Hattie Aikens and, second, Ella Kelsey, and with his family now resides in Iowa. Mrs. Nancy Storey, who was a consistent member of the Baptist Church, died December 30, 1865, and was buried on the 1st of January, 1866. Elijah, our subject, was the oldest of her seven children. David L., born in 1853, died at the age of eleven years; Josephus died at the age of four months; and three died in infancy. Jane, born in 1861, is the wife of George Ditto, of Keithsburg, Iowa, and they have three children living, Dora, Jarius and Laura Pearl, and one deceased, Ray. The father was again married April 25, 1867, his second union being with Elizabeth Swyhart, whose parents were natives of Ohio. By this union two children were born, but the older died at the age of two months. Tessa, born October 4, 1872, is with her parents. Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, he has been identified with the Republican party, and has served as overseer of high-

ways and school director for a number of years, but has never sought office. He is one of the honored and highly respected citizens of his community.

Since attaining man's estate Elijah Storey, of this review, has engaged in farming and stock raising and now successfully operates eighty-five acres of land, but he gives especial attention to the other branch of his business and is to-day one of the most extensive stock raisers of Illinois. The first colt he raised won first premium at Cambridge in 1876 and afterward won premiums wherever shown for the four years. He owned the French draft horse, Sultan, who was also shown at four county fairs and won first and sweepstakes at each exhibition, and won first prize for two successive years at the Illinois state fair. He was then sold to a party in Iowa. His next horse, Arimus, a Percheron, won twenty-four first prizes in Henry county, and also won prizes at the state fairs. He now owns a French coach stallion, Urbin, which won first premium and a gold medal in his class at the World's fair in 1893. Mr. Storey owned the celebrated horse, Voltaire, also a prize winner, being considered the best horse in his class in the state. He is now engaged in breeding Percheron, Clydesdale and French coach horses, and also registered cattle and hogs. He thoroughly understands his business, and the success that has crowned his well-directed efforts is certainly justly merited.

On the 27th of February, 1872, Mr. Storey was united in marriage with Miss Lavina McClelman, who was born in Kendall county, Illinois, September 23, 1852, a daughter of David and Resinda (Call) McClelman. Her father was born in Niagara county, New York, September 5, 1820, and

came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1855, locating first in Annawan, and later removing to Alba township. He died December 9, 1898. His wife, who was born in Canada, November 22, 1826, died December 29, 1860. They were married August 29, 1844, and became the parents of four children, namely: George, the eldest, died in infancy. John married Retta Blake and lived for a time in Alba township, and then removed to Iowa, where she died. Of their four children, two are now deceased. For his second wife he married Mrs. Sabina Benson, and they now live in Ruthven, Palo Alto county, Iowa. Lavina is the wife of our subject. Ella married George Andrews, who died November 9, 1899, and she has since married Chris Jorgensen, of Pipestone, Minnesota. To Mr. and Mrs. Storey were born five children, namely: Nellie, born September 19, 1874, died October 5, 1875; Jarius L., born July 12, 1876, Clarence L., born October 7, 1882, are all at home, with exception of Ida, who stays with her grandparents much of the time, being a great favorite with them. Politically Mr. Storey is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and religiously is an active and prominent member of the United Brethren Church, and is now serving as trustee and steward of the parsonage and church.

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### JONAS WESTERLUND.

A brilliant example of a self-made American citizen and a grand exemplification of the progress that an ambitious foreigner can make in this country of unbounded opportunities, is shown in the case of

Jonas Westerlund, who is now living a retired life in Orion. Success in any walk of life is an indication of earnest endeavor and persevering effort—characteristics that he possesses in an eminent degree.

Mr. Westerlund was born in Hasela, North Helsingland, Gauleburgsland, Sweden, March 31, 1830, and is a son of Eric Abraham and Elizabeth (Johnson) Westerlund, both of whom were natives of Sweden, the father born in 1801. In 1850, the family sailed for the new world, and after spending a year or two in Andover, the father purchased eighty acres of land in Lynn township, which he improved and where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1867. He was one of the early members of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Andover, uniting with it on his arrival in the county.

Our subject grew to manhood on a farm in his native land, and there attended school but his educational advantages were very limited, and his knowledge of English has been acquired through his own unaided efforts since coming to this country. In 1850, with the other members of his father's family, he took passage on the Oden, a sailing vessel, which was eleven weeks and three days in crossing the ocean. They experienced some very severe storms, during which the masts, railings and nearly everything on deck was washed overboard. The captain, who was an old sailor, said that he had never seen as rough a sea or as bad a storm, and Mr. Westerlund says that he would not have returned to his native land in such a storm for all Sweden. His mother and one sister died during the voyage and were buried at sea. On reaching New York the remainder of the family proceeded at once to Illinois by way of the Hudson river

to Albany; by railroad to Buffalo; by the Great Lakes to Chicago; by canal to Peru, Illinois; and by team to Andover. Our subject, however, walked from Peru to his new home in this county, arriving here the middle of November, 1850. On the way his father's brother, Andrew Westerlund, was killed while crossing the bridge at Princeton, Illinois.

For a year Jonas Westerlund worked as a farm hand in this county, and in the fall of 1851, went to Minnesota, where he was employed in the pineries, sawmills and on the river for five years, during which period he visited the family in Henry county three or four times. He ran numerous rafts of logs and lumber down the river to St. Louis during which time he would call at home. In 1854 he made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres of wild prairie on section 2, Lynn township, which he hired broken and which he leased until his return to the county in 1856, when he took up his residence thereon and turned his attention to farming. Prospering in this undertaking he was able to add to his property from time to time until he now owns four hundred and forty acres of rich and arable land, upon which he has erected a large frame house, good barns and other outbuildings, set out one of the early orchards, and made many other improvements which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. Since 1895, however, he has rented his farm and has lived a retired life in Orion, where he owns a good residence and where, surrounded by all the comforts of life, he is enjoying a well-earned rest.

While in Minnesota, Mr. Westerlund was married, in 1856, to Miss Ellen Nelson, who was born in Skona, Snoarp Brobysocken, Gyneshard, Christiansladd, Sweden,

December 23, 1835, and daughter of Nels Olsen and his wife, Mannel E. Peterson, who died in Sweden. With two brothers she came to Minnesota in 1853, locating in Stillwater, which was her home until her marriage. By this union were born five children, who are still living: Lizzie, wife of John W. Anderson, of Dayton, Iowa; Neils Hennings, a farmer; John Edward, a farmer of Lynn township; Joseph E., a practicing physician of Cambridge; and Luther, who operates his father's farm. Two sons died; Charles died shortly after his marriage; and Nathan died at the age of twenty years.

When the family first located in Henry county, labor was cheap, and a man could earn but twenty-five to fifty cents a day, and that usually had to be taken in "store pay," the party receiving an order on a store for the amount. On one occasion, the family needing some groceries, Mr. Westerlund started for Rock Island, the nearest trading point, with twenty bushels of corn on the ear, which he sold for nine cents a bushel. He had to pay twenty cents toll across Rock river, and a storm coming up he had to remain all night in Rock Island. When he paid for his meals and lodgings he had but twenty-five cents left, and that he spent for tobacco. Returning home, he again loaded his wagon with corn, and this time met with better success, as he sold it promptly and was enabled to return home the same night with the much needed groceries.

Politically Mr. Westerlund was originally a Whig and cast his first presidential vote for Millard Fillmore in 1856, in Minnesota, but four years later he supported Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, and has since been a staunch Republican, but

never an office seeker. However, he has taken an active interest in educational affairs and was a member of the school board for several years, during which time he did much to secure better schools and competent teachers. He has also served as commissioner of highways, and in the discharge of his public duties has displayed the same fidelity that has ever marked his private life. He and his wife are active and earnest members of the Evangelical Swedish Lutheran Church, having been reared in that faith, and are among the most highly respected and esteemed citizens of their community. His remarkable success in life, is due to his own energy and capable management, and his career has ever been such as to win for him the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

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### JULIUS CHARLET.

This prominent and influential agriculturist residing on section 10, Burns township, Henry county, Illinois, was born on the 25th of July, 1839, in Klein Ziethen, a small village of Germany, not far from Berlin, and is a son of Abraham and Dorothy Charlet, also natives of that country, where the father died in 1848. In 1856 the mother came to America, bringing the family with her. She had six children, four sons and two daughters, namely: John, now deceased; August, who is represented on another page of this volume; Dorothy, deceased; Julius, our subject; William, deceased; and Louisa, widow of Oscar Fischer and a resident of Burns township, whose sketch also appears in this work.

Julius Charlet was sixteen years of age when he came with the family to this country and became a resident of Henry county, Illinois, where he was employed at general labor until after the Civil war broke out. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services he enlisted at Kewanee in 1862, in Company F, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain M. B. Potter. The regiment was organized at Springfield, Illinois, and saw considerable active service. Mr. Charlet participated in the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, Brownsville, Chunkey Station, Benton, Jackson Cross Roads and the siege of Spanish Fort. He was wounded at the battle of Vicksburg, and after three years of faithful service on southern battlefields he was honorably discharged and returned to Kewanee.

In 1866 Mr. Charlet married Miss Augusta Couve, a native of Prussia, Germany, and a daughter of David and Mary (Ouart) Couve, who were also born in that country and came to the United States in 1855, locating in Wethersfield, this county. She was one of a family of five children. Of the eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Charlet, five are still living, namely: William; Edward, who married Louisa Lehman; Lena, wife of Gustaff Gutchlag; Bernard; and Leonora.

After his marriage Mr. Charlet was engaged in farming near Kewanee until 1871, and then purchased eighty acres of his present farm on section 10, Burns township, the boundaries of which he has since extended until they now enclose one hundred and thirty-five acres of well improved land. Having mastered the carpenter's trade he has done considerable work along that line in connection with farming.



Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Charlet are members of the Christian Science Church; socially he is an honored member of Kewanee Post G. A. R. His political support is given the men and measures of the Republican party, and he has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics. For four years he acceptably served as supervisor of his township, and has filled the office of school director for fifteen years in a capable and satisfactory manner.

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### WILLIS F. EVANS.

Among Henry county's native sons none have been more prominently identified with her agricultural interests than Willis F. Evans, who was born May 20, 1865, on the old homestead on section 20, Phenix township, where he now resides, his parents being Thomas and Christina (Horshman) Evans. His father was also a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Phenix township on the 14th of October, 1842. During his minority he remained upon the farm where he was born, and then purchased the place now occupied by our subject. His first purchase consisted of ninety-six acres, on which he built a large and substantial farm house and other buildings. He placed his land under a high state of cultivation and continued to successfully engage in agricultural pursuits until his death, which occurred on the home farm November 22, 1891, after a long illness. He always engaged in general farming and stock raising and took great pride in making his place one of the model farms of the county. In his political views he was a Republican, and for three years he capably filled the office of highway

commissioner, but never cared for political preferment. In early life he was a supporter of the Methodist Church, but afterward attended the United Evangelical Church, and always led an upright, honorable Christian life. His wife died on the 27th of September, 1886. They were married in Geneseo and became the parents of four children, of whom Willis F., is the oldest, the others being Alta M., now a resident of Kansas; Charles, who died at the age of fourteen years; and Thomas M., who is employed in a cannery at Washington.

Willis F. Evans spent the days of his boyhood and youth upon the home farm and under his father's able direction acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits, which now numbers him among the most thorough and skilled farmers of his community. In the winter of 1890, he was married in Phenix township to Miss Cora E. Sieben, a daughter of Valentine and Caroline (Butzer) Sieben. The father was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, October 14, 1839, a son of Joseph and Aboline Sieben, and came with his family to the United States in 1852. The parents located in Whiteside county, Illinois, but he came to Henry county, where he obtained work as a farm hand, being thus employed until his marriage July 10, 1860. Later he engaged in breaking prairie and threshing, he and his brother-in-law, Jacob Butzer, buying a threshing machine together in 1862. The following year he purchased two hundred acres of land on section 3, Phenix township, where he continued to make his home until called from this life in 1886. His wife survived him for a number of years and at the time of her death, which occurred in 1898, was living in Geneseo. She was a native of this county, and a daughter of

George Frederick Butzer, one of its pioneer settlers. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Sieben were George, who died at the age of eight years; Fred; Annie; Ella; Cora E.; Frank; and two who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Evans have one child, Glenn L., born on the old homestead, September 15, 1894.

As a Republican Mr. Evans takes quite an active and prominent part in local politics, and has held the office of collector two years; assessor of Phenix township for five years; and at present is a school trustee, which position he has filled most creditably for six years. Religiously he is a member of Ebenezer United Evangelical Church.

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#### AUGUST F. SPIEGEL.

Germany has furnished to America many of her most enterprising and thrifty citizens, who in this land of the free have gained for themselves and family a comfortable competence. Among those who have settled in Henry county, and are to-day numbered among her best citizens is August F. Spiegel, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 21, Burns township.

He was born in Germany, July 19, 1837, a son of Frederick and Foeder Spiegel, who remained in Prussia until 1861, when they emigrated to the new world and took up their residence in Kewanee township, Henry county, Illinois. Here the father followed farming, though in his native land he had worked at the miller's trade. He died February 2, 1889, and his wife departed this life in 1880, the remains of both being interred in the Kewanee cemetery. In their family were eight children who came to this

country, our subject and his brother, Frederick, being the first to cross the Atlantic.

August Spiegel grew to manhood in his native land, and received a good practical education in the German language. In 1857, at the age of twenty years he and his brother took passage on a sailing vessel at Hamburg, and after a stormy voyage of five weeks and three days landed in New York. He came at once to Kewanee, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for a time. In 1865 he bought sixty acres of land in Neponset township, Bureau county, Illinois, to which he subsequently added sixty acres. On disposing of that property in 1883 he purchased a half section of land in Burns township, Henry county, but has since sold eighty acres of this. The remainder he has placed under a high state of cultivation and supplied with all the conveniences and accessories of the model farm of the present day.

On the 19th of June, 1862, Mr. Spiegel was united in marriage with Miss Carrie Custer, also a native of Germany, who came to America in 1856 with her parents, William and Caroline (Nuebert) Custer, landing in New York. The family located in Kewanee, Illinois, where the father worked at the mason's trade for about five years, and then purchased property in Kewanee township and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He prospered in his labors and accumulated a valuable property. He died in 1897, at the age of eighty-six years, and his wife passed away in 1876, at the age of seventy-six, their remains being interred in Kewanee township. Of their eight children four are still living. Mrs. Spiegel began her education in the schools of Prussia, and after the emigration of the family to America she attended



school here to some extent. By her marriage she has become the mother of twelve children, but only five are now living. Louisa died at the age of nineteen years and was buried in Kewanee. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Edward, born in 1863, married Emma Lehman, and is engaged in fruit farming near Milan, Illinois; Mary is the wife of Henry Kempin, of Kewanee; Clara is the wife of Peter Verstrette, who is employed in the shops at Kewanee; and Carl and Theodore assist their father in the operation of the home farm.

By his ballot Mr. Spiegel supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and for two years he efficiently filled the office of school director. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church, and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him on account of his sterling worth. His wife is also a member of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Spiegel has a fine home, furnace heated, and a barn 40x60 feet, with large cribs and outbuildings. In addition to general farming he raises considerable stock.

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#### H. J. STEWART, M. D.

Although but a recent acquisition to the goodly array of enterprising professional men of Kewanee this well-known physician and surgeon is already building up an excellent practice, his specialties being the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He was born in Warren county, Illinois, March 21, 1868, a son of David B. and Sarah E. (Pilkington) Stewart, natives of Pennsylvania and early settlers of this state. The

father, who is a farmer by occupation, is still living in Warren county, at the age of seventy-six years, while his wife is sixty-three years of age. For many years he served as justice of the peace in Spring Grove, that township. On account of a cancer the Doctor recently assisted in removing his father's left ear with the hope of stopping that terrible disease. In the family were nine children, of whom five sons and three daughters are still living.

Dr. Stewart was reared on a farm and began his education in the country schools. Later he attended the high school at Alexis, Illinois, and the Northwestern University at Chicago, graduating from the medical department of that institution in 1893. He devoted several months to hospital work, and in 1899 took a post-graduate course on the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, thus becoming well fitted for the profession which he has chosen as a life work. On the 1st of June, 1893, soon after his graduation, he opened an office in Viola, Mercer county, Illinois, where he was engaged in practice until coming to Kewanee, March 1, 1900. With seven years' experience he comes to this place well qualified, and his skill and ability have already won for him a good patronage. He is very progressive and keeps well posted on the latest discoveries made in the science of medicine and surgery. As a citizen he is enterprising and public spirited and is such a man as gives character to a community.

In 1894 Dr. Stewart married Miss Adelaide H. Frazier, a native of Viola. Her father H. B. Frazier, was one of the leading merchants of that place, where he died July 11, 1898, at the age of sixty-three years, and was succeeded in business by his sons, John, Fred and Edwin. There are also

three daughters in the family. Adelaide H., wife of our subject; Nannie, wife of M. R. McKinnon; and Sarah, wife of Dr. McClannahan, of Viola. The mother of these children is still an honored resident of that place.

Dr. and Mrs. Stewart have two children, Florence Verl and Louise Ruth. The parents both hold membership in the Presbyterian Church, and the Doctor is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, the Galva District Medical Association, the State Medical Association, and the Kewanee Medical Society, being secretary of the last named. In Warren county he served as school trustee for a time; was also president of the village board of Viola for six years; trustee and chairman of the village council; and township school trustee three years. He was elected to these positions on the Democratic ticket, but at present is not an advocate of the issues of modern Democracy.

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### JOSEPH JOHNSTON.

There passed away at his home in Galva township, February 11, 1899, Joseph Johnston, who was one of the most highly esteemed men of that locality. He was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, November 14, 1831, a son of Isaac and Margaret (McGill) Johnston, who spent their entire lives in that country, the father being engaged in farming. Our subject was the second in order of birth in their family of ten children, of whom three sons and three daughters are still living. The daughters and one son still reside in Scotland, while two sons make their home in this country, these being John, who lives in Iowa; and William, who lives north of Oneida, Illinois.

During his boyhood Joseph Johnston received only a limited education in the schools of his native land, but by reading and observation in subsequent years became a well informed man. He always transacted his own business affairs and by the successful management of the same became one of the most prosperous citizens of his community. On coming to America in 1856 he first located near Victoria, Illinois, where he worked as a farm hand for a Mr. Sansberry until going to the gold fields of Colorado, in 1862. There he engaged in prospecting and teaming, three times crossing the plains with merchandise to Denver. He met with success while in the west, and on his return to Illinois was able to purchase eighty acres of land south of Nekoma, in Henry county, to the improvement and cultivation of which he at once turned his attention. Later he purchased an improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres, part in Ontario and part in Walnut Grove townships, where he made his home until 1881, when he removed to a farm of one hundred seventy-two and a half acres west of Galva, though he still retained his former place. He also purchased one hundred and seventeen acres of land adjoining Galva, a part of which has since been subdivided into town lots. In his farming operations he met with most excellent success, becoming the owner of about six hundred and ten acres of valuable land, two hundred and ninety acres of which was in this county, the remaining half section being in Knox county. He gave special attention to the raising of stock, both horses and cattle, and found this branch of his business quite profitable.

Mr. Johnston was twice married, his first wife being Janet Anderson, by whom

he had five children, all living, namely: Mary, John, Isaac, Henry and Maggie, and all, with the exception of John who resides in Knox county, living in Henry county. After the death of the mother, Mr. Johnston was again married, in March, 1877, his second union being with Miss Margaret Meikle, who was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, in 1845, and came to the new world in 1873, locating in Henry county, Illinois. Her parents both died in the old country, never coming to the United States. To them were born three children: Elizabeth, now the wife of Lloyd Jones, of Galva township, by whom she had one child, Bernice; William, who lives with his brother on the farm; and Janet, at home with her mother.

The Republican party always found in Mr. Johnston a staunch supporter of its principles, but he would never accept or hold public office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He always enjoyed good health up to within a few months of his death and continued to actively engage in the work of the farm until the last. For a number of years he was connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was an earnest and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. No man in his community was more respected or more fully enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens, and none ever better deserved such respect and confidence, for his was an honorable and upright life, consistent with his professions in every respect.

#### ORIN H. LOOMIS.

For many years this gentleman was one of the leading business men of Kewanee, but in January, 1900, he sold out, and is

now practically living a retired life in that city, where he is so well and favorably known. He was born in Coventry, Connecticut, June 17, 1822, and is one of a family of eight children, three sons and five daughters, whose parents were Selah and Esther (Howard) Loomis, natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. In 1833 the family removed to Michigan, and after seventeen years spent in that state came to Wethersfield township, Henry county, Illinois. The father died in Kewanee in 1871, at the age of eighty-six years, and the mother passed away in 1876, at the age of eighty-four.

Orin H. Loomis began his education in the schools of his native state, and completed his literary training at the White Pigeon branch of the Michigan University. For one year he was professor of mathematics at that institution, and for the succeeding five years taught in the district schools of Michigan. In 1847 he had charge of a school at Freeport, Illinois, where was educated Charles Giteau and sister. Even at school they were notably bad, so much so that the teacher sent them home with their books, and with the understanding that they were not to return until better behavior on their part could be assured. Several days later the father returned the children to school and vouched for their good behavior. They were accordingly given another trial and there was a marked improvement in their deportment. Their father stood high in the community, but the children were taught disobedience to his rule by their mother. This fact undoubtedly led to the terrible event which occurred at the Pennsylvania Railroad depot at Washington, D. C., July 2, 1881, when the son took the life of one of the nation's

able and worthy statesmen—James A. Garfield—and caused sorrow throughout the civilized world. For this act Charles Giteau was hanged at Washington, June 30, 1882.

In 1849 Mr. Loomis came to Henry county and was engaged in farming with his father in Wethersfield township for a time. On the 1st of September, 1854, he embarked in the grain business in Kewanee, and shipped the second carload of grain that ever left this station. In 1855 he and his associates built the first steam elevator erected in Kewanee, and he continued to deal in grain until 1862, when he became interested in the agricultural implement business, which he carried on until 1870. For the following three years he engaged in farming, and on his return to Kewanee at the end of that time resumed business at his old stand, where he remained until he retired from active life in January, 1900.

At Edwardsburg, Michigan, Mr. Loomis was married, in 1846, to Miss Rosetta Rogers, who died there in the spring of 1849. On the 27th of August, 1850, at East Hamburg, New York, Mr. Loomis was united in marriage with Miss Cornelia A. Starkweather. By this union were born eight children, namely: (1) Frances, who passed away in 1857, when only six years and a half old. (2) Niles Howard, a resident of Nora, Oklahoma, married Carrie Minnick, and they have nine children: Orin Howard, who first married Louise Feurst, who is deceased; Bertha, wife of Fred Steele, by whom she has one son, George, deceased; William H.; Guy; Fred; Eugene; George; Clark; Alma; and Carrie, who died in childhood. (3) Henry L., a resident of Bloomington, Illinois, married Jennie Regan, and they have seven children: Catharine, wife of John Borst, by whom she has

two children; Mark; Raymond; William; Henry; and Louise. (4) Lucy C. is the wife of Willis E. Terry, of Galesburg, and they have five children: Grace L.; Julia T.; Willis; Lucy; and Ruth. (5) Rosetta M. is the wife of Edward A. Hubbard, of Chicago, and they have one child, Loren. (6) Grace E. is the wife of J. J. Pratt, an importer of goods at Buenos Ayres, South America, and they have one child, Norman. (7) Emma F., now a resident of Galesburg, is the widow of Rev. Charles Leeper, a Congregational minister, who died at Petosky, Michigan. (8) Hattie M. is the wife of Dr. C. W. Hall, of Kewanee. The mother of these children, who was an earnest and consistent member of the Congregational Church, died January 18, 1890.

In his political views Mr. Loomis is an ardent Republican, and was one of the twelve that organized the party in Henry county in 1854. Of that number only our subject now survives, Henry G. Little, aged eighty-eight years, died in Grinnell, Iowa, in November, 1900. Mr. Loomis served as justice of the peace for some time during the '60s, and was a school trustee for years. He has been an important factor in educational affairs, and was one of the projectors of the Wethersfield Academy, with the establishment of which he was prominently identified, and which was finally converted into a common school. Both education and religion have had Mr. Loomis' best endeavors through life. He is a prominent member of the Congregational Church, and since coming to Henry county has served as superintendent of the Wethersfield Sunday-school eleven years, and the Kewanee Sunday-school thirty-seven years—a record which probably has no parallel in the state. For sixteen years he had a

Sunday-school in the country and attended every Sunday. His life has been an honorable and useful one, and he justly merits the high regard in which he is uniformly held by his fellow citizens, who appreciate his sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

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### ELBERT P. KEMERLING.

This progressive and enterprising agriculturist, whose home is on section 35, Burns township, has spent his entire life upon his present farm, for there he was born February 1, 1851, and is a representative of one of the prominent pioneer families of Henry county. His father, Jacob Kemerling, was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, May 18, 1807, and received his education in the common schools of that locality. He chose farming as a life work. On the 23d of March, 1837, he became a resident of Henry county, Illinois, where, in connection with his brothers he entered a large amount of land. He was one of a family of seven children, the others being John, Joseph, Henry, George, Katherine and Anna. His share of the property was one hundred and sixty acres in Kewanee township, a similar amount in Galva township, and three hundred and twenty acres in Burns township. On the last mentioned tract he erected a log house 20x16 feet, in which he and his family lived while he broke the virgin soil and made other improvements upon the place. The lumber for his first frame house had to be hauled from Rock Island, and in those early days he marketed his grain in Chicago and Peoria. Wild game of all kinds was found in abundance, wolves often came prowling

about the house at night, and on one occasion the father of our subject was attacked by a catamount, which he shot at but failed to kill. It was captured, however, the following morning by others. On the 10th of February, 1831, Jacob Kemerling married Sarah Albright, who died September 20, 1863. By that union he had nine children, of whom our subject is the youngest. The others that are still living are Henry H., who married Anna Miller, of Burns township, and is now engaged in farming at Rockport, Missouri; Sophrona, wife of George Carbaugh, of Crawford county, Iowa; Prudence H., wife of W. J. Ancomb, a farmer of Burns township; and Charlotte, wife of G. W. Caldwell, of Iowa. Levi, the oldest, died in Arkansas in 1894. In 1868 the father was again married, his second union being with Elizabeth Ewing. He filled the offices of assessor and school director, serving in the former position for the long period of twenty years. He died in 1881.

The subject of this sketch was born in a primitive log cabin, then so common on the frontier, and was reared amid pioneer scenes, while his early education was obtained in an improvised school room in the cellar of his present home. He early became familiar with the labors of the farm, and since reaching manhood has devoted his time and attention to the cultivation of the old homestead, owning a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres, on which he has made many improvements.

On the 3d of October, 1878, near Harlansburg, Pennsylvania, Mr. Kemerling was united in marriage with Miss Elvira Dean, a native of that county, and a daughter of William E. and Eliza (Hanna) Dean, who were born in Pennsylvania. She is the



oldest of their four children, the others being Judson, who married Hattie Hettenbaugh and lives in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania; Mary, wife of Misner Kemerling, a farmer and carpenter of the same county; and Edward, who married Florence Studebaker, of Butler county, and follows farming in Lawrence county, Pennsylvania. Mr. and Mrs. Kemerling have two children: William J., born September 15, 1880, attended Brown's Business College at Galesburg, from which he received a diploma for bookkeeping in 1899, and is now at home; and Mones Albert, born October 8, 1888, still attending school.

Politically Mr. Kemerling has been a lifelong Democrat, and has taken an active and prominent part in local affairs, having served as tax collector one term, road commissioner three years and school director about twenty years. He is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 128, and the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 84, both of Kewanee; while his wife holds membership in the Baptist Church. Both are widely known and have a host of warm friends in the community where they reside. He now lives retired on the farm.

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#### OLOF L. PETERSON.

While "the race is not always to the swift nor the battle to the strong," the invariable law of destiny accords to tireless energy and ability a successful career. The truth of this assertion is abundantly verified in the life of Mr. Peterson, a leading furniture dealer of Galva, Illinois.

He was born on the 30th of August, 1840, in Sweden, where his parents, Per Persson and Christine Olson, spent their en-

tire lives as farming people. Twelve children were born to them, and five of the number are still living, namely: Per, still a resident of Sweden; Olof L., our subject; Jacob, of Sweden; John, a railroad employe of Galva; and Eric, who is employed on a ranch in Colorado.

Reared in the land of his birth, O. L. Peterson is indebted to its common schools for his educational advantages. He remained on the home farm until eighteen years of age, when he commenced learning the trade of a cabinet and furniture maker, receiving no wages during two years of his apprenticeship. At the end of that time he had become a skilled workman. Before leaving Sweden he was married, in 1865 to Miss Brita Hansen, who was born in the same neighborhood as her husband, February 18, 1840, and is the only member of her family now living. Her parents both died in Galva, Illinois.

In 1865, soon after his marriage, Mr. Peterson brought his bride to the United States, it requiring fourteen days to make the voyage from Liverpool to New York, and another week to reach Chicago. Coming at once to Galva, he secured work with a Mr. Bates, a furniture dealer of this place, with whom he remained only a short time, and for two years was in the employ of a Mr. Curtis, who kept one man constantly busy manufacturing furniture, nearly all of which was made by hand at that time, with the exception of beds and chairs.

When he landed in Galva Mr. Peterson had only twenty dollars, but being economical and industrious he was soon able to purchase a home. After working for others for a few years, he also bought an interest in a furniture store, in partnership with Mr. Headstrom, and together they carried on



O. L. PETERSON.



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business for a year. In 1870 P. Herdien purchased Mr. Headstrom's interest, and the firm of Peterson & Herdien conducted the business for eighteen years with marked success. They started on a small scale, but kept adding to their stock until they carried a complete line of furniture, much of which was manufactured by them, also conducting branch stores at Cambridge and Kearney, Nebraska. In 1887 Peterson & Herdien dissolved partnership after their store was destroyed by fire, at a loss of about two thousand dollars. Mr. Peterson at once rebuilt, erecting his present building, and put in a new and better stock of goods. Besides furniture he carries carpets, window shades and bicycles, his stock being valued at seven thousand dollars, and he occupies both floors of his building. He does some repair work, and also does undertaking and embalming in partnership with Andrew Becklean.

In connection with his home and business property in Galva, Mr. Peterson owns a farm of sixty acres adjoining the town. He was one of the early stockholders of the First National Bank, incorporated Farmers' and Merchants' Bank, but in 1887 sold the stock and invested in the Galva State Bank, of which he is now a stockholder. He was one of the incorporators and is a stockholder of the Wistrand Manufacturing Company, which he assisted in organizing; is also a stockholder of the Hayes Pump & Planter Company, the Galva Gas & Coke Company, the Galva Telephone Company and the Farmers' Elevator Company. From 1877 to 1891 he held shares in the Herdien Coal Company, whose mine was operated quite profitably. From 1891 to 1896 he held the largest share in the Grav Eagle Coal Company, of Galva.

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson are the parents of five children, namely: A. Olivia, who is a graduate of the public schools of Galva and the Northwestern University of Evanston, and is now teaching in the schools of Galva; Alfred L. received a business education in Galesburg, married Althea Anderson and is a head bookkeeper for the Hayes Pump & Planter Company; Oscar Manual, who took a business course in Chicago, and is with his father in the store; Emma Z., at home; and Victor V., who was in the employ of Swift & Company for a year, and is now bookkeeper for a hardware company of Chicago.

Politically Mr. Peterson is identified with the Republican party, and fraternally affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, No. 408, and the Modern Woodmen of America, No. 241. He is a prominent and influential member of the Swedish Methodist Church of Galva, which he assisted in building, and with which he has always been officially connected, having served as trustee for twenty-six years. He is a very liberal supporter of the church and for a time the whole burden rested upon him, the congregation being weak. Without the aid of influence or wealth he has risen to a position of prominence in his community and his native genius and acquired ability are stepping-stones on which he has mounted.

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#### NELS RUNQUIST.

When after years of long and earnest labor in some honorable field of business a man puts aside all cares to spend his remaining years in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil, it is certainly a

well deserved reward of his former industry. Mr. Runquist is now living retired at his pleasant home in Galva, Illinois, and his history is one that shows the accomplishment of well-directed labor.

A native of Sweden, he was born in Helsingland, August 31, 1837, and in 1846 came to America with his parents, John and Christine Runquist, who formed a part of the colony that settled at Bishop Hill, this county, during that year. There the mother died in 1856, and the father passed away in 1865. He was a shoemaker by trade and followed that occupation, both in Sweden and in Illinois. Of their five children two are also deceased, the living being Mrs. Christine Ottestrum, Mrs. Hannah Lindgren and Nels, all residents of Galva.

Nels Runquist began his education in the schools of his native land, and continued his studies for a time after the family located at Bishop Hill. During his youth he learned the harness maker's trade, which he followed until 1863, and then embarked in the grocery business at Galva as a member of the firm of Johnson, Erickson & Company. This partnership was dissolved two years later, and Mr. Runquist carried on the business alone until 1883. He began work with a small stock, which he gradually increased to meet the growing demands of his trade as the population of the town increased, and was soon at the head of a large and profitable business. In 1883 he sold out, but started in the same business again on the 1st of January, 1890, with a stock of goods valued at three thousand dollars, which was destroyed by fire the following March. He at once rebuilt, erecting a good brick building, which has been divided into two large store rooms, and from the rent of these he receives a good income. In 1892

Mr. Runquist purchased the Galva House, which is a fire-proof, brick structure, and besides this property he owns his residence and two other houses and lots in Galva. He has a nice home, supplied with all modern conveniences and conveniently located within two blocks of the business portion of the town.

In 1865 Mr. Runquist was united in marriage with Miss Martha Nelson, who was born in Sweden, June 24, 1840, and as a member of the Bishop Hill colony started for America in 1846 with her parents, who died on the journey, together with her two brothers. She was thus left alone in the world at the tender age of six years, and grew to womanhood in the colony. The voyage across the Atlantic was made in a sailing vessel and consumed seven weeks. From New York the colony made their way by the canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago, and then walked to Bishop Hill. Both Mr. and Mrs. Runquist were quite young at this time. They found the country very wild and entirely unimproved. It was mostly prairie land with very little timber, but settlements were always made in the forests. Wolves, deer and feathered game abounded. Four children were born to our subject and his wife, of whom one died in infancy, and Lillie died in 1896, at the age of fourteen years. Olive, born in 1876, is now the wife of Professor B. J. Dean, of Mendota College, and they have one son, Harold F. Fred E., born in 1879, lives at home, and is now pursuing a collegiate course at Mendota, Illinois, where he graduated after taking a business course.

Mr. Runquist gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party, and has taken an active part in the work of his party. He has twice efficiently

served as a member of the town board and has capably filled the office of township assessor since 1894, having been constantly re-elected to that position. He and his wife are faithful members of the Second Adventist Church, of Mendota, and merit and receive the respect and esteem of all who know them.

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### JOHN H. SCHROEDER.

The subject of this sketch, who is now successfully engaged in carrying on a farm of one hundred and fifteen acres on section 23, Edford township, is one of the native sons of Henry county, his birth having occurred February 11, 1868, on the old homestead in section 15, Edford township, where his father, G. H. Schroeder, now resides. The latter was born in Oldenburg, Germany, October 19, 1834, a son of John and Catherine (Wicker) Schroeder, also natives of that part of Germany. According to the laws of his native land he attended school there from the age of six to fourteen years. He was about seventeen years of age when he determined to try his fortune in America and took passage on a sailing vessel, which, after a voyage of forty-two days, landed him safely in New Orleans, on the 1st of June, 1852. Coming up the Mississippi river, he first located in Rock Island county, Illinois, and began life in Hampton township with a capital of twelve dollars and fifty cents. During the first summer he received only seven dollars per month for his labor. The succeeding winter he attended school while doing chores for his board, and continued to work as a farm hand until 1859, when he purchased a tract of land in that township, residing

thereon for four years. In 1863 he came to Edford township, Henry county, where he operated rented land one year, and then purchased eighty acres on section 15, where he has since made his home. He has prospered in his new home, and is to-day the owner of a valuable and well improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, where he resides, besides a farm of one hundred and fifteen acres on section 23, Edford township, and one hundred and sixty acres in Osco township. In 1859 he married Miss Wilhelmina Weigand, a native of Prussia, Germany, and they have become the parents of seven children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Henrietta P., October 13, 1863; Martha F., February 25, 1866; John H., February 11, 1868; Charles F., June 21, 1870; Minnie L., October 5, 1874; Louie A., April 25, 1876; and Elmer A., February 12, 1881.

The early education of John H. Schroeder was obtained in the district schools near his boyhood home, and for two years he pursued his studies at the Northwestern Normal School of Geneseo. His knowledge of farm work was obtained under the able direction of his father, and he remained under the parental roof, assisting in the cultivation of the fields, until twenty-six years of age, when he removed to the farm which he now occupies. In its operation he is now meeting with good success, being a thorough and systematic farmer and a man of good business ability. In connection with general farming he is quite extensively engaged in the raising of cattle, his specialty being Aberdeen Angus.

On the 30th of January, 1895, at Morristown, Osco township, Mr. Schroeder married Miss Nora E. Weidlein, a daughter of Andrew and Sarah (Conrad) Weid-

lein. She was born in Osco township, and was educated in the public schools of Geneseo, where her parents moved for the purpose of giving their children the advantages of the city schools. Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder have one child, Lucile Kathleen, born on the home farm June 1, 1898. Our subject is now efficiently serving as town clerk of Edford township, having been elected to that office in the spring of 1900 on the People's ticket. He is a member of the Congregational Church of Geneseo, and is a man highly respected and esteemed by all who know him.

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#### M. B. BLISH.

M. B. Blish, a prominent citizen of Kewanee, now retired from active business cares, belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of Henry county, where he was born December 5, 1848, his parents being Charles C. and Elizabeth P. (Bonar) Blish, natives of Connecticut and Ohio, respectively. The father was quite young when he came with his parents to Illinois in 1837, and in this state was married. For a short time he resided in Knox county, but the greater part of his life was passed in Henry county, and he owned a part of the tract secured by the Wethersfield colony. Of this our subject now has two hundred and eighty acres, which has been placed under cultivation and is well improved, it being the old homestead of the Blish family. For many years the father followed agricultural pursuits and served as president of the First National Bank of Kewanee for seventeen years, being a stockholder of the same until his death. In his political views he was a Democrat, and he

was a man of influence in his community. He died in December, 1890, at the age of seventy years, and his wife passed away in May, 1900, at the age of seventy-nine. Both were earnest members of the Congregational Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them. Their family numbered six children, namely: James K., now president of the First National Bank, of Kewanee; William and Sylvester, who both died in infancy; M. B., our subject; and Carrie and Kittie, who also died in infancy.

During his boyhood and youth M. B. Blish attended the public schools of Kewanee, and for one year was a student at the University of Michigan. When his school days were over he took up farm work and followed that occupation throughout his active business life, but for the past six years has lived retired in Kewanee.

In December, 1868, Mr. Blish married Miss Martha F. Morrill, a native of Virginia and a daughter of D. W. and E. A. Morrill, who came to this state from the Old Dominion about 1854 and settled in Wethersfield township, Henry county. Her father was engaged in mercantile business in Wethersfield for some time, and for several years served as postmaster at Adrian, Missouri. He died in the faith of the Christian Church in 1887, at about the age of sixty years. Mrs. Morrill, who now makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Blish, was born in Washington county, Ohio, July 9, 1830, a daughter of Abijah and Lucinda (Holloway) Wedge. Her maternal grandfather was a native of Germany and was residing in a seaport town in that country when the American Revolution broke out. He and his brother were taken from their beds and forced to enlist in General Burgoyne's army, but on reaching America they deserted and

joined the Colonial army under General Washington. Two brothers of Mrs. Morrill's paternal grandfather also served in the same army. Her father, Abijah Wedge, a native of Litchfield, Connecticut, served with distinction as a colonel in the war of 1812. His wife later received a pension. For many years he followed farming, but late engaged in preaching as an itinerant minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died in 1872, when over eighty years of age, and his wife, who was a faithful member of the same church for many years, departed this life in 1883, at the extreme old age of ninety-eight. Of their ten children five died in early life. The others were Homer L., Chester O. and Lucy L., all now deceased; Orange P.; and Mrs. Morrill.

Mrs. Blish is the oldest in a family of four children, and is followed by Henry W., a resident of Hilliard, Washington; Ida A., wife of S. W. Dustin, of St. Joseph, Missouri; and Fred D., who died in the fall of 1899, at the age of thirty-eight years. The children born to our subject and his wife are Katie E., wife of C. D. Handley, of Kewanee, by whom she has two children, Lillian B. and Charles M.; Charles B., of Kewanee, who married Sarah A. Jones and has one child, Florence E.; and Dwight M., at home.

Politically Mr. Blish is an ardent Republican, and socially is an honored member of Kewanee Lodge, No. 159, F. & A. M.; Kewanee Chapter, No. 47, R. A. M., in which he has served as high priest; the Council, No. 81, R. & S. M.; and Temple Commandery, No. 20, K. T. He has served as a delegate to the grand lodge of the state, and both he and his wife are connected with the Eastern Star Chapter. They

receive and merit the high regard of the entire community and are deserving of prominent mention among the honored pioneers and representative citizens of the county.

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#### CHARLES E. LITTLE.

Among the leading citizens and representative farmers of Geneseo township is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, his home being on section 29. He is a native of Henry county, his birth having occurred in the city of Geneseo, November 14, 1858, and is a son of Daniel and Mary (Jones) Little. On the paternal side he is of the ninth generation in direct descent from George Little, the progenitor of the family in America, who came to America from England in 1640 and settled in Newbury, Massachusetts. He married Alice Poor, who sailed for New England from Southampton, England, on the Bevis in May, 1638. Our subject's grandfather, James Little, a farmer by occupation, was born June 21, 1791, and died at Bailey's Point, Illinois, in 1840. In 1816 he married Polly Cook, who died January 17, 1841.

Daniel Little, the father of our subject, was born in Campton, New Hampshire, March 25, 1818, and resided in his native place until nineteen years of age, when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Seneca county, New York, where they engaged in farming until their emigration to Illinois in 1839. They settled in La Salle county, where the grandparents of our subject both died. In 1855 the father came to Henry county and took up his residence in Geneseo. Having the year previous pur-



chased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Geneseo township, he turned his attention to its cultivation, and made the first improvements upon the place. He broke the entire tract and throughout his active business life successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. In 1864 he located upon his farm, making it his home until his death, which occurred May 25, 1883. He was public spirited and an advocate of all that tended to improve or advance the interests of the community in which he lived, but he never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. He was chosen deacon of the Congregational Church the year he came to Geneseo, and held that office until his death, always taking an active and prominent part in all church work. His widow continued to reside on the old homestead with her son Charles, until she, too, was called to her final rest, in 1890.

In the family of this worthy couple were six children, of whom Charles E. is the youngest, the others being as follows: (1) Amanda, born in La Salle county, Illinois, September 27, 1842, died July 4, 1884, unmarried, and was laid to rest with her father and mother in Oakwood cemetery. (2) James A., born in the same county, January 14, 1844, is now living a retired life in Northfield, Minnesota. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded in the battle of Yuta Creek, after serving for about two years, and has never recovered from the effects of his injuries. He married Laura A. Fitch, and they have three children, James E., Jessie A. and Amanda L. (3) Eliza R., born in La Salle county, March 17, 1846, is cottage matron in the

State Orphans Home at Davenport, Iowa, with which she has been connected for the past eighteen years. (4) Susan L., born in La Salle county, February 1, 1849, was married, December 20, 1869, to Rollin J. Wells, now a lawyer of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and they have five children, Robert L., Bertha S., Helen A., Ruth and Mary. (5) Edwin L., born in La Salle county, in September, 1852, died July 6, 1854.

Charles E. Little, of this review, was educated in the public schools of Geneseo, and with his parents removed to the farm in Geneseo township, in 1864. Forty acres of the farm has since been sold, but he still owns one hundred and twenty acres of the original tract, and is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. For a number of years he has held the office of school director and is still filling that position in a most creditable manner. He is an active member of the Congregational Church, which his family also attend, and is one of the highly esteemed citizens of his community.

On the 14th of March, 1886, Mr. Little was united in marriage with Miss Charlotte E. Huntington, of Sharon, Whiteside county, Illinois, and they have become the parents of five children, whose names and dates of birth are as follows: Mary E., November 3, 1888; Esther H., December 15, 1891; George E., September 17, 1893; Clarence R., August 28, 1895; and Ruth E., August 23, 1899.

Mrs. Little is one of a family of seven children, all of whom are still living, her parents being John and Harriet (Schmidt) Huntington, natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, respectively, and now residents of Geneseo. The father came to Illinois with his family about 1854 and first settled in Whiteside county. Throughout



his active business life he followed farming, but is now living a retired life.

Nathan B. Huntington, the paternal grandfather of Mrs. Little, was born in Ashford, Connecticut, February 22, 1810, and was a son of Dr. Andrew Huntington, a practicing physician of that place. The family were among the early Puritans of New England. The first to come to America was William Huntington, who settled in Salisbury, Massachusetts, in 1640. Coming to Illinois in 1838, Nathan B. Huntington located in Tazewell county, where he engaged in farming until his removal to Henry county in 1854. He became the owner of a large amount of real estate in Geneseo and the surrounding country, and platter of what is known as the Huntington addition to that city. In 1857 he went to Elbridge, New York, where he engaged in the manufacture of furniture and also owned and operated a sawmill. On his return to Illinois in 1862 he took up his residence in Galesburg, and spent the following ten years in farming in Knox county, after which he was engaged in the real estate business in Geneseo, where he died August 10, 1885. He was one of the leading and influential members of the Congregational Church of that place, and served as deacon for many years. On the 16th of May, 1833, he married Matilda Whiton, who died October 1, 1840, leaving three children: John, the father of Mrs. Little; Maria, wife of Cornelius H. Van Vechten, of Elbridge, New York; and Andrew, living at Rantoul, Illinois. He was again married, December 9, 1841, his second union being with Rebecca Willard, whose death occurred May 3, 1849, and there were two children by this marriage: Matilda, who married Mitchel E. Overstreet, and lives at Wood-

hull, Illinois; and Elisha, who married Agnes M. Getty and lives at Rock Rapids, Iowa. On the 6th of October, 1849, he married Jane Charevoy, who was born January 2, 1805, and died in April, 1870. Two years later he wedded Mrs. Dr. R. J. Stough, a native of Harwich, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Josiah and Deborah Snalley.

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### JOHN THOMAS FINCH.

On the 19th of July, 1898, there passed away at his home in Burns township John T. Finch, who for forty-six years had been one of the leading citizens of that locality, and whose name was inseparably connected with its agricultural interests. A native of Indian Hill, near Cincinnati, Ohio, he was born near Cincinnati, July 23, 1828, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (Ferris) Finch, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. He was one of a family of eleven children, all of whom are now deceased, the others being Catherine, who died unmarried in Harveysburg, Ohio; Joseph, who married Christina Kiger, of Ohio, and followed farming near Harveysburg; Adelia, who married a Mr. Black, a lumberman, and died at Dubuque, Iowa; Priscilla, who first married Asa Schoonover, a school teacher, and, second, J. J. Hollister, a farmer and politician of Dunham, Ohio; Eliza, wife of Rev. Isaac Morrison, a Methodist Episcopal minister, who died near Cincinnati, Ohio; Ann, wife of Samuel Snalley, a farmer near Milford, Ohio; Mary, wife of a Mr. Stupes, of Ohio; Hannah, wife of S. Leggett, a farmer of Ohio; Louisa, wife of J. Scott, a farmer of the same state; and Mrs. Sarah Neadry.

Reared on the home farm in Ohio, John T. Finch was educated in the schools of Indian Hill, Asa Schoonover being his first teacher, and on laying aside his text books he aided his father in the operation of the farm until he attained his majority. On the 1st of January, 1852, he was united in marriage with Miss Emeline Schoonover, of Marietta, Ohio. Her parents, Henry and Eunice (Hopkins) Schoonover, were natives of Washington county, Ohio, while her paternal grandparents, Nicholas and Sarah (Blue) Schoonover, were natives of Connecticut and pioneers of the Buckeye state. The grandfather was of Holland descent, a farmer by occupation and a soldier of the war of 1812. Mrs. Finch's great-great-uncle, Stephen Hopkins, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Her father was killed by being thrown from a horse at the age of thirty-seven years, but her mother lived to the ripe old age of eighty-two. She was the oldest of their six children, the others being Ros-siter F., Adolphus, Mary, Caroline and Asa. To our subject and his wife were born three children, namely: Hattie, born October 1, 1852, married Henry F. King, a farmer, who died at Omaha, Nebraska, and she died at the age of twenty-three years, February 6, 1876, leaving two sons, Walter and Ralph; Henry C., born October 16, 1859, married Armina Metler and followed farming in this county; they have three children, Ernest T., Bessie I. and Winona Belle; and Adolphus, born February 2, 1862, married Marian Ensmainger, and is now engaged in business at Pueblo, Colorado. He owns land near Goff's, Kansas, and has three children, Vernon, Eva and Glenn.

In March, 1852, shortly after his marriage, Mr. Finch came to Henry county,

Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of wild prairie land on section 34, Burns township. No railroad had yet been built through the country, and the town of Kewanee was not started. To his original purchase Mr. Finch added a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, and having prospered during his residence here he owned at the time of his death three hundred and twenty acres of land in Henry county (having also sold two hundred forty acres) and eighty acres in Colorado, and at one time one of the largest land owners here. He was a man of sterling integrity noted for his fairness in all business transactions, and he commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. He cast his first presidential vote for General Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate, and became a staunch Republican on the organization of that party. He served as school director, and in 1896 was appointed by Governor Altgeld as associate delegate to the Farmers National Congress held at Indianapolis, and at St. Paul, by Governor Tanner, in 1897. He was one of the most prominent men of his community, and was an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the country, of which his estimable wife was also a member. Of late years they have held membership with the Congregational Church of Kewanee.

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#### AARON RAPP.

The subject of this biography, one of Illinois' native sons and a distinguished resident of Geneseo, is to-day one of the most prosperous men of the community in which he lives. Genuine success is not likely to be the result of mere chance or fortune, but

is something to be labored for and sought out with consecutive effort. Mr. Rapp has a wide reputation as a capable financier, and his life demonstrates what can be accomplished through industry, perseverance and good management.

Among the honored pioneers of this section of the state was Philip Rapp, the father of our subject. He was born in Alsace, Germany, in 1811, a son of John Rapp, and was the third in order of birth in a family of six children, the others being John, who married Catherine Howard and lived for some years in Loraine township, this county, and died in Geneseo; Jacob, who married Elizabeth Schuler and also died in Geneseo, after living some time in Loraine township; George, who was drowned in Rock river, at the age of twenty-two years; Christ, who married Margaret Esther and died in Loraine township; and Catherine, who married Rudolph Urick and also died in that township.

At the age of twenty-two years Philip Rapp came to the United States, crossing the ocean in an old time sailing vessel, which required six weeks to make the voyage. On landing in New York he went direct to Pennsylvania, and engaged in farming in Warren county. That part of the country was then covered with a dense growth of timber, which had to be cut down and burned to make way for the cultivation of the land and the raising of cereals. After two years spent in that state Mr. Rapp came on foot to Chicago, Illinois, and from there went to Portland township, Whiteside county, where he entered a tract of government land in 1835, and began the improvement of a farm. He continued to operate that land until 1878, when, having prospered in his undertakings, he concluded

to retire from active labor, and that year removed to Geneseo, where he lived in ease and quiet throughout the remainder of his life, dying there in January, 1890.

In 1841 Philip Rapp married Miss Christina Ort, who is now a resident of Geneseo. She is a native of Wurtemberg, Germany. She came with her parents to America, the father dying in Aurora, Illinois, aged seventy-two, and the mother in Rock Island, Illinois, at the age of seventy-three years. In her family were seven children, two sons and five daughters, namely: John and Philip, both deceased; Vena, who died in Chicago; Fredericka, who died in Whiteside county; Harriet, widow of Philip Zahn and a resident of Milan, Illinois; Christina, mother of our subject; and Margaretta, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland.

Of the fourteen children born to Philip and Christina (Ort) Rapp, three died in infancy, while the others are Christina, wife of J. J. Weitline, of Geneseo; Harriet, widow of Jacob Wesling, and a resident of Chicago; Aaron, our subject; Abraham L., who married Clara Arnett and lives in Loraine township, this county; William, who married Susan Lauderbaugh and resides in Hastings, Nebraska; Louisa, twin sister of William, residing with her mother in Geneseo; Emily, wife of E. O. Goemble, of Hoopole; John H., who married Clara Libby and lives in Rockford, Illinois; Samuel, who married Malvina Arnold and lives on the old homestead in Whiteside county; Fred E., a resident of Geneseo; and Jennie, wife of Grant Henney, of Fairbury, Nebraska.

Mr. Rapp, whose name introduces this review, was born on the old homestead in Portland township, Whiteside county, Illinois, November 25, 1848, and received his

education in the public schools near his boyhood home. On leaving the parental roof, at the age of twenty years, he started out to make his own way in the world. The indomitable will, energy and pluck characteristic of the father were inherited by the son, and he has made his way to the front rank among the substantial business men of his locality. His success is but the logical result of well-directed efforts. His broad common sense, vigorous, able management of his business affairs, and upright and honorable dealing have been important factors in leading him to wealth. That success is the result of merit can truthfully be said of Mr. Rapp. From time to time he has added to his possessions until he is now the owner of over eleven hundred acres of land in Henry county, besides city property in Geneseo.

On the 17th of May, 1870, Mr. Rapp married Miss Christina Hines, who was born November 10, 1851, and is a daughter of Henry and Susan Hines, the farmer a native of Prussia, Germany, the latter of Pennsylvania. She is the third in order of birth in their family of eight children, the others being John H., who married Amanda Hirshman and makes his home in Kansas; Lucy, wife of George W. Rowe, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume; Mary, wife of Abner Offerle, and Sarah, wife of L. Sieben, both of whom are represented elsewhere in this work; Harriet, wife of John H. Goemle, of Geneseo; Peter H., who married Eva Grimes and is engaged in the insurance business in Geneva, Nebraska; and Frederick H., who married Sarah Bolen and lives on the old homestead in Phenix township, this county.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Rapp have been born the following named children: Alice,

born June 21, 1871, is the wife of John W. Bolen, a farmer of Geneseo township. Flora and Cora, twins, born October 13, 1873, are at home. Stella, born September 4, 1877, died March 26, 1881. Emma, born July 27, 1880, is the wife of William Berge, of Geneseo. Howard Roy is mentioned more fully below. Vesta, born October 4, 1887, is at home.

Howard R. Rapp was born October 24, 1882, and died September 21, 1899, while in the bloom of youth with a most brilliant career before him. Although a mere boy he had already won the admiration and friendship of men of influence and learning, being exceptionally bright. He was a graduate of the Collegiate Institute of Geneseo, was president of his class and treasurer of the Alumni Association. During his school days he was a most faithful student and continually won the honors of his class. He was loved by his teachers and schoolmates alike and filled no ordinary space in the affections of the people of his native city. His personal friendship extended far beyond the confines of Geneseo and was made brighter and stronger by the goodness and greatness of his character. He approached the ladder of fame as a scholar and placed his foot on every round on which he stood as the result of his own labor and merit. If he had opportunity he created it; if he had success he achieved it; if he had victory he won it; and his sudden death was felt not alone by his immediate family but by the entire community in which he lived.

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#### MRS. ELIZABETH MARTIN.

Among the ladies of Burns township none are more widely known or more highly respected than Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, who

has resided here for almost half a century. A native of Ireland, she was born in county Londonderry, August 9, 1827, and is one of a family of five children, all of whom are now living. Her parents, Robert and Catherine (Gibbons) McRell, were also born on the Emerald Isle and came to the new world in 1848, locating first in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Four years later they came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up their residence in Burns township, where they continued to make their home throughout life. They were consistent and faithful members of the Episcopal Church, and were held in high regard by all who had the pleasure of their acquaintance. The father died in 1887, at the age of ninety-three years, and the mother passed away September 4, 1885, at the age of eighty-nine, the remains of both being interred in Cosners cemetery. The family is noted for longevity.

Miss Elizabeth McRell was a young lady when she came to this country with her sister in 1847, one year before her parents came, and in 1850 she was married in Philadelphia to John Martin. After their marriage they lived for about two years in Philadelphia and then moved to Bellefontaine, Ohio, where they remained until the spring of 1855, and then came to Henry county, Illinois. Subsequently they spent a short time in Iowa, but on disposing of their property there they returned to this county and Mr. Martin purchased forty acres of land in Burns township, to which he added from time to time until he had accumulated four hundred acres, but having given a farm to his son, he had but two hundred and eighty acres at the time of his death. His farm he placed under a high state of cultivation and in connection with its operation he also

engaged in raising and feeding stock for market, and was quite an extensive shipper. He served as county commissioner and school director and also filled other local offices of honor and trust. He was one of the leading and prominent citizens of his community. After a useful and well-spent life he passed away October 28, 1899, and was laid to rest in Cosners cemetery. He held membership in the Presbyterian Church, to which Mrs. Martin also belongs.

Unto this worthy couple were born six children, as follows: Hugh A., who is represented on another page of this volume; Robert, a resident of Kewanee; John G., deceased; William James, a resident of Chicago; Sarah Jane, now Mrs. J. W. Barber, who has charge of Mrs. Martin's farm, having rented it for the past eleven years; and one who died in infancy. The members of this family are quite prominent in the communities where they reside.

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#### ARTHUR C. BUTLER.

Among the prominent educators of western Illinois is numbered Professor A. C. Butler, who is now serving as superintendent of the public schools of Kewanee. He is a native of this state, his birth having occurred in Morgan county, in 1848. His father, James L. Butler, was born in Virginia, in 1815, and about 1840 came to Illinois, locating near Jacksonville, Morgan county, where he was married, in 1844, to Miss Oletha Sargent, who was born in Brown county, Ohio, in February, 1825, and was brought to this state in 1828, by her parents, William L. and Malinda Sargent. Her father took a very prominent part in local

politics, and, being very outspoken in his support of abolition principles, he got into serious trouble several times. He was a personal friend of Owen Lovejoy and strongly denounced his murderers. His home was the stopping place for the itinerate ministers, for he was a devout Christian, and in early days with his wife and children in an ox cart would go to the two-days' meetings in their locality. Later the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal church was built upon his farm in Morgan county, and his home became a station on the "underground railroad."

James L. Butler, the professor's father, engaged in farming in Morgan county until 1862, when he removed to Macon county, Illinois, and eight years later went to Neosho county, Kansas, where he improved a farm and continued to make his home until his death, which occurred in 1891, when he was seventy-six years of age. He was also actively identified with religious work, and was an officer in the Methodist Episcopal Church for more than a generation. He was a radical temperance man, and often talked on that and other subjects along moral lines. He also took a deep interest in educational affairs, was a prominent factor in all school work, and was a member of the school board for years. He was instrumental in building the first brick school house in his locality, and took great interest in building and sustaining the church at South Mound, Kansas. He was a lover of nature, especially the forest, and planted more than one thousand trees upon his farm. Upon that place his son and daughter still reside. His wife passed away May 29, 1900. At the age of eight years she united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and throughout life was a consistent and faithful Christian.

To this worthy couple were born twelve children, two of whom died in infancy, the others being as follows: Charles Wesley, enlisted in 1862 in Battery B, Second Illinois Light Artillery, and was with Sherman on the march to the sea. He was captured at Goldsboro, North Carolina, and as a prisoner of war was confined at Danville, Virginia, for a short time, and was then transferred to Libby prison, remaining there until Grant captured Richmond. While waiting to be mustered out at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, he died in June, 1865, at the age of twenty-three years. Arthur C., our subject, is the next in order of birth. William K. is a resident of Kansas City. John T. makes his home in Tuscola, Illinois. Fletcher A. is a practicing physician of Harvard, Nebraska. Thomas P. is a physician of San Diego, California. Milton S. and Melinda reside on the old homestead in Kansas. Julia Belle is the wife of George Duree, of Edna, Kansas. Harriet M. is the wife of John Hinson, a farmer of Oxford, Arkansas.

Professor Butler was reared on the home farm in Morgan county, Illinois, until fourteen years of age, when he accompanied the family on their removal to Macon county. His early education was acquired in the district schools, and he later attended the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, where he was graduated in 1878. Prior to his graduation he taught school for two terms, and then took charge of the public schools at Normal, where he remained two years. For the same length of time he was principal of the public schools of Virginia, Cass county, where he had seven assistants. At the end of that time he was chosen superintendent of the schools at Beardstown, the same county, where he remained nine years.



and had from fifteen to twenty-two teachers under him. During that time three school buildings were erected at that place and a great improvement made in educational work. He established a manual training department of the public school—one of the first of its kind in the state—which was very successful during his stay there. In 1891 Professor Butler was elected as principal of the Taylorville (Illinois) township high school, where he remained three years, and in 1894 was chosen superintendent of the schools of Kewanee, which responsible position he has since filled in a most creditable and satisfactory manner. He now has forty-five assistants, and everything is in first class order. Kewanee has five modern school buildings, which in regard to sanitary conditions and conveniences rank among the best in the state.

On the 15th of June, 1871, Professor Butler was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Eaton, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of William K. and Elizabeth Eaton, who were natives of Sullivan county, Indiana. By this union were born three children: Wilbur F. Gazelle J. is very proficient in music and is now pursuing her studies along that line at Knox College, Galesburg; she has successfully taught both vocal and instrumental music, and her services as a musician are in great demand in both church and social circles. Ruby Alberta died in 1895, at the age of eight years. She was a sweet little girl of much promise, and possessed remarkable elocutionary talent.

William K. Eaton, Mrs. Butler's father, was one of the active and enterprising farmers of Christian county, and served as supervisor of his township from its organization until his death, which occurred in

1867, when he was about fifty-two years of age. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and did all within his power for the betterment of his fellow men. His wife was a remarkable woman, who after his death kept her family together and carefully reared them. She was also a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died in that faith in June, 1900, at the age of seventy-five years. Their children were Emma R., wife of M. R. Wetzel, a farmer of Christian county; Eliza, wife of our subject; Margaret A., wife of W. A. Clawson, of Assumption, Illinois; William, a farmer living near the same place; Jordan S., who resides on the old homestead, near Stonington, Christian county; and Dora, wife of Bentley Kearns, who lives near Owaneco, Illinois.

Professor Butler is prominent in educational circles, and has served as president of the Central Illinois Teachers' Association and vice-president of the State Association. He has achieved a high reputation in institute work, in which he has taken a very active and prominent part since the law was enacted for that purpose. As an educator he ranks deservedly high, and has contributed many able articles to educational journals and other magazines. He is the author of a work entitled "Persimmons," a twelve mo. volume, and has written many bright and interesting stories for boys and girls, which have been published in the School News and have been most highly appreciated. Among these are a vacation story, Christmas story, Thanksgiving story, temperance story and Memorial Day story, the last being an allegory. The Professor has also delivered a number of lectures before institutes and teachers' associations. He is a Master Mason, and both he and his wife



are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Kewanee, of which he is one of the trustees.

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### RICHARD PAYNE.

Among the representative business men of Galva is this well-known manufacturer of brick, who has been a resident of Henry county since 1865, and during the greater part of this time has been prominently identified with its industrial interests. He was born in Oswestry, Shropshire, England, May 12, 1824, his parents being Thomas and Catherine (Richards) Payne, natives of the same place. The father and grandfather were also brick-makers, the latter being engaged in that business in England throughout life. He died at the age of seventy-nine years, and his wife passed away at the extreme old age of one hundred and one years. In his native land the father followed his chosen occupation until 1850, when he brought his family to America and settled at Henry, Marshall county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade until he laid aside all business cares. There his death occurred when he was ninety-six years of age, and his wife, who was a consistent member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, passed away at the age of seventy-nine.

Nine children were born to them, of whom one daughter, Mary, died in England at the age of twelve years, prior to the emigration of the family to America. Thomas, the eldest, was for thirty years engaged in market gardening at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where he died in 1899, when over eighty years of age. John was formerly engaged in the manufacture of brick at Chariton, Iowa,

but is now farming in Kansas. Anna is the wife of George Jarvis of England. Edward, who died in Henry, Illinois in 1894, manufactured nearly all the brick made in that section of the state for many years. Richard, our subject, is next in order of birth. William is a brick manufacturer of Chariton, Lucas county, Iowa. Ann, deceased, was the wife of Henry Rommel, who engaged in farming near Wataga, Illinois. George has for thirty-five years lived a retired life in Geneseo. The children were all educated in the common schools of England.

During his minority Richard Payne remained at home with his parents, and with his father yearned the art of brick making, to which he has devoted his time and attention since ten years of age. At the age of twenty-one he commenced working in a brick yard near home, and after the emigration of the family to the new world, he and his brothers started a yard at Henry, Illinois, which was conducted by one of the brothers until his death in 1894. On withdrawing from the firm our subject and brother William went to Galesburg, where they established a plant and were engaged in the manufacture of brick for ten years, meeting with remarkable success financially. Then selling to his brother he came to Henry county in 1865, purchased land and erected temporary kilns near the "grove," where he was located for two years, but when coal was discovered in the eastern part of Galva, he removed to his present location. He began business here on a small scale, but has enlarged his plant to meet the growing demands of his trade, and has manufactured as high as two million, three hundred thousand brick annually, having three large kilns with a capacity of two hundred thousand

brick each. In former years Peoria was his principal market, and he furnished many thousand bricks for the post office at that place. He also shipped to many other points throughout the surrounding county. He has employed as many as thirty men during the busy season, and now gives employment to about ten. At present he does little outside soliciting, taking only those orders which come to him. In his brick making he uses modern machinery, the daily capacity of which is about thirty five thousand, and he makes it a point to manufacture about twenty thousand brick. The capacity of his drying sheds and racks is about one hundred thousand. Mr. Payne now ships his brick mainly to Kewanee. He owns a whole block of ground in Galva, and has erected thereon his present comfortable residence.

In 1876 Mr. Payne married Miss Amelia Rowe, a native of Cornwall, England, by whom he had two children, namely: Nellie, now the wife of Forest Barlow, a farmer of Knox county, by whom she has three children, Amy, Richard and Howard; and Thomas who lives at home and aids his father in business. The wife and mother died in February, 1882, and in 1884 Mr. Payne was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Elizabeth J. Truscott, also a native of Cornwall, England. All her people reside in England. Her father and mother, however, are both dead. Mrs. Payne came to America at age of twenty-five years, coming direct to Galva, and in the fall of 1871 was married to William Truscott, also a native of Cornwall, England. He followed mining until his death in 1881.

By his ballot Mr. Payne supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, but has never taken an active part in political affairs, though he has capably served as

a member of the town board. Starting out in life for himself empty-handed, he deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life, and his career demonstrates what can be accomplished by industry, diligence and good management.

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#### DAVID B. BARGE.

One of the honored early settlers and highly respected citizens of Henry county is David B. Barge, who is now living a retired life on section 20, Phenix township. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of May, 1827, and is a son of John and Jane (Elliott) Barge, also natives of the same state. By trade the father was a carpenter but devoted many years of his life to the occupation of farming. When our subject was seven years old the family removed to Richland county, Ohio, and after living there for two years took up their residence in Wayne county, that state, where the father engaged in agricultural pursuits until called from this life at the age of seventy-five years. The mother survived him many years and came to Illinois, making her home with our subject, until she died at about the same age. They were the parents of sixteen children, of whom David B. is the fourteenth in order of birth. The others who are still living are Robert a farmer of Nebraska; William, a lawyer of Dixon, Illinois; and Isabella, a resident of Grand Island, Nebraska.

During his boyhood David B. Barge attended the common schools of Ohio, and aided his father in the labors of the farm. On leaving home in 1847, he started for Wisconsin by way of the Great Lakes, but on

account of a fierce storm which was raging the vessel on which he took passage was unable to land its passengers at Milwaukee and proceeded to Chicago, whence Mr. Page went by canal to La Salle, Illinois, and by stage to Princeton, from which place he later walked to Henry county. Here he engaged in threshing until fall, when he went to Grant county, Wisconsin, for the purpose of mining, but being unable to obtain employment along that line, he engaged in chopping cordwood through the winter. On March 4, 1848, he again came to Illinois, going by stage to Galena and on foot to Albany, where he again took a stage for Geneseo, but on account of the muddy roads was forced to walk much of the distance. On arriving here he purchased a land warrant, and in May went to Dixon on foot to enter one hundred and sixty acres of government land on section 28, Phenix township, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until 1894, when he rented his farm and went to live on the place owned by his son, on section 29, Phenix township.

On the 6th of April, 1851, Mr. Barge was united in marriage with Miss Eliza M. Aldrich, a native of Pickaway county, Ohio, and a daughter of Columbus C. and Sophia (Overmeyer) Aldrich. The father was born in Providence county, Rhode Island, and at an early day removed to Pickaway county, Ohio, and afterward to Henry county, Illinois, making his home in Hanna township until his death, which occurred when he was about sixty-seven years of age. Throughout life he followed the occupation of farming. His wife died in the same township at the advanced age of eighty-five years. Of their six children, only two are now living on the old homestead in Hanna

township. Mr. and Mrs. Barge have two children: Alvin W., a prosperous farmer, who owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred and twenty acres on section 29, Phenix township, and has filled the office of road commissioner, married Lulu Spade, a native of Pennsylvania, and they have three children, Clyde, Milly and Glenn, all born in Phenix township. Alice C. is the wife of Thomas Lauderbaugh, also a farmer of Phenix township.

When Mr. Barge recorded the deed for his first piece of land in Henry county there was not a house between Geneseo and Cambridge, and hardly a foot of cultivated land. Deer and prairie wolves were often seen, and wild game was found in abundance. In the work of development and progress he has ever borne his part, and by breaking and improving about six hundred and twenty acres of land he has materially advanced the interests of the county. His career well indicates what can be accomplished by determined effort for he started out in life for himself empty-handed, and his success is due entirely to his own industry, good business ability and excellent management. Having acquired a comfortable competence, he is now able to lay aside all business cares and is living a retired life. Politically Mr. Barge has been a life-long Democrat.

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#### EUGENIO K. HAYES.

In the great competitive struggle of life, when each must enter the field and fight his way to the front, or else be overtaken by disaster of circumstance or place, there is ever particular interest attaching to the life of one who has turned the tide of suc-



E. K. HAYES.

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cess, has surmounted the obstacles and has shown his ability to cope with others in their rush for the coveted goal. Occupying a prominent place among the successful business men of Henry county is E. K. Hayes, vice-president and manager of the Hayes Pump & Planter Company, of Galva.

A native of Illinois, he was born in La Fayette, Stark county, on the 21st of May, 1848, a son of Harry and Harriet (Wright) Hayes, both natives of New York, where their marriage was celebrated. He is of English and Scotch descent, but for many generations his ancestors have been residents of this country. His father was born in Saratoga county, New York, in 1806, and about 1829 came to Illinois, being one of the earliest settlers of Stark county. From a wild, unbroken tract of land he developed a fine farm, and continued to follow agricultural pursuits throughout life. He was quite an extensive stock raiser and met with excellent success in his undertakings. He was a staunch Abolitionist and one of the earliest advocates of that doctrine. After a long, busy and useful life, he passed away at the age of eighty-two years, and his wife, who was born in 1807, died April 30, 1875, aged sixty-eight years. Of their four children the oldest was born in New York before the family came to this state. In order of birth they were as follows: Julia A., who married John Peterson and died in Kewanee; Mary E., deceased wife of A. M. Snyder, of Stark county; Margaret, who died at the age of eighteen years; and Eugenio K., the only survivor.

Mr. Hayes, of this review, received his education in the public schools of Stark and Henry counties. He remained upon the home farm, which he later owned, until 1875, when he purchased a farm near

Kewanee, where he remained six years. In 1881 he entered into partnership with H. H. Perkins in the manufacture of the Boss shoveling board. His first invention was a two-row stalk cutter, known as the Hayes two-row cutter, which he sold to the Deere-Mansur Company at a fair price. This he invented while on the home farm, introduced to the trade by wagon, and created a demand for the same. He was first engaged in business at Kewanee, where he soon doubled the manufacturing capacity of his place, and added to it the retail business. At the end of a year he purchased Mr. Perkins' interest, and continued in business alone at Kewanee until 1886, when he removed to Galva. On the 5th of January, 1891, he organized a stock company with a capital of one hundred thousand dollars, which a few years later was increased to two hundred thousand dollars. Mr. Hayes, is one of the largest stockholders of the company, served as its president for some time, and is now vice-president and manager. They now manufacture corn planters, pumps, riding and walking cultivators, harrows, shoveling boards, but make a specialty of cultivators and planters, their capacity being one hundred complete machines per day. The plans for the manufacture of all these machines have been dictated by our subject, with the exception of the riding cultivator, which was invented by his son, Ralph W. Mr. Hayes has patented an automatic reel for winding check row wire; a two cylinder force pump; and the Hayes and Eclipse planters, of which there are between thirty-five and forty thousand now on the market. He has numerous patents on shoveling boards, of which he manufactures from twenty-five to thirty thousand annually, and about four hundred

thousand have been placed upon the market. Mr. Hayes also has two patents on a steel lawn swing manufactured by the company, and has perfected one of the most complete lines of walking and riding cultivators on the market. Under his management the company has steadily prospered and is one of the most important industrial concerns in the county. They now have eight salesmen upon the road, traveling through Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and South Dakota.

On the 10th of January, 1871, in Stark county, Mr. Hayes was united in marriage with Miss Matilda J. Dack, who was born in Henry county, October 8, 1848, a daughter of John and Jane Dack, pioneers of this section. By trade the father was a shoemaker, but for many years he was engaged in farming, and died upon his farm south of Kewanee. The death of his wife occurred in that city. They were of Scotch and Irish descent. Their children who are now living are John, a resident of Nebraska, who owns about one thousand, two hundred acres; Thomas, who is also living in that state, where he owns sixteen hundred and twenty acres of land; Frederick, superintendent of the Hayes Pump & Planter Company; Mrs. Sarah A. Gillan, a resident of Omaha; and Matilda J., wife of our subject.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have five children, namely: Ralph W., a graduate of the mechanical engineering department of Ann Arbor University, is of an inventive turn of mind and is now assistant superintendent in his father's shop. He married Stella Mink and they have one daughter, Lucile. Albert L. attended the University of Champaign one year, and Ann Arbor two years, and is now salesman and general agent for the Hayes Pump & Planter Company, with

headquarters at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Forrest S. is fitting himself for a lawyer at Ann Arbor. Fred D. possesses considerable talent as an artist, and is now a student at the Chicago Art Institute. Percy C. is now employed as time keeper in his father's office. All of the sons, with the exception of Albert L., are graduates of the Galva high school.

Being a strong temperance man Mr. Hayes supports the Prohibition party, and has taken an active part in its work. He has been a delegate to its conventions and has been candidate for state treasurer on the party ticket. He is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which he has been officially connected, and is now serving as superintendent of the Sunday school. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Starting out in life for himself with no capital his prosperity has been worthily achieved, and he well deserves the enviable position which he now occupies in business circles. Self-reliance, conscientiousness, energy and honesty—these are the traits of character that insure the highest emoluments and greatest success, and to these may be attributed the success that has crowned the efforts of Mr. Hayes.

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HUGH A. MARTIN.

It is quite interesting to observe, in noting the various members of a community, how they have been gathered together from different states and localities and how well they usually combine to form an intelligent and prosperous community. The subject of this sketch, who to-day is a successful



farmer residing on section 13, Burns township, Henry county, Illinois, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the 10th of June, 1851. His father, John Martin, was a native of county Londonderry, Ireland, his birth having occurred near Belfast, March 6, 1818. On leaving the Emerald Isle at the age of twenty-one he came to America and took up his residence in Philadelphia, where he spent several years. Later he lived in Ohio, and in 1854 came to Henry county, Illinois, making his home in Burns township throughout the remainder of his life. His first purchase of land consisted of forty acres which he broke and improved, and to it added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he had accumulated four hundred acres of valuable land, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with the operation of his land he was also extensively engaged in raising, buying and shipping stock, and found that business quite profitable. He was widely and favorably known throughout the county, and in his death, which occurred October 29, 1899, the community realized that it had lost one of its best citizens. His remains were interred in Corner cemetery.

While a resident of Philadelphia, John Martin married Elizabeth McRell, and they became the parents of six children, of whom our subject is the eldest. Robert, now a resident of Kewanee, married Laura Snyder, native of Illinois, who died, leaving three children. John G. married Elizabeth Kemmerling, of this township, and followed farming in Burns township until his death, which occurred about fifteen years ago. Three of his four children are still living. William J. married Anna L. Radford, and is now in the stock commission business at the

stockyards in Chicago. Sarah Jane is the wife of James Barber, a farmer of Burns township, and they have one child living. Elizabeth, the youngest of the family, died in infancy.

Hugh A. Martin was only three years old when brought by his parents to this county, and almost his entire life has been passed in Burns township, though the family lived for a short time in Wethersfield. After completing his education he taught school for one year, but with that exception he has always followed farming during his business career. He also buys and sells considerable stock, and by upright and honorable dealings has gained an enviable reputation in business circles. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Burns township, all under cultivation. In his political affiliations he is a staunch Democrat, and has served as township assessor and collector.

On the 25th of December, 1873, Mr. Martin was united in marriage with Miss Mary O. Alexander, a native of Illinois, and to them have been born three sons, namely: Edwin, born December 9, 1875, married Alice M. Andrews, a native of Iowa, and they have one child, Lloyd; Charles A., born August 30, 1877, and Wallace A., born September 2, 1885, are both at home. The parents are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Samuel Alexander, the father of Mrs. Martin, was one of the pioneers of Henry county, having come here from Dutchess county, New York, at an early day. At that time Kewanee contained only one or two log houses, and this region was all wild and unimproved. Here he conducted a store and also engaged in stock raising and general farming. In 1848 he married Jane

Ann Cline, and to them were born four children: Maria C., born June 5, 1849, is the wife of Milo Bunker, of New Hampshire. Mrs. Martin is next in order of birth. George F., born June 28, 1858, married Alice Bigby, and is engaged in mercantile business in Nebraska. Alice C., born December 20, 1860, is the wife of Stephen West, of Kewanee, Illinois. The mother of these children died May 16, 1875, and was buried in Wethersfield, this county, while the father died December 17, 1898, and was laid to rest in Nebraska.

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#### SHERMAN L. RISHEL.

The subject of this sketch, who is a successful and enterprising farmer residing on section 32, Munson township, is one of Henry county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Cambridge, February 28, 1865. On both sides he is of German descent, though his original American ancestors located here many generations ago. His father John A. Rishel, was a native of Columbia county, Pennsylvania, and came to Henry county, Illinois, in September, 1859, at the age of nineteen years. Being a dentist, he at once opened an office in Cambridge, and engaged in the practice of his profession for a time, but later turned his attention to farming, becoming owner of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Munson township, on which he located after spending a short time in Burns township. It was in 1865 that he retired from his professional labors. He erected a good and substantial building upon his place and made many other useful and valuable improvements, but was an invalid during the last fifteen years of his life, during which time the farm was operated by

his sons, who were young men of industrious habits and good business ability. He died upon his farm in 1896, honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Marie Fesler, was born in Havana, Illinois, but was living with her parents in Burns township, this county, at the time of her marriage. She still survives her husband and now makes her home in Cambridge. The children born to them are Addie, wife of F. H. York, of Michigan; Sherman L., our subject; and Webster D., who lives on the home farm in Munson township.

During his boyhood and youth Sherman L. Rishel attended the public schools and also took an elective course at the Northwestern Normal School in Geneseo. He remained with his parents until his marriage, aiding in the work of the farm. He now owns and successfully operates one hundred and fifty-four acres of well-improved and highly cultivated land on section 32, Munson township. He carries on general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of Aberdeen and Angus cattle, and also handles about a carload of hogs annually. In his farming operations he has met with fair success, and has found the stock business quite profitable.

In April, 1889, Mr. Rishel married Miss Etta Helson, who was born in Munson township, in 1864. Her father, Charles Nelson, followed farming in that township until his death, which occurred in July, 1900, and her mother still resides there. He came to this county about 1859, and from the wild prairie developed a good farm. Mrs. Rishel is the second in order of birth in a family of five children, the others being Justina, wife of G. W. Hutchinson, of Cambridge; Manie, wife of J. M. Anderson, of

Andover; William C. and F. J., both residents of Munson township. To our subject and his wife have been born four children, namely: Earl N., Ira Cecil, Sherman Fay and Zella May. The three oldest are now attending the district school.

Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Rishel are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Munson, and he also holds membership in the Odd Fellows lodge, the Rebekah society and the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 28, of Cambridge, of which he is one of the board of managers. The last named order has a county camp, to which each individual camp sends delegates. It is the only county camp in the state and was organized by Mr. Pigler, of Kewanee, in 1896. It holds quarterly meetings, and Mr. Rishel is now serving as venerable consul of the same. In political sentiment he is a Republican, and has always been quite prominent in political circles. In 1896, he was elected collector of Munson township. He has also served as justice of the peace and assessor of his township, being elected to the latter office in 1898 and re-elected in 1900, for another two years' term. He is also filling the position of clerk of the district school board, and his official duties have always been most faithfully and satisfactorily performed.

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#### WILLIAM WAYNE.

The subject of this sketch, who is now living a retired life in Orion, was for over thirty years actively identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, and became one of its most successful farmers and stock raisers. He was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1827.

of English ancestry, and is a descendant of General Anthony Wayne. In October, 1893, while in Philadelphia, he and his wife visited the old homestead of the general, it being now owned by Captain William Wayne, who has allowed no changes to be made in the general's room, which still contained the old furniture used by him. There is also an excellent portrait of him hanging on its walls. William Wayne, Sr., father of our subject, was also a native of Philadelphia, and was a prominent hardware merchant of that city, where he and his wife both died, the former in 1857, and the latter when our subject was very young. She bore the maiden name of Rebecca Walker, and was a native of New Jersey.

Our subject grew to manhood in his native city and was educated in private schools. Having a great fondness for country life he chose farming as an occupation, and when a young man followed that pursuit near Philadelphia for a time. There he was married September 3, 1849, to Miss Edith Blackfan, and they made their home on a farm within six miles of Philadelphia for five years. The wife died on that place, leaving a daughter, Mary, who was reared by an aunt in Cincinnati, and is now a resident of Philadelphia.

It was in the spring of 1856 that Mr. Wayne came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land near Orion. He broke acre after acre of the virgin soil until the entire tract was under cultivation; he erected good and substantial buildings, set out fruit and forest trees, and made many other improvements upon the place. He prospered in his farming operations, and added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had four hundred and ten acres, which he converted

into one of the most valuable and desirable farms of the locality. He has since disposed of part of this, but still owns the original tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which he now rents, while he lives a retired life in Orion, enjoying a well-earned rest. In connection with general farming he also carried on stock raising in a profitable manner. His home in Orion embraces a whole block and is one of the best and most beautiful places in the village.

Mr. Wayne was again married, December 2, 1856, his second union being with Miss Sarah E. Leibee, who was born March 9, 1835, and reared in Middletown, Ohio, and is of German descent. Her paternal grandfather was one of the first settlers and business men of Cincinnati, at one time owning a large part of that city. Her father, George Leibee, was born in Lexington, Kentucky, in 1802, but his early life was principally passed in Cincinnati, where he later engaged in business. From there he removed to Middletown, Ohio, and in 1855 came to Osceola township, Henry county, Illinois, where he opened up and improved a farm of eight hundred acres. He became one of the substantial men of the county, and gave to each of his children a farm. He married Margaret Dean, daughter of Adam Dean. He died in 1886, at the age of eighty-four years and his wife died in 1863. They were members of the Protestant Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Wayne have a family of four children, namely: (1) George H., a prominent business man of Orion, married Harriet Jones and has three children, Bessie, Stella and Forest. (2) Margaret L. is the wife of Edward Duffield, a stock dealer of Orion. (3) Clara J. married Henry J. Crampton and died in Orion, in 1887, leaving two children, Geneva and Clinton

Wayne. (4) Charles, a grain and lumber dealer of Reynolds, Rock Island county, Illinois, married Susan Breckenridge, a daughter of James Breckenridge, of Galva, and they have five children, James B., Carl, Mary E., William and Edward A.

Politically Mr. Wayne was originally an old line Whig, but since the organization of the Republican party has been a staunch supporter of its men and measures, but has never aspired to office. He has ever been a staunch friend of education and of public schools, and while living on his farm efficiently served as a member of the school board for some years. He and his wife are members of the Christian Science Church of Rock Island, and are among the most highly respected and honored citizens of Orion. Mr. Wayne was made a Mason at Cambridge, and was a charter member of Coal Valley lodge, in which he served as master, but has since demitted his membership to Sherman lodge, at Orion. He takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the public welfare of the town, and withholds his support from no enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit.

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#### FRANK S. MELVIN.

Among the most enterprising and progressive citizens of Munson township is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, and who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on sections 4 and 11 and is also interested in the manufacturing business in Rock Island. He was born in Belknap county, New Hampshire, May 6, 1854, and on the paternal side is of Scotch-Irish descent and on the maternal side of English extraction. His parents were George

T. and Lucy A. (Fox) Melvin, the former of whom was born in Maine, in 1825, and died in December, 1885, while the latter was born in New Hampshire in 1832, and died in 1884. The father received only a common school education, and when a young man commenced work as a car builder. In the spring of 1857, he went to Chicago, and entered the employ of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad, but in the fall of the same year was transferred to Rock Island and placed in charge of the car department, where both passenger and freight cars were built and repaired. He remained there until 1862, when, owing to ill health, he resigned his position and came direct to Munson township, Henry county, where he purchased a farm and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Meeting with success in this undertaking, he added to his landed possessions, and at the time of his death he owned two hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. He was reared to farm work in New England and followed it throughout much of his life. Both he and his wife died on the farm in Munson township. His political support was given the Republican party, though he never would accept office. He gave to the support of all church and charitable work, and was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He came to this state with limited means, and his success was due to his own well-directed and energetic efforts. In the family were only two children, of whom Frank S. is the older. Fred H., a retired farmer, formerly of Munson township, now lives in Geneseo.

Reared on the home farm, Frank S. Melvin was principally educated in the neighboring schools, but also took a special course of private instruction. He remained under

the parental roof until 1874, when at the age of twenty years he entered the employ of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company, in the supply department between Rock Island and Peru, but at the end of two years his health failed and he went to Colorado, remaining there about nine months. On his return to Illinois, he located on the home farm, which he and his brother operated together until his marriage.

In December, 1884, Mr. Melvin wedded Miss Eva J. Thomas, who was born in Maine, in June, 1853 and came to Illinois, with her parents in 1870, locating on the farm on section 4, Munson township, Henry county, now occupied by our subject. Here her mother is still living with our subject. Of her five children only three survive, these being Henry C., traveling salesman for wholesale poultry dealers and a resident of Minonk, Illinois; Augusta S. married William M. Rideout and now resides in Ottumwa, Iowa; and Eva J., wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Melvin have three children; George Herbert, born in December, 1886; Frank S., born in March, 1888; and Lora A., born in November, 1890. Both sons are now students at the Collegiate Institute of Geneseo, where they are pursuing a general course of study. In 1890, George H., though one of the youngest of his class, took first prize of a year's tuition at that school.

Since his marriage Mr. Melvin has resided upon his present farm, and has successfully engaged in general farming. He is the owner of one hundred and ninety acres of very valuable and productive land in this county. He is one of the stockholders, secretary and treasurer of the Novelty Manufacturing Company of Rock Island, which was incorporated with a capital stock of twenty-

five hundred dollars, and he also has charge of the traveling department. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man, and generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Melvin has been identified with the Republican party, and is a member of the county central committee from Munson township. He has served as collector of his township; was appointed township school treasurer in 1893 and has since filled that office; and in 1896 was elected supervisor, in which capacity he is now serving his fellow citizens in a most able and acceptable manner. Mr. Melvin is a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 40, of Geneseo, and also holds membership in the Congregational Church at that place, in which he formerly served as Sunday-school superintendent. He is a worthy representative of that class of citizens who lead quiet, industrious, honest and useful lives, and constitute the best portion of a community. Wherever known he is held in high regard, and is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

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#### JACOB J. FLEMING.

In Jacob J. Fleming we find a worthy representative of the industrial interests of Kewanee, in which city he has engaged in mining since 1857. He was born in Durham county, England, July 9, 1843, his parents being Jacob and Mary (Coatsworth) Fleming. The father followed lead mining until his death, which occurred in that country in 1845, when he was about fifty years of age. Religiously he was a consistent

member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In his family were seven children, of whom three also died in England, these being Mary Ann, who died in infancy; Mary Ann (the second of that name), who died at the age of ten years; and Elizabeth. The others were Hannah, now a resident of Pennsylvania; Thomas, who died in Nevada, Missouri, in 1895, at the age of sixty-four years; Joseph, a resident of Spring Valley, Illinois; and Jacob J., our subject. In 1853, the mother, accompanied by her four children, came to America. The voyage was a pleasant one, lasting thirty days. The family first located at Monongahela City, Pennsylvania, where they lived until coming to Kewanee in 1857. Here the mother died July 29, 1887, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years, six months and twenty-one days. From early girlhood she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and was a most estimable lady.

Jacob J. Fleming acquired the rudiments of an education in his native land, but when little over eight years of age was compelled to leave school and go to work as his father was in ill health and the family needed his earnings. He worked at washing and separating lead ore for the mills until coming to America with his mother. Since 1857 he has been a resident of Kewanee and has been identified with its coal mining interests. He is now successfully operating a mine one mile east of the city, giving employment to seventeen men below and one above ground. The present output of the mine is about five hundred bushels per day, and last year about seven thousand tons were mined, all of which was sold to the local trade.

On the 14th of February, 1870, Mr. Fleming married Miss Elizabeth Fall, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas



and Mary Fall, who came to this country from Cornwall, England, in the latter part of the '40s, and first settled in Wisconsin, but in 1865, took up their residence in Henry county, Illinois. The father was born November 18, 1822, and died February 25, 1892. He was a lead, coal and copper miner, but was mostly engaged in lead mining. His widow is still an honored resident of Kewanee. They were the parents of ten children, of whom Mrs. Fleming is the oldest. The others were Elijah, a grocer of Kewanee; John, who was accidentally killed in the Lathrop mine in 1870, at the age of sixteen years, falling from the top to the bottom of the shaft; Mary J., wife of Enoch Filer, of Peoria; Almira, who lives with her mother in Kewanee; William T., who died in January, 1872, at the age of ten years; Edith M., at home; Cora L., who died in 1885, at the age of eighteen; Albert T., a resident of Kewanee; and Esther, who graduated from the schools of Kewanee, and has successfully engaged in teaching here for about ten years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Fleming have been born the following children: Mary E., born March 17, 1871, died September 26, 1872; Annie L., born January 17, 1873, died October 11, 1879; Minnie Etta is at home; Estella M. has been a bookkeeper at Lay & Lyman's for the past six years; Albert W. is bookkeeper for the Western Tube Company; Thomas E. is a traveling salesman, living in Denver, Colorado; Eva A. is clerking in the store of Lay & Lyman at Kewanee; John C. is with the Kewanee Boiler Company; Flora M. will graduate from the high school of Kewanee in the class of 1902; Jacob E. is in the eighth grade at school; Ethel A. is in the fifth grade; and Edith O. is in the third grade. Mrs. Fleming is a member of the Primitive Methodist Church;

is well versed, and is a lady of pleasing presence, who takes pleasure in making those around her happy and contented.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, Mr. Fleming has been identified with the Republican party and has done all within his power to insure its success. For three years he efficiently served as alderman of Kewanee, and has recently been elected assessor for the ensuing year. He was census enumerator in 1900, and has ever taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs. He is one of the most highly respected and esteemed citizens of Kewanee, and deserves great credit for the success that he has achieved in life.

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#### ROBERT McRELL.

This well-to-do and highly esteemed citizen of Burns township, whose home is on section 10, was born near Tubermore, county Londonderry, Ireland, in May, 1827, and was reared and educated in his native land, being a young man of twenty-one years when he came to the new world, in 1848. He sailed from Belfast to New York, and from the latter city to Philadelphia, where he spent four years. His parents, Robert and Catherine (Gibbons) McKell, crossed the Atlantic in 1849, and also took up their residence in Philadelphia. Three years later the family removed to Logan county, Ohio, and in the spring of 1856 came to Henry county, Illinois. Here the mother died in 1888, and the mother departed this life in 1886, the remains of both being interred in Cosner cemetery. Politically he was a staunch supporter of the Democratic party.

The five children of the family were all



born in Ireland, and in order of birth they are as follows: Elizabeth is a resident of Burns township. Robert is the next of the family. Esther, who now resides with our subject, was married in Philadelphia, in 1850, to Robert Hawthorne, who died there in 1863. Of the seven children born of that union only two are now living, these being Robert J., who married Lucy Watson, of Galva; and Lizzie, wife of Leroy Snyder. James, a prominent farmer of Burns township, is represented on another page of this volume. Thomas lives in Arkansas.

In his native land our subject engaged in farming, but while a resident of Philadelphia he was employed as a weaver of ingrain carpets. In Logan county, Ohio, he engaged in agricultural pursuits for four years, and continued to follow the same occupation after coming to this county, in the spring of 1856. He and his brother James each bought a quarter-section of land in Burns township, a part of which had been broken and a part covered with timber. On this farm he lived a number of years, then sold and purchased forty acres on section 10, the same township, and there he has since made his home. He subsequently added eighty acres to the tract, but later sold it to his nephew, and for the last few years has lived retired, but remaining in the old home. He is widely and favorably known and during his long residence in this county he has made a host of warm friends, who esteem him highly for his sterling worth.

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#### WILLIAM McMEEKIN.

Galva's well-known and popular postmaster has made for himself an honorable record. Depending upon his own resources,

looking for no outside aid or support, he has risen to a place of prominence in the commercial and professional world. A native of Henry county, he was born in Western township, November 13, 1854. His father, William McMeekin, was born in Ireland, and about 1854 came to this country, locating in Rock Island county, Illinois, where he was united in marriage with Miss Agnes Reed, also a native of the Emerald Isle. Subsequently they came to Henry county and took up their residence on a farm in Western township, which has been their home since 1858. The father has transformed the wild prairie land into highly cultivated fields, and has made excellent improvements thereon. He is now seventy-nine years of age, while his wife is sixty-eight.

The children born to this worthy couple are as follows: James, a farmer of Western township; Mary J., wife of W. T. McWhinney, of the same township; William, our subject; Frank, one of the publishers of the Port Byron Globe, of Port Byron, Rock Island county; John, an employe of the Moline Plow Company; Robert, who assists in the operation of the home farm; Hugh, who is also engaged in farming upon the home place and is employed as telegraph operator by the Rock Island & Peoria Company; Alexander and Alida, both at home, and the latter now a school teacher. The children were all provided with good common school educations, and Frank took a course of stenography and bookkeeping at a business college. Politically the family is identified with the Republican party, and the father and seven sons have twice cast their ballots for William McKinley. The parents are active and faithful members of the United Presbyterian Church, and Mr.

McMeekin was one of the founders of the Homestead church in Rural township, Rock Island county.

During his boyhood the subject of this review attended the public schools of Orion and Coal Valley, Illinois, and then took up the classical course in the Iowa City Academy. After graduating from that institution he entered the University of Iowa, where he also pursued the classical course, but left school during his sophomore year. For four years he successfully engaged in teaching school at Sunny Hill, this county. Coming to Galva in 1886 he commenced the study of law with T. E. Milchrist, now state senator from Chicago, and was principal of the south side school two years. In 1889 he became a member of the firm of Boyd & McMeekin, publishers of the Standard, which has always been a Republican paper, and ten years later purchased his partner's interest in the business, becoming sole proprietor. During all these years he has served as editor, and under his efficient management the paper has steadily increased in circulation and importance until it is to-day one of the leading journals of the county.

In 1889 Mr. McMeekin married Miss Clara C. Bates, who was born in Galva, September 30, 1861, a daughter of John and Julia Bates. Her father was one of the early settlers of Galva, having located here about 1854, and followed cabinet making for a time. He died in 1870. The mother is still living in Galva, at the age of eighty-two years.

Since attaining his majority Mr. McMeekin has always affiliated with the Republican party, and has been an active worker in its ranks, taking especial interest in town and county politics. On the

1st of April, 1890, he was appointed postmaster of Galva under President McKinley, and is now efficiently filling that office, while his wife acts as his assistant. Prior to her marriage she was bookkeeper for Palmer, Walker & Johnson, one of the leading business firms of Galva. She is an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church; for three years served as president of the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union, of Galva, and takes an active interest in the woman's suffrage movement. She is a most estimable lady, and is highly respected and esteemed by all who know her. Mr. McMeekin is also a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has served on the board of managers. He is a leader in the temperance cause; has served as chairman of the local committee for five years; and is a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp of Galva, No. 241. On starting out in life for himself he was without capital and the success that he has achieved is due entirely to his own well-directed and energetic efforts. He has steadily worked his way upward to a position of prominence in business circles, and well merits the prosperity that has come to him.

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#### THOMAS P. PIERCE.

Thomas P. Pierce, president of the Union National Bank, of Kewanee, Illinois, occupies a foremost position among the prominent financiers of this section of the state. Upon the commercial activity of a community depends its prosperity and the men who are now recognized as leading citizens are those who are at the head of important business enterprises. Mr. Pierce

is a man of broad capabilities, who carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Kane county, October 3, 1838, and is a son of Thomas and Ruth (Powell) Pierce. The father was a Welshman by birth, and when a youth emigrated to America, locating in New York state, where he made his home from 1817 to 1835, engaged in contracting and building, having learned the carpenter's trade in Wales. In the Empire state he married Ruth Powell, whose family was also from Wales, although she was born in New York. In 1835 Mr. Pierce came to Illinois by way of the Great Lakes, and settled near Aurora, Kane county, taking up a tract of government land near Jericho Corners. He pre-empted this land, and for many years devoted his energies to the improvement and cultivation of his place. In 1854 he removed to Aurora, where he lived retired throughout the remainder of his life, dying there in 1872. His wife long survived him and passed away in 1892. Unto them were born four children, namely: William died several years ago in Kewanee, where he was engaged in the hardware business. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Fannie Lay, has since married again and now lives in Chicago. Elizabeth is the wife of H. M. Howard, of Aurora. Thomas P. is next in order of birth. John H. is president of the Western Tube Works, of Kewanee.

During his boyhood Thomas P. Pierce pursued his studies in the district school of Sugar Grove township, Kane county, which was about a mile from his home, and later attended the high school of Aurora. After completing his education he learned the trade of a tinner, and in the fall of 1863

embarked in the hardware business in Kewanee. Three years later he admitted his brother John H. to partnership in the business, which was then carried on under the firm style of Pierce & Brother for about fifteen years. Subsequently O. J. Brown became interested in the business, under the firm name of Pierce & Brown, but this partnership did not last long on account of Mr. Brown's health, and Mr. Pierce was alone in business until he disposed of the store. In December, 1880, the Union National Bank secured its charter and began business, its original directors being Stephen Bull, R. F. Wiley, M. C. Quinn, W. H. Lyman, T. P. Pierce, W. W. Stevens and A. F. Bigelow. Mr. Pierce has served as president from the beginning, while H. L. Kellogg is now cashier, and W. H. Lyman, vice-president. Under the able management of its officers the bank has steadily prospered and the capital stock has been increased from fifty to seventy-five thousand dollars, with a surplus now equal to the capital. It built and occupies a fine stone building with latest improved vaults and safes. Mr. Pierce is also a member of the board of directors of the Kewanee Boiler Company.

In September, 1864, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Charlotte L. Talcott, a native of Michigan. Her father, Joseph Augustus Talcott, was born in Coventry, Connecticut, May 12, 1810, and was a son of Joseph and Mary (Loomis) Talcott, natives of the same state. The Talcott family came originally from England, and was founded in Connecticut in early colonial days. Mrs. Pierce's father was the eldest of a family of three children, the others being Nathaniel Ells and Mercy Rebecca, both now deceased. Joseph A. Talcott received a good common-school ed-

uation and for many years engaged in teaching. In 1836 he removed to White Pigeon, Michigan, where he followed that pursuit for some time, three of his children being born there. In 1850 he came to Wethersfield, Illinois, and taught the old Wethersfield school for a few years. When Kewanee was platted he removed to the new village, and in the midst of a cornfield built his residence on what is now Chestnut street, just south of where the Episcopal Church stands. Here he engaged in the insurance business for many years, at the same time filling the office of justice of the peace. He wedded Miss Mary M. Loomis, also a native of Connecticut, and they became the parents of five children: Mary Elizabeth, born in Coventry, Connecticut, is now the widow of J. D. K. Sleight, and makes her home in Richmond, Virginia, though she spends the greater part of her time in traveling; Harriet Rebecca died at the age of three years; Charlotte Maria is the wife of our subject; Joseph died in infancy; and Alice Louisa, born in Wethersfield, is the wife of John Ellis, of Kewanee. Mr. Talcott died January 31, 1891, at the age of eighty years, and his wife passed away April 27, 1895, at the advanced age of eighty-six years and eleven months, the remains of both being interred in Pleasant View cemetery. They were active and faithful members of the Congregational Church for over sixty years, and Mr. Talcott served as trustee of the church and superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years. He also sang in the choir in early days. He was an active member of the Masonic fraternity for a great many years, and was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, though he would accept no office besides that of justice of the peace. He

was one of Kewanee's most honored and respected citizens during the long years of his residence here.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were born two children, but the elder, a daughter, died in infancy. William T., who is with the Western Tube Company, of Kewanee, married Teresa Cronau and they have one child, Thomas C. Mrs. Pierce is a member of the Congregational Church. Fraternally our subject is a Knight Templar Mason, and politically is an ardent Republican. Since 1884 he has been a member of the state board of equalization and is to-day the oldest in the service. He has served on all of the important committees, and was chairman of the committee on lands for several years. He was president of the village board several terms was also a member of the county board of supervisors a number of years, and was a presidential elector in the fall of 1900. The career of Mr. Pierce has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence of the business world, for he has ever conducted all transactions on the strictest principles of honor and integrity. His devotion to the public good is unquestioned, and he has ever maintained a character and standing that has impressed all with his sincere and manly purpose to do by others as he would have others do by him.

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PETER O. NORLING.

This prominent druggist of Galva has probably done as much to promote the commercial activity, advance the general welfare and secure the material development of the town and surrounding country as any other individual. As a business man

he is enterprising, energetic and always abreast of the times, and has been rewarded by a comfortable competence.

Mr. Norling was born in Sweden, about fifty miles from Stockholm, December 15, 1852, and is the oldest child of Andrew O. and Elizabeth Norling, both of whom were born in that country in 1826, and as members of the Bishop Hill colony came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1854. Throughout his active business life the father followed farming, but is now living a retired life in Galva, enjoying a well-earned rest. He became owner of one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Galva township, which was his portion when the land owned by the colony was divided among its members. He has made his home in Galva since 1893. Politically he has always been a strong Republican, but has never aspired for any political honors. His family consists of seven children, all of whom reached years of maturity, Peter O. being the oldest. Andrew, who was formerly engaged in the drug business with our subject, now owns about eleven hundred acres of land at Litchfield, Nebraska, in company with his brother, John E., and is conducting a large cattle ranch. John E. is treasurer and secretary of the Swedish Tribune, of Chicago, which is one of the oldest Swedish newspapers in the United States, being first started at Galva under the name of the New World. At one time he was also associated with our subject in the drug business for several years. Amanda died on her father's farm December 23, 1892. Matilda lives with her parents in Galva. Lillie is the wife of S. P. Swanson, who conducts a prosperous tailoring establishment in Centerville, Iowa. Alfred W. graduated in pharmacy at the University of Illinois, and was in the drug

business with our subject for a number of years, but is now engaged in the insurance business at Galva.

Mr. Norling, of this review, was only two years old when brought by his parents to the United States, and he received his early education in the public schools of this county. He remained on the home farm, assisting his father in its improvement until 1876. In the meantime he took a trip to Sweden and remained there about a year. On the 26th of March 1876, he opened a drug store at Bishop Hill, though he had but little capital at that time. He hired competent help, and by his unusual business ability built up an excellent trade. In 1881 he formed a partnership with his two brothers, and opened branch stores at Nekoma and Galva, and this connection was dissolved a year later, and our subject became owner of the store at Galva, where he carried a complete line of drugs, druggists' sundries, patent medicines, paints, oils, wall paper and fancy goods, valued at thirty-five hundred dollars. Selling a one-half interest to his brother in 1884, this partnership continued till 1887, when they sold to P. Hanson. In 1884 he purchased a grocery store in Peoria, which he conducted for fifteen months, and then sold his interest in the business to his partner. On his return to Henry county he located at Cambridge, where he purchased a store building and stocked it with drugs, etc., doing a thriving business there from 1886, to 1893. Seeing a good opening at his old home in Galva, Mr. Norling re-purchased the drug store of the widow of P. Hanson, and has since successfully engaged in that business at this place.

Pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, Mr. Norling has done much to

advance the interests of the town, especially along industrial lines. He purchased a large amount of stock in the Mulford Heater Company formed at Streator for the manufacture of different articles, and through the influence of himself and brothers the plant was removed to Galva. The company is now doing business on a thriving basis, with a capital stock of forty-five thousand dollars, its officers being E. W. Houghton, president; P. O. Norling, secretary; T. H. Johnston, treasurer; O. E. Yocum, vice-president; and Randolph Boyd, manager. They now manufacture the Mulford heaters and the Boyd corn planters. In 1899 Mr. Norling became interested in a stock company made up entirely of Swedish people, known as the Westrand Manufacturing Company, which was organized with a capital stock of twenty thousand dollars and is also engaged in the manufacture of corn planters and other farm implements. They have erected a large building for the conduct of their business in the northeast part of Galva. Our subject is one of the largest stockholders and a director of this company; is also a director and stockholder of the Galva Telephone Company; and a stockholder of the Wood Mining Company of Boulder, Colorado, which is developing and working one of the largest gold mines of the west. He has been manager of the Galva opera house for some time, and endeavors to treat the people of Galva to some interesting and enjoyable entertainments. He has through his own well-directed efforts accumulated considerable property, including real estate in Chicago and Peoria. He still owns a store building at Bishop Hill; in 1897 erected a modern brick building in Cambridge, now occupied as a drug and jewelry store; and has a good farm of three

hundred and twenty acres in Nebraska. Mr. Norling is also connected with newspaper work. During the Civil war the *New World* was started at Galva by Chaizer & Johnson and published partly in Swedish and partly in English. Shortly afterward it was removed to Chicago, and in August, 1900, was published by P. O. and J. E. Norling and S. E. Carlson, editor of the *Fosterlandet*, a Swedish religious paper. They combined the two and now publish what is known as the *Swedish Tribune* or *Svenska Tribunnen* and *Fosterlandet*. The circulation is rapidly increasing, and it is proving a very paying investment.

In 1880 Mr. Norling married Miss Amanda Nordstedt, who was born in Bishop Hill, January 1, 1860, a daughter of Olof B. and Christine Nordstedt, who came to this country from Sweden in 1832 and settled in the colony here. Her father was born in 1822 and died in 1892. He served through the Civil war as a member of the Fifty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, taking with him his eldest son, Fred, who was but fourteen years old when he entered the service. The father was taken prisoner but soon exchanged at Fort Donelson and rejoined his regiment, remaining at the front until hostilities ceased. His wife survives him and continues to live in Bishop Hill. Their children were Christine, wife of Peter Johnson, of Bishop Hill, who is an ex-sheriff of Henry county; Jane, wife of Andrew Johnston, a manufacturer of pop and soda water at Galva; Kate, wife of H. Harmon, a grocer of Fitzgerald, Georgia; Mary, wife of Howard Fuller, of Peoria; Ella, a dressmaker of Peoria; Minnie, wife of Charles Hedley, telegraph operator for the Rock Island & Pacific Railroad Company at Galva; Amanda, wife of our subject;



and Fred, a farmer of Sydney, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Norling have two sons: Milford P., who was born December 23, 1881, and is now attending the Young Men's Christian Association College at Chicago; and Le Roy A., who was born April 9, 1884, and is at home.

Mr. Norling is quite prominent in fraternal circles and is now serving as treasurer of the Odd Fellows lodge of Galva, in which he has passed through all the chairs; and is chief of the Galva lodge of Fraternal Tribunes. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America; and is a thirty-second-degree Mason, a member of the Mystic Shrine, and the Yeomen of America, while both he and his wife belong to the Eastern Star Chapter, of which she is worthy matron. As a Republican Mr. Norling takes an active interest in political affairs, and has been a delegate to county conventions several times, but has never aspired to office. He does all in his power to promote the interests of his town and advance the welfare of its citizens. He is widely and favorably known, and his extensive circle of friends esteem him highly for his genuine worth.

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#### PHILIP J. WINTZ.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war who claim Henry county as their home none fought more valiantly for the preservation of the Union than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He has been a resident of Annawan for almost half a century and has been prominently identified with her industrial interests. Mr. Wintz was born in Rappahannock county, Virginia, November 4, 1826, and is of German descent on both the paternal and maternal sides.

His father, Henry Wintz, was born at Culpeper, Virginia, April 17, 1788, and was married in Loudoun county, that state, June 3, 1824, by Rev. S. G. Roszell, to Miss Sarah Frye, whose birth occurred February 10, 1797. Her father, Philip J. Frye, was born in Germany, August 13, 1775, and came to America in 1793. He spent his life as a farmer on Goose creek in Loudoun county, Virginia, where he died November 20, 1841, his remains being interred at Middleburg, that state. He was drafted during the war of 1812, and after being given his accoutrements went to Middleburg only to find that the war had ended and his services were not needed. On the 7th of April, 1796, he married Catherine Virtz, and of the children born to them Mrs. Wintz was the oldest. In order of birth the others were as follows: Elizabeth, born January 24, 1799, died unmarried September 7, 1866; Margaret, born December 12, 1800, became the wife of David Daily, of Preble county, Ohio, and died about 1844; Henry, born April 21, 1803, married a Miss Burnside and died in Indiana in 1848; Joseph, born May 14, 1809, died on the old homestead unmarried July 2, 1876; George P., born October 30, 1823, died in Loudoun county, Virginia, at the age of fifteen years; Conrad, born May 14, 1809, married Susannah Thomas and died in Butler county, Ohio, September 29, 1882; Ann C., born April 30, 1814, married Townsend Howell, of Virginia, and died in Clark county, Illinois, February 9, 1886; Christina, born December 27, 1816, died in Loudoun county, Virginia, unmarried, April 8, 1877; and Eveline, born March 12, 1820, became the wife of James Lawson, of Fauquier county, Virginia, and died in Maryland, March 23, 1899.

After his marriage Henry Wintz fol-



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P. J. WINTZ.



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lowed farming in his native state until 1828 when he removed to Warren county, Ohio, our subject at that time being eighteen months old. Two years later the father took up his residence in Preble county, Ohio, and operated a rented farm near New Hope for five years, but died before the expiration of the lease. He followed agricultural pursuits throughout life and died in Preble county, October 27, 1833. His wife survived him some years, dying September 18, 1846, in the same locality. They had a family of five children, namely: Peter, born September 5, 1825, married Catherine Frye, now deceased, and lives in Carlock, McLean county, Illinois; Philip J., our subject, is next in order of birth; Mary Ann, born August 22, 1828, became the wife of Samuel Frye, and died in Sedgwick county, Kansas, May 20, 1891; Daniel, born June 16, 1831, married Sabina Truckcess and resides near Converse, Howard county, Indiana; and Elizabeth, born March 23, 1833, is the wife of George Lowman, of Sedgwick county, Kansas.

The early educational advantages of Philip J. Wintz were limited, as he was only able to attend the district schools one month during each year for fourteen years, pursuing his studies in a primitive log school house in Preble county, Ohio. Even the seats and desks were made of split logs set upon pegs. He was not quite seven years of age when his father died, and was nineteen at the time of his mother's death. Five years later he left his old home in Preble county, Ohio, and went to Warren county, that state, working on a farm at Springboro one year at ten dollars per month, after which he took up the carpenter's trade. While there he was married, April 3, 1852, to Miss Mary Frye, a daughter of Solomon and Sarah

Frye. She died November 29, 1898. They had no children.

Mrs. Philip J. Wintz, *nee* Mary Frye, was born near Springboro, Warren county, Ohio, January 16, 1830, and was the daughter of Solomon and Sarah (Haynes) Frye, the former a native of Loudoun county, Virginia, born October 12, 1800. He was a son of Henry Joseph and Catherine (Wildeman) Frye, the former being a brother of Philip J. Frye, maternal grandfather of our subject. Henry Joseph Frye was a native of Germany, as was his brother Philip. Solomon Frye, the father of Mrs. Wintz, was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, and moved to Ohio with his parents in 1816, when sixteen years of age. He learned the trade of a carpenter and also owned and operated a farm. He married Sarah Haynes, March 12, 1826. She was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, born October 12, 1803, and belonged to an old American family of German extraction. Solomon and Sarah (Haynes) Frye reared a family of four children. Cornelius worked at the carpenter trade and died at Dayton, Ohio, when about forty years old. Mary married Philip J. Wintz, our subject. Martha married Absalom Blinn, and moved to Albany, Kansas. She is now deceased. Margaret married George Ray and now resides in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. She is the only surviving member of the family.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Wintz came to Illinois and located at Sheffield, Bureau county. At that time both the Rock Island and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroads were in course of construction. He purchased a farm of eighty acres, for which he paid three hundred and sixty-nine dollars in cash, but on account of a defect in the title he was obliged to aban-

don it and lost everything. Although he was somewhat discouraged he went to work to retrieve his fortune, and in March, 1854, came to Annawan, taking up his abode in his present residence the following year. At that time, however, what is now his kitchen constituted the whole house. For a year he worked at the carpenter's trade, and in 1855 did the first blacksmithing done in the village. Selling out a year later he followed the millwright's and carpenter's trades until 1884. He constructed the majority of the buildings in the southern part of the township, including the church built in 1858, and also assisted in building the first and second mills erected at Annawan. The last house built by him was the residence of James MacChesney, in 1877. He now conducts a general machine and repair shop.

After the inauguration of the Civil war, Mr. Wintz enlisted at Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, as a musician in a regimental band, which started for St. Louis to join Burgess' sharpshooters, but at Alton they were arrested for the reason that the colonel of the regiment that they were going to join reported that they had broke camp and were going to join the rebels. Finding that this was untrue Governor Yates ordered them to Springfield, and, after two weeks spent at Camp Butler, they were sent to Camp Douglas, Chicago, where the band was assigned to the Fifty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. They went first to Cairo, then to Paducah, Kentucky, and from there by boat to Fort Henry, where they arrived just after the battle, being in time to cook their supper on the fires which the rebels had left. Returning to Paducah, they went up the Ohio and Cumberland rivers to Fort Donelson, and took part in the engagement at that place. They then marched fourteen miles

across the country to Fort Henry, and proceeded up the Tennessee river to Krump's Landing. According to orders from the war department the regimental bands were mustered out, only one being retained for each brigade. Mr. Wintz was discharged March 20, 1862, and returned to his home in Annawan, but on the 12th of the following August he re-enlisted as a private in Company A, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, being mustered in at Peoria. The company was at first commanded by Tristram T. Dow, who was afterward made colonel of the regiment, while John L. Dow was promoted to the captaincy of the company. From Peoria the regiment went to Cincinnati and later to Covington, Kentucky, where they remained about two weeks before going to Lexington. After engaging in some skirmishes, Mr. Wintz was detailed to Captain Law's howitzer battery, with which he was connected for six months. During this time he took part in the Morgan raid through Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio to Buffington's Island, where they captured Morgan's guns. In the fall of 1863 he rejoined his old company, and with them went to Kingston and Athens, Tennessee, and later to Lowden after participating in a skirmish on the Hiawasee river. They retreated before General Longstreet's command, which pursued them to Knoxville, and in a skirmish November 18, 1863, Captain Asa H. Lee, commander of Company A, was killed, while our subject received a gunshot wound back of the right ear. Four of the company were killed and two wounded. When Mr. Wintz regained consciousness the Confederate line had advanced past him, cutting him off from his command. He made his way through the lines in a small vineyard, but over twenty shots were fired at

him. He crawled into a barn, and when it was struck by a rebel shell he made his way to a corner, which shortly afterward was torn to pieces by another shell. He then staggered on through the timber and finally reached his company, but on the way to the field hospital fell exhausted on the bank of Second creek. He was then taken in charge by the ambulance corps, and was confined to the hospital until the 18th of the following January, when he was granted a thirty days' furlough. In March he rejoined his regiment at Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, and with them went to Knoxville. He participated in a skirmish at Rocky Face, Georgia, and the battle of Resaca, where he received a gunshot wound in the right arm and was sent to Nashville. A week later he was transferred to the hospital at Louisville, where he remained until July. Having taken the smallpox he was then sent to the pest hospital near Louisville, where he was confined until October, 1864. He then started to rejoin his command at Atlanta but on reaching Chattanooga remained there two weeks on duty in the convalescent hospital. He was then detailed with others to drive ten thousand head of cattle to Atlanta for General Sherman's army. At Altoona he met his company returning, and with them went to Nashville, and later to Decatur, Georgia, where they were stationed to watch the movements of Hood. When that general advanced they fell back to Franklin, Tennessee, and participated in the severe battle at that place. They also took part in the battle of Nashville in December, 1864, and then followed Hood to Columbia, Tennessee, where they remained one month. At Clifton, on the Tennessee river, they boarded a steamer and went to Cincinnati, and by train proceeded to Alexandria, Virginia,

by way of Columbus and Belle Air, and by steamer to Fort Fisher. In a storm during this voyage the vessels were blown sixty miles out to sea. After a month spent at Fort Fisher they went to Smithville, North Carolina, taking part in the skirmish at that place and the capture of Fort Anderson. They were also in a skirmish at Town Creek, and then advanced to Wilmington and Kingston, North Carolina. At the latter place Mr. Wintz sprained his ankle, and was confined in the hospital at Newburn one month, and in the hospital at Beaufort, North Carolina, until honorably discharged at the close of the war, June 14, 1865. He cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor, and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters. Religiously he is a member of the United Brethren in Christ.

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#### CHARLES BARBER.

Among the leading citizens of Burdett township is Charles Barber, residing on section 15. He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on the 9th of May, 1834, and is a son of Calvin and Phebe (Hull) Barber, natives of Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. About 1825 the parents removed to the Keystone state and settled in Luzerne county, in what was then called New Connecticut. By trade the father was a fuller and cloth dresser, and followed that trade during his active life in Pennsylvania. In 1860 he came to Henry county and made his home with our subject until his death, October 9, 1872. His wife died many years before in Pennsylvania. Our subject was one of a family of seven children, the others



leing Calvin D., who married Euphemia Ferris, and lives near Scranton, Pennsylvania; Mary Ann, who wedded James Mott, a miller, of Blakely, Pennsylvania, and both are now deceased; John, deceased; William, a farmer and carpenter, who married Hulda Brown and lives near Carbondale, Pennsylvania; Miles, who married Martha Caldwell, of Kewanee, Illinois; and Louisa, wife of Earlington Vosburgh, of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania.

Charles Barber was reared and educated in the county of his nativity, and on starting out in life for himself engaged in lumbering until his marriage, which was celebrated in Luzerne county, April 13, 1857, Miss Mary Broadfoot becoming his wife. She, too, as born in that county, and is one of a family of four children, but Elizabeth and Jane are now deceased. Her brother Robert is still living. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Broadfoot, were natives of Scotland, and on their emigration to America, in 1834, located in Pennsylvania, where the father died in 1858. By occupation he was a farmer. The death of his wife occurred in Illinois August 9, 1872.

After his marriage Mr. Barber engaged in farming in Pennsylvania until the fall of 1860, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased a partially improved farm of eighty acres on section 2, Burns township, on which he built and made other improvements. On selling that property in 1875, he bought another eighty-acre tract on section 15, where he has since made his home. This he has placed under a high state of cultivation, and in connection with its operation he is successfully engaged in stock raising.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Barber were born eight children as follows: Mary is now the

wife of George Snyder, a farmer of Whiteside county, Illinois, and they have two children, George and Arthur; James, a farmer of Burns township, this county, married Sarah Martin and they have one child, Mary Elizabeth; Francinia is the wife of John Wells, a farmer of Cornwall township, and they have one child, Charles; Darius and Anna are both at home with their parents; Clara is the wife of Frank Wells, a farmer of Cornwall township, and they have one child, Mildred L.; and John who is now six feet, four inches in height, is engaged in farming on the home place.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Barber are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is now trustee, and are held in high regard by all who know them. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and has served as school director and pathmaster for a number of years. When he came to this county corn was only worth seven cents per bushel, and a laborer received but fifty cents per day. Times were very hard, and wild cat money was in circulation, but all this has since changed and to-day Henry county is one of the most prosperous and thriving districts in the state.

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#### F. A. MILLER.

This gentleman, who is proprietor of a livery, sale and feed stable in Geneseo, Illinois, was born near that city on the 8th of June, 1859, and is a son of J. Adam and Varonica (Rink) Miller. The father was born in Germany, in 1828, and in 1831 emigrated to America with his parents. He followed farming in this county for some

years, then turned his attention to the livery business, and still later engaged in teaming. His death occurred here in 1895. He was a Democrat in politics, and was widely and favorably known throughout the county, where the greater part of his life was passed. His wife, who was a native of Henry county, and a consistent member of Grace Evangelical Church of Geneseo, died in 1897, at the age of sixty-three years. Her father, Joseph Rink, came to this country from Germany many years ago.

F. A. Miller is the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, the other being Mary, wife of J. H. Rickel, of Geneseo; George, highway commissioner of the same place; Catherine, wife of William Baker, a farmer of Phenix township, this county; John N. and William L., both residents of Hoopole township; and Clara, wife of Leonard Brown, of Nebraska.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed upon a farm near Geneseo and in that place, and he attended both the country and city schools. After the completion of his education he engaged in teaming for a time, taking contracts on the turnpike and for other work. For three years he served as highway commissioner of Geneseo township, and for five years followed farming there. He then embarked in the livery business, buying out Henry Franks, of Geneseo. He keeps about twenty good horses and a fine line of buggies and carriages, being well prepared to accommodate the traveling public. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man, and very courteous to his customers.

Mr. Miller was married on the 19th of February, 1885, to Miss Minnie Kicksey, a native of this county, and a daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Leaflander) Kick-

sey, who were from Germany. By this union have been born four children: Leonard A., Belva A., Clarence A. and Floyd. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller hold membership in the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Geneseo, and he is also connected with the Modern Woodmen of America. In his political affiliations he is a Republican.

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#### HUGH W. PRITCHARD.

As one of the most progressive and energetic agriculturists of Henry county, Illinois, this gentleman is now successfully following his chosen calling on section 14, Geneseo township, where he owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres. He and his brother, Robert L., are also proprietors of the Sharon Stock farm, a valuable farm of three hundred and seventy-three acres in Loraine township. Throughout his active business career he has engaged in general farming and stock raising, and is to-day one of the most prosperous citizens of his community.

Mr. Pritchard's early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in county Down, Ireland, October 6, 1852, and was a little over twelve years of age in 1865 when brought to America by his parents, Henry and Mary (Boyd) Pritchard, who located in Alba township, this county, where the father purchased a farm. Success attended his well-directed efforts in securing a home for himself and family, and he became the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres of as fine farming land as is to be found in the county. Most of this was wild and unimproved when it came into his possession, but he transformed it into a

highly cultivated tract. He was also born in county Down, Ireland, in 1816, and in that country was married, June 16, 1836, to Miss Mary Warnock, who died April 14, 1845, leaving four sons, namely: William, born September 26, 1837, died in Mitchellville, Iowa, December 29, 1899. He followed farming very successfully for many years, and was also engaged in the banking business for some years before his death, and was the owner of nine hundred and twenty-six acres of valuable land. He was a man of prominence in his community and held many public offices of trust. James, born March 5, 1839, is a retired farmer of Clarinda, Iowa. Samuel, born February 18, 1841, is a wealthy farmer and stock raiser of Alba township, this county, where he owns one thousand acres of land. He is a veteran of the Civil war. Henry, born March 21, 1843, is also an extensive farmer and stock raiser, his specialty being cattle, and is the owner of nine hundred and twenty acres of land in Alba township. In September, 1845, the father wedded Miss Mary Boyd, by whom he had seven children, as follows: Alexander, born October 15, 1846, is a very prominent and successful farmer and stock dealer of Harlan, Shelby county, Iowa, owning a number of highly improved farms aggregating several hundred acres of land. He is one of the leading Republicans of his community, and has served as county treasurer two terms. Alice, born June 3, 1848, ever came to this country. She is now the widow of John Pritchard and resides on a farm in county Down, Ireland. Robert L., born December 11, 1849, is a retired farmer of Geneseo, who owns one hundred and fifteen acres of land on section 22, Geneseo township, and a half interest in the Sharon Stock farm with our subject. Hugh W. is

next in order of birth. Mary J., born July 1, 1853, is the wife of Jesse L. Lamont, a farmer and stock raiser of Prophetstown, Whiteside county, Illinois, who raises a high grade of hogs and cattle. Sarah, born July 7, 1856, is the wife of Samuel McCullough, a prosperous farmer and stock dealer of Marne, Iowa. The father of this family died March 4, 1885, the mother, April 14, 1881, honored and respected by all who knew them.

During his boyhood and youth Hugh W. Pritchard attended the district schools near his home and assisted his father in the labors of the farm. He remained on the old homestead farm until his father's death in 1892, when he purchased the farm in Geneseo township which he now occupies. He has since remodeled the residence, making it a pleasant and substantial home, has built barns and other outbuildings, and has also tilled the land and placed it under a high state of cultivation.

At Thornburg, Iowa, February 7, 1883, Mr. Pritchard was united in marriage with Miss Augusta McCracken, a native of Rock Island county, Illinois, and a daughter of James and Eliza (McCormick) McCracken, who were born in county Down, Ireland, and were married there in 1831. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, was born in 1808, and died in 1884, but her mother is still living at the old home near Thornburg, at the age of eighty-six years. In their family were five children, one son and four daughters, all residents of Keokuk county, Iowa, with the exception of Mrs. Pritchard, who is the youngest of the family. Our subject and his wife have two children: Maud L., who is now attending the Geneseo high school; and Paul C., who is a student in the home school.

By his ballot Mr. Pritchard supports the

men and measures of the Republican party and, as a public-spirited and enterprising citizen, he gives his support to all worthy measures calculated to advance the moral educational or material welfare of his township and county. For some years he has been an efficient school director, and at present is serving his fourth year as a member of the district board. For some years he has been an active and prominent member of the First Congregational Church of Geneseo, and now holds the office of deacon in the same.

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### JOHN CARSE.

One of the highly-esteemed citizens of Phenix township is this well-known farmer who owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 33. A native of Ohio, he was born in Wayne county, January 24, 1844, and was seven years of age when brought to Henry county, Illinois, by his parents, William and Mary (Finley) Carse, the family locating on the farm where our subject now resides. The father was born in county Down, Ireland, and on his emigration to the United States at the age of seventeen years he took up his residence in Ohio, where he made his home until coming to this state. He made farming his life occupation. He died at the ripe old age of eighty-six, having survived his wife some years. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living.

Since coming to this county John Carse has lived on the old homestead in Phenix township, and throughout his active business life has successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. As he has never married his sisters, Sarah and Mary,

keep house for him. He has seen the wonderful changes that have taken place in this section of the state during the past half century, and has ever borne his part in its up-building and progress. He is widely and favorably known, and is held in the warmest regard by his many friends.

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### JOHN H. WENKE.

This well-to-do and highly-respected citizen of Osceola township, residing on section 3, is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Rock Island county, September 22, 1857. His father, John Wenke was born in Oldenburg, Germany, in 1820, and was educated in that country. On reaching manhood he entered the German army, in which he served for seven years. He was the youngest son of a large family, all of whom were married and had children of their own when he left the army. He would have inherited his father's estate, but being single, he made a settlement with the other members of the family, whereby he received about four hundred dollars. He then made preparations to come to the United States and establish a home of his own. In 1850 he crossed the ocean and invested his capital in land in Rock Island county, Illinois, then in its natural state. This he cleared of the timber and converted it into a highly cultivated tract after several years of hard labor, during which he endured many hardships such as the early pioneers encounter in the settlement of a community. His was a very successful career until old age made it necessary for him to retire from active labor, which he did in 1890, purchasing a home in Geneseo, this county, where he now resides. He acquired two hundred acres of land which was fully improved by himself.

In 1852 John Wenke, Sr., returned to Germany for his promised bride, Miss Helena Oltmanns, who was born there in 1820. After his marriage he returned at once to the home he had prepared for her in Illinois. Although now well advanced in years they still enjoy the best of health, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. They have always been active members and supporters of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Wenke has never mingled in politics but votes for the best man regardless of party lines. Of a generous disposition he makes many friends, and has the confidence of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life. He is the father of seven children, two of whom died in early childhood. The others are Hannah, wife of Claus Suel, of Milwaukee; Elizabeth, wife of Fred Rested, of Geneseo; Fred, who is engaged in farming on the old homestead in Rock Island county; John H., a twin brother of Fred and the subject of this sketch; and Henry, a grocer of Geneseo.

John H. Wenke is indebted to the public schools of Rock Island county for his educational advantages. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-three years of age. During his youth he assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, and during the last five years he remained thereon he and his brother operated the place. In 1881 he was united in marriage with Miss Helena Oltmanns, who was born in Rock Island county, in 1856, a daughter of Diedrich and Katrina Oltmanns, who still reside there. She is one of a family of nine children who are still living, but with the exception of Mrs. John Buell, of Geneseo, they are scattered through different states. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wenke have

one daughter, Ruphina H., who was born November 22, 1882, and was educated in the common schools of this county and the college at Geneseo, where she was graduated in 1900. She is now at home with her parents.

For two years after his marriage Mr. Wenke remained on his father's farm. He owned a tract of land in Rock Island county which he rented until 1884, and then sold or the purchase of his present farm of one hundred and eighty-six acres on section 3, Osco township, Henry county. It has since been his permanent home. At the time of purchase the improvements upon the place were all old, but he has rebuilt the residence and barns, has tilled the land and divided it into fields of convenient size by well-kept fences, making the farm one of the most attractive country homes in the locality. In connection with general farming he is engaged in feeding stock for market, averaging one car load of cattle and two of hogs each year.

By his ballot Mr. Wenke supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, but aside from voting he takes no active part in politics, though he has been officially connected with the schools of his district. He has served as trustee, treasurer and collector of the Lutheran Church, in which he holds membership, and has always been prominently identified with the church and its work. He is widely and favorably known and universally respected on account of his sterling worth.

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#### GEORGE PEART.

Among the successful and well-to-do agriculturists who are carrying on their chosen occupation in Kewanee township is

this well-known farmer of section 5. He was born in Cumberlandshire, England, September 19, 1834, and is a son of Jacob and Hannah (Bell) Peart, natives of the same place. The father was engaged in lead mining and gave our subject the benefit of his experience and knowledge in that industry. He was born in 1893, and died in 1848, while his wife was born in 1800, and died in 1851. They never left England. In their family were eleven children, namely: John, a miner, died in Australia, in 1890, at the age of seventy-six years. Jacob, a music teacher, died in the same country in 1885, at the age of seventy-four years. Robert is married and lives with his family in Australia, at about the age of seventy-two years. He has been interested in gold mining for about forty-five years, and has made and lost three fortunes. Thomas, a resident of Toronto, Canada, first married Jane Gibbons, and second, Mrs. Byrum Levens, and has the following named children: William, Fred, George, Charles, Hannah Belle and Margaret. Hannah is the wife of Edward Milburn, a farmer of Burns township, this county, and they have two children living, Robert and John, while Anna Belle is deceased. George, our subject, is the next one of the family. Anna is the widow of William Scott and a resident of Kewanee. Her children are Hannah, Elizabeth, Mary, Fannie, Emily and William. Tamer is the wife of John Stabler, a farmer of Kewanee. William, deceased, was a school teacher by occupation. He married Ann Ridley, now a resident of Toronto, Canada, and to them were born children: Elizabeth, Clement, Effie, Florence, Agnes, Maud and Morley. Joseph, a farmer of Missouri, married a Miss Powell and has two children. Joshua died in England at the age of two years.

On coming to the new world in 1857, George Peart first located in Canada, where he was engaged in farming for eight years, and in Oxbridge, Canada, he was married, November 7, 1865, to Miss Mary Jane Legge, who was born in the town of Beeford, Yorkshire, England, May 12, 1845, and also a resident of Canada in 1857. Her father, Robert Legge, was born in Durhamshire, England in 1820, and brought his family to America in 1857. He made farming his life occupation and died May 3, 1890. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Anna Molson, was born in Yorkshire, England, March 29, 1820, and is still living at Oxbridge, Canada, a hale and hearty old woman of eighty-one years. They, too, were the parents of eleven children: (1) Harriet is the wife of Isaac Archer, a farmer of Rockwell, Calhoun county, Iowa, and they have seven children, John, Joseph, Elizabeth, Walter, Albert, Charles and Anna. (2) Mrs. Peart is the second in order of birth in this family. (3) Elizabeth married David Parkin, and both are now deceased, together with three of their six children. Mr. Parkin was a farmer of Manitoulin Island. (4) Charlotte is living with her mother in Canada. (5) William, also a farmer of Manitoulin Island, married Jane Warren, and they have three children. (6) Sarah is the wife of Richard Hoskins, a farmer of Pine-dale, Canada. (7) George D. married Sarah Madill and followed farming at Oxbridge, Canada. Both he and his wife are now deceased. (8) Anna L., deceased, was the wife of Samuel Bagshaw, a farmer of Orillia, Canada, and left five children, Alice, Sarah, Maud, Hazel and Clara. (9) Margaret married first David Hogg, a contractor, by whom she had two sons, and for her second husband she married Samuel Sly,



ly whom she had one child. They reside at Whitewood, Manitoba. (10) Robert, a farmer of Manitoba, married Annie Neusome and has five daughters. (11) Hannah Maria is the wife of Samuel Ball, of Oxbridge, Canada, and they have five children, Burt, George, Charles, Rolland and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Peart are the parents of eight children, as follows: Hannah Maria, wife of Thomas Dynes, a farmer of Kewanee township, this county, by whom she had two children, George C., living, and Roy P., deceased; Robert Molson, a farmer of Annawan township, who married Lizzie McDermott, and has one child, Lois E.; George D., a farmer of the same township, who married Blanche Barton and has two children, Morley P. and Thelma; William N., John, Jennie, Charlotte and Frances, all at home.

In 1865, soon after his marriage, Mr. Peart came to the United States and located at Fredericktown, Madison county, Missouri, where he was engaged in lead mining for a year, but after sinking a shaft eighty feet and not striking ore, he abandoned the project and removed to Kewanee, Illinois, in 1866. Here he was engaged in coal mining for five years, under the firm name of Peart & Company, his partners being Isaac Archer and William Coast. In 1871 he purchased eighty acres of land in Kewanee township, for which he paid two thousand dollars, and in 1880 bought another eighty-acre tract. Subsequently he added by purchase until he owned four hundred acres, but in 1898 sold eighty acres to his son Robert. He has placed the land under a high state of cultivation, and has successfully engaged in its operation. He is a thorough and systematic farmer and a good

reliable business man. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat. Both he and his wife attend the United Brethren Church, and stand high in the community where they reside.

### JOHN CALVIN DEWEY.

This well-known and prominent grain dealer of Annawan belongs to a very old and distinguished family. The Deweys were an old feudal family of French Flanders, from which the town of Douai, France, derived its name. Some of its members went to England with William the Conqueror and settled in Lincolnshire, northeast of London. The progenitor of the family in America was Thomas Dewey, who became a dissenter and emigrated from Sandwich, Kent county, England, with Governor Winthrop and Rev. John Warham. It is supposed that he was a passenger on the Lyon, which arrived at Salem, Massachusetts, from Bristol, England, in 1630. He was the common ancestor of the large and influential family now scattered throughout this country. He settled in Windsor, Connecticut, in 1630, and from him our subject is descended in direct line through Josiah, who was born in Windsor, Connecticut, October 10, 1641; Josiah, born in Northampton, Massachusetts, December 24, 1666; William, born in the same place, in January, 1692; Simeon, born in Lebanon, Connecticut, May 1, 1718; and William, who was not only the great-grandfather of our subject, but bore the same relation to Admiral George Dewey, the hero of Manila Bay. He was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, January 11, 1746, and died in Hanover, New Hampshire, January 10, 1813. He married Rebecca Carrier, and to whom were born four-



teen children, one of whom was Simon, whole son Julius Yemas Dewey, was the father of the Admiral. Israel Dewey the grandfather of our subject, was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, January 26, 1777, and died in Lunenburg, Vermont, July 21, 1862.

Harry Hovey Dewey, our subject's father, was born in Berlin, Vermont, December 30, 1809, and was one of a family of ten children. In early life he followed farming in Berlin and Lunenburg, Vermont, removing to the latter place in 1848. In 1863 he came to Sheffield, Illinois, but after residing there for three years he went to Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa. In 1877, however, he returned to Sheffield, where he spent the remainder of his life in retirement from active labor, dying there in September, 1899. He married Miss Mary Louisa Cummings, September 25, 1836, who was also born in Berlin, Vermont, January 19, 1816, a daughter of Deacon Fenno and Rebecca (Smart) Cummings. She died November 27, 1890. By this union were born seven children whose names and dates of birth were as follows: Lucia Louisa, September 23, 1837; Anna, December 8, 1839; Henry Harrison, March 20, 1841; John Calvin, April 18, 1843; Benjamin Fenno, November 25, 1845; Mary Evaline, August 12, 1848; and William Whipple, July 14, 1851. Anna died at birth, and Evaline died October 5, 1865.

John C. Dewey, of this review, was born in Berlin, Vermont, and was reared and educated in his native state. In 1863, at the age of twenty years, he came with the family to Illinois and settled in Sheffield, Bureau county, and there he enlisted, May 14, 1864, in Company H, One Hundred and Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under

Captain William Fairman. He was honorably discharged October 28, 1864, and soon afterward went to Keosauqua, Van Buren county, Iowa, where he spent eight years. During the following two years he was again a resident of Sheffield, Illinois, and then came to Henry county, being engaged in the grain business in Atkinson for four years. He next spent two years in Centreville, Iowa, and from there went to Mendon, Nebraska, where he made his home until 1888. Subsequently he was a resident of Loomis, that state, and in the spring of 1895 located in Buda, Illinois, where he lived until coming to Annawan on the first of December, 1897. Since 1886 he has engaged in the grain business, and now handles about four hundred thousand bushels of grain annually. The capacity of his elevator is about thirty-two thousand bushels. He is a man of keen perception, sound judgment and unbounded enterprise, and to these characteristics may be attributed his success in life.

On the 30th of September, 1880, in Aurora, Illinois, Mr. Dewey was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Mears, who was born in Chicago, September 24, 1854, and is a daughter of William and Ann Latham, natives of Ireland. Five children blessed this union: Fenno Cummings, born November 8, 1881; Harry Mars, born October 4, 1885; a daughter, who was born and died January 16, 1886; Annie Louise, born November 15, 1891; and William Joseph, born September 5, 1893. The two oldest are now attending school in Davenport, Iowa.

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#### ROSSETER F. SCHOONOVER.

Among the leading citizens and representative farmers of Burns township is numbered Rosseter F. Schoonover, of section

34, who was born near Marietta, Washington county, Ohio, April 11, 1833, and is a son of Henry and Eunice (Hopkins) Schoonover, natives of the same county. His paternal grandfather, Nicholas Schoonover, was born in Connecticut of Holland ancestry, and became one of the pioneers of the Buckeye state, where his death occurred. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and a farmer by occupation. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Blue, was also a native of New England. The remains of both were interred at Belpre, Ohio. The father of our subject was killed March 4, 1842, by being thrown from a horse, at the age of thirty-seven years. The mother long survived him and married again. She was eighty-two years of age at the time of her death, April 18, 1893. She was born in New Jersey, of English descent and was a daughter of Freeman and Sarah (Leach) Hopkins, who moved to Ohio when Eunice was but two years old.

Our subject is one of a family of six children. His sister Emeline, now the widow of John F. Finch, is represented on another page of this volume. Adolphus enlisted in Cambridge in Company A, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was taken prisoner while on duty in Louisiana and sent to Tyler, Texas. He died at Shreveport, Louisiana, from the effects of his prison life March 4, 1864, at the age of twenty-seven years. Mary wedded Alonzo Reardon, a native of Ohio, who was killed in the battle of Look-out Mountain during the Civil war. She died in Iowa, in 1860, leaving two children. Caroline became the wife of Stephen Needham, a farmer of Ohio. Asa enlisted in an Ohio regiment in 1864, and served until the close of the war. He married Maggie Ro-

rah, a native of Pennsylvania, and lives in Missouri. For her second husband the mother married Aaron Herrington, a native of South Carolina, and by that union had five children, namely: Dallas, who married Ella Breckenridge and follows farming at Princeton, Illinois; Barbara, who married William Harvey and died in Marion, Iowa; Lillie, wife of William Wheeler, a mason of Parkersburg, West Virginia; Dorinda, wife of Jefferson Potter, a farmer of Kewanee township, this county; and Joseph who married Lizzie Burford and lives on the old homestead in Washington county, Ohio.

Rosseter F. Schoonover was educated in the public schools of his native county, and assisted his step-father in the work of the home farm until nineteen years of age, when he came to Peoria, Illinois, where he worked on the farm of Lyman Hitchcock for three years, and on G. Dickinson's farm two years. On the 1st of January, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Margery Harlan, who was born and reared in Peoria county and is a daughter of Moses Harlan, a pioneer of that county, coming from Indiana. He was born in Warren county, Ohio, July 5, 1787, and first married Ann Jennings, of Ohio, January 28, 1813, and the children born to them were as follows: George B., deceased, married Sarah Cornelison and lived in Peoria county, where he followed farming; Sarah Hopkins is the widow of Aaron Wilkinson and a resident of Newton, Nebraska; John, a resident of Newton, Harvey county, Kansas, lost his wife before the Civil war, and enlisted at Peoria, Illinois, in 1862, remaining in the service until hostilities ceased; Phoebe, a resident of Princeville, Illinois, is the widow of Rice McMillan, who took his family to Oregon about 1849; Milton mar-

ried Susan Gelkenson and died six months after their marriage, while she is now living in Stuart, Iowa; and Lewis, deceased, married Eveline Chapin in 1846 and lived in Iowa. For his second wife the father of these children wedded Mary Butler, who was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, August 9, 1797. By this union were born four children, namely: Joseph married Arminda Hadsall and is at Stuart, Iowa, retired. He enlisted in the Forty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the war, in 1861, and later re-enlisted, serving in all four years. He came very nearly losing his eyesight. Thomas married Lizzie Sterns, of Peoria county, Illinois, and is now a lawyer, editor of a paper and overseer of government timber in Oregon. Mary died unmarried at the age of thirty years, and was buried in Wethersfield. Margery, wife of our subject, completes the family. She was educated in the country schools and remained at home with her parents in Peoria county until her marriage. Moses Harlan moved to Peoria county, Illinois, about 1833, and was a pioneer of Radner township. He was one of the leading men of that county and served as a member of the legislature about 1840. In politics he was a Whig, and in religious belief a Universalist. He died September 3, 1842, and his wife, November 21, 1876. His father, George Harlan, died May 6, 1821, aged eighty-two years, and his wife, Margery, in 1821, in her seventy-eighth year. They were of the same family as Chief Justice Harlan.

Immediately after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Schoonover came to Henry county, and he purchased eighty acres of land on section 27, Burns township, to which he has since added eighty acres on section 34; sixty acres on the same section; eighty acres on

section 21; and two hundred acres on section 26. The first eighty acres were unbroken when they came into his possession, but the other tracts were all under cultivation. The improvements that he has placed upon his land amount to about eight thousand dollars, and he now has one of the best and most desirable farms in Burns township. Besides this valuable property he has a well improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Riley township, Nemaha county, Kansas. In connection with general farming he is successfully engaged in stock raising, his specialty being hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Schoonover have become the parents of eleven children: Mary Eunice, born November 7, 1857, first married John Wilhelm, a farmer of Burns township, and second, William Chadwick, a veteran of the Civil war, now living in Nemaha county, Kansas; Joseph Ward, born July 8, 1860, was married in 1886 to Elsie Ronstrom and is a resident of Kewanee; Lee B., born February 7, 1862, was married September 7, 1888, to Ada Daily, and is a farmer of Corning, Kansas; Adolphus, born June 13, 1864, married Lizzie Earl and is a farmer of Corning, Kansas; Etta, born November 6, 1868, died at the age of nearly four years; Emeline, born February 14, 1871, is the wife of John Anderson, of Nobles county, Minnesota; John Rosseter, born October 28, 1873, wedded Mary Helchsell and is a farmer of Galva township, this county; Grace, born January 10, 1876, is the wife of Lyman Snyder, who is engaged in farming on the home place; Ruea, born August 20, 1879, is the wife of Orville Snyder, a farmer of Burns township; Olive, born March 8, 1882, is at home with her parents; and Bethula, born January 6, 1887, died November 7, 1887.

Since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, in 1856, Mr. Schoonover has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and he has most efficiently filled the office of school director. His wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and both are held in high regard by all who know them.

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### LOUIS OBERG.

This well-known and energetic farmer residing on section 20, Galva township, was born in Sweden on the 29th of September, 1849. His parents died in that country and there two sisters still reside, but his only brother, John Oberg, is also engaged in farming in Galva township, this county. By occupation the father was also an agriculturist.

Our subject was reared upon a farm, and early in life gained a good practical knowledge of agricultural pursuits, although his literary education was limited. He continued to engage in farming in the land of his birth until 1875, when he determined to try his fortune in the United States, where he believed that better opportunities were afforded ambitious young men. On crossing the ocean that year he came direct to Henry county, Illinois, where he worked by the month as a farm hand until 1879, and then went to Chicago, where he was employed in a furniture factory for six years. On the expiration of that period he returned to Henry county, and resumed farming. After renting land for some time he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 20, Galva township, which is well tiled, under a high state of cultivation and improved with good build-

ings. He carries on mixed farming and is meeting with well-deserved success in his labors. He is a stockholder in the Farmers Elevator of Galva, and is also interested in the Westrand Manufacturing Company of that place.

In 1879 Mr. Oberg married Miss Kate Peterson, who was born in Sweden, December 9, 1844, and came to Illinois in 1869. Her parents both died in Sweden, but she has one sister, Annie, wife of Emil Walgren, who resides in Chicago; Peter, who died in Chicago, in 1898; and five others who reside in the old country, namely; Elsie, Christine, Eric, Andrew and Betsy. Of the four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Oberg, Jennie, born in Chicago, died at the age of fifteen months; and Alben died at the age of three years. Esther, born January 7, 1883, and Edward, born May 7, 1885, have been educated in the country school near their home.

Mr. Oberg gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party, and has been called upon to fill local offices. He is now serving as highway commissioner and school trustee, and is justly regarded as one of the leading citizens of his community.

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### HUGH A. CALHOUN.

This gentleman, who is one of the most prosperous and successful agriculturists of Galva township, has made his home in Henry county since 1865. A native of Illinois, he was born in Stark county, February 20, 1861, his parents being Andrew and Mary (Galbraith) Calhoun, both now deceased. The father was born in the north of Ireland in 1824, and when twenty-four years of age came to the United States,

spending about nine years in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1856 he became a resident of Stark county, Illinois, where he lived until 1865, where he came to Henry county and rented a farm until the spring of 1866, where he bought one hundred and sixty acres of what is now the old home farm, to which he added until at the time of his death he owned four hundred acres, and carried on an extensive business as a farmer and stock raiser. He continued in active business until to the time of his death in 1887, and two years previous made a trip to the land of his birth. After his death his widow and Fred Calhoun carried on the farm until her death, January 30, 1897.

Hugh A. Calhoun is the sixth in order of birth in a family of ten children who reached years of maturity, while one died in infancy. The others are Mary, wife of Daniel M. Towner, of Chicago; Margaret, wife of T. W. Patterson, station agent at Granger, Illinois; Andrew G., a resident of Galva township, this county; Prudence, wife of Harry Res-seguie, of Galva township; Rebecca, wife of James A. Ayres, of Kansas; Susan, wife of Thomas H. Johnson, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; William W., assistant cashier of the Kewanee Union National Bank; Henry C., an attorney of Chicago; and Fred C., who lives on the old home farm. All of the family have received good common-school educations, while some are graduates of the Galva schools, and have taught in different schools.

The subject of this review grew to manhood on the home farm in Galva township, and assisted in its operation until about twenty-one years of age, when he rented land of his father and commenced farming on his own account. He has successfully en-

gaged in general farming and stock raising, and is now owner of the north half of section 9, Galva township, which he has converted into a well improved farm. He is also a stockholder and director of the First National Bank of Galva; a stockholder of the Farmers Elevator at that place; and one of the directors of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Kewanee, which is one of the strongest insurance companies in this section of the state, as it represents over one million dollars worth of property in six townships. As a business man Mr. Calhoun is prompt, energetic and notably reliable, and generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes, takes.

He is an active worker for the Republican party and its principles, and has been a delegate to county conventions. He has served as road commissioner seven years, township school trustee one term; and school director for twelve years. Religiously, he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and socially is connected with the Odd Fellows Lodge No. 408 of Galva, in which he has passed through all the chairs, and which he has represented in the grand lodge, where he served on a committee. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp No. 241, and has served as venerable consul. In social affairs he is quite popular, and is justly regarded as one of the leading and prominent citizens of Galva township.

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#### JOHN SELMAN.

Sweden has furnished to the new world no more worthy citizen than John Selman, a prominent and influential farmer residing on section 12, Galva township. He was

born in Smoland, on the 13th of September, 1850. His parents both died in Sweden, but five of the family, four sons and one daughter, came to the United States, and three of the number are still living, these being John, our subject; Charles G., a miner of Montana; and J. A., a farmer of Bureau county, Illinois.

John Selman acquired a good practical education in the schools of his native land, but his knowledge of the English language has been obtained through his own unaided efforts since coming to this country. It was in 1872 that he crossed the Atlantic and landed in New York, whence he went to Pennsylvania, where he worked for a railroad company and also in a sawmill for a time. On coming to Illinois, he first located in Jersey county, and later came to Knox county, where he worked as a farm hand for about one-half year, and then engaged in farming on rented land, making his home in Henry county since 1879. In 1893 he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Galva township, and has since added to it many improvements, so that it is now one of the most desirable farms of its size in the locality. It is supplied with good and substantial buildings, the land is well tilled and under a high state of cultivation and everything about the place indicates the thrift and progressive spirit of the owner, who is accounted one of the most thorough farmers and stock raisers in the community.

In 1878 Mr. Selman was united in marriage with Miss Selma A. Brandin, also a native of Sweden, who came to America with her parents at the age of nine years. They are still living in Jamestown, New York. One sister, Nannie, wife of C. M. Peterson, is a resident of Knox county,

Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Selman have seven children, namely: Carl Julius, an employe of the Western Tube Company, of Kewanee; Bertha Alfreda, Minnie, Nannie, William, Raymond and Vera, all at home. The children have attended the schools at Galva. In politics Mr. Selman has always affiliated with the Republican party. For one term he efficiently served as school director in district No. 5. He started out in life for himself in limited circumstances, but through his own well-directed efforts has prospered, and has not only won a comfortable competence but has also gained the warm regard of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

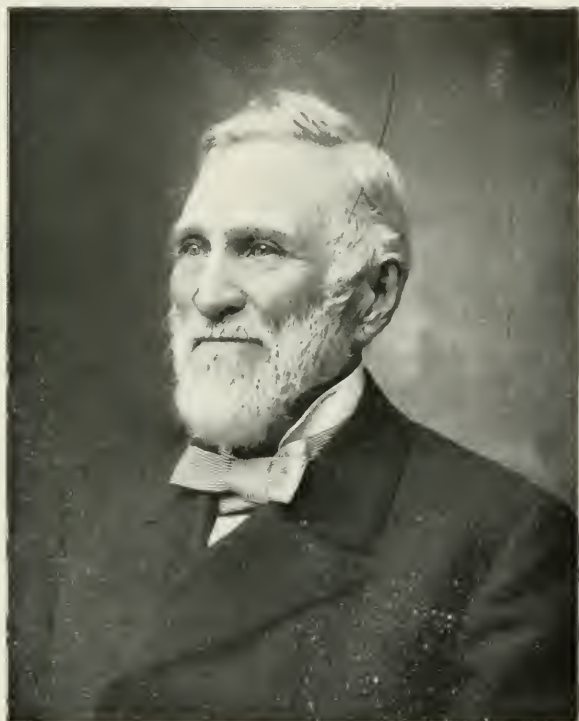
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#### HON. WILLIAM LORENZO WILEY.

Henry county has been the home and scene of labor of many men who have not only led lives that should serve as an example to those who come after them but have also been of important service to their city and county through various avenues of usefulness. Among them must be numbered William L. Wiley, who passed away August 2, 1900, after a life of industry, and rich in those rare possessions which only a high character can give.

He was born in Rockingham, Vermont, November 10, 1820, a son of William Campbell and Mary (Perry) Wiley. The father was born near New Boston, New Hampshire, of Scotch-Irish ancestry, coming from the clan of Campbells. The mother was of English extraction, and on the maternal side belonged to the Fletcher family, which was an old and prominent one in New England. Both parents died in Vermont. By occupation the father was a farmer and stock





W. L. WILEY.



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raiser. All of his three sons held interests in the west. G. R. came to Henry county, Illinois, soon after his brother William L., located here and died in Galva, July 30, 1868. Henry C. died at Saxton's River, Vermont, March 28, 1898.

The primary education of William L. Wiley was acquired in the common schools of the Green Mountain state, and later he attended the academies of the east, becoming a well-educated man. He grew to manhood upon a farm and later engaged in partnership with his uncle, Gates Perry, for a time. Selling his interest in the business he went to Waterville, Maine, where he was interested in the wool trade.

On first coming to Illinois, in 1851, Mr. Wiley located in Brimfield, Peoria county, where he purchased property, and two years later took possession of the same, making some improvements thereon. In the fall of 1853 he bought the land where Galva is now located, and in partnership with his cousin, laid out the town before the railroad was built. He purchased many farms in this county, which he improved and then sold at a profit, and as a business man had a very successful career. He became connected with the banking interests of Galva, and was the first president of the National Bank of that place. Later his cousin, D. L. Wiley, purchased an interest in the business, which they carried on together until their charter expired, when it was merged into the bank belonging to the firm of L. M. Yocum & Company, who still conduct it. Our subject served as cashier for a time after this change, but on account of ill health was obliged to resign that position and retire from active business cares. At the time of his death he owned a farm in Galva township, but most

of his landed interests were in Iowa and still belong to the estate.

In April, 1842, Mr. Wiley was united in marriage with Miss Louise Bailey, also a native of Windham county, Vermont, by whom he had one son, Walter Lorenzo, who was born at Saxton's River, that state, January 6, 1844, and died in Galva, Illinois, May 22, 1862. His wife died on the 11th of July, the same year, at which time Mr. Wiley was very ill with typhoid fever, and knew nothing of his loss. He was again married, February 11, 1864, his second union being with Miss Eunice B. Williams, of Galva, who was also born in Oneida county, New York, and daughter of Edson and Corintha (Spencer) Williams and who came to this country at an early day. They became parents of two children, Jessie L., now the wife of Alfred Hare, of Galva; and Walter S., who died April 2, 1879, at the age of seven years. The wife and mother died April 25, 1883. On the 25th of July, 1895, Mr. Wiley was united in marriage with Miss Kate Garey, who was born in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania, in September, 1851, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Marsden) Garey. Her father died in that state in 1853.

Public-spirited and progressive Mr. Wiley always took an active interest in advancing the welfare of his town, and gave of his time and money to promote various enterprises. He was a stockholder of the Hayes Pump & Planter Company, and also a large stockholder of the Galva State Bank, of which he was a director for a number of years. He cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay, the Whig candidate and on the organization of the Republican party joined its ranks, always taking an active interest in political affairs. He was a delegate

to the national convention in Chicago of his party that nominated Grant in 1868, and for four years was a member of the board of equalization. He secured the right of way for the Rock Island & Peoria railroad through Galva, and was one of the directors and vice-president of the company for a number of years. The last public office which he held was that of president of the board of equalization. For sixty-four years he was an earnest and consistent member of the Baptist Church, always held some office, serving as trustee and treasurer, as well as leader of the choir for a number of years. He took a very active and influential part in church work, and in his younger years served as superintendent of the Sunday school. He was of a poetic turn of mind and wrote many beautiful poems. In daily life and action he was ever genial and affable, and his friendship was highly prized.

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J. D. DICKINSON, M. D.

For half a century Dr. Dickinson has been a resident of Henry county, and has been one of the leading practitioners of Galva since September, 1877. He was born in Oberlin, Ohio, January 13, 1846, a son of Richard and Edna (Needham) Dickinson. His ancestors were originally from England, but the family was founded in New England many generations ago. In early life the Doctor's father followed the carpenter's trade, but took up farming about 1848, and devoted his remaining years to that pursuit. He brought his family to Henry county, Illinois, in 1850. He was born in Randolph, Ohio, in 1818, and died in Wethersfield township in 1897, while

his wife was born in Massachusetts in 1814, and died in 1868. They had three sons: J. D., our subject; Oliver W., a carpenter of Williamstown, Vermont; and George A., agent for the Prudential Insurance Company at Galva.

Dr. Dickinson attended the public schools of Wethersfield and the academy at Kewanee, and also pursued a classical course at Wheaton, Illinois, which course, however, he was unable to complete on account of sickness. For a time he engaged in teaching school in this state, and then entered the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, as land examiner from St. Paul to Breckenridge, Minnesota, which position he filled for six months. He studied medicine for a time with Dr. Parsons, of Kewanee, and then attended lectures at Hahnemann Medical College, Chicago, Illinois, where he was graduated March 19, 1874, and then engaged in practice with his former preceptor at Kewanee for a short time. He followed his chosen profession at Wataga, Knox county, from the spring of 1875 until the fall of 1877, and then came to Galva, where he has since had his office. With the growth of the town his patronage steadily increased, and he now enjoys a good practice, which extends many miles into the surrounding country. He has met with well merited success, and owns a pleasant home in Galva.

On the 13th of October, 1875, in Wethersfield, Dr. Dickinson was united in marriage with Miss Eva Ray, who was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1854, and came to Henry county when fourteen years of age. As her mother had died when she was but five years old she made her home with her aunt, Mrs. Cornelia Oliver, who is now living in Kewanee at the age of sev-

enty years. Mrs. Dickinson's father was a lawyer and school teacher by profession. He resided in New York state until two years after his marriage when he removed to Michigan, where he died. While residing in the latter state he devoted his time to law, serving at one time as county judge. He was very successful in the practice of law.

In political sentiment the Doctor is a Republican. He was mayor of Galva in 1899; has served on the school board during which time the new school house was erected in 1894. He takes quite an active part in religious affairs as a member of the Congregational Church, and is now serving as deacon of the same. He is a member and examining physician of the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 241; the Fraternal Tribunal Camp, No. 10; and the Bankers' Life Insurance Company of Des Moines, Iowa. As a physician he stands deservedly high among his professional brethren, and as a citizen merits and receives the respect of all who know him.

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#### HON. CHARLES C. WILSON.

One of the most distinguished members of the legal profession in Henry county, and one who is known not alone within its borders, but throughout the state and nation, is the Hon. Charles C. Wilson, of Kewanee. He is a native of Massachusetts, born September 18, 1829, and is a son of Enoch and Abigail (Richardson) Wilson, the former a native of Wrentham, Massachusetts, and the latter of Portland, Maine. They were the parents of fourteen children, of whom the judge was eighth in order of birth.

In his native state Judge Wilson grew

to manhood, and in its schools he received his early education. In his boyhood and youth the great west was a popular theme of discussion, and Illinois was considered a part of that country, and to this state he determined to come at the earliest opportunity. Accordingly, about the time he attained his majority, he came to Illinois, and for a time made his home in Stark county, where he purchased a tract of land and began farming. In 1854, however, he gave up the farm and began the study of law, and pursued the same with diligence and energy until 1859, at which time he was admitted to the bar. He at once began the practice of his profession in Bureau county, but in a few months after he removed to Kewanee, then a small village, and here he has since continued to reside.

It was not long after his settlement in Kewanee before his ability as an attorney became known and acknowledged, and in 1864 he was nominated and elected district attorney for the fifth judicial district, and served with honor and credit for four years. He was then appointed by President Johnson, chief justice of the supreme court of Utah, a position he filled with marked credit until he resigned in the latter part of 1870 and returned to Kewanee.

In 1850, just prior to his removal to Illinois, Judge Wilson was united in marriage with Miss Maria N. Benham, a native of Vermont, and daughter of Judge Benham, of Chittenden county, that state. They were, however, married in Massachusetts. By this union seven children were born, all of whom are yet living—Jennie M., Abbie, Laura M., Charles F., Cora, George and Edward.

In politics, Judge Wilson is an ardent Republican, a party with which he has been

associated ever since its organization. He has never sought political preferment, although he consented to serve one term as mayor of Kewanee. He has repeatedly refused nominations to office, including that of a member of congress, a position that he would have filled with credit and to the satisfaction of all. He has ever been willing to give of his time to the interests of his party and the welfare of his friends, responding to any and all calls when his health would permit. The city of Kewanee has always found in him a steadfast friend, one willing to make any sacrifice consistent with good business judgment to advance its interests. He has taken an active interest in fostering local manufacturing industries, and has been a large stockholder in such enterprises.

Modest and unassuming, but with abilities that would have made him a name and fame in larger cities, Judge Wilson has pursued the even tenor of his way, content to be numbered with those of his fellow citizens who cared not for high honors, but who will be remembered by future generations for the general impress of their character on those with whom they were surrounded. He is certainly a high type of the American citizen, and his friends are numerous throughout county and state, and those who know him have for him the greatest esteem.

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#### V. L. ANDERSON.

One of the busiest, most energetic and most enterprising business men of Annawan, Illinois, is V. L. Anderson, an extensive

grain and lumber dealer. He was born near Eergen, Norway, on the 2nd of February, 1855, and is a son of Lars and Julia (Holstenen) Anderson, both natives of that immediate locality. His paternal grandfather was Andrew Anderson, a millwright by trade, who ran a sawmill and also engaged in farming. He spent his entire life in Norway and died at about the age of eighty years. In 1866 the parents of our subject came to America in a sailing vessel, landing in Quebec, Canada, after six weeks spent upon the water. They proceeded at once to Norway, La Salle county, Illinois, where the father made his home until called to his final rest August 27, 1871, at the age of forty-nine years. In his native land he had followed the stone mason's trade and immediately after locating here he resumed that occupation, to which he devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his life. His widow still survives him at the age of eighty-one years, and now makes her home in Sheridan, La Salle county. Their family consisted of nine children, as follows: Gertrude, deceased wife of David Cothren, of Norway, Illinois; Andrew, who spent a short time in this country and then returned to his native land, where he died in the winter of 1900; Julia, wife of O. Clementson, of Oklahoma, Illinois; Johannes, a sailor, who lost his life in the North Sea; Halsten, a resident of Norway; V. L., our subject; John, a farmer of Sandwich, Illinois; and Barney and Gunner, both farmers of Sheridan, Illinois.

V. L. Anderson acquired his primary education in the schools of Norway, and after coming with his parents to this country attended the public schools of La Salle county, Illinois, for a time. At the age of

nineteen he commenced farming on his own account at Sheridan, that county, and was thus employed for three years, at the end of which time he accepted a position with the firm of Courtright & Company, grain dealers of Millington, Illinois, in whose employ he remained until 1888, when he leased the elevator at that place and embarked in the grain business on his own account. He continued business at that place until 1897, and in February, 1898, removed to Lee, Lee county, Illinois, where he was engaged in the same line of trade until coming to Annawan, in May, 1899. Here he purchased the west elevator of Marcellus Brothers, and has since enlarged and remodeled it extensively until its capacity has been tripled. It is now a modern up-to-date elevator. Mr. Anderson now handles about two hundred thousand bushels of grain per year, while his business is steadily increasing, and he also owns and operates a lumber yard, where he does quite an extensive business. He is a man of keen perception, sound judgment and unbounded enterprise and to these characteristics may be attributed his wonderful success in business affairs.

On the 21st of October, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Anderson and Miss Cora Watters, of Millington, Illinois, a daughter of I. B. S. Watters, and by this union have been born two children, Vera and La Verne. In his political views Mr. Anderson is decidedly a Prohibitionist, and in his social relations he is connected with the Masonic fraternity, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are people of the highest respectability.

#### WILLIAM ROBERTS.

The subject of this sketch is one of the prominent citizens of Burns township, and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising in Burns township. He was born in Oswego, New York, on the 5th of November, 1831, and is a son of Michael and Minerva (Atchison) Roberts, natives of Maine and New York, respectively. Coming west in 1833, the father first located in Peoria and soon after moved to Fulton county, Illinois, but in 1853 came to Henry county, where he spent the remainder of his life. By occupation he, too, was a farmer and stock raiser. He hauled the first stone used in the construction of the Peoria court house, and was prominently identified with public affairs in early days. He died December 25, 1881, and his wife departed this life April 27, 1874, the remains of both being interred in Cosners cemetery. In their family were thirteen children but only four are now living. Their names and dates of birth are as follows: Diantha, September 15, 1823; Ann, August 23, 1824; John, April 2, 1826; Ahmeda, February 5, 1828; Edwin, December 12, 1829; William, November 5, 1831; Jacob, November 5, 1833; Stephen, October 1, 1835; Henry, January 1, 1838; Fances, June 10, 1839; Martha, February 10, 1844. Of these Stephen served three years as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war, and took part in several important battles. Henry was also numbered among the boys in blue of that regiment. While returning from a foraging expedition through Tennessee he and others entered the commissary's store at Lebanon, Kentucky, and

one of the number carelessly discharged an old carbine, which was believed to be unloaded. The discharge ignited the powder and he with four others were burned to death, dying after twelve hours of the most intense suffering.

William Roberts accompanied the family on their removal to Illinois. On the 30th of December, 1852, he was united in marriage with Miss Esther Green, who was also born in New York, December 25, 1837, a daughter of William and Esther (Atchinson) was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and in recognition of his services received a pension in the way of a grant of land. He died in this county and was buried in Cosners cemetery. Mrs. Roberts is the second in order of birth in a family of four children, the others being as follows: Horace enlisted in the fall of 1861, in the Forty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after serving one year contracted measles. He returned home and died from the effects of the disease, his remains being interred in Cosners cemetery. Lyman, now a resident of Atkinson, this county, was in the one-hundred day service as a member of the Forty-second Regiment. Walter now makes his home in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts are the parents of six children, namely: Ida, born March 4, 1854, died September 10, 1855. Emma, born October 9, 1856, is the wife of William Mahony, a native of Wisconsin, where he is now engaged in farming, and they have three sons, William, Clarence and Elmer. Frank E., born November 24, 1859, died September 24, 1860. Elmer E., born October 23, 1861, married Addie Long, and is engaged in farming in Burns township. They have four children, Clyde, Esther, Clara and Belva. Laura V., born June 16,

1865, is the wife of Samuel Pugh, of Kewanee, and they have one child, Morton. Roseoe E., born January 23, 1871, married Millicent Gerkin and is engaged in farming in Burns township.

Throughout his active business life Mr. Roberts has engaged in farming and stock raising, making a specialty of short horn cattle. He is also interested in the dairy business, and manufactures butter quite extensively. He owns and successfully operates a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and improved with good buildings. He was educated in the public schools. He first bought eighty acres of his present farm, which he improved and added to from time to time until he now owns two hundred and forty acres. He keeps up to the front. In 1882 he built a fine home that is still one of the best in the township. He was one of the charter members of the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. The Republican party finds in him a staunch supporter of its principles, and he takes considerable interest in political affairs, though he has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. Both he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in high regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances who esteem them highly for their sterling worth.

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#### DONALD CAMPBELL MURCHISON.

Donald C. Murchison, deceased, was for many years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Henry county, owning and operating a good farm of one



hundred and sixty acres on section 14, Galva township, where his widow now resides. He was born in Rothshire, Scotland, December 25, 1839, and was the eighth in order of birth in a family of twelve children. Seven of the number are still living, three are residents of this county, these being Roderick, a traveling salesman, residing in Kewanee; Kenneth, a retired farmer of the same place; and Duncan, living east of Kewanee on a farm. The parents, Findlay and Catherine (McLean) Murchison, brought their family to the new world when our subject was only fourteen years of age, and settled in a Scotch settlement near Elmira, Henry county, Illinois, where both died. By occupation the father was a farmer and devoted his entire life to that calling.

Donald C. Murchison completed his literary education in the high school of Kewanee, and on laying aside his text books aided in the work of the home farm until he attained his majority, thus acquiring an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. He then went to California, where he engaged in prospecting and mining for twelve years, and at the end of that period returned to Illinois. He purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Galva township, Henry county, and to its improvement and cultivation devoted his energies until called from this life in 1889.

In 1871 Mr. Murchison was united in marriage with Miss May Melver, who was born in Rosshire, Scotland, in 1844, and came to this country in 1869, settling in Stark county, Illinois. Her parents never came to this country. By this union were born eight children, namely: Catherine A., wife of Charles J. Burke, of Nebraska, by whom she has one child, Clara May; Frank D., who attended Brown's Business College,

and now assists in the operation of the home farm; Charles R. R. and Margaret E., who were both educated in the Galva schools; Mary L.; William F., who also attended the Galva schools; Kenneth R.; and May Bessie. The children were all students of the district school near their home. Since the death of their father the sons have carried on the farm, and in its operation have met with most gratifying success, displaying excellent business ability and sound judgment. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

In religious belief Mr. Murchison was a Presbyterian, and in his social relations was a member of the Masonic lodge of Kewanee. By his ballot he always supported the men and measures of the Republican party, but was never an aspirant for office. He took an active interest in maintaining good schools, and for many years was officially connected with the schools of his district. He led an honorable and useful life, and commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact, either in business or social circles.

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#### WILLIAM HAXBY.

William Haxby, who owns and operates a well-improved and highly-cultivated farm of one hundred and twenty acres on section 22, Annawan township, Henry county, is a native of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Winchester, Scott county, May 22, 1844. His parents, George and Rachel (Hadson) Haxby, were born, reared and married in Yorkshire, England, and came to this country prior to the Black Hawk war, taking up their residence in Scott coun-

ty, Illinois, where they were numbered among the very earliest settlers. The father had two brothers, William and John Haxby, who located in the same county in pioneer days, and the latter served as a soldier in the Black Hawk war. In 1855 George Haxby brought his family to Henry county, and took up his residence on the farm where our subject now lives. While a resident of England he followed the wheelwright's trade, but after coming to America mostly engaged in farming. He died in 1875, at the age of eighty-one years, and his wife departed this life in 1870, at the age of about sixty-five. They were well known and held in high regard in the community where they made their home. Eight children were born to them, namely: Mary married John Warten, of Pike county, Illinois. He is now deceased. Elizabeth, deceased wife of William Warten; Jane, wife of George Otley, of Kewanee; Margaret, who married George Patrick and died in Scott county, where he still lives; Rachel, wife of David Hilman, of Laverne, Minnesota; William, our subject; and John, who died in Henry county, in 1884, at the age of forty-four years. One boy died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native county, and attended its public schools. In 1855 he came with the family to Henry county, and has since resided upon his present farm. He is a skilled agriculturist and in its operation is meeting with good success. In politics he is an ardent Republican and has efficiently filled the office of school director in his district.

On the 18th of March, 1872, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Haxby and Miss Eveline McGee, a native of Peoria, Peoria county, Illinois, and a daughter of John and

Mary Ann McGee, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. Her father died during her childhood, and her mother departed this life in 1891, at the age of sixty-five years. Mr. and Mrs. Haxby have become the parents of six children: Rachel, born June 7, 1873, is now the wife of Andrew Rassusson, of Bureau county, Illinois, and they have one child, George; Ella H., born March 8, 1874, is at home; Lydia Margaret, born March 20, 1876, is the wife of Cornelius Dingman, of Williams, Iowa; Ethel May, born July 18, 1878, Lafford, born April 17, 1881, and Robert Lee, born September 18, 1884, are all at home. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### ELMER E. FITCH.

Elmer E. Fitch, of the firm of Fitch & Quinn, publishers of the Galva News, has been a resident of Henry county since 1875. He was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, August 13, 1846, and is a son of George and Deborah (Boleyn) Fitch, the former a native of Norwalk, Connecticut, the latter of Trumbull county, Ohio. On the paternal side he is of English ancestry. The first of the Fitch family to come to America was James Fitch, of Boking, Essex county, England, who crossed the Atlantic in 1636, and took up his residence in Massachusetts. Our subject is also descended from John Haynes, the first governor of the Hartford colony. His paternal grandfather was William Haynes Fitch.

George Fitch, the father, was a school teacher and followed that occupation throughout life. He died in Ohio, in De-



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ember, 1847. He was twice married and by his first wife had one daughter, Jane, who married Ira Kitch, and died at her home in Franklin, Pennsylvania, in April, 1900. Her husband was killed in the battle of Spottsylvania, in 1864. Her children were George, Willard, Nettie and Iretta. The second wife of George Fitch was the mother of our subject. After his death she lived for two years in Laporte, Indiana, and in 1856 removed to Fayette county, Iowa. Still later she made her home in Beaconsfield, Ringgold county, Iowa, where she died January 11, 1895, in the seventy-first year of her age. In 1861 she married William O. Hageman, who survives her and continues to live in Beaconsfield. By that union there were two children, but one died in infancy. Philo E., a farmer of Beaconsfield, is married and has a family.

Elmer E. Fitch is the youngest of the four children born of his father's second marriage, the others being as follows: (1) Martin Bentley, a physician of Decorah, Iowa, entered the Union army during the Civil war as a member of the Eighteenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, but was transferred to the Sixteenth Regiment, and was with Sherman on the march to the sea. He married Miss Helen R. Hayes, and five children were born to this union, two of whom survive. He married for his second wife Miss Belle Nelson, of Decorah, and they have four sons. (2) Alice married Thomas Kennedy and both died in Ohio. (3) George W., a resident of West Union, Iowa, was a teacher in early life and served as county superintendent of Fayette county, Iowa, for five terms, but is now engaged in biographical work with the B. F. Bowen Publishing Company. In May, 1861, at the age of sixteen years he enlisted in Company

D, Sixty-second Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and took part in thirty-seven battles. For a time he was held a prisoner in Libby prison and Belle Isle, and was twice slightly wounded but not disabled. He re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-fifth Pennsylvania Regiment and remained in the service until the close of the war. In 1866 he married Roxie A. Moore, and to them were born seven children: William E.; Mary L., deceased; Myrtle E.; Densel A.; George Porter, deceased; Clara E.; and Maud W.

Our subject was also among the boys in blue during the Rebellion, enlisting August 14, 1862, at the age of sixteen in Company A, Thirty-eighth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He was then living on the home farm in Fayette county, Iowa. For a time the regiment did guard duty at St. Louis and went on several raids in Arkansas and Missouri. They assisted in the capture of Union City, Tennessee, and then went to New Madrid, Missouri, and from there to Vicksburg in 1863, taking part in the siege and capture of that stronghold. They went on the expedition to Yazoo City, from which point they made a forced march to Black River Bridge for the purpose of taking part in the battle of Jackson, but, arriving too late, returned to Yazoo City, and from there went to Port Hudson and New Orleans, Louisiana, and to Brownsville, Texas, which they assisted in capturing. In 1864 they went to Mobile Bay and participated in the siege and capture of Fort Morgan, after which they returned to Donaldsonville, Louisiana. At Morganza Bend, in December, 1864, the regiment was consolidated with the Thirty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and from there went to Pensacola, Florida, marching through the swamps to the rear of Mobile.

They took part in the siege and final charge a. Fort Blakely, which surrendered at sundown, April 9, 1865. They then went up the Alabama river to Selma, where they did garrison duty for a few weeks. They next went to Houston, Texas, where they were mustered out August 15, 1865. Mr. Fitch received his final discharge at Davenport, Iowa, on the 5th of the following September.

After leaving the service he entered the Upper Iowa University, at Fayette, and later became a student at the Iowa State University, of Iowa City, where he was graduated in 1874, taking a thorough classical course. For a year he was principal of the West Hill school, of Burlington, Iowa, and in 1875, came to Galva, Illinois, as superintendent of schools, which position he acceptably filled for eight years. In 1882 he was appointed by the board of supervisors as county superintendent of schools. The following year he resigned the position of superintendent of the Galva schools, and purchased the plant of the Galva News, which he conducted alone until 1888, when he admitted H. Quinn to a partnership in the business. Together they have since carried on the paper with marked success, and have made it one of the most popular journals in this section of the state.

On the 5th of July, 1876, in Decorah, Iowa, Mr. Fitch was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Helgesen, who was born near Madison, Wisconsin, April 23, 1850, a daughter of Thomas and Anna Helgesen, natives of Norway. The mother died in Wisconsin in 1852, at the age of twenty-six, and the father died in Galva, Illinois, in 1895, at the age of eighty-one. Mr. Helgesen came to America in 1848 to seek his fortune, but chiefly to escape the persecutions of the Quakers in Norway, of which

sect he was a zealous member. He emigrated to Iowa in 1856 and was a successful farmer for thirty-nine years. Mrs. Fitch was the only child born of that union, but by a later marriage the father had a large family of children, four of whom are still living, namely: Mrs. Mary Passmore, of Elsinore, Utah; Hon. Henry T., of Milton, North Dakota; Mrs. H. T. Hammer, of Pullman, Illinois; and Albert, of Milton, North Dakota. Mrs. Fitch was also educated at the Upper Iowa and the Iowa State Universities, and prior to her marriage engaged in teaching in the Iowa City schools. She has decided literary tastes, is public spirited, and hopes to see the establishment in Galva of a free kindergarten and manual training school, and a free public library. She is a member and past president of the W. C. T. U. and Equal Suffrage Associations. Our subject and his wife have three children: George H., born June 5, 1877, is a graduate of Knox College, and is now editor of the Galva News; Rachel Louise, born September 27, 1878, and Robert Haynes, born January 17, 1881, are both attending Knox College.

By his ballot and through the columns of his paper Mr. Fitch has always supported the Republican party and its principles, and has taken quite an active part in political affairs. Since resigning his position as superintendent of the Galva schools he has served six years as a member of the board of education, and was president of the same for five years. He has been commander of the Grand Army Post, No. 33, and is one of the supreme directors of the Mystic Workers of the World, being a prominent member of both societies. He was appointed postmaster at Galva in 1891 by President Harrison and served four years.

## ROBERT HAY.

This gentleman, who spent his early life in active business and mainly in agricultural pursuits, is now living a retired life on a fine farm one-half mile east of the village of Annawan. A man of energy and more than ordinary business capacity, his success in life has been largely due to his own efforts and the sound judgment which has enabled him to make the most of his opportunities.

Mr. Hay was born near Hanover, Saluda township, Jefferson county, Indiana, September 30, 1821, a son of Thomas and Sarah (Maiden) Hay. The father was born in Kelso, Scotland, on the river Tweed, and was twelve years of age when he came to this country, in 1813, with his parents, William and Jane (Taylor) Hay. The family located in Saluda township, Jefferson county, Indiana, being numbered among the earliest pioneers of that locality, and there they all died. The children were Thomas, the father of our subject; Isabel, who was married in Scotland to Andrew Davidson, and came with the family to the new world; Betsy, who became the wife of Samuel Wells; and Annie, who married Andrew Getty, who was born near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. William Hay was the only child of Robert and Anna (Turnbull) Hay, also natives of Scotland, where his mother died about 1820. Shortly afterward the father went to Canada to visit his son and died while there.

Thomas Hay, the father of our subject, continued his residence in Jefferson county, Indiana, until 1856, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, and settled on a farm two and a half miles east of Annawan, making that his home until about four years

before his death, when he moved to the village. There he died July 3, 1892, and his wife passed away three days later. She was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1800, a daughter of Andrew and Mary (Passwater) Maiden, natives of the same state, who as early as 1806 removed to Indiana and settled in Jefferson county. Their other children were John, who died in Washington, Clark county, Indiana; Abner, who died in Lexington, Scott county, Indiana; and Mary, who wedded Lawrence Brooks and remained a resident of Indiana until after her husband's death and then went west. Mrs. Hay's paternal grandfather, John Maiden, was a native of Wales and came to the new world prior to the Revolutionary war, in which he took up arms against the mother country and served under General Washington.

Our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of nine children, the others being as follows; A. Jackson died at the age of two years; Mary died at the age of three; William married Samantha Shaw and died at Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he lived for five years prior to his death; John married, first, Elizabeth Crawford and, second, Susan Hardy, and resides in Austin, Scott county, Indiana; Jane is the widow of Henry Giles and a resident of Annawan, Illinois; George died in Clyde, Kansas, in 1894; Thomas married Columbia Berry, now deceased, and lives in Oklahoma; Lawrence B. married Jennie Foster, of Annawan, and makes his home in Guthrie, Oklahoma; and Maggie, who married Daniel Patterson; he died in Omaha, Nebraska, and she now resides in Annawan.

Reared in the county of his nativity, Robert Hay acquired his education in the pioneer schools of that locality and remained



at home with his parents until he attained the age of twenty-three years. He was then married, March 12, 1845, to Miss Margaret Crawford, who was also born in Jefferson county, Indiana, October 15, 1826, a daughter of David and Sarah (McNelly) Crawford, who died in that state. By this union were born fourteen children, as follows: (1) Oliver P., now entomologist in the national museum at New York city, married Molly Housman, of Rutland, Illinois, and they have four children, William P., Mamie, Fannie and Robert. (2) Mary E. is the wife of Thomas Clarke, of Missouri, and they have had five children. (3) Julia is the wife of Miles Shimel, of Bradford, Stark county, Illinois, and they have one child, Edward. (4) Sarah Jane (deceased). (5) Thomas married Marrietta Stever, of Pennsylvania, and died in Schaller, Sac county, Iowa, in 1881, leaving two children, Belle and Ella. (6) Ann married George Reed and resides at Yuma, South Dakota. (7) Francis M. married Nellie Lombard. They reside at Bradford, Stark county, Illinois. (8) Maria married Levi D. Rich. They reside at Los Angeles, California. (9) Bell married William H. Wilcox, of Adel, Iowa. (10) Leroy married Kate Schriver, resides at Milo, Illinois. (11) Clarence married Mabel Foster, of Bradford, Stark county, Illinois, where they reside, and they have five children. (12) George married Mary Stoner, of Whiting, Indiana, and is book-keeper for the Standard Oil Company at that place. (13) Robert, also a resident of Bradford, married Ruth Sutphen, of that place, and they have one child, Ralph. One died in infancy, unnamed. The mother of these children died at Bradford, Stark county, January 7, 1887, and Mr. Hay was again married, October 8, 1891, his second union

being with Mary Frances Baker, who was born in Annawan township, Henry county, October 16, 1853. Her parents, John and Isabel (Crawford) Baker, came to this county in 1850, and were numbered among its honored and highly respected citizens. They are both now deceased.

In 1850 Mr. Hay came to Illinois, and purchased a farm in Milo township, Bureau county, which he improved and continued to successfully operate until his removal to his present place, one-half mile east of Annawan, in 1891. Here he has a fine farm of two hundred and ninety-six acres, and besides this valuable property still owns two hundred and a half acres of land in Milo township, Bureau county, and one hundred and sixty acres in Dawes county, Nebraska, all of which he now rents, while he lives a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He was a thorough and systematic farmer and due success has not been denied him. His first presidential vote was cast for James K. Polk, and since 1856 he has been a supporter of the Democratic party. He is widely and favorably known throughout the community in which he resides, and wherever known is held in high regard.

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#### GEORGE FESLER.

Prominent among the successful agriculturists of Burns township is George Fesler, who follows his chosen calling on section 7. A native of Illinois, he was born in Mason county, on the 2nd of June, 1844, and is a son of Adam and Susana (Everitt) Fesler, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania and of German descent. In connection with his father Adam Fesler was

engaged in the milling business in the east, and being burned out he came to Illinois in 1836 with the hope of regaining his lost fortune. The journey was made by boat to Peoria. Soon he came to Henry county and entered a claim of forty acres, on which he erected a log house, and to which he subsequently added eighty acres. After placing this land under cultivation he sold the place and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of unbroken prairie land in Burns township, which he also improved and cultivated, making a good farm. He died in 1875, and his wife passed away in 1892, both being laid to rest in the Geneseo cemetery.

To this worthy couple were born eight children as follows: Mary is the wife of William Tell, a native of Germany and now a resident of Geneseo; the second child died in infancy; Sarah is the wife of J. J. Murphy, a farmer of Firth, Nebraska; Maria is the widow of John A. Rishel and a resident of Cambridge, this county; George, our subject, is next in order of birth; Irene is the wife of L. Cherry, of Geneseo; Hester is the widow of M. Winegar; twins died in infancy.

The subject of this sketch was a lad of twelve years when he removed with his parents to Burns township and there he has since resided. He attended the district schools in the immediate vicinity of his home, and for a time pursued his studies in the Geneseo schools. When not in school he assisted in the work of the farm and thus gained a good practical knowledge of the occupation which he has chosen as a life work. He now owns a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and as a farmer and stock raiser is meeting with well-deserved success.

On the 7th of October, 1867, Mr. Fesler married Miss Fannie Green, a daughter of Robert and Sarah (Whittenhall) Green, both natives of New York. Six children blessed this union, namely: Albert, born March 13, 1871, is at home; Sarah Jane, born November 8, 1873, is the wife of Walter Fell; Susan, born March 24, 1876, is deceased; Edith, born August 25, 1879, is the wife of J. F. Johnson; Ray, born November 22, 1885, is deceased; and Rolland, born August 11, 1888, is at home.

In his political affiliations Mr. Fesler is a Democrat, and he has been called upon to fill the office of school director. He has in his possession a number of Revolutionary war relics, which he inherited from his grandfather Fesler, who fought for American independence in that struggle, and also has a part of the barrel of an old flintlock musket. He is one of the leading citizens of his community, and is held in high regard by all who know him. Mrs. Fesler is a member of the Christian Science Church and first reader of the church, and in her limited field has been a successful healer.

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#### EUGENE G. BAKER.

Among the young and enterprising farmers of Henry county must be numbered Eugene G. Baker, who is now successfully pursuing his chosen vocation on section 34, Alba township. He was born on the 5th of January, 1872, in Bureau county, Illinois, two miles north of Neponset, and is a son of Wellington P. and Hadasre (Graves) Baker, natives of Somerset county, Maine. The father had two brothers and two sisters, namely: Edwin, who died in Somerset

county, Maine, in 1899, leaving three children, Guy, Nellie and Edith; Alfred A., a resident of Bureau county, Illinois, who has one daughter by his first wife, Sallie; Florence, wife of Levi Wilson, living near Fort Scott, Kansas, by whom she has six children, Minnie, Alice, Clare, Helen, Grace and Maud. Julia, a resident of Somerset county, Maine, and widow of Calvin Colby, by whom she had one child, Georgia. Our subject's mother was one of a family of six children, the others being Helen, wife of Sewell Dinsmore, of Boston, Massachusetts, by whom she has three children, Amos, Agnes and Hattie; Hattie, wife of James Eldridge, living near Kewanee, Illinois, by whom she has two children, Lulu and Dorcas; Addie, a school teacher of Neponset, Illinois; and Moses and Frank, who both died in Somerset county, Maine, the former at the age of twenty-five years, the latter at the age of eight.

The subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth in a family of ten children, nine of whom are living, the others being as follows: Walter died in infancy; Emma, born February 10, 1871, is with her parents; Melvin W., born November 15, 1874, married Celia Roos, of Geneseo, Illinois, and is now engaged in farming near Muscatine, Iowa; Grace, born October 18, 1877, is a school teacher of Henry, Illinois; Martha, born January 22, 1879, William, born January 12, 1881, Frank and Fred, twins, born July 21, 1883, and Edwin, born January 5, 1886, are all at home.

Mr. Baker, of this review, was only two years old when the family removed to Alba township this county, and was educated principally in its district school. For a time he was employed as clerk in a hotel at Davenport, Iowa, and while there attended school

for a time. Since his return to Alba township, he has engaged in agricultural pursuits, and now operates one of his father's farms on section 34, Alba township.

On the 5th of January, 1896, Mr. Baker was married, in Davenport, to Miss Zora Machesney, who was born in Annawan, this county, April 16, 1871. Her father, Andrew Taylor Machesney, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1849, and had one brother and one sister, namely: William, who married Blanch Everett, by whom she has one child, Edna, and lives in Wellsville, Ohio; and Mary, who died in Pennsylvania, at the age of eighteen years. During the Civil war he served three years as a member of the Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in the right arm. In 1868 he married Clara M. Gochenouer, who was born in Ohio, in 1852, and is the tenth in order of birth in a family of eleven children, the others being as follows: Henry, now deceased; Newton and Dora, residents of Nebraska; William, a resident of Annawan, this county, married Elmira Carey, now deceased, and had five children, Lillian, Ada, Olive, Anna, and Clinton, deceased; Adam, a resident of Blair, Nebraska, wedded Mary Burgess and has six children, Joseph, Ella, Alma, Mary, Frank and Annie; John, of Annawan, Illinois, had four children, Nettie, Clarence, Charles, deceased, and Otho; Barbara Ann is the wife of Frank Patton, of Luverne, Iowa, and they have five children, William, Tillie, Christina, Maggie and Emma; Mary is the wife of John Eibert, of Belgrade, Nebraska; Rebecca is the wife of Jacob Messmore, of Kewanee, and they have one child, Emma; Sarah is the wife of William Frouk, of Luverne, Iowa, and they have four children, Anna, William, Burton and Matilda; and

Nancy, deceased, was the wife of Nelson Swagger, of Luverne, Iowa, and they had four children, Edith, Charles, Susan and Clara. After his marriage Mr. Machesney came west and took up his residence near Annawan, Henry county, Illinois.

Politically Mr. Baker is identified with the Republican party, and is now most creditably serving his second year as supervisor of Alba township. He has also filled the office of township clerk three years, and is one of the leading and influential citizens of his community. Religiously he is a member of the Congregational Church, and socially is connected with the Knights of Pythias fraternity, in which he has filled all the chairs and is now past chancellor. His wife belongs to the United Brethren Church, and is a member of the Star Circle and Thimble Society.

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#### JAMES O. THORP.

Among the leading and representative agriculturists of Burns township is Jacob O. Thorp, who owns and operates a good farm of one hundred and twenty-six acres on section 24. He was born near the town of Belpre, Washington county, Ohio, February 17, 1840, and is a son of Moses O. and Sarah (Clark) Thorp, natives of Pennsylvania, who came with their family to Illinois, locating in Burns township, Henry county. Here the father purchased forty acres of land, to which he added from time to time until he owned one hundred and eighty acres. By trade he was a cooper and followed that occupation in connection with farming. In his family were ten children, namely: Hannah, now Mrs. Foster, of Al-

toona, Illinois; Jonas, deceased; Isaac, who married Eliza Adams and lives in Kewanee township, this county; Sarah, wife of E. K. Vincent; Mary, who died in this county and was buried in Corners cemetery; Lydia, who married Joseph Mooney and died in this county; James, who died in childhood; Arthur, deceased; Frank, who married Sarah Whitehouse and lives in Iowa; and Mahala, wife of Robert Garland, of Iowa.

Jacob O. Thorp, the fourth in order of birth in this family, was reared upon his father's farm, and received a good practical education, pursuing his studies in what is known as the Carson school in Burns township. For about eight years he successfully engaged in teaching, and since then has devoted his time and attention exclusively to farming. In 1866 he purchased thirty-five acres of land on section 24, and has since extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises one hundred and twenty-six acres, which is in splendid condition and improved with good modern buildings, including a pleasant residence erected in 1897.

On the 2nd of October, 1866, Mr. Thorp was married at Kewanee, by Rev. W. J. Beck, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to Miss Sarah E. Clark, who was born, reared and educated in Ohio, and was about sixteen years of age when she came to Kewanee in 1865, with her parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Ray) Clark, natives of Pennsylvania, and Ohio, respectively. By trade her father was a shoemaker. He had a family of ten children. Mr. and Mrs. Thorp have one son and one daughter; Eugene Ward, born September 20, 1869, was married, August 11, 1893, to Nannie E. Myers and they have two children, Wesley and Jesse; Florence, born April 4, 1875, is now the wife of James McKell, Jr., and they

have one child, Minnie H., born October 23, 1899.

Since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Thorp has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party, and he has most efficiently filled the offices of tax collector, road commissioner for six years and school director, serving in the latter position for ten years. Mrs. Thorp is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and they receive and merit the respect and esteem of all who know them.

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### OLOF PETERSON.

Many of the most enterprising and successful farmers of Henry county have come from the land beyond the sea, and in the new world have made for themselves and families good homes. Prominent among these is Olof Peterson, a well-known citizen of Galva township, his home being on section 12. He has been a resident of this county since 1871.

Mr. Peterson was born in the southeastern part of Sweden, January 29, 1850, a son of Peter and Annie Johnson, life-long residents of that country. In early life the father followed the occupation of a farmer and later worked as a laborer. He died in 1898, at the age of eighty-four years, and his wife passed away in 1900, at the age of eighty-three. Of the seven children born to them three died in childhood, the others being Olof, our subject; Peter, a farmer and cattle raiser of South Dakota; and Ella and Buel Peterson, both of Sweden. It was seven years after our subject came to America that his brother crossed the ocean, and for three years worked as a farm hand

in Henry county. He then farmed rented land two years, after which he went to Missouri where he farmed for two years. During this period he returned to Galva and in January, 1884, he married Miss Lucy Alderman. In 1886 he went to South Dakota, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Bonilla, where he has since resided.

In his early boyhood Olof Peterson attended the common schools of his native land, but at the age of ten years he was compelled to lay aside his books and go to work. He herded stock until old enough to perform more arduous labor, and then worked in a mill for six years, the last year as head-miller, during which time he thoroughly learned the miller's trade. On attaining his majority he bade good-bye to home and family, and alone came to America. Having only half enough money to pay his passage he was obliged to borrow the balance with which he purchased his ticket to his destination—Kewanee, Illinois,—and was entirely unfamiliar with the English language. He at once found work on a farm by the month and was thus employed for five years, during which time he saved enough money to buy some farm implements and stock, and during the following years he operated rented land. In 1878 he purchased eighty acres of land of Jerry Bickford, in Wethersfield township, on which he lived three years and at the same time worked rented land. He then sold to A. C. Taylor, and bought eighty acres of Peter Levine in Galva township, where he now resides, and in January, 1882, he bought an adjoining eighty acres of the Daniels heirs.

His first home here was destroyed by fire in 1885, but he has erected a more modern residence, and has also erected a large



MRS. O. PETERSON.    FRANK PETERSON    MR. O. PETERSON.

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barn and sheds for the accommodation of his stock. As a stock raiser and breeder he has been remarkably successful. He has a fine drove of Poland China hogs for breeding purposes, and finds a ready market for the same. He also makes a specialty of short horn cattle, and has been interested in raising Clydesdale and Englishshire horses, but is now giving his attention to Normans. Besides his farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 12, Galva township, he owns forty acres on section 7, Wethersfield, and has also improved that property in a most creditable manner. He also owns and operates a corn sheller and grinder and threshing outfit, his son acting as engineer.

On the 30th of January, 1879, Mr. Peterson was united in marriage with Miss Rosina Adelia Mallory, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois, April 3, 1856, and is a daughter of G. W. and Susan (Smith) Mallory, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Essex county, New York. The mother died November 4, 1898, but the father is still living in Annawan, this county, at the age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are still living, namely: Tamar C., wife of Arthur Wood, of New Boston, Illinois; Josephine A., wife of Henry Buckley, of Kewanee; Rosina A., wife of our subject; Isabella A., wife of R. Eugene Cook, of Red Oak, Iowa; Edith A., wife of George Anderson, of Alba township, this county; Herbert E. married Cora Willitt, and lives in Annawan; Eva A., wife of Henry Seeley, of New Boston, Illinois; Wallace E., George A. and Susie E., all three living at home. The children were educated in the public schools of Kewanee, where the family resided from 1860 to 1885. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have one

son, Frank E., who was born July 29, 1880, in Wethersfield township, and completed his education in the Wethersfield high school. He is now assisting his father in business.

By his ballot Mr. Peterson supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and has held minor offices in his township. For nine years he has capably served as school director, and has always taken a decided interest in maintaining good schools. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them. Although he has always led a very active and industrious life, he has ever enjoyed good health, and his career has ever been such as to command the confidence and warm regard of those with whom he has been brought in contact. As a business man he stands among the ablest in his community.

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#### F. CHARLES SPIEGEL.

Among the citizens of Galva township who are of foreign birth is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch, his home being on section 1. He was born in Prussia, Germany, April 13, 1844, and in 1861, came to the United States with his parents, Frederick and Minnie Spiegel, it requiring about a month to cross the ocean. On landing in this country they proceeded at once to Kewanee, Illinois, two sons, August and Fred, having previously located here in 1857. The parents lived on a farm near that city for some years, but spent their last days in the city. Both are now deceased, the mother having died first. In Germany the father followed the miller's trade, and having saved a little money he invested it in a tract of timber land on coming to this county and

turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. His place consisted of one hundred and forty acres, and to its improvement and cultivation he devoted his energies until his removal to Kewanee, when he sold the farm.

Charles Spiegel is the fourth in order of birth in a family of twelve children, two of whom died young, the others being August, a resident of Burns township; Fred, of Cambridge; Albert, who died about 1882 upon his farm in Wethersfield township; where he owned a half section of land; Emil, a retired farmer of Kewanee; Ernest, who died on his farm in Galva township in 1899; Louisa, wife of William Coover, a veteran of the Civil war, residing in Kewanee; Augusta, wife of Fred Schaffer of Cornwall township; and Pauline wife of August Walter, of Burns township. The family were all educated in the public schools of Germany. After coming to this country they all worked together for some time, and by their combined efforts met with excellent success. They have made for themselves good homes and farms, and all that they have acquired has been gained by hard work and good management.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Germany and also learned the traits of economy and frugality, which have been important factors in his success, enabling him to acquire a comfortable competence. At the age of seventeen he came to the new world, and at first worked as a laborer by the month until he secured a start in life. In 1866 he and his brother, Albert, purchased a farm for which they went in debt about ten thousand dollars. It consisted of two hundred and forty acres in Wethersfield township, which they operated together for five years, but at the end of that time our subject sold

a part of his interest to his brother and the remainder to J. Armstrong. He then bought eighty acres of land in Galva township, on which he lived for five years, and on selling that property in 1877, he purchased his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 1, the same township. At that time it was very poorly improved, but he has since made it one of the best farms of the community. In 1883 he erected a good barn and two years later built his present residence, which is supplied with modern improvements. The buildings erected by him are good and substantial structures, which have cost him about seven thousand dollars, and he has also spent over nine hundred dollars in tiling and draining his land. In connection with general farming he raises horses, cattle and hogs for market purposes, making a specialty of Norman horses, of which he has some very fine specimens. Besides his fine farm he owns residence property in Kewanee, and a building lot in Wethersfield.

In 1870 Mr. Spiegel was united in marriage with Miss Herminia Ouret, who was also born in Germany and was eight years old when brought to this country by her parents, both of whom are now deceased. By occupation her father was a farmer. She is one of a family of four children the others being William, a farmer of Nebraska; August, who lives north of Kewanee; and Augusta, wife of Charles Campien, now a carpenter of Kewanee, who was formerly engaged in farming here and in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Spiegel are the parents of three children: Emma, wife of Isaac Nelson, of Kewanee, by whom she has three children, and Clara and Bernard, both at home. All have attended the district school near home, and later the schools of Kewanee.

Mr. Spiegel is a stockholder of the Farmers' Elevator in Galva, and as a public-spirited citizen he takes a deep interest in everything calculated to prove of public benefit. Since attaining his majority he has been an active worker for the success of the Republican party, with which he has always affiliated. He favors good schools and has been an efficient school officer. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church of Kewanee, has served on its board of trustees, and in his younger days took an active part in church work. Possessing the esteem and respect of the entire community, he may well be ranked among the representative and prominent citizens of the county. His honor and integrity are unimpeachable, his word being considered as good as his bond.

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#### DAVID ANDERSON.

David Anderson, deceased, was for many years a prominent and highly esteemed citizen of Burns township, Henry county, Illinois, where his family still reside. He was born in Londonderry, Ireland, December 18, 1818, and was a lad of thirteen years when he came to America with his parents, George and Jennie Anderson. On their voyage across the Atlantic they were shipwrecked, and three of the daughters, one of whom was only five months old, were on one small island all night, while their parents and the remainder of the family were on another. For a short time the family resided in Philadelphia and then removed to Ohio, locating near West Liberty, where the father engaged in farming. The parents spent the remainder of their lives in that locality, the father dying March 15, 1879,

aged eighty-six years, the mother many years before. They had eight children, all born in Ireland with the exception of Jennie. In order of birth they were as follows: Wilson, now a resident of Huntsville, Ohio; David, our subject; Matthew, of Madison, Wisconsin; Belle, wife of Robert Martin, of Iowa City, Iowa; Sarah, wife of John Emery, of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Mary, widow of Peter Emery, and a resident of Bellefontaine, Ohio; Nancy, deceased; and Jennie, deceased wife of William McElree.

David Anderson received a common school education and was reared to habits of industry upon the home farm. Prior to his marriage he was engaged in the boot and shoe business in Bellefontaine, but after that followed farming throughout the remainder of his life. On the 8th of May, 1862, he led to the marriage altar Miss Sarah J. Henderson, who was born near Utica, Licking county, Ohio, April 27, 1840. Her parents, Robert and Margaret (McDavitt) Henderson, were both natives of Jefferson county, Ohio, and of Scotch-Irish descent, though their ancestors came to America at a very early day. To them were born three children of whom Mrs. Anderson is the oldest; Belle is the wife of Gilbert Walker, of Salisbury, Missouri; and Caroline C., the deceased wife of J. B. Whitney, of Burns township, this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson became the parents of seven children, namely: Margaret, wife of Samuel Warner, of Burns township; George, also a resident of Burns township, who married Esther Corckel, of Kewanee, and has two children, David and Lola; Sarah Cornelia, wife of David Martin, of Kewanee township; Eva Lou, wife of Frank Simonton, of Burns township, by whom she has two children, Ethel and

Myrtle; Olive Belle, wife of Ernest Couve, of Burns township; Mary Lizzie, wife of William Robson, of the same township, by whom she has one child, Wilbur Lee; and Albert D. at home with his mother.

Shortly after his marriage in 1862, Mr. Anderson removed to Wisconsin and settled in Pine Bluff, Dane county, but in March, 1864, he returned to Ohio, and after spending the winter there he came to Henry county, Illinois, in 1865. He purchased a part of the present farm on section 9, Burns township, and to it added from time to time until he owned two hundred and sixty acres of well improved and highly productive land at the time of his death, which occurred May 26, 1895. He built a fine home, one of the good, early buildings of his township. In his political affiliations he was a Democrat, and as one of the leading and influential citizens of his township he was called upon to serve as supervisor for fourteen years. He always took a commendable interest in public affairs and gave a liberal support to all enterprises calculated to advance the welfare of his community. Although not a member of any religious denomination he freely contributed to church work, and in his death his township has lost a valued citizen. Mrs. Anderson is a member of the Presbyterian Church and is a most estimable woman.

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#### JEREMIAH H. RICKEL.

Among the prominent early settlers of Henry county, now living a retired life in Geneseo, on East Cemetery street, was born on the 19th of October, 1836, in West Salem, Wayne county, Ohio, a son of Michael

S. and Catherine (Harbaugh) Rickel. His paternal grandparents were John B. and Margaret (Swaisgood) Rickel, in whose family were nine children that grew to maturity. The grandfather was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, from which state he removed to Ohio, and laid out the village of West Salem, which was partially upon his land. He gave the land for the first church in that place and also for the cemetery. He was a farmer and a minister of the Evangelical Association, being engaged in preaching for many years. His death occurred at his home in West Salem, when he was seventy-one years of age, his wife having passed away some fifteen years previously. Our subject's great-grandfather was married to a Miss Blucher, a cousin of Gen. Blucher, of Waterloo fame. She was one of the first to unite with the Evangelical Church in Pennsylvania. Our subject's maternal grandparents were John and Elizabeth (Rickel) Harbaugh, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Bedford county, Pennsylvania. They emigrated in an early day to Wayne county, Ohio, as pioneers.

Michael S. Rickel, father of our subject, as also born in the Keystone state, and in early life accompanied by his parents on their removal to Wayne county, Ohio, where he worked at the carpenter's trade and later clerked in a store at West Salem. In October, 1852, he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of government land in Phenix township. He converted the wild tract into a good farm and continued to make his home there until his death which occurred in 1881, on the seventieth anniversary of his birth. He most creditably filled a number of township offices and for about twenty years served as postmaster

of Pink Prairie. He and his brother, Josiah S., started the first Sabbath school in their community, and also established the first Sabbath school in the Phenix district. He gave the land on which the first district school house was built in his part of the township, and also donated the land for the first cemetery in that locality. His political support was given the Republican party, and he took an active interest in all the important questions of the day, earnestly advocating those measures, whose object was the advancement of the community in which he lived. During the last fifteen years of his life he engaged in the practice of medicine, having secured his medical education largely by home study, and obtaining a state certificate to practice. He was often called in consultation with the leading physicians of the county. Religiously he was a faithful member of the Evangelical Association, and he was one of the most highly respected and honored citizens of his community. His estimable wife is still living at the age of eighty-eight years, is quite active in mind, and makes her home with her youngest daughter at Juanita, Adams county, Nebraska. She was also a great church worker.

In the family of this worthy couple were eight children, namely: (1) Susanna H. married Samuel Strouse, a farmer of West Salem, Ohio, who served through the Civil war as a member of Company K, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and died in 1893, while his wife died in February, 1899, leaving three children, Anna, William and Lottie. (2) Jeremiah H., our subject, is next in order of birth. (3) Adam H. was also a Union soldier, being first a member of Company F, Fifty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry,

and later of the Fifty-ninth Regiment, Veteran Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He died of typhoid fever in the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee. (4) Rosanna H. died in Johnson county, Nebraska, in 1893, at the age of forty-nine years. (5) Margaret H. married S. F. Monger, a farmer of Nebraska, and died at Lincoln, that state. Their children were George H. and Elvira, still living; and Edna and May, both deceased. (6) Isaiah is editor of the Juniata Herald and also postmaster of Juniata, Nebraska, and is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. He married Ella Houston, and they have five children, Earl, Edna, Nellie, Lyle and Roe. (7) Sarah E. is the wife of John D. Schumann, a farmer, blacksmith and wagon-maker of Graff, Johnson county, Nebraska, and they have one child, Oliver. (8) Mary Jane has been a teacher in the public schools of Illinois and Nebraska, but is now keeping house for her mother at Juniata, the latter state. Our subject, Susanna, Adam and Margaret were also teachers.

The first sixteen years of his life Jeremiah Rickel passed in the place of his birth, and then came with his parents to this county. His education was begun in Ohio, and completed in the district schools of Phenix township. For some years he successfully engaged in teaching school during the winter months, while through the summer season he worked on the home farm until twenty-five years of age. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism he enlisted at Geneseo, in 1862, in Company F, Fifty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was discharged at Chicago about four months later. He then re-enlisted with the same captain in Company H, Fifty-ninth Indiana regiment.

and remained in the service until the cessation of hostilities, being honorably discharged at Raleigh, North Carolina, on the 28th of April, 1865. He participated in the engagement at Corinth, Mississippi, the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Champion Hill and Missionary Ridge; the march to Savannah, Georgia, and Raleigh, North Carolina, and all of the engagements en route; and also the battles of Jackson, Mississippi, Grand Gulf, Forty Hills and Farmington. Returning to his home after being discharged, Mr. Rickel resumed farming and school teaching in Phenix township.

On the 25th of December, 1870, at Geneseo, was celebrated his marriage with Mary P. Miller, a daughter of John Adam and Veronica (Rinck) Miller. Her father was born in Loraine, France, but was only two years old when he came to this country with his parents in 1820. He became a farmer of Geneseo township, this county, and died in the city of Geneseo, October 27, 1895, at the age of sixty-six years, leaving a widow and seven children, of whom Mrs. Rickel is the oldest. Her paternal grandfather was from Loraine, Germany. He was the first to establish the German Methodist Episcopal Church in Geneseo, Illinois. Her mother, a native of Warren, Warren county, Pennsylvania, died at the home of our subject in Geneseo, July 20, 1899. She belonged to the Rinck family that was founded in Whiteside county, Illinois, as early as 1827. She had three sisters, Mary Ann, Catherine and Mary; two brothers, Louis, Frances. Mary and Louis died young. Mrs. Rickel's brothers and sisters are as follows: George H., who married Dora Beers, and is a teamster and road commissioner at Geneseo; Francis A., who married Minnie Kicksey, and is a liveryman of Geneseo; Anna C.,

wife of William N. Baker, a farmer of Phenix township, this county; John N., who married Ella Franks and lives in Yorktown, this county; William L., who married Amelia Wolf, and is a farmer of Yorktown, this county; and Clara V., wife of Lee Brown, a farmer of Helvey, Jefferson county, Nebraska. Her brothers are all Republicans.

Mr. and Mrs. Rickel are the parents of six children, all born in Henry county, with exception of Alice, whose birth occurred in Whiteside county, Illinois. They are as follows: Mary L. is the wife of Albert M. Young, a machinist, who is now employed on government works at Moline, Illinois; John I. is a traveling salesman for the Kingman-Moore Agricultural Implement House, Kansas City, Missouri, and a resident of Geneseo; Martha is attending school in Abingdon, Illinois, preparing herself for kindergarten work; Alice V. is a graduate of the Geneseo high school and now a teacher in the district schools of Phenix township; Estella R. is attending the Geneseo high school; and Nettie A. is also a student in the public schools of that place.

In his political views Mr. Rickel is an ardent Republican, and he has ever taken quite an active and prominent part in public affairs, serving as township collector of Phenix township, and in Loraine township, where he afterwards lived. He was also township clerk and school director for several years, and filled the office of justice of the peace with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the public. He keeps up his relationship with his old army comrades by his connection with J. E. Jenkins Post, No. 452, G. A. R., of Geneseo, Illinois, and religiously he is a member of the United Evangelical Church of Geneseo. As a generous, liberal minded and progressive



citizen he has aided in the development of his adopted county, and is to-day one of her most honored citizens.

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PETER A. PETERSON.

Among the well-to-do and highly esteemed citizens of Western township is Peter A. Peterson, who is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising on section 26, where he owns a good farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, pleasantly located within two miles of Orion. He was born in Sweden, on the 30th of December, 1844, and in 1849 was brought to the United States by his parents, C. J. and Anna Louise (Rosenmiller) Peterson. The father was born in 1815 and prior to his emigration to America followed farming in his native land. On their arrival in this country the family first located in Warren county, Pennsylvania, but in 1852 came to Illinois, driving across the country with teams. The father purchased a tract of wild land on section 35, Western township, where he opened up and improved a farm of eighty acres, making it his home throughout the remainder of his life. He died in 1894, at the ripe old age of seventy-nine years, and his wife passed away January 1, 1880, both being laid to rest in Andover cemetery. In the family of this worthy couple were the following children, three of whom were born in Sweden, the others in this country. Peter A. is third in order of birth. Mrs. Christina Stateen is now a widow residing in Missouri, and has one daughter married. Anna Matilda is keeping house for our subject. Lotta is the wife of A. G. Samuelson, of Des Moines, Iowa, and they have five sons, Ernest, Wal-

ter, Sherman, Edwin and Elmer G. G. H., who owned the old homestead in this county, married in 1883 and died in 1892. He had four children: Carl Henry, who died at the age of two years; Arthur A., Cora and Nellie, who are still living.

Mr. Peterson, of this review, is indebted to the public schools of this county for his educational privileges, and upon the home farm he early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. On attaining his majority he left the parental roof, and commenced farming on his own account on a tract of forty acres where he now resides. He erected thereon a small house which he has since enlarged, and to his land he has added from time to time as his financial resources have merited until he now owns a fine farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, which he has placed under excellent cultivation. He has built a large basement barn and other out-buildings, and by the planting of both fruit and forest trees has made his place one of the most attractive in that locality. In connection with general farming he is engaged in the raising and feeding of stock for market, shipping a carload of cattle and a large number of hogs to the city each year. Mr. Peterson is what the world terms a self-made man, for he started out in life for himself empty-handed, and his success is due entirely to his own well-directed and energetic efforts.

On attaining man's estate, Mr. Peterson supported Abraham Lincoln for the presidency in 1864, and has never wavered in his allegiance to the Republican party since that time, but he has never cared for political honors. He served as a member of the school board and as district clerk for some years, and has given his support to all enterprises



which he believes calculated to advance the educational, social and moral welfare of his community. In religious belief he is a Lutheran and holds membership with the church at Orion.

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#### SWAN P. STREED.

Swan P. Streed, deceased, was for many years one of the honored and highly esteemed citizens of Andover township, as well as one of its successful agriculturists. He was born April 26, 1815, in Horn Socken, Ostergothland, Sweden, and was there reared and educated. In his native land he was twice married, his second wife being Clara Peterson. In 1849, accompanied by their four children, they took passage on a sailing vessel for the United States, and after a rough and stormy voyage of eleven weeks landed at Castle Garden, New York. Shortly after their arrival in this country several of the family were taken ill with cholera, and the wife and two children, Emma Matilda and Axel Godfrey, died in Albany, of that dread disease. The remainder of the family proceeded to Henry county, Illinois, by way of the canal to Buffalo, New York; the lakes to Chicago; the canal to Peru, Illinois; and by team to their destination, arriving here on the 15th of August, 1849. The two children who came with their father to this country were Christine, who was adopted by H. G. Griffin and died in 1855; and Malcker F., a resident of Osco, this county, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume.

In September following his arrival in Henry county, Mr. Streed married Miss Anna S. Nelson, who was born in Hycklinge, Sweden, August 15, 1825, and sailed

from Gottenburg on the same vessel with her husband. By the union were born ten children, namely: Mrs. Anna L. Nelson, a resident of Cambridge; Frank G., who died in Andover; Frank H., a grain dealer of Ulah, and John V., an attorney of Cambridge, both of whom are represented elsewhere in this work; Edmund L., a traveling salesman in the employ of L. E. West, and a resident of Rock Island, Illinois; Peter A., who died in Andover; Joseph A., also a traveling salesman for L. E. West and a resident of Orion; Huldah S., wife of Rev. W. B. Shirley, of Kent, Iowa; and Myrtle Clara, of the same place.

On reaching this county Mr. Streed located in Andover, becoming one of the pioneers of that village. For a time he served as agent for the New York Bible Society, but throughout the greater part of his life was engaged in farming. For a time he resided on section 16, Andover township, and then removed to section 36, where he lived in a house with Mr. Graham on the Scanlon farm. Subsequently he bought of A. W. Ayres twenty acres on section 34, which place he improved, but later removed to section 36, where in 1867 he purchased eighty acres. To the improvement and cultivation of that farm he devoted his time and energies throughout the remainder of his life. There he died on the 28th of December, 1878, and his wife passed away July 6, 1891.

Before his emigration to America Mr. Streed served ten years in the Swedish army under Charles XV. As a Republican he took an active part in local politics in this country, and was a recognized leader in public affairs in his community. In early days he was prominently identified with the affairs of the Swedish colony in Andover, and be-



SWAN P. STREED.

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ing able to speak and write English, he did most of the corresponding for his neighbors, and made many trips to the land office in Dixon in their behalf. He took a deep and commendable interest in educational matters, and did all in his power for the improvement and benefit of the schools of his locality. He was one of the first directors of district No. 8, Andover township, and superintended the building of the school house in 1866, prior to which time school had been conducted in private dwellings. Mr. Streed was one of the original members of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Andover; always took an active part in its work; and for a time served as one of its deacons. He was a man of exemplary habits, commendable purpose and unbending integrity, and in all life's relations merited the confidence which was so freely accorded him. He was widely and favorably known throughout the county, and was one of the most prominent and influential men of his community.

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#### MALKER F. STREED.

The history of this esteemed citizen of Osco township, Henry county, Illinois, is of unusual interest, and few of our foreign-born citizens are more loyal in their devotion to this, the land of their adoption, than he has been for the period of his residence here, which is over half a century. He was born in Ostergothland, Sweden, July 5, 1843, and at the age of six years was brought to America by his parents, Swan P. and Clara (Peterson) Streed. The voyage was a rough and stormy one. Shortly after their arrival in New York several of the family were taken ill with cholera, and the wife and

mother, together with two of the children, Emma Matilda and Axel Godfrey, died in the Empire state of that dread disease. The remainder of the family then came to Henry county, Illinois, and took up their residence in Andover township. There were two other children, Christine, who was adopted by H. G. Griffin, of Andover township, and died in 1855; and Malzer F., our subject. A sketch of his father appears on another page of this volume.

During his boyhood and youth M. F. Streed attended the district schools of Andover township, and he early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. That vocation he has chosen as a life work, and for the past twelve years has successfully engaged in general farming in Osco township.

When the Civil war broke out Mr. Streed offered his services to the government to help put down the rebellion, enlisting at Galesburg, in September, 1861, in Company C, Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war. He was mustered into the United States service at Camp Butler, Springfield, where the regiment was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, and participated in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Salem Center, Summerville, the siege of Vicksburg and the engagements at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Jackson, Tennessee.

He was in the Red river expedition under General Frederick Steele, and although they defeated the enemy, General Banks was driven back. During their return to Little Rock the troops were four days without rations. Twice Mr. Streed was slightly wounded, and was confined in the camp hospital for two months. For a long time he was stationed at Little Rock doing guard duty,

and after three years of arduous and faithful service was honorably discharged at that place in September, 1864.

Mr. Streed was married in Andover township, May 7, 1871, the lady of his choice being Miss Christina M. Nye, also a native of Sweden, and a daughter of John and Eva Elizabeth Nye, who were born, reared and married in that country, and in 1867 emigrated to the new world, locating in Andover township, this county, where the mother died. For many years the father was a prominent and well-known farmer of that township, but is now living in Cambridge. Mrs. Streed died September 19, 1896, at the age of forty-four years, leaving eight children, namely: Clara M., Bunyan C. O., Ferdinand J., George J., Fred E., Ella J., Mabel C. and Paul H.

Politically Mr. Streed is an active Republican and has filled the offices of collector and school director in Andover township. Socially he is an honored member of the Grand Army Post at Cambridge. He holds membership in the Lutheran Church, and his life has ever been such as to command the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social circles.

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#### FRANK H. STREED.

For over half a century the Streed family has been prominently identified with the agricultural and business interests of Henry county, and its various members have won for the name an enviable distinction by their intelligence and worth. This high reputation is in no way diminished in the present generation, and our subject, who is a well

known business man of Ulah, displays in a marked degree the admirable characteristics which the name suggests.

A native of Henry county, Mr. Streed was born March 2, 1857, on section 34, Andover township, in an old house which was erected in 1850, and is the only one still standing in that township. His parents were Swan P. and Anna S. (Nelson) Streed, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed in his native township, and his literary education was acquired in its public schools. He engaged in farming on the old homestead from 1878 to 1890, and then became interested in the grain business at Ulah, as manager for E. S. Eastman & Company of Peoria. He is also engaged in the coal business on his own account, and for some time carried on mercantile pursuits at Ulah, but for the past four years has rented his store building. By fair and honorable dealing he has secured an excellent trade, and is meeting with well deserved success.

On the 17th of May, 1892, Mr. Streed was married in Andover township, to Miss Julia A. Griffin, a native of that township, of which her father, H. G. Griffin, was one of the pioneers, but is now a resident of Cambridge. Our subject and his wife have two children, Henry G. and Eugene F.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Streed a staunch supporter of its principles, and he is now a member of the township central committee. He served as assessor and collector in Andover township in 1888 and 1890, respectively, and is now most capably filling the office of justice of the peace in Cambridge township. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman who has a host of friends, and is very popular in the commu-

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JOHN V. STREED.



nity where he resides. He attends and supports the Congregational Church of Cambridge, of which his wife is an earnest member.

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### JOHN V. STREED.

One of the ablest and most prominent members of the legal profession, now practicing at the Henry County Bar, is the subject of this sketch, who is a native of the county, born in the township of Andover, March 13, 1859, the son of Swan P. and Anna S. (Nelson) Streed, both of whom were natives of Sweden. The former was born, reared and educated in Horn Socken, Ostergothland, Sweden, and there he was twice married, and by his first wife he had one son Marker F., who now resides in Os Co, Henry county, Illinois. In 1849 he took passage on a sailing vessel for the United States, and after a voyage of eleven weeks landed at Castle Garden, New York, from whence he at once proceeded to Henry county, Illinois, arriving here on the 15th of August of that year, locating in Andover township. While en route he lost his second wife, and in September following his arrival, he married Miss Anna S. Nelson, who was born in Hycklinge, Sweden, and who came over in the same vessel with him. They became the parents of ten children, seven of whom are still living, namely: Anna L. Nelson, a resident of Cambridge; Frank H., of Utah, Henry county; John V., of this sketch; Edmund L., of Rock Island, Illinois; Joseph A., of Orion, Illinois; Huldah S. Shirley, of Kent, Iowa; and Myrtle C., of the same place.

On locating in Andover township, Swan P. Streed purchased a tract of wild land,

and to its improvement and cultivation he devoted his energies throughout the remainder of his life. He became one of the most prominent and influential men of that locality, and was widely and favorably known throughout the county. As a Republican, he took an active part in local politics, and was a recognized leader in public affairs in his community. He was one of the original members of the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Andover and for a time served as one of its deacons. He died on his farm, December 28th, 1878, and his wife passed away July 6, 1891.

On the home farm in Andover township, John V. Streed grew to manhood, and his early education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood. For a time he was a student at Abingdon College, and later attended the Geneseo Normal school and the Chicago University. In the latter school he pursued an elective course, but which was equal to the standard courses of the leading universities. In 1887 he entered the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, where he remained one year, and then became a student at the Union College of Law, Chicago, where, he was graduated with the degree of LL. B. in 1890. While pursuing his studies in the various institutions, Mr. Streed practically earned all the money required to secure his education. He carried papers, lit and extinguished street lamps, cared for the lecture room and some of the recitation rooms of the University, and took meter statements and distributed gas bills for the Gas Company. While doing these various things for his support, he did not neglect his studies, but stood at the head of his classes, and came through with not only a liberal education, but with an independence of character that comes only to those who

are self-supporting and who have confidence in themselves.

On graduating from the Law School, Mr. Streed opened an office in Chicago, but in the fall of 1890 he removed to Cambridge, and has since been successfully engaged in the practice at that place. He was a member of the well known firm of Turner & Streed from the time of locating in Cambridge until 1899, when Mr. Turner was elected county judge of Henry county, since which time he has been alone. He enjoys a large and lucrative practice and is regarded both by the people and his associates as one of the best lawyers in the county. He speaks not only English, but also the Swedish and German languages equally as well, having a natural talent in that direction, and is reputed to be one of the best linguists in northwestern Illinois. His knowledge of these languages has been of great assistance to him in the practice of his profession.

At Union Pier, Michigan, December 24th, 1887, Mr. Streed was united in marriage with Miss Luna Estella Gowdy, a native of McHenry county, Illinois, of which place her parents, Franklin and Mary (Millard) Gowdy were early settlers, but who, for some years, have been living at Union Pier. Mrs. Gowdy is a relative of Millard Fillmore and Mr. Gowdy is a cousin of the late W. C. Gowdy, of the Cook County Bar.

Fraternally Mr. Streed is a member of Cambridge Lodge, No. 49, A. F. & A. M., the Order of the Eastern Star, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of Cambridge; the Encampment of Odd Fellows at Galva; of the Rebekah lodge at Cambridge. He also belongs to the Knights of the Globe, the Home Forum Safety Fund Investment Company, the North Star Benefit Association of Cambridge, and is an honorary mem-

ber of Phi Psi, a Greek letter society of the Chicago University. He is one of the leading chess players of the west and has successfully taken part in several chess tournaments; also several matches played by telephone and telegraph.

Mr. Streed has been an active director of the Cambridge Public Library for several years and has done much to elevate the class of literature in the library. For three years he was an instructor in the University Extension Course on the subject of History, and he has a fine reputation as a historian.

Mr. Streed is one of the active members of the Republican party and is a well known and effective campaign speaker in both the English and Swedish languages. At present he is vice president of the Swedish-American Republican League of the state of Illinois, and is secretary of the Henry county organization of said league. In 1899 he was prominently mentioned as a candidate for county judge but failing to get the nomination on the Republican ticket his partner was nominated and elected on the Democratic ticket. Upright, reliable and honorable, his strict adherence to principle commands the respect of all. The place he has won in the legal profession is accorded him in recognition of his skill and ability, and the place he occupies in the social world is a tribute to that genuine worth and true nobleness of character which are universally recognized and honored.

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#### JUDSON P. PAINE.

For over a quarter of a century Judson P. Paine has been a prominent resident of Annawan and during most of this time has efficiently served as justice of the peace. He

was born on the present site of Millerton, in Northeast township, Dutchess county, New York, January 22, 1834, and is a worthy representative of one of the oldest and most highly respected families of that region. His paternal great-grandfather came to this country from England prior to the Revolutionary war and from the government entered the land on which our subject's birth occurred. For this farm, consisting of two hundred and forty-eight acres, it is said, that he paid six cents per acre. There his son, Jeremiah Paine, the grandfather of our subject, was born in 1780, and made it his home throughout life, his occupation being that of a farmer. He wedded Mary Woodward, and to them were born seven children, namely: Lorenda became the wife of Truman Eggleston, and after living for a time near the old homestead removed to Toledo, Ohio, where both died; Platt A., the father of our subject, was second in order of birth; Sarah Ann married Bailey Bowdish and both died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where three of their sons now reside; George died in infancy; Rachel became the wife of Mortimer P. Worth, of Poughkeepsie, New York, where their deaths occurred; Jeremiah W. spent his entire life on the old homestead; and Mary became the wife of Darius Penny, of Dutchess county, New York, where both died.

Platt A. Paine, father of our subject, was born on the old homestead in Dutchess county, June 24, 1806, and continued to reside there until called to his final rest November 21, 1878. He made farming his life work. He married Miss Juliette Russel, who was also born in Dutchess county, in 1813, and died in 1876. Her parents, Eli and Mary (Aldrich) Russell, both belonged to old American families, while the former

was of England and the latter of German descent. Five children were born to Platt A. Paine and wife, namely: James R., born June 19, 1830, married first Julia Eggleston, who died young, and second Cynthia Tripp, and now owns and operates the old homestead farm which has never passed out of the family since entered from the government by the great-grandfather of our subject; Judson P. is the next of the family; Theron J., born in June, 1836, married Anna Culver and was a member of the firm of Millard, Paine & Brown, wholesale grocers of New York city, where he and his wife both died in 1895; Martin W., born June 21, 1841, married Emily Eggleston, and resides in Northeast township, Dutchess county, in the house where our subject was born; Julia May, born March 25, 1852, married George Huston and removed to Roanoke, Virginia, where she died in October, 1890.

Judson P. Paine grew to manhood upon the home farm, and was educated in the public schools of the neighborhood. On leaving the parental roof in 1856 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased a farm in Annawan township, consisting of the west half of the northwest quarter of section 13, where he followed farming quite successfully until 1874, when he removed to the village of Annawan, making it his home ever since. Here he has engaged in the real-estate business and for twenty-four years has filled the office of justice of the peace with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the general public.

On the 19th of September, 1852, Mr. Paine was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M. Webster, who was born in Northeast township, Dutchess county, New York, August 19, 1834, and is the only child of Edmund and Abigail (Holmes) Webster.

also natives of that county. She was only two years old when her father died at the age of thirty-one. Several years later her mother came to Illinois, and died in Annawan, February 27, 1872, at the age of fifty-eight years. Mr. and Mrs. Paine became the parents of two children: Josephine A., born December 25, 1853, is the wife of Lewis Daniels, of Adair, Iowa; and Leroy H., born October 22, 1858, married Carrie Gray, of Montana, and also resides in Adair, Iowa.

In 1867 Mr. Paine was a passenger while on his way to visit his old home on the Harlem railroad train which was struck by a cyclone at Boston Corners, New York, fifteen people being instantly killed while thirty-five died later from the effect of their injuries. The car in which he was seated was turned over three and a half times and struck a fence along the railroad track. His skull was fractured, and his breast bone and one finger were broken. Although not a member of any religious denomination he is a liberal contributor to church work and gives his support to any enterprise tending to advance the moral or social welfare of his community.

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### J. SANFORD BURNS.

Among the leading and representative citizens of Orion, Illinois, is J. Sanford Burns, who occupies a prominent position in Masonic circles. He was born in Clinton, Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, November 25, 1851, and is the son of John M. and Esther (Meanor) Burns, both of whom were born in the same town, county and state as our subject, where they were married October 18, 1849. The latter was a daughter

of Samuel S. Meanor, also a native of the Keystone state, who was born at Clinton, and in early life learned the cabinet maker's trade, which he followed for some time. He never left his native state, and died in Clinton, in 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian. The family were of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and strong in their religious views, which were of the Calvinistic order.

Robert Burns, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a farmer by occupation. He was a native of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and was a son of one of its pioneers. Religiously, he was a Presbyterian. John M. Burns, the father, was born September 9, 1826, and grew to manhood in his native state. After reaching mature years he engaged in farming in Allegheny county, at which occupation he continued until 1852, when he went to California by the Panama route, and spent about three years there in prospecting and mining, with fair success, returning home by the same route. In the fall of 1855 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Western township, on which the family located in the following spring. A thorough and skillful farmer, he met with marked success in his chosen vocation, and became the owner of five hundred and sixty-six acres of rich and arable land, all in one body. He continued to extensively engage in general farming and stock-raising until 1886, when he laid aside business cares and removed to Orion, where his last years were spent in ease and quiet. Although he was one of the prominent and influential men of his community, he never cared for official honors, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his business interests. He died in Orion, November 19,

1895, while his wife passed away May 7, 1894, the remains of both being interred in Western cemetery, where a substantial monument marks their last resting place. In their family were two children, J. Sanford being the only son. Mary J., the daughter, born September 17, 1855, married Dr. L. L. Long, September 26, 1883. They resided in Toulon, Illinois, where she died April 29, 1894, leaving three children, Bessie E., J. Forest and Lester E., while one child, Eva, died at the age of six months.

J. Sandford Burns was only four years of age when the family came to Henry county, and here he grew to manhood on the home farm, and received his primary education in the district schools of Western township. Later he attended Prairie Home Academy, a private school at Orion, and also took a course at a Davenport Commercial College. During his youth he gave his father the benefit of his labors, and continued to aid in the operation of the farm until the removal of his parents to Orion, when he took complete charge of the place, carrying on farming and stock raising most successfully for a number of years. He made a specialty of the breeding of red polled cattle and Shropshire sheep, and has some fine specimens of these animals upon the home farm. In the fall of 1894, after the death of his mother, he sold his farming interests and removed to Orion, where he has since lived a retired life.

On the 20th of February, 1884, Mr. Burns was married in Rural township, Rock Island county, Illinois, to Miss Belle Coffee, a native of Hancock county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas Elwood and Hannah (Wright) Coffee, who were born, reared and married in Belmont county, Ohio, the latter being a daughter of Benjamin Wright.

Mrs. Burns was reared in Rock Island county, Illinois, where her family located in March, 1853. Her education was obtained in the district schools of Rock Island county, the Prairie Home Academy of Orion, and the Jacksonville Young Ladies' Atheneum, of Jacksonville, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Burns two children have been born—Clifford Coffee, born June 30, 1885, and Kenneth Meanor, August 28, 1889.

Thomas E. Coffee, the father of Mrs. Burns, was born January 14, 1823, and died September 5, 1898. Hannah (Wright) Coffee was born December 10, 1825. He was one of the prominent men of Rural township, Rock Island county, Illinois, and one of its most extensive farmers. He was a strong advocate of temperance, even in an early day becoming a member of the Sons of Temperance and keeping his pledge until his death. A broad, liberal and strong man, he was respected by all. His widow still lives on the farm, and is a worker in the temperance cause and equal suffrage. They were the parents of four children, of whom two sons died in infancy. The twin sister of Mrs. Burns, Ella, born in Hancock county, Illinois, January 17, 1853, still survives. She had the same educational advantages as Mrs. Burns, and was married December 31, 1879, to H. D. Nutting. They now reside in Emporia, Kansas.

In his political views, Mr. Burns is a stalwart Republican, and cast his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes. He takes an active interest in the welfare of his party, and is an earnest advocate of its principles. He formerly held membership in the Presbyterian Church, while his wife was identified with the Universalists, but both now attend the Methodist Episcopal Church of Orion. Fraternally he is a

Knight Templar Mason and is very prominent in Masonic circles. He is a member of Sherman Lodge, No. 535, A. F. & A. M., of Orion; Barrett Chapter, No. 18, R. A. M.; and Everts Commandery, No. 18, K. T., of Rock Island, Illinois. He is now serving as deputy grand lecturer and district deputy grand master of the state of Illinois. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman of high social qualities, and is held in high regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout Henry and Rock Island counties, where he is especially widely known.

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#### HUGH WHITE.

The records of the lives of our forefathers are of interest to the modern citizen, not alone for the historical value but for the inspiration and example they afford; yet we need not look to the past. Although surroundings may differ, the essential conditions of human life are ever the same, and a man can learn much from the success of those around him. The career of Mr. White seems almost phenomenal, yet his success has been by no means the result of fortunate circumstances. It has come to him through energy, labor and perseverance, directed by an evenly balanced mind and by honorable business principles.

This well-known citizen of Annawan was born in Wellsburg, Brooke county, West Virginia, June 24, 1834, a son of Thompson and Martha (Curry) White. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to William White, who was of Scotch descent and lived in the north of Ireland. He eloped with Miss Jane Campbell, who belonged to the Campbell clan and was the

daughter of a nobleman who lived in Ireland and was opposed to the marriage. Coming to America they located near Fogg's Manor, Chester county, Pennsylvania, and after living there for a number of years, removed to Chestnut Level, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where Mr. White purchased a farm, and where they spent the remainder of their lives. They had two sons, William and Jacob, the latter being the grandfather of our subject. For a number of years William owned and conducted a lumber yard on the opposite side of the river from Columbia, Pennsylvania. Jacob White, the grandfather was born at Fogg's Manor and had seven children, namely: James, who spent most of his life in Pennsylvania and Virginia, but died in Peoria county, Illinois; John, a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania; Hugh, who lived near Wellsburg, West Virginia; Thompson, father of our subject; and William, who spent the last twenty-five years of his life as a ranchman in Colorado, where he died in 1898.

Our subject's maternal grandfather Curry came to this country from either county Londonderry or county Down, Ireland. His father died on the Emerald Isle, but his mother came with him to America. He was nineteen years of age, when, during the French and Indian war, he sailed from Belfast. The vessel on which he was a passenger was captured by the English fleet, and nearly all the sailors, the cabin boy, and all of the single men on board, except those who had aged parents depending on them, were pressed into the British service. After a voyage of thirteen weeks and three days, Mr. Curry landed in Philadelphia. For many years he made his home at Fogg's Manor, Chester county, where his mother and sister are buried, but about 1800 he re-





HUGH WHITE.



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moved to Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he died at the extreme old age of one hundred and six years.

Thompson White, our subject's father, was born near Greensburg, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1807, and became one of the pioneer business men of Wellsburg, West Virginia, where he conducted a gristmill, lumberyard and planing mill. He also engaged in boating on the Ohio and Mississippi as far as New Orleans. His death occurred at Wellsburg, July 28, 1880. He was twice married, having on the 20th of June, 1833, wedded Martha Curry, also a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, who died February 22, 1840, leaving three children, of whom our subject is the oldest. Mary Margaret, born September 2, 1836, married Frank Oudenbaugh, of Cleveland, Ohio. Elizabeth Mitchell, born June 23, 1839, died January 5, 1840. For his second wife the father married Sarah Fulton, also a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and by that union five children were born: William H., born May 28, 1842, is now serving as associate justice of the supreme court of the state of Washington, to which position he was appointed June 1, 1900. During the Civil war he was a member of Company B, One Hundred and Second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was severely wounded at Athens, Alabama, but remained in the service until after the capture of Jeff Davis. He then returned to his West Virginia home, where he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1868. There he held several county offices of a judicial nature, and resigned as recorder of Brooke county in 1870. Two years later he removed to Seattle, Washington, and in 1876 was elected prosecuting attorney of the third judicial district. In

1879 he was a member of the territorial legislature, and in 1884 was appointed by President Cleveland as United States district attorney, which office he held until the territory was admitted to the Union in 1889. The Seattle Daily Times said of him: "No man in the state of Washington stands higher than does William H. White. For thirty years he has been a leading member of the bar of this state. He has ever been a consistent Democrat and stands high in the councils of his party." Elizabeth, born May 20, 1844, died in 1850. Albert W., born February 28, 1846, was killed in the battle of Piedmont, West Virginia, in June, 1864. Martha J., born May 5, 1847, married William H. Fulton, and now resides in Seattle, Washington, her son, Walter S., being the junior member of the law firm of White, Monday & Fulton, of that city. Clara J., born March 28, 1849, died March 4, 1874. Nannie F., born November 18, 1851, died August 2, 1860.

Mr. White, whose name introduces this sketch, was reared and educated in the place of his birth, and in early life followed the occupation of a stationary engineer and also engaged in steamboating. Going to Leoria, Illinois, in 1854, he was thus employed for about three years, and in 1857 came to Kewanee, accepting the position of engineer in the Kewanee mill and distillery, where he remained until 1866. Since then he has made his home in Annawan, and recently erected a fine residence here. He was engaged in the flouring mill business until 1882, since which time he has done quite an extensive business as an importer of fine bred horses from France, England and Scotland. He goes to Europe to personally superintend the purchase of these horses, and has crossed the Atlantic ten times. He

is now the owner of six hundred and twenty acres of valuable land in Henry county, which he rents, and also has considerable property in Minesota and Dakota. He is one of the most energetic and enterprising business men of his community, and his success is due entirely to his own well-directed efforts. He has never taken any active part in politics and is liberal in his views on political questions. Socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and he is a man who commands the confidence and respect of those with whom he comes in contact, either in social or business life.

On the 2nd of April, 1854, Mr. White married Miss Elizabeth Roberts, of Wellsburg, West Virginia, who died June 19, 1855, and their only child died in infancy. He was again married, May 19, 1857, his second union being with Miss Elizabeth Grape, a native of Germany and a daughter of Frederick Grape. By this marriage were born five children, namely: Henry, deceased; Robert L., a veterinary surgeon, of Annawan; Clara V., wife of Lewis Bowen, of Chicago; Mary E., a resident of Red Oak, Iowa; and widow of F. C. Tolman, who was killed in a runaway; and Frances G., wife of George Squires, of Mineral, Bureau county, Illinois.

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#### CYRUS F. STOUGHTON.

This well-known and popular agriculturist residing on section 21, Osco township, was born in that township on the 10th of July, 1869, his parents being Hardin and Martha J. (Foote) Stoughton, who for many years were numbered among the honored and highly respected citizens of Henry county. Our subject is of English descent,

though the family was founded in Connecticut many generations back. His father was born at Windsor Mills, Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1829, the mother at Chardon, Geauge county, Ohio, in January, 1833, and in that state their marriage was celebrated. On coming to Illinois they first located in Peoria county, but before the Civil war, about 1860, they took up their residence in Henry county. Mr. Stoughton, being a blacksmith by trade, erected a shop and carried on business along that line, in connection with the operation of rented land, and thus secured a start in life. He was at length able to purchase forty acres of land to which he subsequently added from time to time until he had one hundred and sixty acres, nearly all of which was improved by himself. He placed it under a high state of cultivation and successfully engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. He was an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and both he and his wife were earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His death occurred on the home place November 13, 1890, and she departed this life December 19, 1894. They were quite active in social circles, and no couple in the community were more universally respected and esteemed. To them were born five children, but two of the number died in childhood. Those living are Emma, wife of Nathan W. Derby, of Avoca, Pottawattamie county, Iowa; Cyrus F., our subject; and Mary E., wife of Bert Martin, also of Avoca, Iowa.

Cyrus F. Stoughton has always resided on the old homestead on section 21, Osco township, and his early education, acquired in the public schools of the neighborhood, was supplemented by an elective course at the Geneseo Collegiate Institute. He con-

tinued to work with his father until the latter's death, and then took charge of the farm. He has since purchased his sister's interest in the place, and in its operation is meeting with marked success. He follows both general farming and stock raising. Since the farm came into his possession he has added to its buildings, and made many other improvements which enhance the value and attractive appearance of the place.

On January 3, 1894, Mr. Stoughton was united in marriage with Miss Luella J. Welton, who was born in Osco township in 1873, and is the oldest in a family of three children, the others being Earl and Harry, both at home with their parents. Her father, James Welton, is now living retired in Geneseo. Mr. and Mrs. Stoughton have a little daughter, Myrtle J., born in 1895.

Our subject uses his right of franchise in support of Republican principles, and has served his fellow citizens as tax collector of Osco township in 1896 and constable four years, the duties of which offices he most capably discharged. In religious faith he is a Presbyterian, and is one of the most highly respected and valued citizens of his community.

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#### EDMUND BUCK.

As a representative of the intelligent and hardy pioneer who opened up Henry county for settlement, and took a very active and prominent part in its development, we take great pleasure in presenting to our readers a brief sketch of the gentleman whose name introduces this article. He was born in the town of Killingly, Windham county, Connecticut, on Christmas day, 1825, a son of

Erastus and Esther W. (Converse) Buck both natives of the same state. In 1837 the father brought his family to Illinois, and took up his residence in Andover township, Henry county, where he purchased eighty acres of government land. He broke the virgin soil and to the original purchase added from time to time until he had two hundred acres, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general farming he was largely interested in stock raising, and was also engaged in the dairy business, manufacturing cheese quite extensively, which was marketed in Rock Island. Prior to the Civil war he took an active interest in the slavery question, his home being a station on the underground railway, and on the organization of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters. He was one of the leading members of the Andover Presbyterian Church, and took a prominent part in its work. He died at the home of our subject October 22, 1878, honored and respected by all who knew him. His estimable wife passed away on the 12th of February, 1887. Of their seven children only two are now living.

The first eleven years of his life Edmund Buck passed at his birth place, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to this county. He completed his education in the schools of Geneseo and Galesburg, and after laying aside his text books turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He met with well-deserved success in his farming operations and at the time of his death owned two hundred and seventy-five acres of valuable land, it being one of the most desirable farms of its size in Andover township. His first purchase of land was in Munson township, which he sold one year later, and purchased a farm two and

a half miles west of Cambridge, of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he added and there made his home until his retirement to Cambridge in 1882.

On the 31st of January, 1855, Mr. Buck was united in marriage with Miss Mariette Woolsey, a native of Andover, this county, born August 1, 1838, and the first white child born in Andover township, a daughter of Jesse and Free love (Rogers) Woolsey, both natives of Long Island, New York. The father was born in 1786, and was the oldest of a family of twelve sons. In 1836 he came to Richland Grove, Illinois, but subsequently returned to New York, where he was married. Bringing his wife to this state he settled in Andover township, Henry county, where he took up a government claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land, keeping a public house at Andover village. He died on the 12th of November, 1871, his wife on the 20th of March, 1867, and the remains of both were interred in the Andover cemetery. They were active members of the Presbyterian Church, and were highly respected by all who knew them. They had only two children, of whom Mrs. Buck is the older. Gilbert R. is now a prominent physician of Normal, Illinois, where he enjoys a large and lucrative practice. During the war of the Rebellion he was adjutant of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry and was slightly wounded in an engagement.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Buck were born four children, namely: Lydia R., born May 7, 1856, is the wife of John A. Schoettler, of Cambridge, and has four children, Arthur E., Laura G., Myrtle M. and Leroy F. Calvin M., born April 1, 1861, is a resident of California. He first married Leni Leoti Howell, and after her death wedded Miss

Florence Hatch, of Haywards, California. Edmund W., born March 31, 1867, married Selma M. Anderson and lives in Chicago, Illinois. Jessie E., born June 29, 1874, is the wife of John S. Miller, foreman of the Saturday Mail, of Muscatine, Iowa.

Mr. Buck died February 13, 1886, and was laid to rest in Cambridge cemetery. In politics he was an ardent Republican and took an active interest in all public questions. He served several terms as supervisor and assessor of his township, and his official duties were always conscientiously and faithfully performed. He was a prominent and influential member of the Congregational Church of Cambridge, in which he served as deacon, took an active part in its work, and was deeply interested in all religious subjects. For a number of years he was president of the Henry County Temperance Alliance and during that time did effective work for the cause of temperance. He was also for a time president of the County Sunday School Association.

He stood high in the community where he made his home, and enjoyed the confidence and respect of all who knew him. His widow is now a resident of Cambridge, where she is surrounded by a large circle of friends and acquaintances who have for her the highest regard.

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F. G. WELTON.

This honored veteran of the Civil war and well-known county clerk of Henry county, Illinois, who makes his home in Cambridge, was born near Waterbury, New Haven county, Connecticut, on the 14th of April, 1843, and is a son of Albert and Su-

san A. (Bidwell) Welton, natives of Connecticut and Ohio, respectively. They married in the former state, where the mother removed during her childhood. In early life the father was a wood turner, but after coming to Illinois, in 1851, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and owned two or three farms in Henry county. Disposing of his property here, he moved to Nebraska in 1869, and continued to engage in farming there until his death, which occurred June 6, 1899, when he was over seventy-nine years of age. He served as justice of the peace many years and held other offices during the war. In religious belief he was an Episcopalian, to which church his widow also belongs. She is now an honored resident of Cambridge. Of their four children only two are now living, namely: F. G., our subject; and George W., a farmer of Waverly, Nebraska. Mary E. died at the age of fourteen years; and Clarence W., at the age of one year.

F. G. Welton began his education in the schools of his native state, and later attended the public schools of this county, being eight years of age when the family came to Illinois. He also attended commercial college at Wheaton, Illinois after his return from the Civil war. On the 28th of July, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Forty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and under command of General Fremont participated in the battle of Springfield, Missouri. With his command he was then sent to Columbus, Kentucky, on the river below Cairo, and they were later attached to the fleet at Island No. 10. Joining General Pope's army, they went to Fort Pillow, and from there to Hamburg Landing, Tennessee. They participated in the siege of Corinth, the battle of Farmington, Mississippi;

Columbia, Tennessee; and Stone River; were through the Tullahoma campaign and in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Danbridge, Tennessee; and the Atlanta campaign, including the battles of Resaca, Adairsville and New Hope Church. At the last named engagement, Mr. Welton was seriously injured, three shots entering one leg, while the other leg was shot off, and he was also shot through the right hand. While convalescing from wounds in a hospital in Chicago, in November, 1864, he was taken with the smallpox, and later returned home, but was not discharged until March 9, 1865.

After receiving his discharge Mr. Welton was engaged in the drug business at Berlin, Mercer county, Illinois, for nine months, but as his wounds broke out anew, he sold out and returned to his father's home, remaining there a year before he had entirely recovered. During the following year he worked in the office of the circuit clerk, and in 1869 was elected to his present office, that of county clerk, which he has since filled so satisfactorily. This office he has now held for a longer period than any other living in the state, though the clerk of Putnam county, now deceased, held the office forty-one years. Mr. Welton has also served as a member of the school board of Cambridge and as treasurer of the village, and his official duties have always been most faithfully and acceptably performed.

In the spring of 1866, Mr. Welton married Miss Ella M. Clark, a daughter of Dr. Dexter Clark, of Rockford, Illinois, and to them were born eight children, namely: Albert D., the eldest, is cashier in the First National Bank of Greenwood, Nebraska; Clarence W., clerking in his father's office, married Annabel Holmes, of Columbus,

Georgia, and they have one child, Albert; Kate C. is the wife of Ben M. Smith, of Rogers Park, Illinois, and they have two children, Frances and Mabel; Mabel E. is also a clerk in her father's office; Susan B. is the wife of Robert L. Sheppard, an attorney of Evanston, Illinois, and a son of Professor Robert D. Sheppard, of the Northwestern University, and they have one child, Robert L.; Tom is a student at the Nautical Academy at Easton, Maryland; one daughter died in infancy unnamed and Frank G. died at the age of six months.

At present Mr. Welton is serving as commander of the Grand Army Post at Cambridge, and is also a prominent member of the Masonic lodge at that place, in which he has held office. He also belongs to the chapter, commandery and consistory, and for the long period of nineteen years served as district deputy grand master. His wife holds membership in the Congregational Church.

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### JAMES CROMIEN.

Since 1857 James Cromien has been one of the honored residents of Galva township his home being on section 14. For many years he was prominently identified with its agricultural interests, but is now practically living a retired life, though he manages his farm which is now operated by his sons. He was born in the county Wexford, Ireland, June 22, 1837, a son of John and Miss Ellen (Cavanaugh) Cromien. He was only fourteen weeks old when his mother died, leaving two children, the others being Philip, who died in Stark county, Illinois, February 29, 1879. He received a very limited education in the schools of Ireland, and

served through the Civil war in this country as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. The father of our subject was a well educated man, but was in limited circumstances on his emigration to America. After the death of his first wife he married Miss Ann Dunn, by whom he had two children, but one died in infancy. Mary is now the wife of W. H. Harrison, a farmer of Creston, Iowa. In 1851 John Cromien brought his family to the United States, and after farming for some time in Knox county, Illinois, he took up his residence in Henry county, where he followed the same occupation. His last days, however, were spent in Union county, Iowa, whither he removed in 1876. He had previously purchased and fully improved a farm in this county. He was a supporter of the Democratic party, but never took an active part in politics. He was born in 1803, and died in 1894, while his second wife was born in 1799, and also died in Union county, Iowa, in 1878.

The subject of this sketch was fourteen years of age when he came to America with his father, and was principally engaged in the public schools of his native land. He remained under the parental roof until he was married in 1867 to Miss Nora Lancaster, who was born in Lake county, Illinois, in 1846. They became the parents of ten children, of whom three are now deceased, namely: Mary, who died at the age of one year; Ellen, who died at the age of ten; and Edward, who died at the age of twenty-two. Those living are John J., who is married and engaged in farming near Mineral, Bureau county, Illinois; Henry E., a resident of California; and Elizabeth L., J. William, Frank D., Marie T. and Albert



L., all at home. All have been educated in the public schools, and some have also attended business college.

After his marriage Mr. Cromien located on a tract of eighty acres of land in Galva township, to which he added from time to time as his financial resources increased until he now has five hundred and eighty acres of valuable land in that township, and also owns a residence in Peoria, where he made his home for three years. Before going to Peoria he lived in the city of Galva for three years, and on leaving the former place returned to his farm. His residence was destroyed by fire July 9, 1900, but has since been replaced by a more modern and pleasant home. Throughout his active business life Mr. Cromien followed general farming, never devoting his time to any specialty, but since 1891 he has practically lived a retired life, leaving his sons to conduct the farm under his supervision.

Mr. Cromien has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died November 10, 1891, on the home farm. Religiously he and his family are communicants of the Catholic Church of Galva. In politics he is a stanch Democrat, but has never cared for political honors. He is accounted one of the leading and prominent citizens of his community.

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#### CHARLES A. JOHNSON.

Galva township has no more honored or highly respected citizen than Charles A. Johnson, whose home is on section 10. He has been a resident of Henry county since 1870, and has done much to advance the moral, social and material welfare of the community in which he lives. He was born

in Smoland, Sweden, on the 3d of January, 1847, a son of Johan and Katrine (Carlson) Johnson, both now deceased. In 1884 the father came to this country to visit our subject, and returned to Sweden in 1887. Throughout his active business life he followed farming, and always enjoyed good health. He was seventy-three years of age at the time of his death. In his family were only two children, the younger being Christine Johnson, a resident of Sweden.

Mr. Johnson received but a limited education in the public schools of his native land. He served two years in the National Home Guards, and remained with his father on the farm until his emigration to America in 1870. He was twenty days in crossing the ocean and landed in the United States with no capital with which to begin life in a strange land and among a strange people. Before coming to this county he spent some time near Victoria, Illinois. Taking an active interest in church work, he was given permission to attend the theological seminary at Evanston and prepare for the ministry. He found employment on a farm, and aided other boys in securing their educations, and also devoted considerable time to procuring supplies for his countrymen who were attending school. He always made his home in families where they had family worship, and his first reading was in the Bible.

On the 28th of February, 1878, Mr. Johnson married Miss Clara C. Bengtson, who was born in Sweden in 1849, and is the only survivor in a family of three children. Her parents both died in Sweden. Of the six children born to our subject and his wife two died in infancy. The others are Gus Wilbur, who is attending business college in Galesburg; Eskil E. and Osier,

who are attending the district school near their home; and Cora L., at home.

After operating rented land for some years, Mr. Johnson purchased a tract of eighty acres on section 9, Galva township, and a few years later added to it another eighty acres, making a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. He raises both hogs and horses for market, and owns and operates a sorghum mill quite successfully. He is a stockholder in the new elevator at Galva, and was a promoter of the same, giving both time and money to the enterprise. He is also a stockholder in the Westrand Manufacturing Company of Galva.

Mr. Johnson takes an active interest in the welfare of the community in which he resides, and is now serving as chaplain of the Patrons of Husbandry. He has always been an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has served as one of its trustees and as superintendent of the Sunday-school. In the earlier part of his career he often preached the gospel in the Swedish language, and has done much to promote the moral interests of the community. Politically he is a supporter of the Republican party, but has never been prevailed upon to accept any office save that of road commissioner. Although he is practically self-educated, he is a man of literary taste, and owns a good library.

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#### JOHN KEWISH.

Since 1873 John Kewish has been a resident of Henry county and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural and

financial interests. He was born on the Isle of Man, February 2, 1850, and is a son of Patrick and Ann (Craine) Kewish, who spent their lives there. The father engaged in farming on quite an extensive scale. He was born March 17, 1817, and died November 28, 1880, while his wife was born April 23, 1819, and died November 3, 1874. Of their eleven children one died in infancy and two at the age of six and eight years, respectively. Those who reached adult age were Thomas, who still lives on the Isle of Man; Eleanor, who died on the home place; John, our subject; Ann, who also died on the home place; William, who came to Galva, Illinois, and died here January 4, 1886; Robert, who also died here January 28, 1887, leaving a wife and two children, residents of Weller township; and Isabella and Sarah, who both died on the home place.

During his boyhood John Kewish attended the private schools of his native land and remained at home until sixteen years of age, when he went to sea and followed the life of a sailor for five years. For two years he was in the regular service and two years in the British Naval Reserves. In 1873 he came to the United States and took up his residence in Galva, Illinois, where for two and a half years he followed the occupation of an engineer, holding a certificate as a third engineer with the West India and Pacific Steamship Company. In this way he secured a start in the new world, and in 1876 commenced farming. In 1882 he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land on section 24, Galva township, which has since been his home. He has remodeled the residence, erected out-buildings and made many other improvements, so that it is now one of the most de-

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JOHN KEWISH.



MRS. JOHN KEWISH.

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sirable farms in the locality. In 1893 he bought an eighty-acre tract, and six years later purchased another eighty acres, making three hundred and twenty acres which he now owns on sections 24 and 25, Galva township. With the assistance of his sons, Mr. Kewish is successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising. He also buys and feeds stock for shipment, and was one of the original directors and stockholders of the Galva State Bank, with which he is still connected.

In 1873 Mr. Kewish was united in marriage with Miss Anna Kewish, who was also born on the Isle of Man, September 29, 1849, and came to America in 1869, locating in Galva, Illinois. She is the only survivor of a family of seven children, three of whom settled here. Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Kewish, all of whom are still living with the exception of Ralph, who died in 1890. The others are as follows: John T., born in 1875; Annie, 1877; Eva J., 1878; Bertie W., 1880; William, 1886; Irvie, 1889; and Ella, 1891. All have attended the district schools, while John T. is a graduate of Steinman Business College, and is now engaged in farming in Galva township; Annie is a graduate of the Galva high school and the Geneseo Normal, and is now following teaching; and Bertie is a graduate of the Kewanee Business College. With the exception of John T., all are still under the parental roof.

In his political views Mr. Kewish is an ardent Republican, and has been a delegate to the county and congressional conventions of his party. He has always taken an active and influential part in local politics; has served as assistant assessor of his township, has been road commissioner twelve years; school director many years, and school trus-

tee at the present time. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and socially is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, No. 408, and Encampment, No. 174, in which he has filled all the chairs, and is also a member of the Kewanee Canton. Mr. Kewish is pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive and gives his support to all enterprises for the public good. He was one of the men who assisted in raising funds for the farmers' elevators at Galva and was one of its most liberal supporters financially. He has been associated with the leading business men of that place, particularly in connection with its banking interests. He is a prominent member of the Sons of Mona, a society of Manxmen in Chicago, and has taken an active part in their meetings. He owns a large and valuable library of over fifteen hundred volumes, containing a most complete list of poets. He is practically a self-educated man and is a great reader whose literary taste is principally along the line of history and statistics. He is one of the most honored and highly esteemed citizens of his community and exerts a great influence for good.

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#### TAYLOR LINN.

This well-known lumber dealer of Alpha has been prominently identified with the business interests of that town for the past eleven years, and is accounted one of its most reliable and prominent citizens. He is a native of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Morrow county, April 1, 1849, and is a son of John Linn, who was born in Maryland, and when quite young removed with his father, William Linn, also a native of Mary-



land, to the Buckeye state, the family becoming pioneers of Morrow county. There John Linn grew to manhood and married Mary A. Campbell, who was born in Pennsylvania and was a daughter of William T. Campbell, also an early settler of Morrow county, where he cleared and improved a farm. For some years after his marriage Mr. Linn was engaged in business in that county and was also interested in the manufacture of lumber. Coming west in 1856 he located on a farm in Mercer county, Illinois, and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Subsequently he purchased a farm in North Henderson township, the same county, where he made his home for some years, but his last days were spent in retirement from active labor in Alpha, where he died January 3, 1888. His wife survived him a number of years, passing away December 8, 1898. The were consistent and faithful members of the Baptist Church, and Mrs. Linn was a leader in all church work during here residence there. She also gave liberally to its support.

Taylor Linn was only seven years of age when brought by his parents to this state, and on the home farm in Mercer county he passed the days of his boyhood and youth, his education being acquired in the local school. He received an excellent training in farm work, and after arriving at man's estate he located on a farm in Knox county, where he owned two hundred acres of well improved and highly productive land. In connection with its operation he successfully engaged in raising and shipping stock for a number of years. In 1889 he removed to Alpha and embarked in business as a dealer in shelf and heavy hardware, of which he carried a large and complete stock. He also opened a lumber yard, which he still carries

on, but he discontinued the hardware business at the end of five years, selling his store in 1895. He also handles grain, conducting the Farmers' Elevator at Alpha, and still continues to oversee the operation of his farm. He has gained an enviable reputation as a reliable business man, and receives a liberal share of the public patronage.

Mr. Linn has been twice married. In Mercer county, September 26, 1871 he wedded Miss Elizabeth Henderson, a native of Knox county, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas Henderson. She died in her native county, January 1, 1882. By that union were born two children: Almon H. attended first the home schools, later took a business course at Knox College and in 1899 was graduated from the law department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor. He is now engaged in the practice of his profession in Henry county. Mary A. died in infancy. In February, 1885, in Knox county, Mr. Linn was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie H. Junk, who was born and reared in that county. Her father, Samuel Junk, was a native of Pennsylvania and an early settler of Knox county. There is one son by the second union, Harrison J.

In political sentiment Mr. Linn has been a life-long Republican and cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant in 1872. He has never sought political honors preferring to give his undivided attention to his extensive business interests. For some years he was a member of the school board, and has always taken an active and commendable interest in educational affairs. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He has made an untarnished record and unspotted reputation as a business man. In all places and under all circumstances he is loyal to truth, honor and

right, and justly values his own self-respect as infinitely more preferable than wealth, fame and position.

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### ALBERT S. MUNSON.

Among those men who have added to the wealth and prosperity of Henry county, and who by their progressive spirit, energy, thorough business ability, practical knowledge of their special branch of business, upright and honorable dealings, none are more worthy of honorable mention in a work of this character than Albert S. Munson, and although he has gone to join those of his comrades, friend and old settlers who have crossed the river of death and are now free from the labors, trials and troubles of this world, his memory still lingers and, as the result of his labors, will live on and on in the minds of future generations.

Mr. Munson was born in Oneida county, New York, on the 22nd of December, 1853, a son of Seldon and Amanda Munson, also natives of the Empire state. In the family were five children, namely: Amanda, who married Lewis Smith and died in Oneida county, New York; Albert S., our subject; Mary A., widow of Wesley Gamble and a resident of Watertown, New York; Elmira, wife of Lee Andrew McKee of Frankfort, New York; and Merritt, who died in Knoxville, Illinois.

Albert Munson spent the first twenty-two years of his life in his native state, and was indebted to its schools for his educational privileges. He then came to Geneseo, Illinois, at which time the village contained only a few houses, no railroad had yet been built, and wild game was found in abundance. He commenced work at his trade—

that of a carpenter—and assisted in the erection of nearly every public building in Geneseo. He also built school houses, churches, business blocks and private residences in the same place, and erected many buildings in Atkinson, Annawan and Cambridge, in fact all over the county. He was industrious, painstaking and conscientious, as well as thrifty and conservative in business, and as a man was kind hearted and generous, always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need or distress. He also gave liberally to all public enterprises which he believed calculated to advance the general welfare. A man of good business ability, he accumulated considerable property in the city as well as some farm land.

On the 22nd of December, 1858, Mr. Munson was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth McWhirter, of Geneseo, who was born in Culmonarch, Scotland, July 4, 1835, and came with her brother James to America at the age of ten years. Her parents, James and Jeannette (McSkimming) McWhirter, were natives of the same country and came to America about 1850. After spending three years in Athens, Ohio, they came to Rock Island, Illinois, where the mother died. The father spent only a short time at that place and then removed to Iowa Falls, Iowa, and located on a farm, where his death occurred. Of the ten children born to them five died in Scotland, the others being Jennette, who married William Holding and died in Iowa; James, who married a lady from Scotland and both are now deceased; Mary, who died at Iowa Falls, Iowa; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Munson; and John, who is married and lives in Iowa Falls. Our subject and his wife had one child, Seldon Albert, who was born March 27, 1873, and died July 29, the same year.

Mr. Munson died September 27, 1900, from the effects of a sunstroke received two years previously. Like his father he was a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, but would never consent to become a candidate for office, preferring that others should have the political honors while he devoted his time and energies to business affairs. He was a good citizen, a kind and devoted husband, and a friend to all who knew him. Religiously he was a consistent and faithful member of the Congregational Church and he merited and received the respect of the entire community in which he lived.

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#### HERBERT ROOT EDWARDS.

Throughout the greater part of his life Herbert R. Edwards was a resident of this section of the state, and during his last years was engaged in farming in Western township, Henry county. He was born in Vermont, December 3, 1826, but was a small boy when he came west with his parents, William and Huldah (Bangs) Edwards, who were also natives of the Green Mountain state. By occupation the father was a farmer and devoted his time and attention to that pursuit throughout life. On first coming to Illinois the family spent a short time at Greenfield, Green county, and then removed to Moline, where the parents both died, the father at about the age of fifty years, and the mother at the age of eighty-six. They had five children, and with one exception all grew to manhood, namely: William H. followed the wagon maker's trade for many years, and later was foreman of the plow factory at Moline. He married Caroline Fleming, of Davenport, Iowa, who died twelve years ago, leaving

four children, while two died previously. He departed this life in the spring of 1899, at the age of seventy-six years. Herbert R. was next in order of birth. George H., is said to be the oldest pioneer resident of Moline. During his active business life he engaged in farming and is now trustee of the Second National Bank of Moline. He has one son, Milton. Charles was engaged in the hardware business in early life, but is now living retired in Galesburg.

Mr. Edwards of this sketch was reared was united in marriage with Miss Harriet and educated in Moline. At the age of twenty-one he turned his attention to the mason's trade, which he followed for some years, but in 1866 located in Western township, Henry county, and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. He was the owner of four eighty-acre farms in that township, all under cultivation.

On the 4th of July, 1852, Mr. Edwards M. Gordon, a native of Wayne county, Michigan, and a daughter of Amos and Amy (Bucklin) Gordon. The father was born in Maine, in 1792, and when a young man removed with his parents to Wayne county, Michigan, where he enlisted in the war of 1812. In 1836 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and settled near Geneseo, where he lived for seven or eight years, and then removed to Moline, where he died at the extreme old age of ninety-eight years. He made farming his principal occupation throughout life. His wife survived him about five years and died at the age of ninety-three. Their oldest son, Daniel Gordon, is now living a retired life in Moline. He, too, was an agriculturist, and for about twenty years served as county surveyor of Rock Island county. He also filled the office of supervisor.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Edward were born seven children, namely: Carrie M., wife of Frank Stewart, of Colorado; Frank H., a resident of Western township; Clarence A., of Gottenburg, Nebraska; Charles H., who died at the age of two and a half years; Flora B., wife of William Tully, of Colorado; Grace F., wife of Clarence Ward, of Atkinson township, this county; and Helen, wife of Abel Ward, of Munson township, this county.

After a well-spent and busy life Mr. Edwards passed away in Western township on the 21st of November, 1874. He efficiently filled the office of school director for a time, and was serving as assessor of his township at the time of his death. While a resident of Moline he was a member of the Congregational Church, but after his removal to Western township he joined the English Lutheran Church, which his family also attended. On the 31st of July, 1890, Mrs. Edwards became the wife of David L. Purviance, who is represented on another page of this volume, and they now reside on South Oakwood avenue, Geneseo.

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### JOHN FREMONT CALKINS.

Among the native sons of Henry county who are now prominently connected with its agricultural interests is John F. Calkins, who is successfully engaged in farming on section 22, Oxford township. His fine farm of one hundred and seventy-two acres adjoins the corporate limits of Alpha, and its neat and thrifty appearance plainly indicates the careful supervision and good business ability of the owner.

Mr. Calkins was born at the homestead

in Alpha, December 1, 1856, a son of Anson and Hulda G. Calkins, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his time and received a good practical education in the common schools near his home. He remained under the parental roof until his marriage, which was celebrated at Alpha, January 28, 1879, Miss Elvira J. Elliott becoming his wife. She was born in Henry county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Willard Elliott, who met death by accident in Henry county, Ohio. Her mother afterward came to Illinois and here married Charles Elliott, a brother of her first husband. Mrs. Calkins was principally reared and educated at Alpha. By her marriage she has become the mother of five children, namely: Effie A., Edna P., Mary H., Stella E. and Frances W. The three younger children are still in school.

After his marriage Mr. Calkins located upon his present farm and to its further improvement and cultivation he has since devoted his energies. He has enlarged and remodeled the residence and now has a very pleasant home, surrounded by good out-buildings and shade and fruit trees. In connection with his farming operations he is engaged in raising and feeding stock for market, which branch of his business he finds quite profitable. Since attaining his majority he has supported the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never sought office, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests. His wife and two older daughters are active members of the Baptist Church, to which he contributes liberally although not a member of any religious denomination. Fraternally he is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America at Alpha, and both he and his wife held

membership in the Fraternal Tribune at Woodhull. They are widely and favorably known, and no couple in the community where they reside are held in higher regard than Mr. and Mrs. Calkins.

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### HENRY MUSSEY.

The subject of this sketch, who is a member of the well-known firm of Mussey Brothers, grain and coal dealers of Atkinson, Illinois, was born in Rutland, Vermont, on the 1st of June, 1828, and is a son of Henry and Sabra Amanda (Lawrence) Mussey, also natives of the Green Mountain state, the former born in March, 1795, the latter in May, 1808. The Mussey family is an old one in America. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Ebenezer Mussey, was a native of Connecticut and a farmer by occupation, while his maternal grandfather, Captain Amos Lawrence, was captain of a company of Connecticut troops in the Revolutionary war. Throughout his active business life the father engaged in farming near Rutland, Vermont, and there died at the age of eighty-three years. The mother's death occurred at Atkinson, Illinois when she was ninety-two years of age. All of their ten children reached years of maturity and eight of the number are still living, while Henry, William and Mrs. Thomas Nowers are residents of Atkinson.

Our subject grew to manhood on the home farm, and during the summer months assisted in its operation, while through the winter season he attended school in Rutland until eighteen years of age. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-four years of age. On coming west, in 1857, he

located in Will county, Illinois, about four miles from Aurora, where he purchased two hundred and seventy acres of improved land, and to its cultivation and further development devoted his energies for twenty-four years. Selling that place he came to Atkinson where his brother Henry made his home, and after living retired for two years he bought the elevator of Emanuel Lawbaugh and embarked in the grain business, to which he has since added coal. His brother is a member of the firm and they do quite a large and profitable business.

Mr. Mussey was married, November 9, 1852, to Miss Charlotte E. Moulthrop, who was born in Vermont in 1829, and is of Scotch-Irish extraction. Her father, Truman Moulthrop, followed farming near Rutland. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Mussey were born three children: Henry Ellsworth, who died at the age of six months; Jennie E., wife of I. J. Emmons, of Atkinson; and Alice Emily, wife of W. F. Arnold, by whom she has three children, Henry, Helen and Harriet.

Mr. Mussey is an active member and deacon in the Congregational Church, while his wife is an Episcopalian in religious belief. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles. He has ever taken an active and prominent part in educational affairs, and served as school director in Will county eighteen years, in Henry county for three years.

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### MRS. PAULINA H. SHINN.

Among the well-known residents and honored citizens of Oxford township, the Shinn family occupy an enviable position.

Their homestead adjoins the village of Alpha. Mrs. Shinn was born in Addison county, Vermont, February 19, 1828, and belongs to an old and prominent New England family, tracing her ancestry back to Robert Pease, who came to the new world on the ship Francis from Ipswich, England, and landed in Boston in April, 1634, but later settled in Salem, Massachusetts. Her father, Obed Pease, was born in Enfield, Connecticut, April 20, 1789, and was a son of Ezekiel Pease, also a native of the same state. The former was reared in Connecticut, but when a young man went to Vermont, where he cleared a farm and made for himself and family a good home. There he was married April 11, 1811, to Miss Lydia Lamos, a native of New Hampshire. He continued to engage in farming in Vermont until 1839, when he came west and took up his residence in Knox county, Illinois, where he entered land and opened up a farm, making it his home until called to his final rest, in 1845. His wife died November 28, 1863.

On the removal of her parents to this state, Mrs. Shinn remained with a sister in Vermont to complete her education, and in 1844 joined her parents in Knox county. Prior to her marriage she was successfully engaged in teaching school in Knox and Warren counties. On the 9th of January, 1848, she wedded Moses H. Shinn, who was born in Harrison county, West Virginia, November 5, 1821, a son of Hiram Shinn. The progenitor of his family in America was John Shinn, a Quaker, who came to this country from England in 1679, landing at Burlington, New Jersey, and later located in West Virginia. In 1833 Moses H. Shinn came to Illinois, and after spending some years in Fulton county, he took up his residence in Knox county in 1841. Being a black-

smith by trade he followed that occupation in early life, but on his removal to Henry county, in 1855, he purchased land and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In Oxford township he improved the farm of two hundred and forty acres on which his widow still resides, erecting thereon a good residence and substantial barns and out-buildings, and making many other improvements which added greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. He also bought land in Kansas for his children. On completing his apprenticeship as a blacksmith he started out in life for himself with a capital of only twenty-five cents, but being industrious, energetic and ambitious he met with success in his undertakings, and by the assistance of his estimable wife accumulated a large and valuable property. He continued to actively engage in farming until his death, which occurred May 16, 1883. He was well and favorably known throughout his section of the county as a man of business integrity and sterling worth, and had the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact. Politically he was a staunch Republican, the principles of which party his family also support.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Shinn were born six children, namely: Sylvia A., wife of Charles Hall, of Akron, Iowa; Carroll A., who is married and engaged in farming in Jewell county, Kansas; Bertha P., who was graduated from Knox College in 1894, and is now successfully engaged in teaching in Henry, Illinois. The others are now deceased. Angelia L., the first born, and Edwin both died in infancy. Jenette E. married Robert Watson, of Henry county, and died in March, 1892, at the age of thirty-nine years, leaving one child, Ethel Watson, who finds a home with her grand-



mother. Mrs. Shinn and her daughter Bertha are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and are held in high regard by all who know them.

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### JOHN D. HILL.

Among the brave men who devoted the opening years of their manhood to the defense of our country from the internal foes who sought her dismemberment was John D. Hill, now a prominent resident of Geneseo. He was born in Rappahannock county, Virginia, March 19, 1843, but in 1855 came with his parents to this county, with whose interests he has since been actively identified.

William T. Hill, the father of our subject, was born in Culpeper county, Virginia, April 10, 1821, and was the oldest son of John K. and Grace (Jenkins) Hill, also natives of the Old Dominion, and the former a soldier of the war of 1812. William T. Hill grew to manhood upon a farm in Rappahannock county, and on the 30th of March, 1841, was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Lockhart, who was born there January 13, 1821. They continued their residence in Rappahannock until 1845, when they removed to Rockingham county, Virginia, where they made their home for six years. The following four years were spent in Augusta county, the same state, where Mr. Hill operated a rented farm, and in 1855 he came to Henry county, Illinois, the family traveling overland in a spring wagon, while their household goods were hauled in a two-horse lumber wagon. It required thirty days to make the journey. For two years the father rented a farm in Cornwall town-

ship, and then purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild prairie land on section 24, Munson township, for which he paid ten dollars per acre. It is now the property of our subject, and being under a high state of cultivation and well improved, it is worth eighty dollars per acre. In 1856 the father erected thereon the first house, and the following year harvested the first crop. He added to his farm until he had two hundred and eighty acres, and also owned city property in Geneseo, and three farms of two hundred and forty acres each in Nebraska. William T. Hill died December 30, 1893, and his wife died October 2, 1884, and their remains are interred in Oakwood cemetery, Geneseo.

John D. Hill, of this review, is the second in order of birth in a family of fourteen children, the others being as follows: William J., born January 15, 1842, enlisted August 15, 1862, in Company C, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, June 7, 1864. George R., born August 13, 1844, was married, December 31, 1873, to Mary M. Taylor, and is now engaged in the implement business in Salt Lake City, Utah. Sarah Elizabeth, born August 5, 1846, was married, January 25, 1865, to George Dugdale, now a retired farmer of Geneseo, Illinois. Julia F., born February 20, 1848, married Samuel J. Murphy, and died December 24, 1884. Edward L., born April 24, 1849, was married, December 28, 1871, to Ella Calhoun, and is now a traveling salesman for the McCormick Reaper Company, residing in Des Moines, Iowa. Rachel V., born April 27, 1851, was married, December 28, 1871, to Porter Likien, now a retired farmer of Geneseo, Illinois. Mary E., born September 7, 1852, was married,



September 7, 1876, to Adam Young, a farmer of Storm Lake, Iowa. Philip D., born June 17, 1854, was married, December 19, 1877, to Florence Benton, and is an auctioneer of Muscatine, Iowa. Jennie A., born February 27, 1857, is the wife of Herman Wiedenhoef, a farmer of Munson township, this county. James N., born September 17, 1858, married Belle McRae, and is a farmer and stock raiser of Colfax county, Nebraska. Emma P., born July 18, 1860, married James J. Callender, and resides in Des Moines, Iowa. Stephen R., born September 27, 1862, married Cora McRae, and is a farmer and stock raiser of Wheeler, Nebraska. Estella L., born April 9, 1865, is the widow of William Lane, and now a stenographer in Des Moines, Iowa.

During his boyhood and youth John D. Hill attended the district schools of Munson township through the winter months, while in summer he aided in the work of the farm. He was twelve years of age on coming to this county, and remained with his parents until after the Civil war broke out. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he enlisted on the 15th of August, 1862, in Company C, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Cambridge, and was mustered into the United States service at Peoria in the following October. He was made corporal October 17, 1863, and detailed as color guard, carrying the regimental banner from May of that year to May 6, 1864, when he was appointed color sergeant and served as such until mustered out in Chicago, July 10, 1865. He participated in the battle of Knoxville, Sanders raid, and the engagements at Bean Station, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Utah Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Franklin, Nashville, Wilmington (North Carolina), Fort Anderson, Kel-

ly's Ford, Dandridge, and many others. He was shot in the shoulder at Knoxville, Tennessee, but remained in the service, and the flag which he carried was riddled by many bullets.

On the 30th of September, 1868, Mr. Hill was united in marriage with Miss Esther E. Ayres, who was born in Hicksville, Ohio, May 14, 1845, and died February 6, 1900, her remains being interred in Oakwood cemetery, Geneseo. Her parents were Buenos and Sarah (Osborn) Ayres, of Munson township, this county, where her father owned and operated four hundred and eighty acres of valuable land. He was of a mechanical turn of mind, and of great physical energy. He was also extremely philanthropical, and was interested in all that tended to the advancement of the community in which he lived. He died in 1895, at the age of eighty-five years, honored and loved by all who knew him, and his wife passed away November 1, 1894, at the age of seventy-eight years. He belonged to a family of English origin, which was founded in Massachusetts in the early part of the seventeenth century, tracing his ancestry back to the famous Captain John Ayres, of Brookfield, that state.

Mrs. Hill was one of a family of eleven children who in order of birth were as follows: Sheldon H., born April 23, 1835, was married, January 22, 1857, to Louisa Emery, who died near Galva, March 12, 1864, and on the 1st of May, 1865, he married Sarah Fronk. Orlando B., born July 26, 1836, married, July 13, 1864, Annie L. Stone, now a resident of Des Moines, Iowa, and died March 28, 1900. He was a prominent attorney. In the spring of 1837 the father of this family removed to Defiance, Ohio, where the following six children were

born: George W., born January 6, 1839, died October 10, 1839. Mary A., born November 22, 1840, died November 25, 1840. Samuel P., born May 16, 1842, was married, April 6, 1871, to Mary Inglefield. He was engaged in the practice of law at Knoxville, Iowa, for a time, but subsequently embarked in the newspaper business, and is now editor of the Herald of Marshalltown, Iowa. Mrs. Hill was the next in order of birth. Roderick W., born April 26, 1848, was married, February 12, 1874, to Sadie M. Inglefield, and after her death was again married, December 27, 1876, his second union being with Edith M. Swain. He is now a farmer of Bussey, Marion county, Iowa. Ransom O., born in Bureau county, Illinois, October 24, 1852, was married, January 24, 1877, to Fannie Reaver, and is a miller of Knoxville, Iowa. Azoline, born in Munson township, this county, August 24, 1854, died three days later. John C. F., born in the same place, August 26, 1856, was married, December 25, 1879, to S. Alice Martin, and followed farming in Munson township for several years, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo. Helen E., born September 3, 1859, died October 13, 1862.

Throughout his active business career Mr. Hill was engaged in agricultural pursuits. The first land which he purchased in this county was a tract of eighty acres in Cambridge township, for which he paid about two thousand dollars, and which he sold at a profit. He next bought seventy-six acres in Munson township for four thousand four hundred and fifty dollars, and later added to it eighty acres, for which he paid five thousand dollars. This property he improved by the erection of a house and barn, and then sold for ten thousand dollars. Subsequently he bought a farm of three hun-

dred and four acres on section 24, Munson township, and also owns an elegant home in Geneseo, where he is now living retired from active labor, while his niece, Miss Augusta Ayres, keeps house for him. He has been the executor of three estates, including that of his father. Each of these required two years in settlement.

Mr. Hill is an honored member of E. J. Jenkins Post, No. 452, G. A. R., and Stewart Lodge, No. 92, F. & A. M., and is also connected with the Unitarian Church. He is public spirited and enterprising, and thoroughly reliable in all things, his word being considered as good as his bond. His pleasant, genial manner makes him many friends, and he is held in high regard by all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life.

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#### R. PORTER WILBER.

Among the highly esteemed citizens of Oxford township is Porter Wilber, who owns and operates a farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29. He was born upon that place, August 8, 1852, and is a son of Robert M. Wilber, who was born in Rhode Island, in 1794. His ancestors were of Scotch origin and among the Puritans who first settled in Rhode Island. His grandfather, John Wilber, was a native of that state and one of the pioneers of Oneida county, New York. There our subject's father was reared and educated, and in early life was ordained a minister of the Baptist Church. He was married in that county to Hannah Phelps, and in 1840 came to Illinois, locating first in Warren county, becoming one of the pioneer preachers of the western part of the state. In 1850 he bought land

and located where the son now resides, and in connection with his farming operations he continued to actively engage in church work in Henry and adjoining counties for some years. He died here September 4, 1860, honored and respected by all who knew him. He was three times married, his second wife being Betsy Wood, a native of New York, while his last wife and the mother of our subject was Martha S. Cleveland, who was born in Grafton county, New Hampshire, and whom he married in Wisconsin. By the first union he had two children who are still living, Mrs. Polly Jenks, a widow of Warren county, Illinois; and Celinda, wife of Edwin Bundy, of Bedford, Iowa. Of the seven children born of the second marriage three still survive, namely: Lydia A., a resident of Maryville, Missouri; A. J., of Republic county, Kansas; and Elmira Dixon, of Henry county, Illinois. Two sons gave up their lives on the altar of their country during the dark days of the Civil war, these being Benjamin W., who died at New Orleans; and John M., who was killed in a charge on Vicksburg. Our subject is the oldest of the three children born of the third marriage, the others being Cynthia and Ralph M. The latter is married and resides in Alpha. Cynthia was married November 30, 1876, to Warren Huey, and located at New Windsor, where he died February 12, 1882, leaving one son, Vernon, who assists his uncle in the operation of the farm, while Mrs. Huey keeps house for her brother.

After the death of his father Porter Wilber remained at home with his mother, and assisted her in carrying on the place. He succeeded to the old homestead, and since 1882 his sister, Mrs. Huey, has been his housekeeper as previously stated. They both hold membership in the Baptist Church at Alpha,

and Mr. Wilber is also connected with the New Windsor lodge, I. O. O. F. He has affiliated with the Democratic party since casting his first presidential vote for Samuel J. Tilden in 1876, but at local elections where no issue is involved he usually votes for the man whom he believes best qualified to fill the office, regardless of party lines.

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#### CHARLES P. ROOS.

Among the enterprising, progressive and energetic farmers of Loraine township is numbered Charles P. Roos, who is following his chosen occupation on section 18, where he operates a valuable farm of three hundred acres of his father's, besides one hundred and thirty-eight acres of his own in section 10, elegantly improved with substantial buildings. He was born in that township on the 1st of November, 1869, and throughout his active business life has been prominently identified with its agricultural interests.

Jacob Roos, father of our subject, was born in Prussia, Germany, August 30, 1837, and was sixteen years of age when he came to the new world with his father, Philip Roos, and took up his residence in Loraine township, this county. During the gold excitement at Pikes Peak, he went to Colorado in 1859, and engaged in teaming from Denver to the mountains until the Civil war broke out, when he enlisted in the First Colorado Cavalry, and remained in the service until the cessation of hostilities. He was mostly engaged in fighting Indians on the frontier. After receiving his discharge he remained in Colorado about two years and then returned to this county and turned his

attention to agricultural pursuits, in which he met with marked success, becoming owner of five hundred and twenty acres of fine farming land. He is now living a retired life in Geneseo, enjoying a well-earned rest. On the 25th of January, 1867, he married Miss Kosina Ott, a native of Cook county, Illinois, and a daughter of Casper and Elizabeth Ott. She died March 8, 1886, and was laid to rest in Loraine cemetery. Mr. Roos was again married, in October, 1900, his second union being with Ella McGowan.

Charles P. Roos is the oldest of the eight children born of the first marriage, the others being as follows: Joseph C. married Lotta Smith, and lives on a farm adjoining our subject's place; Louisa is the wife of William Rader, whose farm also adjoins that of our subject; Albert died in infancy; Kate M. is the wife of Daniel Heller, who lives on a part of the old Heller homestead in Loraine township; William H. is in the employ of the Deere Corn Planter Company of Rock Island; and Carrie M. and Martha are both with their father in Geneseo.

During his boyhood and youth Charles P. Roos attended the district schools near his home, and when his education was completed he gave his father the benefit of his labors on the farm. He has always engaged in general farming since starting in life for himself, and is interested in the breeding of thoroughbred Aberdeen Angus cattle, of which he has a fine herd. At the age of nineteen he purchased an interest with his father in a horse-power threshing machine, and later engaged in operating the same in partnership with Louis Lenzer for three years, at the end of which time Mr. Lenzer sold out to Edward Sommers. This connection also continued three years, when his brother, Joseph, purchased Mr. Sommers'

interest, which he subsequently sold to John Poppenthien. Our subject was in partnership with the last named gentleman for three years, and since that time has engaged in business alone, operating a steam thresher, corn sheller, saw, grist and sorghum mills quite successfully. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man, of known reliability, and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

At Geneseo, on the 11th of February, 1892, Mr. Roos was united in marriage with Miss Barbara Gerstner, a daughter of Valentine and Margaret (Marsengarb) Gerstner, natives of Germany, who came to America, in 1870, and located in Geneseo, where they spent one year. The father was then successfully engaged in farming in this county until 1898, when he returned to Geneseo, and has since lived a retired life. His children are Susan, at home; Eva, wife of John F. Poppenthien, of Geneseo; Barbara, wife of our subject; Johnnie, at home; Maggie, wife of William Santee, of Phenix township, this county; Katie, wife of Luther Henderson, of Geneseo; Dena, twin sister of Katie, at home; Elizabeth, Mary and Emma, all at home. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Roos: Neva Erman, who was born May 6, 1895, and died March 24, 1899; and a son, born May 10, 1900.

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#### EZRA LITTEN.

Ezra Litten is a thorough and skillful farmer and a business man of more than ordinary capacity, who is successfully carrying on his chosen calling on section 33, Weller township. A native of Pennsylvania, his birth occurred in Fulton county, that state,

January 1, 1834, his parents being John and Sophia (Knable) Litten. The former was born in Maryland of English ancestry, the latter in Pennsylvania of German extraction. Both died in the Keystone state. By occupation the father was a farmer, and in religious belief was a Methodist. He gave his support to the Democratic party but never took any active part in political matters. At the time of his death he was about sixty-nine years of age. Of his thirteen children three died in infancy, and Wilson and Catherine died during the Civil war, aged twelve and fourteen years, respectively. The others were as follows: Ezra, our subject; Richmond, who served in a Maryland regiment during the Civil war and died in Kansas in 1885; Isaac, of Weller township, this county; Sarah J., wife of Hillery Dawson, of Morgan county, West Virginia; John, a resident of Kansas; Thomas, who resides in Pennsylvania; and Malachi, who lives near the old homestead in Pennsylvania; and Jared, who died in 1877.

Reared in his native state, Ezra Litten received a good common school education for those days, but his advantages were much inferior to those of most boys at the present time. He remained on the home farm until twenty-four years of age, and then went to Ohio, where he worked as a farm hand for two years. In 1860 he came to Henry county, Illinois. He had previously visited this state in 1855, but after spending a short time in Knox county he returned to his Pennsylvania home. In Henry county he engaged in farming until after the inauguration of the Civil war.

In August, 1862, Mr. Litten joined the boys in blue of Company G, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was ill the first four months after entering

the army, but after that was in active service until the close of the war, taking part in some of the most important engagements of the war, including the battles of Resaca, Georgia; Columbia, Tennessee; Franklin, Tennessee; and Nashville, Tennessee; Monticello and Richmond, Kentucky; Calhoun, Philadelphia, Campbell's Station and Knoxville, Tennessee; and was with General Sherman all through the Atlanta campaign. He was under command of Generals Thomas and Burnside in Kentucky and Tennessee in 1864; and was with General Schofield in North Carolina in 1865. He participated in one hundred and ten skirmishes, and was slightly wounded at Utoy Creek in August, 1864. On the cessation of hostilities he was mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina, June 20, 1865, and was honorably discharged at Chicago.

Returning to Henry county Mr. Litten resumed farming, and in 1868 purchased a farm of eighty acres in Weller township, to which he has since added seventy acres, all unimproved when it came into his possession. He has since tilled the land and placed it under a high state of cultivation, and has erected good and substantial buildings there. He carries on general farming and stockraising, making a specialty of cattle and hogs for market purposes.

In 1866 Mr. Litten was united in marriage with Miss Rhoda Hess, who was also born in Fulton county, Pennsylvania. In 1836, their marriage being celebrated there. Her parents, Stillwell and Asenith Hess, spent their entire lives in Pennsylvania, where all her relatives live with exception of two sisters in Kansas. Mr. and Mrs. Litten have three children: Abbie Asenith, born in 1868, was married, December 18, 1900, to John E. Johnson, of Knox coun-

ty: John Howard, born in 1872, is on the home farm; and Thomas J. H., born in 1878, is learning telegraphy in Galva. All have received good common school educations. Mr. Litten has held some school office for many years, but takes no part in politics, though he is willing to aid any enterprise for the public good. His wife is a member of the Baptist Church, and both are held in the highest regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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### WILLIAM L. CLAY.

Henry county has no more enterprising or skillful farmer than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is the owner of much valuable property, including his home place of three hundred and seventy acres on section 35, Oxford township. He was born in Chester, Windsor county, Vermont, August 29, 1831, and is a worthy representative of an old colonial family which was founded in this country by three brothers, natives of England, who crossed the Atlantic during the seventeenth century. One of these located in Massachusetts, the second in North Carolina and the third in Virginia. From the first our subject is descended. His paternal grandfather, Timothy Clay, was a native of Massachusetts and one of the early settlers of Chester, Vermont. As a poor man with an ax upon his shoulder he went to that place, and in the midst of the wilderness made for himself and family a home.

John L. Clay, the father of our subject, was born October 3, 1802, in the same house where occurred the birth of William L. He

grew to manhood in Chester, and married Miss Lousia M. Balch, a native of Andover township, Windsor county, and a daughter of Joel Balch, who was also from Massachusetts, and was a soldier of the war of 1812. Her grandfather, Hart Balch, aided the colonies in their struggle for independence in the Revolutionary war, remaining in the service from the battle of Lexington until the surrender at Yorktown. He, too, was a pioneer of the Green Mountain state. After his marriage John L. Clay operated the old homestead for some years and there all of his children were born, his family being composed of four sons and one daughter. In 1837 he went to Knox county, Illinois, and helped to raise the first house built at Galesburg. Purchasing land he and his family took up their residence there in 1840. At the time Galesburg contained only one store, two blacksmith shops, Knox Academy, and about thirty-seven houses. There he prospered in his farming operations and became the owner of four hundred acres of valuable land, upon which he spent the remainder of his life, dying there in 1878, at the ripe old age of seventy-six years. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1892, at the age of eighty-eight.

At the age of nine years William L. Clay came with his parents to Illinois, and spent his early life in Knox county, remaining with his father until 1854, when he purchased a half section of raw prairie land on section 35, Oxford township, Henry county, where he now resides. Upon his place he erected a little house, in which he lived alone while breaking his land and placing it under cultivation. Subsequently he built a more commodious and pretentious dwelling, a large barn and substantial outbuildings, and he has also set out



shade and fruit trees, which add greatly to the attractive appearance of the place. Throughout his business career he has followed stock raising in connection with his farming operations, and always keeps on hand a high grade of stock. Besides his home farm, now consisting of three hundred and twenty acres in Oxford township, Henry county, he owns an adjoining tract of two hundred and forty acres in Knox county; two farms aggregating four hundred acres in York county, Nebraska; and one hundred and sixty acres in Warren county, Illinois. He is a man of excellent business ability and sound judgment, and to these characteristics may be attributed his wonderful success.

At Knoxville, Illinois, Mr. Clay was married, November 22, 1854, to Miss Harriet A. Davison, who was born in Ohio, but was reared in Knox county, this state, of which her father, Artemus Davison, was one of the early settlers. She died in February, 1868, leaving two children, namely: Seth H., who now resides in Cambridge; and Mary L., wife of E. J. Richards, who is engaged in farming on the Clay homestead. For his second wife Mr. Clay married Miss Ann M. Johnson, who was born in Sweden, but reared in this county. By this union there are three children: Fannie M., wife of H. M. Wilsey, of Galesburg; Warren L., at home; and Eugenia Marion, wife of Frank Welch, a farmer of Knox county.

Politically Mr. Clay is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and has never failed to cast his ballot for each presidential nominee of that party since he first voted in 1852 for Franklin Pierce. He has never cared for political honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his extensive business in-

terests. Fraternally he is a Royal Arch Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Woodhull and the chapter at Rio. For sixty years he has been a resident of this section of the state, and has watched with interest its wonderful growth and development. He has seen the great prairie fire which used to sweep over the country, endangering the life and property of the early settlers, and can well remember when railroads, telegraphs and telephones were unknown in this region, but now all has changed, and all the conveniences and accessories of an advanced civilization have been introduced. In the work of development and upbuilding he has ever bore his part, and has taken an active interest in all enterprises calculated to advance the general welfare. He is widely and favorably known in both Henry and Knox counties, and is one of the leading and prominent citizens of his community.

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#### JAMES RILEY.

James Riley belongs to that class of men whom the world terms self-made, for starting out in life for himself empty-handed he has conquered all the obstacles in the path to success, and has not only secured for himself a handsome competence, but by his efforts has materially advanced the interests of the community with which he has been associated. For almost half a century he was one of the active and energetic farmers of Henry county, but is now living a retired life in Atkinson.

Mr. Riley was born in Licking county, Ohio, July 20, 1824, a son of Paul and Elizabeth (Laughlin) Riley, natives of Pennsylvania and pioneers of Licking county, Ohio, whence they came to Illinois



in 1835, the journey being made by team. Locating in Bureau county, the father opened up a farm on the present site of Sheffield, but later sold that place to the railroad company and bought another, on which he spent the remainder of his life.

James Riley was a lad of ten years when he removed with the family to Bureau county, and there he grew to manhood. On the 25th of May, 1848, he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Ann Dunbar, who was born in Knox county, Ohio, in 1828. Her father, Hiram Dunbar, was born and reared in Licking county, Ohio, and there married Femina Wolf, also a native of the Buckeye state. In 1836 they brought their family to Illinois, and took up their residence in Putnam county, where Mr. Dunbar first worked at the carpenter's and wheelwright's trades, and later turned his attention to farming. Subsequently he resided in Henry county for some years, and then removed to Kansas, where his death occurred, though his remains were brought back to Geneseo, this county, for interment. His wife still survives him at the advanced age of ninety-three years, and makes her home with a son in Atkinson.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Riley were born the following children: Femina married Benjamin McCloud and died leaving three children; Mary Elizabeth died at the age of three years; William, a retired farmer of Atkinson; Hiram, who is married and resides with his parents; Ellery, who is married and is now operating a coal shaft on his father's place; Laura, wife of Victor McCullough, of Calhoun county, Iowa; Alice, wife of John Nowers, a merchant of Atkinson; and Nellie, who died in infancy.

After his marriage Mr. Riley was engaged in farming in Bureau county until

1854, when he came to Henry county and purchased two hundred and forty acres of wild land in Cornwall township, which he broke, fenced and improved, transforming it into a fine farm. He continued the operation of that land until 1882, when he rented the place and bought a tract of forty acres where he now resides. Since then he has practically lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of former toil. Twelve acres of his land has been laid out in town lots, forming an addition to Atkinson. Underlying his farm is a good grade of coal in three veins, and his sons have sunk a shaft and engaged in mining for the past six years.

Prior to the Civil war Mr. Riley was a staunch Abolitionist, and was connected with Owen Lovejoy in his work to abolish slavery. He feels a just pride in his efforts to assist the poor negroes to gain their freedom, and loyally did he stand by Lovejoy in the trying days preceding the Rebellion. On the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks, voting for Fremont in 1856 and Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. Being a strong temperance man and believing that the principles of prohibition to be the most important issue before the people of to-day, he now supports the Prohibition party. For some years he was a member of the school board in his district, but has never cared for political honors. He and his family are members of the Free Methodist Church, and are held in warm regard by all who know them.

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#### JAMES MACHESNEY.

Prominent among the agriculturalists of Henry county is James Machesney, who for almost half a century has been identified

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JAMES MACHESNEY.



MRS. JAMES MACHESNEY.

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with her growth and development, while his name is inseparably connected with her farming interests. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, and his executive ability and excellent management have brought to him a high degree of success, so that he is now the largest land owner of Annawan township.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Machesney was born in Greensburg, Westmoreland county, March 17, 1817, his parents being Andrew and Mary (Henderson) Machesney. The father was born in Ireland and was four years of age when brought by his parents to America in 1786. The grandfather William Machesney, spent the remainder of his life in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where he died about 1825. His wife had previously passed away, both being quite old at the time of their death. By occupation he was a farmer. Their family consisted of six children, namely: John, who spent his early life in Pennsylvania, and then removed to Ohio; Andrew, the father of our subject; William, who made his home in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, until death; Elizabeth, who became the wife of David McElvane, of Butler county, Pennsylvania; Margaret, and one other daughter, both deceased.

Throughout his active business career Andrew Machesney also followed the vocation of a farmer. For two years he lived in Ohio, but at the end of that time returned to Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and died at his home near Greensburg, in 1864, at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. His wife died in January, 1868, at about the age of seventy-two. She was a native of the Keystone state and of Scotch descent. They were the parents of thirteen children. John was a farmer of Westmoreland county,

where he died at the age of eighty-six; William spent most of his life in Pennsylvania, but in his declining years came west to live with a daughter in Colfax, Iowa, where he died at the age of seventy-eight; Andrew died in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, at the same age; Jane became the wife of Thomas Dunkin, of that county, and later moved to Marion, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where he died several years ago, and where she is still living; Alexander is still a resident of Westmoreland county; James, our subject, is next in order of birth; Henderson died in Westmoreland county, at the age of twenty-six; Mary wedded Archie Davis and died in Blairsville, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, at the age of about seventy; Lewis was a life-long resident of Pennsylvania; Margaret, deceased, was the wife of John Mowery; David died at Grinnell, Iowa; Jackson, deceased, was a resident of Pennsylvania; and Elizabeth is the wife of Henry Lawbach, of Stewart, Iowa.

In the county of his nativity James Machesney grew to manhood, and is indebted to its public schools for his educational privileges. There he followed farming when his school days were over until coming to Illinois in 1854 with his brother, David, who was a physician. In the winter of 1855 they opened a drug store in Annawan at the location of the present drug store at that place, and carried on business there until the 16th of March, 1860. Since then our subject has engaged in farming, and has converted many a wild tract into highly cultivated fields. In his farming operations he has met with remarkable success, and is now the owner of eight hundred and twenty acres of rich and productive land, upon which he has erected good and substantial buildings. Mrs. Machesney is also the owner of a farm

of one hundred and sixty acres in Annawan township. He now rents most of his property. His residence is pleasantly located on section 29, six and a half miles southwest of Annawan. Prosperity has attended his well-directed efforts, and within the past four years he has purchased twenty-two thousand dollars' worth of land. He has never given a mortgage in his life.

Mr. Machesney was married, January 30, 1861, to Mrs. Selinda Johnson, a native of Tippecanoe county, Indiana. Her parents were Silas and Sarah (Henderson) Burgett, natives of Ohio; they both died in Indiana. Mr. and Mrs. Machesney have five children, as follows: Mary Agnes, wife of Joseph Anderson, of Annawan; Anna Ardelia, wife of James E. Douglas, of Annawan township; James H., who married Minnie, daughter of Robert Booth, of Annawan township, and lives in Annawan; Milton Howard, who married Densley Barton and resides at the same place; and Morgan Burgett, who married Nora, daughter of James Batten, of Annawan.

In his political views, Mr. Machesney is a stanch Republican. He cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor and has always taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs, although he has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his extensive business interests. He is one of the representative citizens and prominent men of his community, and is highly respected and esteemed wherever known.

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#### FRANK L. HOUGH.

Among the representative business men of the county none are more deserving of representation in this volume than Frank

L. Hough, who for thirty years has been actively engaged in the grain business in Woodhull, and who has, through his well-directed efforts, gained a comfortable competence that numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Marshall county, October 12, 1844, and is the only child who grew to maturity of the union of Rev. Marshall Hough and Matilda Myers. His father was born and reared in Greene county, New York, and when a young man came to Illinois. He was a graduate of Monticello College and was ordained a minister of the Baptist Church, but later united with the Universalist Church and continued in the ministry of the latter until his death in 1847, when our subject was only three years old. He was twice married, and by his first wife had two children: Baylis, who married and settled in Iowa, where his death occurred; and Mrs. Eliza S. Leonard, a widow residing in Denver, Colorado. The mother of our subject was also married twice, her first husband being Baplis Garrison, and to them were born two children: William B., a resident of Iowa; and Ada, deceased.

Mrs. Hough was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, in 1814, and came to Illinois about 1828 with her father, David Myers, who first settled in Sangamon county and later removed to Marshall county. She is the second in order of birth in a family of twelve children, all of whom married and reared families of their own. Besides herself four of the number are still living, these being Hiran, who was born in Illinois, and is now living retired in Galesburg; Mrs. Dorinda Ong, a resident of Lacon, Illinois; Mrs. Emily Burnham and Mrs. Eliza Roberts, both of Iowa. Al-



though eighty-seven years of age, Mrs. Hough is still hale and hearty, and continues to act as her son's housekeeper.

During his early life Frank L. Hough spent three years with his sisters in Ottumwa, Iowa, but in the fall of 1858 returned to Galesburg, where he was reared and educated, completing his studies at Lombard University. In 1860 he taught one term of school in Iowa, and then embarked in the grain business at Galesburg, which he carried on at that place for three years. In 1870 he came to Woodhull, and has since engaged in the grain business at this place, having erected a large elevator and a good brick office. He owns or leases elevators at Alpha, Ophelin, Lynn, Orion, Viola and New Windsor, and probably does the largest business of any dealer in the county. By fair and honorable dealing he has built up an excellent trade, and has become one of the most prosperous citizens of the community. He has invested his capital in real estate, owning two hundred acres in Knox county, and with Judge Bigelow, of Galva, bought sixty acres adjoining the village, which was laid out and known as Bigelow & Hough's addition to the village of Woodhull. This has been well sold and settled up. He is also interested in other real estate. He started out in life for himself empty-handed, and his success is due entirely to his diligence, perseverance and good management.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Hough has supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and is accounted one of most progressive and public-spirited citizens of his community. He has served as a member of the town board, but has never sought political honors. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, having united with the

order at Woodhull. His mother is an earnest member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a most estimable lady.

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### WILLIAM KIENE.

Germany has contributed a large quota of the sturdy, energetic agriculturists of Henry county, Illinois, and among them are to be found men of sterling worth and integrity, who have succeeded in life through their own industry and perseverance. To this class belongs the subject of this review, who is now a well-to-do farmer residing on section 12, Loraine township.

Mr. Kiene was born on the 7th of March, 1846, in Hanover, Germany, of which province his parents, Henry and Fredereka (Sien) Kiene, were also natives. The father, who was a shoemaker by trade, died in that country about 1860, and the mother departed this life in 1892. They had three children: Elizabeth, wife of William Myer, of Germany; William, our subject; and Charles, who is married and lives in Germany.

Reared in the land of his birth, Mr. Kiene is indebted to its public schools for his educational advantages. Bidding good-by to home and friends in 1869, he took passage on a steamer at Bremen, and after a voyage of twenty-one days landed in New Orleans, whence he came up the Mississippi river to Davenport, Iowa. His destination, was Henry county, Illinois, and on reaching Geneseo, in the evening, he was so tired out that he fell asleep in the depot and did not awaken until the following morning at nine. During the first

sixteen months of his residence here he worked for George Arnett, and later was in the employ of G. Graft and Charles Zylinder for one year each.

On the 16th of February, 1873, Mr. Kiene married Miss Frances Thurmenger, of Geneseo, a daughter of Mark and Elizabeth (Linninger) Thurmenger, who emigrated to Henry county from Germany in 1868. The father died in 1893, the mother in 1886, both in Loraine township. She was the oldest of their three children, the others being Kate, wife of Antonia Syler, of Kewanee; and Jacob, who is also married and lives in Kewanee. Mr. and Mrs. Kiene are the parents of five children, namely: (1) Frank, born November 10, 1873, is a resident of Loraine township. He married Flora Egert and they have two children, Francis and Burton. (2) Mary, born April 6, 1874, is the wife of Fred Kenwick, of Bartlett, Nebraska, and they have two children, Philip and an infant. (3) Katie, born August 6, 1876, is the wife of Frank Egert, of Kewanee, and they have one child, William M. (4) Philip, born February 20, 1885, is attending the home school. (5) Otto died in infancy.

For four years after his marriage Mr. Kiene operated a rented farm, and in 1876 purchased seventy-five acres of land on section 12, Loraine township, for which he paid seventeen hundred dollars. The improvements upon the place at that time were very slight, but through his untiring labors and good management he has made it one of the best farms of the locality, having added to the original purchase until now it comprises one hundred and thirty-five acres of well-improved land. On coming to this country he was entirely unfamiliar with the English language and knew nothing

of farm work, and the success that he has achieved is certainly well merited. His knowledge of his chosen occupation has been gained by experience, and he is to-day a thorough and systematic farmer. He also raises stock for the market. For a number of years he has filled the office of school director, and has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs. Fraternally he is a member of Brooks Camp, No. 225, M. W. A. In religious belief he is a Lutheran, while his wife holds membership in the Catholic Church.

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#### SWAN T. OLSON.

Although an adopted son of America, the country has no more patriotic or loyal citizen than Swan T. Olson, who fought for the preservation during the dark days of the Rebellion, and is to-day an honored citizen of Woodhull, Illinois. He was born in Blekingelan, Lister Herrad Gammaesterp Socken, Sweden, March 3, 1838, a son of Truedson and Celia (Trulson) Olson, who came to this country in 1867. The mother died November 8, 1867, at the age of about sixty years, and the father departed this life in 1895, at the age of eighty.

Coming to the new world in 1856, Swan T. Olson proceeded at once to Illinois, landing in Galesburg, Knox county, on the 10th of August. He had the misfortune to break his leg on the first day spent in that city. After his recovery, in 1857, he commenced work on the farm of Judge Ferris, west of Galesburg, and remained in his employ for nearly three years. He continued to work by the month as a farm hand until the Civil war broke out.

Feeling that the country needed his services, Mr. Olson enlisted on the first call in 1861, but the company which he joined was not accepted at that time. In August of the same year he enlisted in Company C, Forty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as a private, it being a Swedish company which was organized at Camp Butler. The regiment was assigned to the Western army, and was first engaged in skirmishing in Missouri, where they spent the winter. The following spring they went to Fort Henry, and from there to Fort Donelson, the battle being mostly over when they arrived at the latter place. They participated in the engagements at Shiloh, and then marched to Corinth, and was in the siege, and later went to Jackson and Bolivar, Tennessee. They were in the fight at Salem Cemetery, and were in a number of skirmishes around Somerville, Tennessee. They were next ordered to Vicksburg, but the city surrendered before their arrival. They had previously been sent to Mechanicsburg to burn the town, and after some skirmishing accomplished their object, after which they camped at Snedders Bluff. They assisted in capturing Little Rock, Arkansas, and later were engaged in guard duty until mustered out. The regiment was veteranized and Mr. Olson was transferred to Company A. He received an honorable discharge at Springfield, Illinois, in December, 1865, and then returned to his home with a war record of which he may be justly proud. For a month he was confined in the regimental hospital near Little Rock by illness, and then sent to the general hospital at Little Rock, where he remained until able to rejoin his regiment.

After his return home Mr. Olson lived with his brother at Woodhull. Being in ill

health, he was unable to do any work for some time, but purchased eighty acres of land of his brother on credit. In the fall of 1866 he returned to Sweden, where he spent the winter, but the following spring again came to the United States, bringing with him his parents. The mother died, however, on the 8th of November, 1867. Our subject located upon his present farm and later added to it an adjoining tract, making a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Oxford township, which he improved and placed under a high state of cultivation. He continued to reside thereon until 1896, when he purchased a residence in Woodhull and has since made his home there. His long and arduous service in the army so impaired his health that for a quarter of a century he has been almost helpless, and has had no use of his limbs for the past fifteen years, but uses a wheeling chair. As a sort of compensation he now receives a pension of seventy-two dollars per month from the government.

On the 1st of January, 1871, Mr. Olson married Miss Celia Hokenson, who was born in Sweden June 16, 1844, and was reared in the same neighborhood as her husband. She came to America and joined some relatives in Galesburg, Illinois, July 13, 1866. Her parents, Hoken Benson and wife, crossed the Atlantic in 1873 and settled in Kansas, where the father died. Later the mother made her home with Mrs. Olson in this county, where her death occurred May 27, 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have five children living, namely: Esther, wife of John Franceen, who now operates Mr. Olson's farm; Emma and Hattie, both at home; Ella, wife of Leon Houghton, a farmer of Henry county; and Herman, a lad of fourteen years, who is attending the

home school. Three children are deceased: Herman, who died at the age of fifteen months; Clotelia, who died at the age of three and a half years; and a son who died in infancy.

Mr. Olson cast his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1864, and has always been a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He secured his naturalization papers after his return from the war, and filled the office of school director for a time. He and his family are members of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### WILLIAM O. ALLISON.

The subject of this review owns and successfully operates a fine farm of two hundred acres adjoining the corporate limits of Alpha, and is also actively identified with the industrial interests of that town. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Derry township, Westmoreland county, January 28, 1855, and is a son of Andrew J. Allison, whose birth occurred in Armstrong county, that state. The latter is a cousin of Senator Allison, of Iowa, and a son of Squire Allison. In his native county the father grew to manhood and married Miss Susan Dible, who was born in the same county. Later they removed to a farm in Westmoreland county, where they still reside. He was a soldier of the war of the Rebellion serving as a member of Company E, One Hundred and Eleventh Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. He was present at Lee's surrender.

William O. Allison was reared on the home farm and had but limited educational advantages in early life. In February,

1876, he came to Henry county, Illinois, and worked as a farm hand by the month for two or three years. At Alpha, on the farm where he now resides, he was married, December 17, 1878, to Miss Phylinda Patterson, who was born on that place. Her father, O. H. Patterson, was one of the early settlers of the county, and from a tract of wild land developed the farm now occupied by Mr. Allison. There he died March 3, 1895, and his wife passed away May 25, 1893.

O. H. Patterson was born in Austerlitz, New York, June 4, 1823, and he there grew to manhood on a farm within forty rods of the Massachusetts line. While still residing there he married his first wife. Coming west, he located in Galesburg, Illinois, where he engaged in the manufacture of chain pumps. After residing there about one year and a half, in the spring of 1851 he came to Henry county and purchased forty acres of what is now the homestead at Alpha, on which he built and otherwise improved. His first wife having died, he married Miss Margaret Taze, who was from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. To his original forty he added from time to time until he had one hundred and sixty acres, which he greatly improved, and on which he carried on general farming and stock raising. Politically he was first a Whig, then a Republican, and later a Prohibitionist. He was one of the first members of the Baptist Church at Alpha, and was active in church work, serving as deacon and trustee of the church. He left only one child, Mrs. Allison.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Allison lived on the old homestead, and Mr. Allison assisted in carrying on the farm, which they now own, and which comprises

two hundred acres. They also own another well-improved place of one hundred and twenty acres. In 1894 he erected a large and pleasant residence, and has also built a good barn. He has set out a good young orchard, has tilled the land and made many other improvements which add greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. He raises a good grade of stock, and also owns and operates the Alpha broom factory, which was started here about ten years ago, and Mr. Allison has been buying the stock until he now owns it all.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison have a family of five sons, namely: Ira D., Harry O., Fred G., Raymond A. and Wesley Merritt. Since attaining his majority our subject has been identified with the Republican party, and is a staunch supporter of its principles. He served four years as justice of the peace of Oxford township, but has never cared for political honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is an active and prominent member of the Alpha Baptist Church, to which his wife also belongs; is now serving as deacon and trustee; is also a trustee of the Rock Island Baptist Association; and served as superintendent of the Sunday-school for eighteen years. His life is exemplary in all respects, and he has ever supported those interests which are calculated to uplift and benefit humanity, while his own high moral worth is deserving of the highest commendation.

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#### JAMES C. PIERSON.

The subject of this sketch, who is one of the thrifty and enterprising agriculturists of Henry county, is the owner of a good

farm adjoining the village of Atkinson. He was born in Wyandot county, Ohio, on the 10th of May, 1836, and is a son of Daniel Pierson, a native of Pennsylvania, who removed to Ohio in early life, and near Mansfield, that state, he was united in marriage with Ann Cook. They continued their residence in Ohio until after the birth of three of their children, the father being engaged in farming, and in 1855 came west, driving across the country to Bureau county, Illinois. He purchased a farm not far from Tiskilwa, on which he made a number of improvements, but finally sold that place and bought another farm nearer the village. On disposing of the latter property he took up his residence in Tiskilwa, where he spent his last years in retirement from active labor, dying there in 1880. His wife survived him some years, and passed away in 1895, at the age of eighty-four. In their family were four sons and three daughters, all of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Elmira and Melissa A., both residents of Tiskilwa; James C., our subject; Philemon, of Tiskilwa; William J., of Iowa; Charles H., of Frankfort, Kansas; and Laura, who died in 1899, at about thirty-seven years of age.

James C. Pierson accompanied his parents on their removal to Bureau county, Illinois, in 1855, and remained with them until he attained his majority, when he rented land in that county and commenced farming on his own account. There he was married on the 4th of March, 1862, to Miss Maria Pickard, a native of Livingston, New York, and a daughter of Leander and Rebecca (Kenney) Pickard, who were born, reared and married in that state, and also removed to Bureau county, Illinois, in 1855, locating near Tiskilwa. After farm-

ing there for some time Mr. Pickard came to Henry county, and purchased a place near Atkinson, but now, at the age of ninety years, he is living retired with his daughter, Mrs. Anna Clifton, in Atkinson. Mr. and Mrs. Pierson have one daughter, Cora Belle, at home. They have lost three sons, namely: Franklin, who died at the age of thirteen years; Melville and Jesse, who both died at about the age of two and a half years.

During the Civil war Mr. Pierson enlisted in 1864, in Company I, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and joined his regiment at Springfield, where it was organized. They did provost duty in this state, and Company I was stationed at Peoria most of the time. At the close of the war Mr. Pierson was mustered out and honorably discharged at Springfield, July 8, 1865.

Returning home, Mr. Pierson resumed farming in Bureau county, and later purchased a farm three miles west of Tiskilwa, but after operating it one year he sold that place and bought his present farm in Atkinson township, Henry county, which at that time was only partially improved. Here he has made his home since 1867, and in the operation of the farm he has met with marked success. He also owns a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Butler county, Kansas, all of which property has been acquired through his own well-directed efforts.

Since casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, he has supported every presidential nominee of the Republican party, and has been an earnest advocate of its principles. He has been a member of the village board of Atkinson, but has never cared for political honors. Fraternally he is a member

of the Grand Army post of Geneseo. He is one of the leading citizens of his community, and commands the respect and confidence of all who know him.

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#### PETER W. WARNOCK.

Among the more prominent and enterprising farmers and stock raisers of Albion township who are of alien birth, is the subject of this review, whose home is on section 29. He was born in county Down, Ireland, on the 19th of October, 1828, and is a son of William and Jane (Woods) Warnock, natives of the same county, who came to America in 1848, accompanied by one son and three daughters and settled in Burlington, New Jersey. In their family were the following children: Mary, who wedded Henry Prichard and died in Ireland, while his death occurred in Alba township, this county; Jane, Eliza and William, who all died in Burlington, New Jersey; Anna, who married Robert McCullough and died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Peter W., our subject; Hugh, who was a member of the Eighty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war and was killed in the battle of Vicksburg; and James, who is represented on another page of this volume. The parents both died in Burlington, New Jersey; the father died at about seventy and the mother at about the same age.

Peter W. Warnock was reared and educated in his native land. He attended the National schools, where he paid one penny per week tuition and helped furnish the fuel. On their way to school the scholars carried a lump of peat under their arms, and





MR. AND MRS. P. W. WARNOCK.



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those who brought no fuel were not allowed near the fire. Later he attended a private school which cost one pound per quarter. In 1846, at the age of seventeen years, Mr. Warnock came to America alone, being one of the passengers on the *Henrietta Mary*, of Belfast, a sailing vessel, which at this time was six weeks and three days in crossing the Atlantic. From New York city, where he landed, he went to Burlington, New Jersey, where he joined a cousin employed as gardener by Bishop Doan, and during the four years our subject remained with him he thoroughly learned the art of gardening. For three months he served as gardener for Mr. Remington, president of the Perkio-men Mining Company, near Valley Forge, and subsequently assisted laying out the Odd Fellows cemetery at Philadelphia. In the fall of the same year he entered the employ of Owen Jones, of Lower Merion township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, with whom he remained two years, and later engaged in gardening at Camden, New Jersey, until coming west in 1857.

In the meantime Mr. Warnock was married, February 23, 1854, to Miss Elizabeth Cassels, who was born in New York, August 20, 1836, and is the only child of John and Jane (Adams) Cassels, both natives of county Down, Ireland. The father, who was captain of a ship, was lost at sea in 1838, and the mother died in New York, in 1844. To Mr. and Mrs. Warnock were born the following children: (1) Joseph, born in Camden, New Jersey, November 17, 1854, died in Nebraska, August 25, 1888, unmarried. (2) William, born in Camden, New Jersey, January 31, 1857, married Lyda Steele, and they have ten children, Arthur, Ray, Maud, Gracie, Floy, Howard, Warren, Aroma, Lee and Lewis. (3) Peter W., born

in this county, August 20, 1859, resides in Idaho. He married Edna Brainard and they have three children, Mabel E., Earl and Ruth. (4) Mary J., born January 1, 1862, is the wife of Fred Detto, of Mineral, Illinois, and they have two children, Milo and Naomi E. (5) Elizabeth A., born August 6, 1866, is the wife of Albert Steele, of Annawan. (6) Hugh J., born June 25, 1869, lives near his father in Alba township. He married Phenny Hirshberger, and they have four children, Verne Joseph, Nina E., Carl C. and Liffard A. (7) Helena R., born January 1, 1872, is the wife of William R. Frew, who lives in Kewanee. (8) John C., a dentist, born March 21, 1874, resides in Wyand, Bureau county, Illinois. He married Lenora Pottorf and they have two children, Alice H. and Oscar W. (9) Hugh James, born April 9, 1864, died April 27, 1865. (10) George, born October 28, 1876, died the same month.

On first coming to Henry county, Illinois, in 1857, Mr. Warnock located in Colona township, where he followed farming until the spring of 1867, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Alba township, for which he paid twelve and a half dollars per acre. This he soon broke and placed under cultivation, and has since added to it until he now has a tract of two hundred and forty acres. He takes a great interest in horticulture, and is extensively engaged in the raising of cattle and hogs, making a specialty of the breeding of Aberdeen Angus cattle, which are considered the best in the world for beef purposes. He owns "Ides Eclipses," a full uncle of the steer "Advance" that sold at the live stock show of 1900, at Chicago, to a New York firm, for one dollar and a half per pound. He has a very fine herd upon his

place, and is able to command the highest prices for his cattle, and has a great many pedigreed cattle.

Mr. Warnock's political support is given the Republican party, and he has been called upon to fill the offices of school trustee and director, collector, assessor and justice of the peace, having held the latter office for a number of years. He and his wife are both earnest members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in warm regard by all who know them.

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#### OLOF OLSON.

For half a century Olof Olson has been a resident of Henry county, and is to-day one of the leading farmers of Weller township, his home being on section 26. He was born in Sweden, July 13, 1843, and came to the United States with his parents, Eric and Catherine (Johnson) Olson, in 1849. It was four months from the time that they left their old home in Sweden before they arrived in this county, their destination being Bishop Hill, where so many of their countrymen had settled. Cholera having broken out in the colony they proceeded to Galesburg, where they remained until the epidemic was over and then located at Bishop Hill. The father, who was a miner and laborer by occupation, worked around Victoria for several years. He died on a farm in Henry county, at the age of seventy-six, but his wife is still living at the age of eighty-three years, and now makes her home with our subject. Their other children were Jonas, who lives near Nekoma, Weller township; and a daughter, who died at the age of three years.

During their boyhood the sons remained

with their mother at Bishop Hill, and are indebted to the schools of that place for their educational privileges. As soon as old enough our subject was employed by the colony as ox boy and herdsman, and continued to work there until after the Civil war broke out. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services, he enlisted in 1865 in the One Hundred and Forty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until hostilities ceased. He then resumed work as a farm hand in Weller township, and was thus employed until his marriage.

On the 22nd of December, 1866, Mr. Olson wedded Miss Mary Malmgren, who was born in Bishop Hill, December 27, 1846, being the first child born in the colony. Her parents were Jonas and Anna Malmgren, who came with the second party to this country. The mother died of cholera in 1849 when Mrs. Olson was only three years old, and one daughter died in infancy. Christine E., born in Sweden, is now the wife of Olof Nordstrom, of Alabama. The father was again married and by his second union had two children, of whom one daughter died in infancy. Abraham grew to manhood and died in Kewanee in 1898. The mother, Mrs. Catherine Malmgren, is living in the city at the age of eighty-four years, but the father is now deceased. He was always a very active man and a hard worker, and followed the blacksmith's trade in the colony. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have three children, namely: Emma, born May 19, 1868, taught school prior to her marriage, and is now the wife of Paul L. Johnson, of Bishop Hill, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume; Jennie, born June 18, 1871, was a stenographer prior to her marriage, and is now the wife of E. L. Swanson, of Bishop

Hill; and Henry, born May 30, 1875, assists in the work of the home farm.

At the age of ten years the children of the colony had to go to work, and Mr. Olson thus early began his business career. After his marriage he located upon his present farm, and to its cultivation and improvement has since devoted his energies until he now has one of the most desirable farms of its size in Weller township, it consisting of one hundred and twenty acres. In connection with general farming he has also engaged in stock raising with good success, and is now one of the well-to-do farmers of the community. He has held some school offices but has never aspired to political honors. Socially he is an honored member of the Modern Woodmen camp at Bishop Hill and the Grand Army post at Galva, while his son Henry is also connected with the former fraternity and the Select Knights of America. Mrs. Olson is a consistent and faithful member of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church of Bishop Hill and as a Sunday-school teacher takes an active part in its work. The family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### HERMAN, KRAUSE.

Many of Henry county's most enterprising and industrious citizens have come from beyond the sea, among them being Herman Krause, who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 10, Burns township. He was born in Germany, in 1840, a son of Louis and Augusta (Marshner) Krause, natives of the same country, where they continued to make their home until 1856, when they emigrated with their fam-

ily to America. The voyage was a long and tedious one, consuming seven weeks and six days. They sailed from Bremen and landed in New York, whence they came direct to Kewanee, Illinois. The father was a small farmer in his native land, and after following various occupations in Kewanee, he purchased forty acres of unbroken timber land on Mud creek, in 1864, and again turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Subsequently he sold that place to his brother August, and bought two eighty-acre tracts, one of which he paid for, while the other was paid for by our subject. The first home of the family was merely a small shanty, but was later replaced by a good frame residence. The father died in 1872, and was buried in Cosners cemetery. He was twice married and by his first union had two sons, William and August. The children by the second marriage were Herman, Fred, Tena and Albert. The mother of these is still living and now makes her home with her son Albert.

Being principally reared in the fatherland, Herman Krause obtained his education in the schools of Germany. He accompanied the family on their removal to this country, and remained with his father until he was married, December 25, 1863, to Miss Christina Peterson, who was born in Sweden, and came to the United States with her parents. Ten children bless this union, namely: Emma, now the wife of Louis Leonard, a farmer of Burns township; Frank, who married Minnie Snyder and is also engaged in farming in Burns township; John, who married and is engaged in farming at Atkinson; Charles, who married Lizzie Hepner and is a mechanic of Kewanee; Abner, who married Ella Whitehead and follows farming; Eddie, at home; Winnie,

wife of Taylor Monte, a farmer; and Carrie and Samuel, both at home. The mother of these children died and for his second wife Mr. Krause married Mrs. Louisa Swechemlyne.

Mr. Krause has a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 10, Burns township, and in connection with general farming he is successfully engaged in stock raising. Upon his place is a good residence, substantial barns and other out-buildings, and everything about the place denotes the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is numbered among the most skillful farmers of the neighborhood. He is a supporter of the Democratic party, and holds membership in the German Lutheran Church.

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#### HON. WILLIAM C. STICKNEY.

In the past ages the history of a country was the record of wars and conquests; to-day it is the record of commercial activity, and those whose names are foremost in its annals are the leaders in business circles. Among the most prominent business men of Henry county is William C. Stickney, of Woodhull, who has a wide reputation as a capable financier and occupies a position of no little prominence in connection with the political affairs of the county.

William C. Stickney was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, September 6, 1846, and is descended from a prominent early New England family, being of the eighth generation from William Stickney, who founded the family in America as early as 1637. Records of the family, however, in England, can be traced back to 1331. William Stickney settled at Rowley, Massa-

chusetts, where he was a selectman and freeholder, and filled several offices of trust and honor. (2) Samuel Stickney, his eldest son, was also born in England in 1633, and came with his parents to Rowley, Massachusetts. He was later a large freeholder of Bradford, and the early records show him as having been a selectman there nine years between 1671 and 1695, and in 1689 a representative to the Council of Safety, at Boston to confirm the new administration. (3) William Stickney was a freeholder at Bradford, where he died young. (4) William Stickney, a resident of Billerica, appears on the Massachusetts muster rolls in 1722, although not eighteen years old. He was prominent in public affairs, having for many years served as town clerk, selectman, and a representative to the first Provincial Congress, which was convened at Salem, October 7, 1774, at no little peril to its members. He was also a representative to the second Provincial Congress, convened at Cambridge, February 1, 1775, serving on many of the most important committees, and in the third Provincial Congress, of which he was a member, he took an equally important part. (5) William Stickney, of Billerica, was a sergeant in Col. Bridge's regiment, and was in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. Later he was a lieutenant in Col. McIntosh's regiment. In 1784 he moved to an unbroken wilderness, which was afterwards incorporated as Grafton, Vermont, which place he represented in the general court (legislature) of Vermont for two years. (6) William Stickney, a farmer of Grafton, Vermont, was selectman, representative to the general court of Vermont, and held many other offices of trust.

(7) Henry Stickney, our subject's fa-



W. C. STICKNEY.

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ther, was born in Grafton, Vermont, January 29, 1807, and grew to manhood in that state. For some years he was engaged in the commission and grain business in Boston, Massachusetts, and while there he married Miss Mary Anna Wood, a native of New Hampshire, and a daughter of David Wood, who was also born in that state. In 1853 Henry Stickney emigrated to Illinois with his family and located in Henry county, where he entered some government land, securing other tracts on land warrants, and kept adding to his landed possessions until he owned about one thousand acres. He was one of the most successful farmers of the county, as well as one of its prominent early settlers. His death resulted from an accident November 16, 1866. He was well known throughout Henry and adjoining counties, and was elected a member of the first board of county supervisors. His wife survived him a number of years and departed this life February 19, 1888, being laid to rest by his side in the Woodhull cemetery. (For further information see the Stickney Family Genealogy, Salem, Massachusetts.)

(8) William C. Stickney was six years of age when he came with his parents to this county, and on the old homestead farm he grew to manhood, receiving his primary education in the common schools. Later he attended Knox College for some time. On the completion of his education he returned to the farm and for several years devoted his time to agricultural pursuits. He succeeded to the old homestead, which he operated until 1892, and at the same time successfully engaged in stock raising, his farm being headquarters for registered short horns for many years. In 1880 he purchased an interest in the Farmers Bank at Wood-

hull, and on his removal to that town in 1892 he assumed the active management of the bank, which is now one of the most reliable financial institutions of Henry county. In connection with his banking business he still carries on the home farm, he now owning three hundred and fifty acres of the original homestead. He is also interested in the electric light plant at Woodhull in partnership with H. E. Houghton and T. F. Bell, it being built and put in operation by these gentlemen.

On the 13th of April, 1870, in Woodhull, Mr. Stickney was united in marriage with Miss Ida A. Clarke, a native of Connecticut and a daughter of Jason Clarke, who brought his family to this county among the early settlers, where Mrs. Stickney was reared and educated. By this union were born three children, namely: William W., who is engaged in farming on the old Stickney homestead, married Nellie, daughter of T. W. Gamble, of Woodhull, and they have two children, William Wilson and Ida; Grace M. is the wife of Dr. W. A. Davis, of Woodhull; and Henry C. completes the family. The wife and mother died March 31, 1891, and her remains were interred in Woodhull cemetery.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Stickney has affiliated with the Republican party, and has supported every presidential nominee of the party since casting his first ballot for General U. S. Grant. For several terms he was one of the leading and influential members of the county board of supervisors, and was a member of the board at the September session, 1878, when the resolution was passed for building the present court house. In 1894 he was elected to the state legislature, becoming a member of the Thirty-ninth general assembly. He

filled the office in a most creditable manner; was a member of the committees on appropriations, corporations and banking; and materially assisted in securing the passage of a bill for the establishment of an insane asylum in this district. He takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the public welfare, and withholds his support from no enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit. His genial, pleasant manner has made him quite popular in both public and private life, and as a public-spirited and enterprising man he is recognized as a valued citizen of the community.

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#### WILLIAM C. GILLESPIE.

For the past ten years' this gentleman has been successfully engaged in the hotel business in Alpha, and by his genial, pleasant manner has made many warm friends among his patrons and fellow citizens. He was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 13, 1829, and there grew to manhood upon a farm, his early life being devoted to work at the carpenter's trade.

On first coming west, in 1853, Mr. Gillespie, located in Comanche, Iowa, where he engaged in carpentering for a time. In the fall of the same year, however, he went to northern Wisconsin, where he spent a few months, and then returned to Iowa, but in January, 1854, came to Illinois, taking up his residence in Mercer county, where he worked at his trade for a few years. In 1860 he went to Pikes Peak, where he engaged in mining with fair success for about two years.

After the battle of Lexington, Missouri,

Mr. Gillespie went to Denver with the intention of enlisting but found the quota full and so returned to his old home in Illinois. Soon afterward, however, he went to Leavenworth, Kansas, where he enlisted in Company H, Eighth Kansas Volunteer Infantry, and with his command proceeded at once to Tennessee. He participated in a number of skirmishes and several important engagements, including the battles of Look-out Mountain and Corinth; the Atlanta campaign, and the battle of Nashville, and later at Perryville, Kentucky, under command of General Jefferson C. Davis; and was in a forced march from Nashville to Louisville, and in the fight at Green River Bridge. In 1863 he was honorably discharged and returned home, but the following year re-enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fortieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with this regiment went to Memphis, Tennessee. He was on active duty until the term of his enlistment expired, and was discharged at Chicago early in the year 1865. He then returned to his farm in Mercer county, and in connection with its operations he engaged in raising and dealing in stock, and was also extensively interested in bee culture, having quite a large apiary.

On the 22nd of February, 1869, in Aledo, Mercer county, Mr. Gillespie was married by Rev. James Poag to Miss Sarah M. Decker, a native of that county, and a daughter of Westfall Decker, who was born in Ohio, and came to Illinois in 1837, locating in Mercer county. By this union were born four children, namely: Hannah M., wife of Forrest Wilson, a farmer of Henry county; John C., a resident of Alpha; Ida E., wife of William Shivey, a farmer of Henry county; and Bonnie D., at home with her parents.

After his marriage Mr. Gillespie settled on a farm near Medo, in Mercer township, Mercer county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, which he broke, fenced and improved. Subsequently he bought another farm of similar size, and still later another tract of eighty acres, all of which he operated. One of the farms he traded for three hundred and twenty acres of land in Coffey county, Kansas, but after residing there for one year he sold out and returned to the old home farm in Mercer county, Illinois. A year later he returned to Kansas and bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Butler county, where he lived for a few years and then sold. He was subsequently engaged in agricultural pursuits in Mercer county, Illinois, until coming to Alpha in 1890, when he purchased a hotel and has since successfully conducted the same. Besides his property he owns seven acres and a good residence in the village, and has a farm of three hundred and twenty acres near Rolla, Missouri. On starting out in life for himself his capital consisted only of a pair of willing hands and a firm determination to succeed. Being a man of sound judgment, keen discrimination and good business ability, as well as a capable financier, he has met with success in life and is now quite well-to-do. In 1872 Mr. Gillespie made a trip to California, and spent six months on the Pacific slope. He cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, in 1852, and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters, but has never cared for political preferment. He is an honored member of Oxford Lodge, No. 367, F. & A. M., at New Windsor, and is also connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is widely and favorably known throughout

this section of the state, with whose interests he has so long been identified, and well merits the high regard in which he is held.

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#### HENRY BOOMER.

Among the leading citizens of Atkinson township is numbered Henry Boomer, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 28, a mile and a quarter from the village of Atkinson. He first came to Illinois in 1843, and has been a resident of this county since 1862. He was born in Jefferson county, New York, July 23, 1825, and is a son of Michael Boomer, whose birth occurred in the same county, April 23, 1794. His paternal grandfather, Edward Boomer, was also a native of New York, and belonged to one of its pioneer families. The father served as a drummer in the war of 1812, and participated in several engagements, including the battle of Sackett Harbor. In his native county he married Miss Martha Moore, who was also born there November 19, 1795, and died July 20, 1843, while his death occurred September 9, 1847. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that pursuit in Jefferson county, New York, throughout life.

Henry Boomer is the only survivor of a family of thirteen children, consisting of eight sons and five daughters. His early life was spent upon the home farm and he pursued his studies in the common schools of the neighborhood. He came to Illinois in 1843, and for several years worked on a farm near Elgin, Kane county. Returning to the county of his nativity he was there married, March 1, 1849, to Miss Julia Wood, who was also born in Jefferson county, New York, of which her father, James Wood, was an early settler.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Boomer returned to Illinois, and took up his residence near Savanna, La Salle county, where he rented land and engaged in farming for eight years. In 1862 he came to Henry county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Atkinson township, where he now resides. At that time only a few acres had been broken, and a little shanty erected thereon, but to its further improvement and cultivation he at once turned his attention, and now has a very desirable and attractive farm, supplied with all the conveniences and accessories found upon a model farm of the present day. To the original tract he has added eighty acres, and now has two hundred acres of rich and arable land. In connection with his farming operations he also raises and feeds stock.

Mr. Boomer's first wife died here August 9, 1894. By that union there were four children, namely: Herbert, a railroad man of Ottumwa, Iowa, married, and died May 20, 1893, leaving four children, Eugene, Harry, Jesse and Frank; Mrs. Emogene Thayer is a widow living in California; Gertrude, the wife of Timothy Sammons, of St. Paul, Minnesota, and they have two children, Rosaline and Aldin J.; and Jay, who carries on the home farm, married Miss Helen Placater, a native of La Salle county, and has two children, Floyd Henry and Olive Gertrude.

Mr. Boomer was again married in Jefferson county, New York, November 15, 1898, his second union being with Mrs. Flora Hollister Wilcox, a daughter of Colonel Charles Hollister of that county, who served with distinction as an officer in the war of 1812, and rose from the rank of captain to colonel, holding four commissions. He spent his entire life in the Empire state,

and there married Miss Pleuma Lewis, the mother of Mrs. Boomer. Colonel Charles Hollister was a son of John Hollister, who was engaged in the supply department of General Washington's army during the Revolutionary war. There the wife of our subject was reared and educated. Her first husband was Henry Noble, who died in the service of his country during the Civil war, leaving one son, Charles Noble, a resident of Jefferson county, New York. There Mrs. Noble wedded James Wilcox, and with him removed to Michigan, where his death occurred.

Mr. Boomer is now practically living a retired life while his son operates the farm. Politically he is a Jeffersonian Democrat, and is a staunch supporter of his party principles. His wife is a member of the Geneseo Baptist Church, and both are held in the warmest regard by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### THOMAS C. COWDEN.

This well-to-do and progressive farmer residing on section 17, Burns township, was born in Millwood, Guernsey county, Ohio, on the 8th of August, 1849, a son of William and Mary (Rogers) Cowden. The father was born in Ireland in 1798, and when a boy came to America with three brothers, one of whom drifted to parts unknown. After spending some time in New York, he went to Ohio, where he was married, and where he continued to reside until coming to Henry county, Illinois, about 1854, locating in Burns township, on the state road, buying eighty acres. He also took up six eighty-acre tracts of land, including the southwest quarter of section 17, and north-

west quarter of section 20, and north-east quarter of section 19, that township. He was called to his final rest July 31, 1891. He was one of the most prosperous as well as one of the most highly esteemed citizens of his community. His second wife died when our subject was but three or four years old.

To this worthy couple were born the following children: William Washington was a member of Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil war and was killed in the battle of Resaca. Joseph served three years in Company A, Forty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and re-enlisted in the Fourth United States Cavalry. He died from the effects of his army service while home on a furlough, after having spent thirteen months in the hospital at Nashville. D. L., now a retired farmer of Cambridge, Illinois, was also a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry. John H., a farmer, died at the age of twenty-three years. Thomas C., our subject, is the next son. Jacob G. is a farmer living near Tecumseh, Johnson county, Nebraska. Mary, deceased, first married George Davis and, second, S. I. Mathews and had two children by the former marriage. Deborah is also deceased. She was the wife of J. G. Walker.

Reared upon the home farm, Thomas C. Cowden early became familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and acquired his literary education in the public schools of the neighborhood. He still lives upon the old homestead, owning one hundred and twenty acres, and in his farm operations is meeting with most excellent success. He has owned and operated a threshing machine and corn sheller

twenty-three years. On the 6th of February, 1883, was celebrated his marriage with Miss Anna Michaels, a native of McDonough county, Illinois, and a daughter of Isaac and Margaret (Walker) Michaels. Her mother died near Salisbury, Missouri, July 10, 1882, and her father departed this life in Alabama, February 14, 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Cowden have two children: Lawrence H., born June 18, 1885; and Flossie, born December 24, 1892.

Like his brothers, Mr. Cowden was also numbered among the boys in blue during the Rebellion, enlisting in 1865, at the age of fifteen years, in Company E, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. He was mustered into the United States service at Chicago, and then sent to Tullahoma, Tennessee. When hostilities ceased and his services were no longer needed he was mustered out at Memphis, and honorably discharged at Springfield, Illinois. As a Republican he has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics since casting his first presidential vote for Grant. He has been a member of the township central committee, and for three years was a member of the Republican county central committee. He has served as school director about eighteen years, and has also filled various other offices, including that of drainage commissioner, his duties always being faithfully and conscientiously performed.

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#### ANDREW ARNQVIST.

This prominent and successful merchant of Bishop Hill, was born in Helsingland, in the northern part of Sweden, April 29, 1847, and is the second in order of birth in a family

of seven children, all of whom reached years of maturity, but two are now deceased. Peter, John, Anna and Sarah still reside in Sweden, our subject being the only member of the family in the United States. The death of his parents occurred in Sweden; where they spent their entire lives. The father, Andrew Arnquist, Sr., was a carpenter by trade.

Our subject's early education was acquired in the common schools of his native land. The parents being in straitened circumstances the children early became dependent upon their own resources for a livelihood, and he worked with his father at the carpenter's trade, and also at farm labor until his emigration to America in 1870. On landing on the shores of this country, he proceeded at once to Henry county, Illinois, his destination being Bishop Hill.

After working as a farm hand for three years Mr. Arnquist commenced clerking in the general store of Linbeck & Jacobson, where he gained his first knowledge of mercantile pursuits. In the fall of 1877 he bought a lot, and erected thereon a building, in which he placed a small stock of general merchandise. From the beginning his trade steadily increased and he soon built up a good, extensive business. A few years after opening his store he bought the general mercantile establishment of A. Barlow, which he consolidated with his own, and has since conducted business as a dealer in general merchandise, furniture and undertakers' supplies, carrying a stock valued at eight thousand dollars. In addition to his business property and pleasant home in Bishop Hill he owns a farm of two hundred and eighty acres in Weller and Galva townships, all under cultivation and well improved. This he now rents.

In 1873 Mr. Arnquist was united in marriage with Miss Anna E. Berg, who was also born in Sweden and came to this country the same year as her husband. They have become the parents of five children, namely: Bennett, who when quite young commenced learning the mercantile business with his father, and is now the efficient manager of the store; Almeda, who is a normal graduate and is now successfully teaching school in Bishop Hill; Emma, deceased; Andy, who is with his brother in the store; and Blanche. All of the children reside at home, and the sons are now successfully conducting the store for their father. They are wide-awake and energetic young men of good business and executive ability.

Politically Mr. Arnquist is identified with the Republican party, and is now serving as trustee of the township schools. He has been a member of the town board for many years, and was president of the same for some time. He is a supporter of all church work, and a prominent member of Weller lodge, A. O. U. W., the Select Knights of America and the Home Forum. He has been a trustee of all of these, and financier of the first named order. He has made the most of his opportunities through life, and although he came to this country in limited circumstances he is now one of the substantial and well-to-do citizens of his community and his success is due to his own well-directed and energetic efforts.

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### JOHN HENDERSON.

This well-to-do agriculturist of section 15, Oxford township, is a typical self-made man. Placing his reliance upon industry



and perseverance, he has made the most of circumstances, however discouraging, and has won his way to a substantial success, his fine farm of three hundred and twenty acres adjoining the corporate limits of Alpha being a tangible evidence of prosperity.

Mr. Henderson was born on the 9th of September, 1831, in Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Brice and Anna (Thomas) Henderson, also natives of that state. The father was one of the first settlers of Indiana county and there grew to manhood and married. He died about 1836, and his wife, who long survived him, passed away in Indiana county about 1873. They were the parents of six children, three of whom reached years of maturity, but only our subject is now living. The children were small when the father died, being left for the mother to rear, and most faithfully did she discharge that arduous duty.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent upon a farm and he was educated in the common schools of his native county. When a young man he came to Henry county, Illinois, in the fall of 1856, and after working by the month as a farm hand for three or four years he purchased eighty acres of partially broken land, where he now resides. He located upon his farm in 1861, and to its further development has since given his time and attention with most gratifying results. He has added to the original purchase until he now has three hundred and twenty acres, on which he has made many substantial improvements, so that he now has one of the most attractive and desirable farms of its size in the county. He also owns one half-section in Barton county, Kansas, and also one hundred and sixty acres in Pawnee county, Nebraska. In connec-

tion with general farming he has successfully engaged in stock raising.

January 10, 1861, Mr. Henderson was married in this county to Miss Eliza Cox, who was born in Indiana but reared in Illinois. She is a sister of J. F. Cox, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have become the parents of five children, namely: Frank, who is married and follows farming in Pawnee county, Nebraska; Anna, who died at the age of thirteen years; William, who assists in the operation of the home farm; Jennie, wife of J. W. McLaughlin, of Oxford township; and Fannie, at home.

Mr. Henderson cast his first presidential vote for Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate of 1852, and has been identified with the Republican party since its organization in 1856. He has never sought political honors, but being a warm friend of our public-school system he faithfully served as a member of the school board for some years. His support is given to all enterprises which he believes calculated to prove of public benefit, and he is accounted one of the valuable citizens of this community.

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#### CHARLES H. RUGH.

Charles H. Rugh, who resides on section 20, Colona township, owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred and forty-two and a half acres, whose neat and thrifty appearance well indicates his careful supervision. Substantial improvements are surrounded by well tilled fields, and all the accessories and conveniences of a model farm are there found. His place is known as the old Glenn homestead.



Mr. Rugh is one of Illinois' native sons, for he was born in Rock Island county, February 25, 1844. His father, Henry Rugh, was born near Blairstown, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, in 1810, and was still a young man when, in 1837, he left that state and removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where as a mechanic he followed the cabinet maker's trade until 1849. Gold being discovered in California that year, he went to the Pacific slope and spent several years there, being moderately successful in his mining operations. In 1867 he returned to Illinois, but in the spring of 1869 again went to California, though he spent his last days with our subject in Missouri, where he died in 1876. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Mary A. Spiers, departed this life in 1847.

Charles H. Rugh, whose name introduces this sketch, spent his boyhood and youth with James Glenn and one of his sons, assisting in carrying on the farm and attending the local schools for a few months during the winter season. In 1868 he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Eliza Glenn, a daughter of James Glenn, who was one of the honored pioneers of Henry county, having located here in May, 1835. He was born on one of Henry Clay's farms in Kentucky, July 18, 1811, and was reared in that state. On coming to Henry county, Illinois, he opened up and improved the farm now owned by Mr. Rugh. Our subject and his wife are the parents of three sons, namely: Frank G., who is married and now engaged in the telephone business in Kewanee, Illinois; Harry, who is married and is an electrician and telegrapher of Sandwich, Illinois; and James, who holds a business position in Rock Island.

After his marriage Mr. Rugh engaged in farming in this county for one year, and

then removed to Butte county, California, where he followed gold mining with fair success for a short time. In 1873 he returned to Henry county, Illinois, and resumed farming, but two years later removed to Holt county, Missouri, where he purchased over four hundred acres of land, which he improved and farmed successfully for nine years. He went to Dakota in 1882, but seven years later we again find him in Missouri, where he spent one winter. In 1890 he returned to this county, and purchased the old Glenn homestead, on which he has since engaged in general farming and stock raising with marked success.

On attaining his majority Mr. Rugh supported General U. S. Grant for the presidency in 1868, and the Republican party has since found in him a stalwart advocate of its principles. He has never aspired to office, preferring rather to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He is energetic, progressive and enterprising and to these characteristics may be attributed his success in life.

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#### JACOB LIEVENS.

Among the prosperous farmers of Atkinson township, Jacob Lievens occupies an enviable position. Since coming to the new world he has through his own unaided efforts steadily prospered until he is now the owner of a well improved and valuable farm of four hundred and forty acres of land on section 21, and two hundred and forty on section 3. His early home was on the other side of the Atlantic, for he was born in Belgium, February 27, 1843, and was there reared upon a farm, receiving a good common school education in his native tongue.

but his knowledge of the English language has all been acquired since coming to America.

In 1872 Mr. Lievens led to the marriage altar Miss Rosalie Vandevort, who was born in the same neighborhood as her husband, and as a wedding journey the young couple came to this country. From New York they proceeded at once to Illinois, their destination being Henry county. Locating in Atkinson township, Mr. Lievens first worked as a farm hand for nine months, and then rented a farm which he operated for about three years. In 1875 he purchased eighty acres of land, on which a little house had been built, but there was not a tree or fence upon the place. In the improvement and cultivation of his land he met with marked success, and as time advanced he has added to his property until he now has six hundred and eighty acres under a high state of cultivation and supplied with all the conveniences and accessories found upon model farms of the twentieth century. His first home here has long been replaced by a large and more substantial residence, and everything about the farm indicates the thrift and enterprise of the owner, who is accounted one of the most skillful farmers of the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Lievens have become the parents of ten children, namely Jacob, Jr., who is married and follows farming on section 3, Atkinson township; Henry and John, who are both married and engaged in farming near their father; Peter, who is married and lives on the home farm; Charles, Mary, Edward, Louisa, Frank and Emma, all at home. The family are communicants of the Catholic Church of Atkinson, and Mr. Lievens is a staunch Republican in politics, but has never cared for political preferment.

He is, however, one of the leading and prominent citizens of his community and well qualified to fill any position to which he might be elected.

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### JOSEPH FRANK COX.

As a furniture dealer and undertaker this gentleman has become an important factor in the business circles of Alpha, and as a public-spirited citizen is thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, social or material welfare of the community. A native of Illinois, he was born in Rock Island county, January 16, 1840, and is a son of John W. and Juliette (Williamson) Cox, both natives of Indiana, of which state the grandfather, Joseph Cox, was an early settler. The father was born in 1807, and came to Illinois in 1835, becoming one of the pioneers of Rock Island county. He opened up a farm in Hampton township, where he made his home until 1848, when he removed to Mercer county, this state, and two years later came to Henry county, settling in what is now known as Oxford township. From a tract of wild land he developed a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Alpha, and also owned other property, being one of the most prosperous farmers of his community. He died upon his farm in Oxford township, March 2, 1869, and his wife, who survived him for some years, passed away in January, 1888.

Amid pioneer scenes Frank Cox grew to manhood, his time being passed in attending the district schools for about three months during the winter, and in working upon the farm during the remainder of the year. At

the inauguration of the Civil war he joined the boys in blue, enlisting August 3, 1861, in the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Franklin, after which he was taken ill with typhoid fever and sent to the hospital at Keokuk, Iowa. After his recovery he was placed on detached duty as clerk in the office of the general hospital at Keokuk, Iowa, and for a time served as ward master. When his term of enlistment expired he was honorably discharged in October, 1864, and returned to his home in this county.

Here Mr. Cox was married, December 6, 1864, the lady of his choice being Miss Jane W. Sutton, who was born in Canada, but was reared in Wisconsin and Illinois. Her father, William B. Sutton, died in the Badger state, after which her mother married R. M. Wilber and removed to Illinois, making her home for a time in Warren county, and later in Henry county. Mr. and Mrs. Cox are the parents of the following children: Minnie, a professional trained nurse; Elmer, who is married and lives on a farm in Nebraska; Clinton C., who is married and engaged in the grain and coal business in Alpha; Walter, also a business man of that place; Daisy and Treva, both at home; Lyle, who is attending the Alpha school; and Carlton, the second born, died at the age of two years.

After his marriage Mr. Cox located on a farm a mile and a half from Alpha, where he owns one hundred and sixty acres, and to its improvement and cultivation devoted his energies until 1890, when he rented the place and removed to Alpha. Here he opened a furniture store and two years later added to it an undertaking business. He

carries a well assorted stock, and by fair and honorable dealing has built up an excellent trade, which is constantly increasing.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Cox has affiliated with the Republican party, and cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1864 and for every nominee of the party since that time. He has taken quite an active part in local politics; has been a delegate to county, state and congressional conventions; and has been honored with a number of official positions of trust and responsibility, having served as collector, road commissioner, township clerk and supervisor. He was an influential member of the county board for twelve years; was chairman of the equalization committee some years; and a member of other important committees. He proved a very competent and faithful officer. He is also an official member and trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Alpha, and holds membership in Oxford Lodge, No. 367, F. & A. M.; Horeb Chapter, at Rio, No. 4, R. A. M.; and Sherman Post, No. 479, G. A. R., of Woodhull.

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#### WILLIAM A. MUSSEY.

Among the representative business men of Atkinson is William A. Mussey, the junior member of the firm of Mussey Brothers, dealers in grain and coal at that place. A native of Vermont, he was born at Rutland, June 22, 1839, and is a son of Henry and Sabra Amanda (Lawrence) Mussey. He was educated in the district schools of that locality, which he attended until eighteen years of age, and upon his father's farm early acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits.

On the 15th of August, 1862, during the

dark days of the Rebellion, Mr. Mussey enlisted in Company K, Twelfth Vermont Infantry, under Colonel A. P. Blunt, and was mustered into the United States service at Brattleboro, about the 1st of September. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac and was stationed near Washington to defend that city most of the time, though it took part in the battles of Gettysburg. For over five months Mr. Mussey was confined to the hospital, and was mustered out with his regiment at Brattleboro, Vermont, July 16, 1863.

Returning home he resumed farming upon his father's place and remained under the parental roof until the fall of 1868, when he removed to Henry county, Illinois. The previous winter he had visited this county, and on the 31st of March, 1868, led to the marriage altar Miss Louisa Nowers, a daughter of Thomas Nowers, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. By this union have been born two children, namely: Clara Foster is now the wife of H. P. Hinckley, who is connected with Armour & Company at Allegheny, Pennsylvania, and they have one child, Gertrude Abbie. Harry R. is a graduate of Beloit College, and is now principal of the Port Byron Academy.

As previously stated Mr. Mussey removed to this county in the fall of 1868, and for several years was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits, his farm adjoining the corporate limits of Atkinson, in which village he made his home. For two years he was a silent partner of his brother in the grain and coal business at that place, and in 1885 became actively associated with him in the management of that enterprise under the firm name of Mussey Brothers. He is a wide-awake and progressive business man, and has met with well-deserved success.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Mussey are active members of the Congregational Church, and he is also a charter member of Atkinson Camp, M. W. A., of which he was the first venerable consul. In his political affiliations he is a Republican, and has served as president of the board of trustees of the village and justice of the peace one term.

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#### WILLIAM PAPENDICK.

This well-known and successful farmer and stock raiser residing on section 24, Loraine township, was born in Berlin, Germany, on the 29th of July, 1859, and is a son of Louis and Sophia (Greenwood) Papendick, also natives of the fatherland, the former born in Schwerin, the latter near Berlin. In 1863 Louis Papendick brought his family to America, and on landing in New York proceeded at once to Morrison, Whiteside county, Illinois, where he was engaged in cabinet making for a short time. He subsequently made his home in Prophetstown for three years, and at the end of that period came to Henry county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Loraine township, upon which he resided until called to his final rest January 31, 1879. His wife survived him for a few years and passed away September 30, 1887. They were the parents of five children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being Carrie, wife of John Jaquet, of Loraine township; William, our subject; and Otis, who married Anna Walzer and is engaged in farming in Rock county, Minnesota.

William Papendick was only three years old when brought by his parents to this coun-

try, and he is indebted to the district schools of Whiteside and Henry counties for his educational privileges. During his boyhood and youth he remained at home and did his share of the farm work, and after the death of his father he and his brother Otis took control of the place, which they operated in partnership until 1888, when our subject purchased his brother's interest. He has a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres under a high state of cultivation, and as a tiller of the soil and stock raiser is meeting with excellent success.

On the 3d of March, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Papendick and Miss Lizzie Kreps, and three children bless their union, namely: Julia Beatrice, born April 26, 1887; Hattie born February 22, 1889; and Louis, born February 26, 1891. All are now in school. Mrs. Papendick is a native of Bureau county, Illinois, and a daughter of Christian and Annie (Chaplar) Kreps, who were born, reared and married in Switzerland, where the father followed the carpenter's trade until their emigration to America in 1850. They first located in Bureau county, Illinois, but later came to Henry county, and took up their residence in Loraine township, where the father died in 1865, the mother in 1885. Of their ten children nine are still living, namely: Anna, widow of George Liverknecht and a resident of Geneseo; Mary, wife of Charles Walzer, of Loraine township; Christian, a resident of Chatfield, Fillmore county, Minnesota; John, who was formerly a resident of California, but is now engaged in gold mining at Cape Nome, Alaska; Caroline, wife of John Neiswenger of Geneseo; Fred, of Rock county, Minnesota; Lizzie, wife of our subject; Elias, a merchant of Rock

Rapids, Iowa; and Emeline, a resident of Geneseo.

Mr. and Mrs. Papendick hold membership in the Evangelical Church, and he is also connected with Hoop Pole Camp, No. 126, M. W. A. Politically he affiliates with the Republican party, and is prominently identified with public affairs in his community. For eight years he has creditably served as justice of the peace, and has also been school director for a number of years. He is one of the union special drainage commissioners, which has reclaimed fourteen hundred acres of land in his part of the county, their main ditch being eight miles in length. He is one of the most progressive and public-spirited citizens of the community and is widely and favorably known.

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#### IRA E. KELSEY.

Ira E. Kelsey, an active and energetic farmer, who carries on his chosen occupation on section 16, Annawan township, is a native of Connecticut, his birth having occurred in Kensington, March 18, 1850. His father, Erastus Kelsey, was born in Portland, Connecticut, January 10, 1821, and belonged to an old New England family. He was twice married, his first wife being Fanny Way, who died in Annawan township, this county, March 22, 1869, leaving three children, of whom our subject is the oldest. William E., born July 2, 1853, died in Annawan, in April, 1888. Mary Elizabeth, born June 10, 1868, is now the wife of Richard Arkland, of Calhoun county, Iowa. For his second wife the father mar-



MR. AND MRS. IRA KELSEY.

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ried Johannah Burgess, of Somerset county, Maine, who died August 10, 1895, while his death occurred March 26, 1896. The family came to Illinois in 1856 and first located in Bureau county, but the following spring came to Henry county, the father purchasing one hundred and six and two-thirds acres of land on section 16, Annawan township, at twenty-six dollars per acre. Throughout his active business life he followed farming, and preferring to devote his entire time and attention to that occupation he would never accept public office.

Ira E. Kelsey received his education in the district school near his boyhood home, and obtained a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits upon his father's farm. On leaving the parental roof, in 1870, he went to the western frontier, and spent three years in Kansas and Nebraska among the Indians, with whom he was on quite familiar terms, often camping out with them. On his return home in 1873, his father retired from active labor and he succeeded to the management of the farm, and has since successfully engaged in its operation. He has never cared to enter politics, though he takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Royal Neighbors, and his wife also belongs to the latter order.

On the 20th of March, 1870, Mr. Kelsey was united in marriage with Miss Frances M. Boss, a native of Rochester, New York, who died October 2, 1881. He was again married October 14, 1882, his second union being with Miss Augusta Koch, of Davenport, Iowa, who was born in New York, August 26, 1853, and is a daughter of Carl and Ernestina (Edler) Koch, both natives of Germany. On coming to America, in

1850, her parents located in New York, where they made their home until Mrs. Kelsey was three years old, when they removed to Davenport, Iowa. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, died April 4, 1897, and the mother departed this life August 6, 1887. Of their three children Carl died in childhood, Augusta is next in order of birth; and Louisa is the wife of John Cole, of Davenport, Iowa. By his second marriage Mr. Kelsey has had five children, namely: Edna L., born March 10, 1884, is attending school; Arthur C., born October 26, 1885, died February 4, 1887; Laura May, born December 16, 1887, is also in school; Florence F., born August 26, 1890; and Leroy Oscar, born July 4, 1893, are also pursuing their studies in the local schools and reside at home.

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#### R. W. MILAR.

For almost a quarter of a century R. W. Milar has been engaged in the fire insurance business in Atkinson, though he is now practically living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. He was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, July 29, 1824, and is a son of John and Isabel (Fulton) Milar, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively. Born of poor parents the father was thrown upon his own resources at an early age and learned the blacksmith's trade in Baltimore. When a young man he went to Pennsylvania, where he married and continued to make his home until his death, which occurred when our subject was a small boy. He left a widow and six children, namely: Samuel, deceased; Eli, a retired farmer of Tuscarawas county, Ohio, now

eighty years of age; Michael, who died in Missouri; R. W., our subject; John A., deceased; and Mary Ann, who is living on a farm in Tuscarawas county, Ohio. There the mother died at the age of seventy-six years, having never married again.

R. W. Milar began his education in the schools of Pennsylvania, but his advantages along that line were limited, and he never attended school more than a year. At the age of twelve years he accompanied the family on their removal to Tuscarawas county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm for four years, and then commenced learning the miller's trade, to which he devoted his energies for four years, but was forced to give up that occupation as he found it injurious to his health. He next took up the trade of carpenter, which he followed many years.

On the 6th of July, 1849, Mr. Milar married Miss Rebecca Knisley, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob B. Knisley, who was a carpenter of Philadelphia, Ohio, where Mr. Milar made his home until 1855. In that year, accompanied by his wife and three children, he came west and located in Geneseo county, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for a short time, and the following year he came to Atkinson, which at that time had just been laid out. He assisted in the construction of the first building erected here, and for many years built the greater portion of its business houses and private residences. In 1877 he became interested in the fire insurance business, and now represents the following companies: the Hartford, of Hartford, Connecticut; the Springfield, of Springfield, Massachusetts; the Phoenix, of Brooklyn; the Phoenix, of Hartford; the Fire Association, of Philadelphia; and the Insurance Company of North America. He has been

engaged in this business longer than any other man in this section of the state. Although he started out in life empty-handed he has acquired some property, and is now the owner of a good farm of eighty acres, two miles north of Atkinson, which is successfully operated under his supervision.

Mrs. Milar, who was a consistent and faithful member of the Congregational Church, died in November, 1892, at the age of sixty years, and was laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery, Geneseo. She was the mother of four children, namely: Theodore, a carpenter of Atkinson, married Eliza Ruth Storm and they have one child, Storm; Leroy married Clara Guesbecker, and died in Atkinson, November 28, 1898, at the age of forty-four years, leaving one child, Robert; J. Knisley married Anna Green and died in Atkinson, in 1882, at the age of twenty-six years; and Clara is the wife of R. E. Bailey, a painter, decorator and paper hanger, and they live with our subject. They had a daughter, who died in infancy.

Mr. Milar was made a Mason at Annawan, in 1867, and still holds membership in Annawan Lodge, No. 433, which has been moved to Atkinson. He served as worshipful master of the same for six years, and has represented the lodge in the grand lodge of the state. He cast his first presidential vote in 1848 for John P. Hale, the Freesoil candidate, and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters. He has been a delegate to many conventions, and has been honored with political positions, having served as constable seventeen years; justice of the peace twenty years and school director many years, and deputy sheriff of Henry county four years, discharging the various duties of these positions with fidelity and ability.

## FESTUS C. COLE.

The natural advantages of this section of the state attracted at an early day a superior class of settlers, thrifty, industrious, progressive and law-abiding, whose influence has given permanent direction to the development of the locality. Among the worthy pioneers of Henry county Festus C. Cole holds a prominent place. Since June, 1839 he has made his home here, and now owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 28, Oxford township, one mile south of Alpha.

Mr. Cole was born near Sherburne, in Madison county, New York, December 22, 1833, a son of Amos and Augusta (Briggs) Cole. His father was born in the same state in 1806, and there made his home until coming west in 1839. Settling in Henry county, he built the fourth house in Oxford township and the first blacksmith shop in that section of the county, his patrons coming as far as forty miles to have work done. He continued to carry on blacksmithing for fifteen years, and then devoted his entire time to agricultural pursuits. He had entered some land from the government and also purchased some, and opened up the farm upon which our subject now resides, it being his place of residence for many years. He died at the home of a daughter in Aledo, Illinois, in February, 1897, while his wife departed this life in 1876.

Festus C. Cole was only five years of age when brought by his parents to this county, and in Oxford township the days of his boyhood and youth were passed. He aided his father in the shop and on the farm, and also worked for neighboring farmers for some years. He succeeded to the old homestead, and by purchase added to

it from time to time until he had five hundred acres, but with the exception of the original tract of one hundred and sixty acres he has divided the property among his children.

In 1860, in this county, Mr. Cole was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Taze, who was born and reared in Pennsylvania and came to Illinois when a young lady. Prior to her marriage she engaged in teaching school in Henry county. Mr. Cole has been called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died January 1, 1898, leaving two children: William, who now operates the home farm, married Martha Stitt and has four children, May, Clinton, Erma and Robert; and Edith is the wife of Otis Timberlake, a farmer of Oxford township, and they have three children, Lyle, Myrtle and Minnie. Mr. and Mrs. Cole lost two children: Cynthia, who died at the age of nineteen years; and LeRoy, who died at the age of three.

In his political views Mr. Cole is a Jeffersonian Democrat and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan in 1856, but at local elections he votes independent of party lines, supporting the men whom he believes best qualified to fill the offices. For three years he was a member of the school board, but has never cared for political honors. During the long years of his residence in Henry county he has watched with interest its wonderful development, and in its improvement and upbuilding he has ever borne his part. He has become widely known, and his many excellent traits of character have gained him the high regard of his many friends. As an honored pioneer and representative citizen he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.

## AMOS A. MACKEY.

The well-known and efficient bookkeeper and assistant cashier of the Woodhull Bank, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, April 22, 1856, and is a son of William A. and Emily (Hammond) Mackey, also natives of that county. The Mackey family is of Scotch-Irish descent, and was founded in the United States during the seventeenth century. On reaching the new world our subject's ancestors located in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. As a merchant and tanner his father carried on business at Spring River, Pennsylvania, throughout life.

The subject of this review completed his education by a course at Chambersburg Academy, and remained under the parental roof until eighteen years of age. He began his business career in the employ of a collection agency in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, where he spent one year. In 1875 he came to Illinois and after stopping for a short time in Galesburg he took up his residence in Woodhull, Henry county, where he has since made his home. For seven years he was in the employ of a dry-goods house of that place, and then, during President Garfield's administration, was appointed postmaster of Woodhull, which position he creditably filled for four years. During the following four years he was bookkeeper in the bank, after which he again served as postmaster under President Harrison. Since 1882 he has maintained his connection with the bank, and is now serving as bookkeeper and assistant cashier, his services there having always given the utmost satisfaction.

At Woodhull, Mr. Mackey was married, February 22, 1883, to Miss Carrie L. Woods, who was born in Pennsylvania, but was reared in this county, her father, Robert L.

Woods, being one of the old residents of Woodhull. By this union have been born two children, Lyle E. and Wayne W.

In his political views Mr. Mackey is a stalwart Republican, and has always taken an active interest in public affairs. He is the present township treasurer, and for six years served as a member of the school board. Both he and his wife hold membership in the Presbyterian Church of Woodhull, and he is prominently connected with the blue lodge of the Masonic fraternity at that place, of which he is now secretary; the chapter at Rio; and the commandery at Galesburg.

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LESTER COWLES WELTON.

Among the early residents and honored citizens of Henry county was the late Lester Cowles Welton, who was born in Harwinton, Litchfield county, Connecticut, April 20, 1817, a son of Noah and Ellen (Cowles) Welton, also natives of that place. He was reared on the home farm and enjoyed the advantages of the common schools of the neighborhood. After reaching his majority he left the parental roof and went to Vermont to live with an older sister, who was a widow, and remained there three years, at the end of which time he returned to Connecticut.

In October, 1845, Mr. Welton was united in marriage with Miss Ora Mathews, of Bristol, Connecticut, and the following spring they came to Illinois, locating in Peoria county, where he pre-empted a homestead, upon which he lived until 1855. It was in that year that he removed to Henry county, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land at one dollar and a quar-



LESTER C. WELTON.

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ter per acre. Later he bought another quarter-section, and as both tracts were raw prairie land when they came into his possession, he at once turned his attention to their improvement. Acre after acre was broken until at length the entire farm was under a high state of cultivation. In 1876 he sold that place and spent a year in resting, traveling and visiting friends in the east. He also spent some time at the Centennial exposition in Philadelphia. On his returned to Henry county he located in Cambridge, and assisted in organizing the First National Bank at that place. He was also interested in the First National Bank at Geneseo. In the fall of 1882 Mr. Welton removed to Reno county, Kansas, and purchased a section of land four miles west of Hutchinson, to which he added from time to time until he owned twelve hundred and forty acres of valuable farming land. He also invested in the First National Bank of Hutchinson, and was one of its directors throughout the remainder of his life. He was a business man whose ability and judgment was always respected, and in all his dealings was upright and honorable.

In his family were four children, namely: James M., a resident of Geneseo, Illinois; Ellen, wife of W. M. Ringle, of Osco, Illinois; Merritt H., of Wiotia, Iowa; and Margaret, wife of Chester O'Neal, of Hutchinson, Kansas. Mr. Welton removed his family to Kansas in 1883, and continued to make his home on his farm near Hutchinson until his death, which occurred June 15, 1896. His wife survived him four years, dying on the 18th of October, 1900. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Episcopal Church, and had many warm friends in the communities where they had made their home. Politically Mr. Welton

was an active Republican, and was the first supervisor of Osco township, this county, being elected to that office in 1858. He held other minor offices, and always took a deep and commendable interest in the welfare of his community. He was a kind neighbor and valued citizen, and his life was one which was fraught with usefulness and crowned with success.

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### JOHN JAQUET.

Numbered among the well-to-do agriculturists and highly esteemed citizens of Loraine township is the gentleman whose home is on section 14, Loraine township. He was born in Cook county, Illinois, September 15, 1848, and is a son of Christian Jaquet, a native of Alsace, Germany, and a carpenter by trade. The father came to America about 1835 and located in Cook county, Illinois, where his first wife died, leaving one child, Christian, now a resident of Sterling, Illinois. For his second wife he married Elizabeth Metzner, who was also born in Germany and when a young girl came alone to the United States. By this union four children were born: Fred, deceased; John, our subject; Mary, wife of Adam Wierhold, of Yorktown township, this county; and Henry, a resident of Bureau county, Illinois. About 1860 the father removed to Henry county and purchased eighty acres of land in Yorktown township, where he engaged in farming until his death in 1864. His wife survived him many years, dying in February, 1891, at the age of seventy-nine.

As soon as he attained a sufficient age John Jaquet entered the district schools of



Cook county, where he pursued his studies until twelve years old, when he accompanied the family on their removal to this county, completing his education in the schools of Yorktown township. He began life for himself as a farm hand in the employ of Jake Shuler, of that township, receiving seven dollars per month in compensation for his services. At the age of seventeen he worked two months for his half-brother, Christian, who was engaged in farming in Loraine township, and the following spring commenced learning the carpenter's trade, to which he devoted his energies for three years. On attaining his majority he went to Boone county, Iowa, where he followed that occupation three months, but on his return to this county resumed farming, being employed by the month for three years. The following year he rented the John Rapp farm in Yorktown township, but at the end of that time he returned to his old employer, Irwin Shelton, with whom he remained another year.

Mr. Jaquet was married February 26, 1874, to Miss Carrie Papendick, a daughter of Louis and Sophia (Greenwood) Papendick, of whom more extended mention is made in the sketch of William Papendick on another page of this volume. To them have been born ten children, namely: William, deceased; Cecelia, now the wife of James Pray, of Rock Island; Albert, deceased; Cora, wife of Edward Oberle, of Loraine township, by whom she has two children, John and Edna; Nellie, at home; and Lillie, Ralph, John, Howard and Inez, all in school.

For four years after his marriage Mr. Jaquet rented the home place in Yorktown township, and then operated the old Papendick homestead in Loraine township for one

year. At the end of that time he purchased eighty acres of land on section 13, the latter township, and to this he has since added, making a good farm of one hundred and thirty acres, which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation. He is an energetic and progressive farmer and stock raiser, and a man of good business and executive ability.

Religiously both Mr. and Mrs. Jaquet are members of the United Evangelical Church, and politically he is identified with the Republican party, of which he has been a staunch supporter since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant. He is now serving his ninth year as school trustee, and has held the office of road commissioner six years, during which time a number of bridges have been built under his supervision. He takes an active interest in all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit, and for eight years has been a member of the Union special drainage commission, which has reclaimed several thousand acres of what once was considered worthless swamp land.

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#### LOUIS HELLER.

Among the prosperous and successful agriculturists of Loraine township is Louis Heller, whose home is on section 32. During his entire life he has been a resident of that township, his birth having occurred on section 4, February 3, 1842. His parents were David and Catherine (Arnett) Heller, the former a native of Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, the latter of Alsace-Lorraine, France. The paternal grandfather, David Heller, was born in Pennsylvania of German ancestry, and belonged to one of the

pioneer families of Luzerne county. He served for several years as a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and in days of peace followed agricultural pursuits.

In early life David Heller, the father of our subject, worked at the weaver's trade in his native state. In 1832 he came west and located in what is now Loraine township, Henry county, Illinois, where he took up a tract of government land and built thereon a log cabin, in which some of his children were born. He added to his place from time to time as his financial resources increased until he had about twelve hundred acres of land, and was one of the wealthiest citizens of his community. He continued to actively engage in farming until his death, which occurred in 1881, when he was sixty-nine years of age, his remains being interred in Loraine cemetery. In his political views he was a strong Republican but never cared for office. His wife died in Geneseo, in 1900, at the age of seventy-nine. Their children were Caroline, deceased; Louis, our subject; Susan, deceased; Levinus, who was formerly engaged in farming in Atkinson township, but is now living a retired life in Geneseo; Lavina, who died in infancy; Solomon, who lives near the old homestead in Loraine township; Samuel, a resident of Michigan; Wesley, of Atkinson township; Ella, wife of Fredrick Rieger, of Geneseo; and Mary, who died in infancy.

During the boyhood of our subject he attended the district schools in winter, while through the summer months he aided in the labors of the fields. At that time wild game of all kinds was plentiful and he well remembers seeing deer on the prairies, while the wolves often made the night hideous with their howling. Among his early recollections is that of himself and friend convert-

ing a hog trough into a canoe with the intention of crossing a slough in order that they might get some seed, but the rude boat tipped over and the boys found themselves in the mud and water. He continued to pursue his studies in an old log school house on his father's farm until about twenty-one years of age.

On the 12th of February, 1867, Mr. Heller was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Wagner, who was born in Germany and was four years of age when brought to the United States by her father, John Wagner. The family located in Chicago, where Mr. Wagner worked at his trade of tailor for one year, and then came to Henry county, settling in Loraine township, where he purchased land and engaged in farming throughout the remainder of his life. He died in January, 1882, and his first wife passed away when Mrs. Heller was only ten years old. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are still living, these being Margaret, wife of our subject; Elizabeth, wife of Philip Arnett, of Whiteside county; Catherine, wife of Isaac Urich, of Whiteside county; and Helen, wife of George Besse, of Erie, Whiteside county. Susan and Henry both died in infancy. For his second wife the father married Caroline Rieger, who died in 1875. By this union he also had six children: Caroline, deceased wife of Edward Offerle; Louisa, wife of Bell Heffelfinger; August, a resident of Nebraska; Hattie, wife of Edward Rowe; John, who died at the age of ten years, and Edward, who died at the age of five.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Heller nine children have been born, namely: Elizabeth, wife of Albert Sands of Loraine township; George, who married Ella Johnson and is engaged in farming in the same township; Edward,

who married Flora Smith, and is also a farmer of Loraine township; Laura and Leonard, both deceased; Mabel, at home; Roy and Gloy twins, and Earl, all three attending school.

After his marriage Mr. Heller was engaged in farming on one of his father's places for a time, and then purchased his present farm of three hundred and eighty-five acres on section 32, Loraine township, which at that time was only partially improved but is now under a high state of cultivation and is one of the most desirable places in the locality. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Heller are members of the United Evangelical Church of Loraine township, and fraternally he is connected with Geneseo Camp, No. 40, M. W. A. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and has served as school director about thirty years and tax collector one term. He is one of the leading citizens and representative farmers of his community, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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#### MRS. HULDA G. CALKINS.

Prominent among the early settlers of Henry county and honored residents of Alpha is Mrs. Calkins, who is familiarly known as Aunt Hulda by her numerous friends. She came to this state in 1841, and has made her home in Henry county since 1847. A native of Massachusetts, she was born in Stockbridge, July 19, 1826, and belongs to an old New England family. Her paternal grandfather, Samuel Griffin, was a native of Vermont, but spent much of his life in the Bay state. Her father, John Griffin, was born in Massachusetts in 1795,

and there he was married about 1818 to Miss Mary Hoag, a native of Columbia county, New York, where he learned the weaver's trade. In early life he followed the carpenter's and joiner's trade in his native state, where he continued to make his home until coming west with his family in 1841. He first located near the present town of Viola, in Mercer county, Illinois, then known as Stewart's Corners, where he opened up and improved a farm, on which he continued to reside until called to his final rest June 4, 1865, at the age of seventy years. His wife survived him several years, and died January 11, 1891, at the advanced age of ninety-one years and six months. Further mention is made of the family in the sketch of H. G. Griffin, of Cambridge, on another page of this volume, he being a brother of Mrs. Calkins.

As previously stated Mrs. Calkins came to this state with her parents in 1841. She was principally reared and educated in Massachusetts, and became one of the pioneer school teachers of Henry county. On the 20th of April, 1847, she gave her hand in marriage to Anson Calkins, who was born in Austerlitz, Columbia county, New York, in 1818, and there grew to manhood. During his youth he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade. On coming to Illinois in 1841, he located in Knox county, where he planted a large number of trees and engaged in the nursery business for about six years. He made the acquaintance of Miss Griffin while stopping at her father's residence for dinner while passing through this county, and the friendship then formed soon ripened into love, resulting in their marriage. They began their domestic life upon a farm of forty acres in Oxford township where Mrs. Calkins still resides, now

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ANSON CALKINS.



MRS. HULDA G. CALKINS.

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within the village of Alpha, there being no town at that time. Here Mr. Calkins also started a nursery, which he successfully carried on for many years, and sold the greater number of evergreen and ornamental trees and shrubs now found in this locality. He was also engaged in the cultivation of various kinds of fruit, and followed general farming quite extensively. Prospering in his business enterprises, he added to his original tract of forty acres from time to time until he owned over one thousand acres of very valuable and productive land. He laid out the town of Alpha upon his farm, and gave the railroad company right of way and a site for the depot. He was instrumental in building up the village, and as a public-spirited and enterprising citizen gave his support to all measures for the public good. In his political views he was originally an old line Whig, and later he became a stanch Republican. Prior to the war of the Rebellion he was an ardent Abolitionist, and was interested in the "underground railroad" in that way assisting many a negro on his way to Canada and freedom. He filled the office of assessor for a time, but never cared for political honors, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests. He died July 20, 1895, at the age of seventy-seven years, honored and respected by all who knew him.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Calkins were born ten children, namely: Myra P., wife of Alexander A. Shaw, a farmer of Knox county; Mary E., wife of Ira Frankenberger, a farmer of Oxford township, Henry county; J. B., a resident of Alpha; John F., a farmer of Oxford township; Winfield C., who is engaged in farming near Mt. Vernon, Illinois; Lucia M., who was married in October, 1875, to E. P. Leland, the first

telegraph operator at Alpha, and died the following March; and four who died in infancy.

Mrs. Calkins is a consistent and faithful member of the Baptist Church, and is loved and respected by all who know her. As a pioneer of this section of the state she has witnessed almost its entire development. She has seen the wild prairie transformed into highly cultivated fields; railroads, telegraphs and telephones introduced; while hamlets have grown into thriving cities and villages with all of the conveniences of an advanced civilization. She can relate many interesting incidents of pioneer life.

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#### JACOB MYERS.

Among the honored and highly esteemed citizens of Atkinson who are now living retired from active labor is Jacob Myers, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, October 14, 1831, and is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Bloom) Myers, also natives of that state. The Myers family was originally from Germany, and was founded in this country over two hundred years ago. Our subject's paternal grandfather was a native of New Jersey and one of the first settlers of Franklin county, Pennsylvania. There the father was born, reared and educated, pursuing his studies in an old log school house with slab seats and puncheon floor. In early life he followed farming with his father and later on his own account, making that his life work. He was very successful and accumulated a comfortable competence. He died upon his farm in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, at a comparatively early age, when our subject was only a year old. He

left two other children: John, a blacksmith, who died in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania; and Amy, deceased wife of Isaac Peck, of Franklin county. The mother subsequently became the wife of Leonard Bievens, also a native of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and a representative of one of its old families. By that union she had five children, namely: Michael, a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland; Paul, who lives on the old homestead in Franklin county, Pennsylvania; Mary, wife of Henry Yeakle, of the same county; Sarah, wife of John Phillips, of Plum Run, Pennsylvania; and Amanda, widow of John Pitman and a resident of Franklin county. Mrs. Bievens died in 1859 and her second husband is also deceased.

Mr. Myers, of this review, grew to manhood in the county of his nativity, and in early days would walk two miles over the hills to school, where he pursued his studies for about six weeks during the year. At the age of thirteen he commenced learning the blacksmith's trade with his uncle, Michael Bloom, and during the four years of his apprenticeship received only his board and clothes in compensation for his labor. Later he worked as a journeyman in Pennsylvania until the fall of 1855.

On the 8th of November, that year, Mr. Myers was united in marriage with Miss Ellen Fritz, also a native of Franklin county, and a daughter of Frederick Fritz, who spent his entire life there. A week later they came to Kewanee, Illinois, where they rented a house, and where Mr. Myers worked at his trade during the following winter. In the fall of 1856 he purchased eighty acres of land in Burns township, and during the summer season devoted his energies to its improvement and cultivation, while throughout the winter he worked at his trade.

his home in that township for nine years, and then removed to Atkinson township in 1865.

In the fall of that year Mrs. Myers died leaving four children: Charles D. is now a painter and paper hanger of Kansas City. Clayton W. is a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, and was for a time engaged in practice at Kingman, Kansas. While there he was appointed by Governor Stanley of that state as assistant superintendent of the insane asylum at Topeka, which responsible position he is now filling. Leli Blanche died at the age of four years. Maggie is the wife of W. I. Goff, of El Reno, Oklahoma, and they have one child, Imogene.

Mr. Myers was again married, in February, 1867, his second union being with Mrs. Mary Jane Alger, a native of New York state and a daughter of Theodore Noyes. Her first husband, Horace Alger, died January 13, 1864, leaving two children, namely: Geraldine, wife of B. C. Ogden, of Lyons, Kansas, by whom she has one son, Cordy; and Noyes B., who married Pearl Woodford, and is engaged in mercantile business in Wessington, South Dakota.

After his removal to Atkinson, Mr. Myers conducted a blacksmith shop at that place for nine years, and then purchased forty acres of land in Atkinson township, to which he has since added at different times tracts of forty, two hundred, one hundred and twenty, and eighty acres, making in all four hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. He lives in town but for some years continued to drive into the country and oversee the operation of his land. At present he rents the property and is living retired, enjoying the fruits of former toil. In his political views he is an ardent

Republican, but cares nothing for political honors. He has, however, filled various school offices, and takes an active interest in securing efficient teachers and good schools. His wife is a member of the Free Will Baptist Church and both are held in high regard by all who have the pleasure of their acquaintance.

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#### GEORGE HUFFMAN.

Among the honored veterans of the Civil war and representative citizens of Galva township is George Huffman, who resides on section 11. A native of Pennsylvania, he was born in Washington county, on the 29th of October, 1839, and is a son of Abram and Hannah (Bowen) Huffman, also natives of the Keystone state, while the former was of German and the latter of English descent. The maternal grandfather, Mason Bowen, was a soldier of the war of 1812. Coming west in 1865 he first settled in Henry county, Illinois, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres of land in Gaiva township, converting the wild tract into a good farm. He was always an active worker and at the time of his death owned a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in this county, and a half section of good farm land in Minnesota. This property was all acquired through his own industry and good management. During his boyhood he had received but a limited education. He died at the home of our subject in 1892, and his wife died January 4, 1901, in Kewanee, aged eighty-one years.

Of the twelve children born to this worthy couple three died when young. The others are as follows: George, our subject; Mason, a resident of Galva township, who

was a soldier of the Civil war and was wounded in the service; Julia A., wife of R. T. Bryan, a farmer of Iowa; Dilly, wife of William Briner, also a veteran of the Civil war, residing in Kewanee; Eliza, wife of Joe Johnson of the same place; Mary, wife of Charles White, of Slayton, Minnesota; John, a farmer of Peoria county, Illinois; Mahala, wife of Robert Sprague, of Lake Wilson, Minnesota; and William S., of Peoria county, Illinois.

In the common schools of Pennsylvania George Huffman acquired his literary education, and he remained at home with his parents until after the inauguration of the Civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in Company K, Fourteenth West Virginia Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service until hostilities ceased, taking part in the battles of Cedar Creek, Winchester, Bunker Hill, Boliver Heights, Call Town, Lynchburg, and many other engagements of lesser importance. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged at Cumberland, and arrived home on the 4th of July, 1865. In the fall of the same year he came with his parents to Henry county, Illinois, and after working on his father's farm for two years, he purchased forty acres of wild land in 1868 and began the improvement of his farm, on which he has made his home ever since. He now operates about eighty acres of land, and as a general farmer is meeting with well deserved success.

Mr. Huffman has been twice married. In 1862 he wedded Miss Catherine Martin, who died November 23, 1865, and on the 10th of May, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Cassie J. Bowler, who was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, in 1840. Her mother died in that state when Mrs. Huffman was only twelve years old, and in 1868

she came to Illinois with her father, Samuel Bowler, who spent his last days at her home. he has two brothers and two sisters, namely: Margaret, wife of Jacob Wilson, of Galva township; Charity, a resident of the same township; John, of Wood county, West Virginia; and George, of St. Louis, Missouri. One brother died in Chicago, Illinois, in 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Huffman have four children: Hannah L., born November 23, 1869, is at home; Ellen, born May 16, 1871, is the wife of Elmer Wright, of Kewanee, and they have three children, Roy E., Nellie P. and Mabel. (3) Maggie, born August 16, 1873, married John Hicks, of Kewanee, and died February 25, 1896; and Walter H., born March 1, 1880, operates the home farm.

In 1867 Mr. Huffman was accidentally injured in a threshing machine, which resulted in the loss of his foot. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and religiously he and his family are members of the United Brethren Church. He is prominent in Grand Army circles and is an honored member of the post at Galva. He is a worthy representative of that class of citizens who lead, quiet, industrious and useful lives, and constitute the best portion of a community.

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#### JAMES H. NEWMAN.

This well-to-do farmer residing on section 23, Clover township, has made his home in Henry county since the spring of 1855, and now owns and operates a valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres. He was born in Westchester county, New York, June 19, 1833, and is a son of Banks and Sarah (Reynolds) Newman, who were life

long residents of that county. His paternal grandfather, James Newman, was a native of New York and one of the first settlers of Westchester county, while the maternal grandfather, James Reynolds, was born in Connecticut and was also an early settler of Westchester county, New York. The latter fought for American independence in the Revolutionary war. Though reared upon a farm, Banks Newman followed the shoemaker's trade throughout life, and died in the spring of 1843. His wife survived him and reared their six children, all of whom reached adult age, namely: Clarissa J., who died at the age of nineteen; Elias G., who married and located in New York city, where his death occurred; Rachel Ann, a resident of Westchester county, New York; Charles William, of Staten Island, New York; Edgar B., of Westchester county; and James H., our subject, who is second in order of birth.

James H. Newman grew to manhood in his native county, and received a good common-school education. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some time both in New York and Illinois. In the spring of 1855 he came to this county with his cousin, Alvah Reynolds, and together they engaged in contracting and building in Henry and Knox counties for three years. Mr. Newman then rented a farm and in connection with its operation continued to work at his trade.

After the country became involved in civil war, he enlisted in the fall of 1861 in Waterhouse' Battery of Chicago, and as a member of the Western army was under the command of Generals Grant and Sherman. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Tennessee, and Jackson, Mississippi, and in the siege of Vicksburg, being present at its

surrender. He entered the service as a private but was made quartermaster sergeant, and acted in that capacity during the whole time of his service. For a time he was ill at Shiloh, and when his term of enlistment expired was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, December 19, 1864.

While at home on a furlough Mr. Newman had purchased eighty acres of raw land where he now resides, and after his marriage in 1865 he located thereon and commenced to break and improve the land. He built a good small house, which he has since remodeled and enlarged, and has erected two barns and other outbuildings. He has also set out fruit and shade trees, and has added to his farm a tract of sixty acres, and now has a well-improved and valuable farm of one hundred and forty acres. He has always given considerable attention to the raising and feeding of stock for market, and is accounted one of the successful agriculturists of the community. On coming to this state he was without capital or influential friends and to his own untiring labor and good business ability is due his success.

On the 30th of November, 1865, Mr. Newman led to the marriage altar Miss Cynthia A. Hayden, a native of Montgomery county, Indiana, and a daughter of A. R. Hayden, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who came to Henry county at an early day and is now one of the substantial farmers of Clover township. By this union were born two sons, Clark and Orris H. The latter is well educated and is now principal of a ward school in Pekin, Illinois. He is married and has two children, Marie and James Harold.

Politically Mr. Newman has been a lifelong Republican, having cast his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont in 1856.

His father was an old time Whig. Our subject has ever taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics, and his fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability have called upon him to fill positions of public trust. For three terms he was a prominent member of the honorable county board of supervisors; later served as justice of the peace one term, and has been a township school trustee for twelve or fifteen years. Both he and his wife are active and influential members of the Christian Church of Ontario, and at the last district conference was elected vice-president of the Western Illinois Christian conference, which position he is now most creditably filling. He gave one hundred dollars to the Union Christian College of Merom, Indiana, and the same amount to the Christian Biblical School at Stamfordville, New York, and has ever contributed liberally to all enterprises which he believes for the betterment of mankind or the good of the community in which he lives.

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#### GEORGE J. McCORKLE.

Among the highly respected and honored citizens of Kewanee who are spending their declining years in ease and quiet having previously acquired a comfortable competence through their diligence, enterprise and good management, is George J. McCorkle. He was born in Wilmington, Delaware, August 1, 1832, a son of George and Mary (Penny) McCorkle, also natives of that state. The maternal grandparents, David and Ann (Lodge) Penny, were also born in Delaware of English and Scotch extraction, and the paternal grandfather, William McCorkle, claimed the same state as his birth



place. His ancestors were of English origin. In early life the father of our subject learned the harness maker's trade, and later became quite extensively engaged in the manufacture of saddlery and harness, which he sold both at wholesale and retail. He made his home in Wilmington until 1856, when he came to Illinois, and took up his residence in Galva, Henry county, where he continued in the same line of business for some years. He died at the home of a daughter in Bureau county, Illinois, at the age of ninety. His wife passed away at the age of eighty-five. They were the parents of twelve children, of whom four died in infancy. Those who reached years of maturity were William, George, Thomas, Henry, Charles, John, Maria and Sabilla, but William, Thomas, and Henry are now deceased. Our subject is the only member of the family residing in Kewanee.

During his boyhood and youth George J. McCorkle, of this review, attended the common schools of Wilmington, Delaware, and learned harness and saddle making, working with his father until the latter removed to Illinois. In 1857 our subject went to West Virginia, locating on the Ohio river at what is now Thompson, four miles south of Moundsville, in Marshall county, where he was engaged in farming until coming to Kewanee, Illinois, in 1881, since which time he has practically lived a retired life.

On the 26th of December, 1855, Mr. McCorkle was united in marriage with Miss Ann R. McClean, a native of West Virginia, and a daughter of Joseph and Maria McClean, who were also born in that state and belonged to one of its oldest families. Her father followed farming and surveying, serving as county surveyor for many years. He owned a large and valuable farm of six

hundred acres on the Ohio river. The twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. McCorkle were Joseph, an employe in the rolling mills of Kewanee, who married Leta Adams and has three children, Earl, Freddie and Verna; Charles, who wedded Mary E. Johnson and died in Lincoln, Nebraska, leaving one child; Eri J., Peoria; William, who married Isabella Mason, now deceased, and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Mary, who was drowned in the Ohio river at the age of fifteen years; Henry, a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah; Elburt, a farmer of Stark county, Illinois; Susan, who died in infancy; George, who fought through the Spanish-American war, and is now with the United States army in the Philippines; Eri, who is a traveling salesman for a clothing house and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska; Bayard, who died in infancy; and Marshall, a boiler maker of Bellair, Ohio. The wife and mother, who was a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, died February 23, 1874, and was laid to rest in Moundsville, West Virginia.

Mr. McCorkle was made a Mason in Marshall Union Lodge, No. 8, at Moundsville, West Virginia, and has always affiliated with the Republican party, but has taken no active part in politics aside from voting. He has made many friends during his residence in Kewanee, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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#### L. D. ANDERSON.

Among the enterprising and public-spirited citizens of Geneseo may be numbered L. D. Anderson, who does a successful business in establishing drive wells and water works on farms throughout the surrounding country. He was born in Bucyrus, Craw-

ford county, Ohio, April 7, 1847, and is a son of John and Mary (Andrews) Anderson, the father a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, the mother of Ashland county, Ohio. In early life the father learned the timmer's trade and followed that business for a time, but later conducted a hotel in Bucyrus, Ohio. In 1851 he came to Geneseo, Illinois, driving all the way from Bucyrus, Ohio, with a team and buggy. He embarked in the tinware and stove business, hauling his goods to this place from the canal at Peru, there being no railroad here at that time. In 1858 he turned his attention to farming and successfully carried on that occupation for twenty years, at the end of which time he returned to Geneseo, while his son, James, operated the farm for the same length of time before it was sold. The father died in Geneseo July 19, 1892, at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. In his political views he was a strong Republican and helped to organize the party in his locality. He was an anti-slavery man and favored the vigorous prosecution of the war. His fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability, called upon him to serve as supervisor several terms, and as a member of the school board for many years. His estimable wife was a daughter of Captain Manson Andrews, one of the founders of the town of Ashland, Ohio, which was largely built upon his farm. He died in 1850, at the age of sixty-six years. In 1876 his wife, who bore the maiden name of Sally Gates, came to Geneseo, where most of her children were living, and died here February 9, 1879. She was a devout member of the Congregational church.

The subject of this sketch is the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being James, a farmer of Geneseo

township; Mary, married Josiah Thomson, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania. She was a member of the Congregational Church, and died in that faith August 7, 1896; Sarah F., wife of H. A. Ainsworth, of Moline, Illinois. She was principal of the female college at Rockford, Illinois, several years; Emily A., wife of A. W. Bickel, of Geneseo; David P., also a resident of Geneseo; and Frank L., a farmer of Ruthven, Iowa.

The early life of L. D. Anderson was principally passed in this county, and in the schools of Geneseo he acquired the greater part of his education. At the age of seventeen years he started out to make his own way in the world. He then enlisted Sunday, January 24, 1865, at Geneseo, in Company B, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, mustered in the United States service at Peoria, Illinois, and joined his regiment at Eastport, Mississippi. They were mostly engaged in scouting duty in that state, Alabama and Tennessee, and spent much time in looking for rebel cotton, great quantities of which they found secreted in the swamps. The war having ended, Mr. Anderson was honorably discharged October 31, 1865, after eleven months spent in the service. He was mustered out at Springfield, after which he was engaged in the grocery business in that city for eighteen months.

Selling his interests there Mr. Anderson returned to Geneseo and engaged in farming for his father. Shortly afterward he and his brother James went to Nebraska and purchased one hundred head of cattle, which they drove home and after feeding through the winter sold at a good profit. The following season our subject returned to Nebraska with the intention of taking up a homestead, but being unfavorably impressed with the wild country, he engaged in team-



ing for the railroad company during the summer, in which way he paid all his expenses, returning home in the fall of the same year. He then joined his brother in his present business, which was conducted under the firm style of Anderson Brothers for a year, but in 1870 he purchased his partner's interest and has since been alone in business. He is kept busy constantly, and has met with excellent success. In 1893 he rented his present shop, and has since manufactured his own tanks and towers, which he has found greatly to his advantage. He is well equipped to do an extensive business, and by fair and honorable dealing has gained a liberal patronage. In 1894 Mr. Anderson made an extended trip in the west, spending several weeks in California.

Mr. Anderson was married July 5, 1894, to Miss Jennie L. Woodruff, a native of Ashland, Ohio, and a daughter of Simeon and Tacy (Andrews) Woodruff. Her father, who was a dry-goods merchant of that place, met with a tragic death October 31, 1854, while riding one horse and leading another. When crossing a bridge where men were repairing a telegraph wire lying on the ground, the horse which he was riding—a very powerful animal—became entangled in the wire and was thrown to the ground, falling on Mr. Woodruff, whose injuries were of such a severe nature that he died nine days later. He was well and favorably known throughout his community, and was thirty-six years of age at time of death. His wife died in March, 1897, at the age of seventy-two years. Their children were Ella, wife of George G. Mowry, who is engaged in the agricultural implement business in Geneseo; Jennie L., wife of our subject; and Simeon, who died March 24, 1900, aged forty-five years. At the age of

fifteen he became a brakeman and remained in the railway service until 1898, twelve years being spent in Mexico. He was a passenger conductor most of the time, and before going to Mexico was in Colorado. Mrs. Anderson taught school in this county for five years, and was clerk in the post-office at Geneseo for three years under Postmaster George Hobbs and later under Solon Kendal, and clerked in Van Valkenberg's dry-goods store in Geneseo for twelve years. By her marriage she has become the mother of one child, Simeon Duvall, born April 1, 1895. Religiously she is an active member of the Congregational Church. Mr. Anderson takes an active and commendable interest in public affairs, is independent in politics, and voted for both Cleveland and McKinley. He is a man of sterling worth and strict integrity, and commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life.

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#### GEORGE E. WAITE.

Hon. George E. Waite, of Geneseo, Illinois, was born in Stratton, Windham county, Vermont; his parental ancestry is English. The name was originally spelled Wayte, later Waite or Wait. The American ancestor is Thomas Wayte, who emigrated to Massachusetts upon the restoration of Charles II. in 1660. Thomas Wayte was a member of the Long Parliament, and was identified with Hampden, Pym, Sir Harry Vane, Sir Thomas Fairfax, Cromwell, Ireton and others in the great struggle for freedom of conscience and constitutional government. He did not waver in his opposition to the tyranny of the King. He no doubt



GEORGE E. WAITE.

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saw Cromwell at the head of the Ironsides, and may have been present at Marston Moor and Naseby. He sat at the trial of Charles I., witnessed the matchless prosecution by John Bradshaw, and signed the death warrant of the King. John Wayte, the grandfather of the Judge was a soldier of the Revolution and fought at the battles of Concord, Lexington and Bunker Hill, he was a direct descendant of Thomas Waite. After the war John Waite removed to Stratton, Vermont, where he resided until his death. He had five sons, namely: Amasa, Luther, Daniel, Tyler and Alpheus. Judge Waite is a son of Tyler Waite and Lucia Tyler Waite. His mother was the daughter of Ebenezer Taylor, of Wardsboro, Vermont, and was of Scotch origin.

Tyler Waite was a prosperous farmer of education and influence, he and his wife reared and educated seven children, namely: Laura, George E., Lucia, Henry A., Chastina, Ruth and Dexter Waite.

Judge Waite attended the common schools of Vermont, prepared for college, and took a four years' classical course in the Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut. He was especially noted for his ability as a writer and speaker and graduated with honor. He removed to Geneseo, Illinois, in 1856, was admitted to the bar in 1858, and at once entered upon a successful practice of law.

Judge Waite is a Republican in politics; he participated in the organization of the party in 1856, and has without deviation advocated the principles of the party and supported its candidates; he became widely known throughout the state and was recognized as an able, safe and courageous leader. He has taken an active part in every political campaign; he is a man for an emergency,

rising in power and influence with the importance of the occasion. A splendid specimen of physical manhood, he challenges attention in any gathering. As a speaker by voice, word and action he appeals with convincing power to an audience.

Judge Waite has never pushed himself forward as a seeker after office, but has by the free choice of the people held important judicial, legislative and other positions, performing the duties of all of them with entire satisfaction to the public.

He was a member of the convention which framed the present Constitution of Illinois and was chairman of the Committee of Retrenchments and Reforms. His report to the convention amongst other things contained a recommendation for an article prohibiting special legislation. He recognized the great abuse and proposed the only method to put an end to it; his recommendation was adopted and incorporated into the Constitution of the State, and is one of its wisest and best provisions.

Judge Waite has been a careful student of history, and is an intelligent observer of the passing events of the world. He has well settled opinions upon great public questions, and is a national leader of public opinion. He gave strong support to the cause of the Union, and has done much for both measures and men of his party.

On the 9th of May, 1859, at Geneseo, Illinois, Judge Waite was united in marriage with Miss Hattie N. Wells, a daughter of Benjamin Wells, a native of Connecticut, and the youngest son of Thomas Wells, a scion of Governor Wells, of Connecticut. The Hon. William H. Wells, the author of Wells' Grammar, was the cousin of Mrs. Waite. Her mother was Mary B. Ford, daughter of Dyer and Esther (Burnett)

Ford, and their children were Esther, Dyer, William Averill and Mary B. The Fords are descendants of of Martha Ford, who came to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in the ship "Fortune" in 1621, with her children. Mrs. Waite was born in Old Woodstock, Connecticut, and came with her parents to Geneseo in 1856. Benjamin Wells, her father, died in Geneseo in 1864, and her mother departed this life in Geneseo in 1886. To Judge and Mrs. Waite were given three children, Laura N., Hattie M. and Ruth M. In 1886 Hattie M. married Thomas Everitt and two children were born unto them—George Waite Everitt and Thomas Waite Everitt. The last named died in February, 1892. Thomas Everitt, the husband of Hattie M., departed this life in 1890. Ruth M. Waite married Henry Dedrick, of Geneseo, in 1895, and they had one child, Henry Waite Dedrick, who died in December, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Dedrick now reside in Janesville, Wisconsin.

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### NELS GRANQUIST.

The career of him whose name introduces this review illustrates most forcibly the possibilities that are open to young men who possess sterling business qualifications. It proves that ambition, perseverance, steadfast purpose and indefatigable industry, combined with sound business principles, will be rewarded, and that true success follows individual effort only.

This well-known contractor of Kewanee was born in the province of Skone, Sweden, September 17, 1856, a son of John and Rers-tine (Anderson) Granquist, also natives of that country, where the father was engaged

in contracting and building for many years, but is now living retired from active labor. His wife died about ten years ago. Unto them were born six children, namely: Margaret, wife of Peter Pearson, of Sweden; Nels, our subject; Hannah, who became the wife of August Beck and died in Kewanee, Illinois; and three who died in infancy.

As soon as he reached a sufficient age Nels Granquist entered school, and until seventeen continued his studies, completing his education by a collegiate course. Thus well equipped for life's responsible duties he began his business career as his father's assistant. With the hope of benefiting his financial condition he came to the new world at the age of twenty-five years and has since made his home in Kewanee, where he worked at his trade in the employ of E. T. Heaps until 1890, when he embarked in business on his own account as a contractor and builder. He has erected many private residences and business blocks in the city, including the McLean block, the Bennison building, the Washington and Irving schools, the Kewanee Boiler Company's plant, the Union National Bank, the Hallin block, two new buildings for the Western Tube Company, and at present is erecting another four-story building for the same company at a cost of thirty thousand dollars.

On the 16th of December, 1886, Mr. Granquist married Miss Amanda Danielson, who was born in Sweden but was only a year and a half old when brought to America by her parents, Charles and Louisa (Anderson) Danielson, locating in Kewanee when it was a mere village. Her father, who followed gardening for many years, died June 5, 1893, but her mother is still living and continues to reside in Kewanee. Of the eight children born to them only three are

now living; namely: Euphemia, wife of Will Larson, of Kewanee; C. J., a grocer of Kewanee; and Amanda, wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Granquist have become the parents of four children as follows: Edith, born February 25, 1888, died at the age of fourteen months; Verner Nels, born November 5, 1890, is now attending school; Ralph Clifford, born April 25, 1895, and Inez Ananda, born February 7, 1899, are both at home.

On coming to the United States Mr. Granquist was unable to speak a word of English, and for the success that he has achieved here he deserves great credit, it being due entirely to his own well-directed and energetic efforts. He is one of the leading and influential members of the Swedish Lutheran Evangelical Church, of which he has been a trustee for ten years, and in politics he is identified with the Republican party. He served as a trustee of Kewanee in 1894 and 1895, during which time he was chairman of the streets, alleys and water committees, and was also a member of the park and cemetery committee. In the spring of 1900 he was elected supervisor of Kewanee, which office he is now most creditably and acceptably filling, and is a member of the committee on public grounds and buildings. He is a man of recognized ability and sterling worth, and merits the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

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#### JOHN O. HILBURG.

Since the 19th of June, 1868, the subject of this sketch has been a resident of Henry county, and for a quarter of a century has been one of the leading contractors and builders of Galva. He was born in Gestrik-

land, in the northern part of Sweden, May 3, 1844. His father, who was a soldier in the Swedish army and a carpenter by trade, died in that country, as did also two of his daughters. In his family were four children, our subject being the only son. About 1872 the mother and youngest daughter, Catherine, came to the United States and settled in Illinois. The latter became the wife of M. O. Swanson and died in Galva in 1890, while the mother's death occurred in 1893, when she was eighty-one years of age.

Mr. Hilburg received a good high-school education in the land of his birth. He was only seventeen years of age when his father died and the support of his mother and sisters devolved upon him. After his father's death and up to 1868 he followed farming. Coming direct to Galva he soon found employment as a farm hand, working as such for a few years or at anything he could find to do. For a time he worked as a laborer on the railroad.

In 1869 Mr. Hilburg married Miss Johanna Hagstrum, also a native of Sweden, who came to America about the same time as her husband. By this union have been born twelve children, namely: John F., a carpenter now engaged in business as a partner of his father, is married and has one son, John M.; William, a painter of Galva, lives at home; Amil is a carpenter residing at home; Jennie is at home; Clara is at home; Walter is a painter and carpenter living at home; Herman is attending school; Ernest is a farm hand; and Nettie, Edna, Francis and Earl are all attending school. The children have all received a good education in the common and high schools of Galva. Mrs. Hilburg passed away December 2, 1900.

All that he has Mr. Hilburg has made by hard labor. Having no capital with which to embark in business for himself, he continued to work at various occupations until 1876, when he became connected with the building interests of Galva. He has since done a large and successful business as a contractor and builder in and around Galva, filling some contracts in neighboring towns. In his shop he does some cabinet work, but is principally engaged in house building, and during the busy season employs quite a number of men. He is a stockholder in the Westrand Manufacturing Company of Galva, and owns a pleasant home in that town, which was erected by him in 1891. In political sentiment Mr. Hilberg is a Republican, and is now acceptably serving his second term as a member of the village board. He is an active and prominent member of the Swedish Lutheran Church, of which he has been a deacon for about twenty-three years, and superintendent of the Sunday-school for sixteen years.

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#### SWAN SWANSON.

There is no element which has entered into our composite national fabric which has been of more practical strength, value and utility than that furnished by the sturdy, persevering and honorable sons of Sweden, and in the progress of our Union this element has played an important part. They have also taken a very active and prominent part in the development of Henry county and rank among its best citizens. Chief among these is Swan Swanson, one of the oldest pioneers of the Bishop Hill colony and the only surviving member of its original trustees.

A native of Helsingland, Sweden, he was born May 28, 1825, and is a son of Swan Olson, a farmer of that country. There the parents and all the children of the family died with exception of our subject and his sister Katrina, who came to America some time after our subject. During his boyhood Mr. Swanson received but a very limited education, only learning to read and write, but being a great reader of good literature he has become a well-informed man.

Bidding good-bye to home and family he came to the new world in 1846, making the voyage in six weeks, which was considered a quick trip at that time. By canal and the Great Lakes he proceeded from New York to Chicago, and from the latter city walked to Bishop Hill. He came with the first party of colonists, consisting of sixty able-bodied men, whose purpose it was to prepare homes for the people and procure more land and assist in getting it under cultivation. There were about eleven hundred people who left Sweden at that time, for Bishop Hill, but had died en route, and others died from exposure during the severe winter that followed, as the accommodations were not sufficient for the number. This part of the county was then all wild and unimproved. The colonists erected a sawmill and began the manufacture of lumber for their houses. Later brick were used in their construction, and many of the buildings erected at that time are still standing. It was one of the duties of the trustees to appoint men to superintend each department in the colony, and Mr. Swanson was assigned to the mercantile department, with which he was connected for ten years while the colony was in a flourishing condition. In 1860, after some dissension and the death of the leader, the colony dis-





SWAN SWANSON.

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solved and he embarked in merchandising on his own account in partnership with Jacob Jacobson, Sr., successfully conducting a general store until 1872. They also purchased land which was transformed into valuable farms with the assistance of others, as Mr. Swanson devoted his entire attention to his commercial interests. After twenty years of continuous business he sold his store but continues to engage in agricultural pursuits, being the owner of about three hundred acres of well-improved and highly-cultivated land in Weller township. He has been called upon to settle many estates, some of them involving much property, and this together with his own business interests have fully occupied his time.

In 1848 Mr. Swanson married Miss Christina Gabrielson, who died in 1877, leaving three sons, namely: C. Walter is a graduate of Eastman's Business College, of Poughkeepsie, New York, and is now successfully engaged in the millinery business in Galesburg. E. Linne is a graduate of the Burlington Business College, and for ten years has engaged in general merchandising in Bishop Hill. He is married and has one daughter, Evelyn S. John is a graduate of the common schools of Geneseo, and is now engaged in business with his brother Walter in Galesburg. Mr. Swanson was again married, in 1881, his second union being with Miss Kate Erickson, also a native of Sweden, by whom he has one daughter, Dorothy, who was born in 1890, and is now attending the public schools.

Mr. Swanson is public-spirited and progressive and has been a cheerful supporter of all enterprises which he believed would prove of public benefit. He gave liberally toward building the Rock Island & Peoria railroad through Bishop Hill and the estab-

lishment of a depot at that place. While engaged in merchandising he was appointed postmaster in 1854 and held that office until he sold his store in 1872. He also served as school treasurer many years; was one of the organizers of the new school; and was a trustee for almost half a century, retiring from that office in 1900. He has been a member of the village board and served as its president some time. Mr. Swanson has taken a decided interest in maintaining and promoting anything for the advancement of the community in which he lives, and is a liberal subscriber to church work, although not a member of any religious denomination. In his political views he is a Republican. He is quiet and unassuming in manner, but very popular with a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.

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#### LEWIS W. SLAUSON.

Among the citizens of Henry county whose success in life is due entirely to their own industry and business ability is Lewis W. Slauson, a prominent farmer residing on section 19, Clover township, whose birth occurred in Albany county, New York, August 1, 1838. His father, Tryanson Slauson, was born in the same county, in 1808, and there wedded Mary Tenyck, also a native of Albany county and of German ancestry. As farming people they spent their entire lives in the county of their nativity.

Lewis W. Slauson was reared on the home farm, and during his youth assisted in the cultivation of the fields during the summer months, while through the winter season he attended the public schools of the neighborhood. On leaving home in 1857,

at the age of nineteen years, he came to Illinois with his sister, arriving in Galesburg, Knox county, in November of that year. That winter he attended the district schools, and the following year worked on a farm in Knox county for thirteen dollars per month. He next engaged in farming for himself upon a rented farm, for a year, having traded for an old team of horses to carry on his work. The following season he again worked by the month, but the next year engaged in farming, and then again was in the employ of others. During the Civil war he operated rented land and in the meantime purchased eighty acres of partially improved land in Clover township, and in connection with its cultivation also engaged in farming on rented property. Selling his farm in 1869 he bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 19, Clover township, where he now resides. To the further improvement and cultivation of this place he devoted his energies and now has one of the best farms of its size in the township. He has also purchased a well improved farm of one hundred and twenty acres a mile and a half east of Woodhull. This property stands as a monument to the thrift and enterprise of the owner, whose success is entirely due to his own well-directed efforts and the assistance of his estimable wife, who has indeed proved a true helpmate to him.

In 1866 Mr. Slauson was married in Henry county to Miss Wilhelmina Houghton, a native of Vermont and a daughter of Thomas Houghton, who was one of the early settlers of this county. She was only eleven years old when she came with the family to Illinois, and at that early age acted as her father's housekeeper. To Mr. and Mrs. Slauson were born six children, but only two are now living, namely: Edith and

Caroline, both at home. Horace died at the age of twenty-two years; Solon died at the age of thirteen; Ella married F. Porter McConnell and died January 27, 1899; and one son died in infancy.

Mr. Slauson voted for Abraham Lincoln in 1860 and 1864, but later he supported the Greenback and Peoples party, and having always been a strong temperance man he is now identified with the Prohibitionists. For three years he acceptably filled the office of township assessor, and was school director for twelve years. He assisted in establishing the Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and served as one of its directors for six years. He has always taken an active interest in those enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit, and given his support to all measures which he believed for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He is a prominent member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Woodhull, in which he has passed all the chairs and is now past grand.

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#### WILLIAM S. CHARLES.

William S. Charles, deceased, was one of the prosperous and substantial farmers as well as one of the leading citizens of Burns township, his home being on section 32. He was born in London, England, November 1, 1813, and during his childhood removed with his parents to Wales, where he was reared and educated. Determined to try his fortune in the new world where he believed that better opportunities were afforded young men than in his native land, he sailed from Liverpool in 1830, and at length landed at Sandy Hook, whence he proceeded to New York City. He first lo-

cated in a small town in the Empire state, where he engaged in farming for a Quaker until 1832, and then came to Illinois. He first made his home in that part of Knox county now included in Stark county.

After living there for three years, April 18, 1835, Mr. Charles was united in marriage with Miss Esther Stoddard, a native of Goshen, Connecticut, where she was born in October, 1817, theirs being the first marriage celebrated in Stark county. They became the parents of five children, but with one exception all are now deceased. They were as follows: George, born May 14, 1840, was buried at Galva; Elizabeth, born March 3, 1842, is living in Galva; Frank, born March 8, 1845, is also buried at Galva; Rhoda, born February 28, 1848, died and is buried at Murray, Iowa; and Mary, born May 15, 1851, is buried at Galva.

For about five years after his marriage Mr. Charles was engaged in farming upon rented land, and then removed to Round Grove, purchasing eighty acres of what is now the old homestead. To this he added from time to time as his financial resources permitted until he had two hundred and eighty acres of very valuable and well-improved land. He made his home thereon throughout the remainder of his life and died July 14, 1899. His wife had passed away May 5, 1879, and both were laid to rest in the Galva cemetery. They were widely and favorably known throughout the community in which they lived and justly merited the high regard in which they were held. Mr. Charles always affiliated with the Republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, called upon him to serve as supervisor two terms, and school director for the long period of forty years, being actively engaged in upbuilding the

school interests of his district, and was an active member of the board when the first school house was built and also the present more modern structure. He was also an extensive stock raiser. He was a member of the Church of England, and led an honorable, upright life, consistent with his professions.

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#### MRS. LUCY E. HOUGHTON.

Since the spring of 1852 Mrs. Lucy E. Houghton has been a resident of Henry county, and has made her home in Woodhull for the past twelve years. She was born in Windham county, Vermont, on the 6th of December, 1825, and is a daughter of Samuel Johnson, a native of England, who came to the new world when a young man and located in the Green Mountain state, where he engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods, carrying on business at Chester for many years. There he died about 1835. He had married Miss Lucy Olcott, a native of Vermont, who survived him a number of years and reared their family.

Mrs. Houghton passed her girlhood at Chester and was educated in its schools. On the 13th of November, 1845, she gave her hand in marriage to Calvin C. Houghton, who was born and reared in Grafton, Vermont, and was engaged in business at Chester for some years. In 1850 he came to Illinois, and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in Clover township, Henry county, after which he returned to Vermont, but the following fall he again came to this county, making the journey across the country in a buggy. He erected a little shanty upon his land, and in the spring of 1852 was joined by his wife and two

children who were born in Chester, Vermont. They lived in that house for three years and then removed to Galesburg, where they made their home for the same length of time. Mr. Houghton going back and forth to manage his farm. At the end of three years he again took up his residence thereon, and to the original purchase added eighty acres. He broke, fenced and improved his land, and in its operation met with most excellent success. At length he became the owner of one thousand acres in this county, and also had nearly two thousand acres in Iowa. In connection with farming he was also extensively engaged in raising and dealing in stock, and became one of the most prosperous and wealthy citizens of his community, as well as one of its popular and influential citizens. He was public-spirited and progressive and gave his support to all enterprises calculated to promote the welfare of his township or county. He died upon his farm May 10, 1874, and the community realized that it had lost one of its valued citizens.

To Mr. and Mrs. Houghton were born eight children, namely: Curtis moved to Jefferson county, Iowa, where he married Frances Brooks and engaged in farming until his death in 1893. He left three sons, Paul, Glenn and Earl. Henry E., a prominent farmer and business man of this county, is represented on another page of this volume. Fred J., a prominent lawyer of Chadron, Nebraska, married Maggie Benn and has two children, Inez and Manley. Winifred is the wife of John Oliver, of Jefferson county, Iowa, and they have five children, Henry, Ned, Clyde, Fred and Ole. Hugh, who lives on a ranch in Oelrichs, South Dakota, married Alice Rebine and had six children: Mabel; Fred, who died at the age of

eleven years; Lucy, Jessie, Ray and Kinley. Nellie died when a young lady. Jessie died in childhood. Helen died in infancy.

After Mr. Houghton's death his son Henry took charge of the farm and Mrs. Houghton resided thereon until 1888, when she built a pleasant residence in Woodhull and has since made it her home. She is a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, and an active worker in both church and Sunday-school. She is widely known throughout the county where she has so long made her home, and is held in the highest regard by her many friends.

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#### SAMUEL WATERS ALLERTON.

One of the largest land owners in Henry county, but who makes his home in the city of Chicago, is the subject of this sketch, who traces his ancestry to Isaac Allerton, who came over in the Mayflower, in 1620. Isaac Allerton was a native of England, and was born between the years 1583 and 1585, the exact date being unknown. He resided in London for some time prior to his removal to Holland in 1609. It is generally admitted that he was the wealthiest of all the Pilgrims and is one of the few among them to whom Bradford and other contemporaneous writers always give the prefix "Mr." which in those days was used as an index of superior family or respectability. He was also one of the three upon whom the privilege of citizenship was conferred by the city of Leyden, his associates in this honor being William Bradford, afterwards Governor of the Plymouth colony, and Degory Priest, his brother-in-law. He was first married in the city of Leyden, November 4, 1611, to Mary Nor-



SAMUEL W. ALLERTON.



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ris, of Newbury, England, and at the time of the sailing of the Mayflower he had four children. His wife died February 25, 1621. In 1626, he married Fear Brewster, daughter of Elder William Brewster. She was a woman of pleasing appearance and of a pious disposition, and was the mother of Isaac Allerton, the second of that name, from whom the Allerton family is descended. She died in 1634, while his death occurred in 1659.

Samuel W. Allerton is of the ninth generation from Isaac Allerton, of whom mention has just been made. He was born at Ameniam, Dutchess county, New York, and is the son of Samuel W. and Hannah (Hurd) Allerton, the former also being a native of Ameniam, born December 5, 1875. He was united in marriage with Hannah Hurd, March 26, 1808. She was born in South Dover, Dutchess county, New York, and was the eldest daughter of Ebenezer and Rebecca (Phillips) Hurd, her father being an extensive farmer and stock dealer in Ameniam. By this union there were nine children, eight of whom were living in January, 1899, at a combined age of over six hundred and thirty years. In his early life, Samuel W. Allerton, the father of our subject, studied for the medical profession, but changing his mind, he learned the tailor's trade and became a merchant tailor, while at the same time he carried on a country store. In 1828 he was one of the promoters in building a woollen mill and establishing a factory. In consequence of the reduction of the tariff in 1833, nearly all the manufacturing in New England were ruined, and Mr. Allerton lost nearly all his fortune. In 1837 he came west to Iowa, with the hope of building up his ruined fortune, but was taken sick and returned to his eastern home. In 1842 he removed to Yates county, New

York, where he rented a farm, and in 1848 bought a farm in Wayne county, in the same state, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was a man of sterling integrity, was a Universalist in his religious belief, and lived to the ripe old age of ninety-nine years and eight months.

Samuel Waters Allerton, our subject, was but seven years of age when his father failed in business, at which time he received an impression which has influenced his noble life. While the sheriff was selling his father's property, his mother shed tears when two horses which had been highly prized were sold. Putting his arms around his mother's neck he told her that he would be a man and provide for her. In after life he kept his promise. He was the youngest of the nine children, and lived at Ameniam until he was fourteen years of age, but commenced to work for himself when he was twelve years old. In 1842 he went to Yates county with his parents, and remained with them until they had saved enough money to buy the farm in Wayne county. With his brother Henry, he then rented a farm and made fifteen hundred dollars, which they invested in a farm in Wayne county, leaving still three thousand dollars unpaid.

Renting another farm, Mr. Allerton began its cultivation, and at the end of three years had saved up thirty-two hundred dollars. He then went to Newark, where he worked with his brothers on their farm, and traded in a small way in live stock, in Wayne county. On his return from Albany and New York, where he had gone with some stock, he said to his brother Henry: "I believe I know as much as the dealers I met, and as we now have the farm paid for and three thousand dollars in money, I will settle with you, you taking the farm, and I tak-

ing the money." His brother replied: "If you continue as you are, in a few years you will own the best farm in this country; but if you wish to try the live stock trade, all right. We will settle on this basis. This is all the advice I have to give you. You will run across smart and tricky men, but they always die poor. Make a name and character for yourself, and you are sure to win."

The first hundred cattle Samuel bought after dissolving partnership with his brother, he sold in New York at a loss of seven hundred dollars. This made him sick, but calling on an elderly uncle who had made a success in life, he was told by his uncle, "My boy, you are pretty sick, but don't lose your courage. I never found but one dead sure thing, and that was hoeing corn at fifty cents a day. If you make money, you must sometimes lose it. Try it over."

About this time women had burned a number of bridges on the Erie railroad because the trains would not stop for dinner. Going to Erie, Mr. Allerton purchased one hundred head of cattle which he shipped to to New York over the Erie railroad, and which on account of the burned bridges had to be unloaded and driven to Dunkirk, where they were re-shipped. On his arrival he found the market short on cattle, and his venture netted him three thousand dollars, which gave him new courage. He then drifted west and for one year fed and raised cattle in Fulton county, Illinois. The financial panic which swept over the country at this time wiped out about all the capital he had, and becoming ill, he concluded that he could not stand the western climate. Returning east, he bought an interest in a store with his brother in Newark, New York, and for a short time engaged in the mercantile

business. Selling goods, however, was not agreeable to him, as he desired to deal on a larger scale.

While residing in Illinois, he had met a daughter of Astor C. Thompson, of Fulton county, that state. Having regained his health, he sold his interest in the store, and gathering together what money he had left, and borrowing five thousand dollars, he again came west, the young lady in Fulton county being the principal attraction. On his arrival there he traded a little, but in March, 1860, he went to Chicago, which has since continued to be his home. On the 1st of July, 1860, he was united in marriage with Miss Pamilla M. Thompson, at Peoria, Illinois, and with his young bride returned to Chicago, "where the world turned around every twenty-four hours," and which was the proper place in which to trade.

On coming to Chicago, Mr. Allerton commenced to buy and sell live stock in a small way, there being then no general market in the city, except for a short time during the winter. Shippers generally took their live stock to the eastern markets. About this time there was a decided break in the Chicago market, and Mr. Allerton desired to buy, but having formed no connection with any bank here, the question was how to get money. Among his few acquaintances in Chicago was a man by the name of Tobey, whom he asked to take him to a bank and identify him. Mr. Tobey was willing to do this, but he said that he could not guarantee anything. He was assured by Mr. Allerton that he only wished to be identified, and that he would arrange the balance. He was taken to the bank of George Smith, and on being introduced, said to Mr. Willard, "If I will pay for three telegrams, one to Halstead, Chamberlain & Co., asking if they will

pay my draft; one to your own correspondent, to ascertain if Halstead, Chamberlain & Co. are all right; and one to my own bank to assure you that I am all right, can I come down to-morrow and sell you a sight draft?" He replied "Yes." Mr. Allerton went back to the stock yards and bought all the hogs in the market, and went down with a draft for eighty thousand dollars, asking Mr. Willard if he had received replies to his telegrams. His answer was that he had, and that the replies were favorable. Mr. Allerton handed him the draft, and was told that they could not discount so large a draft on telegrams, and that he had supposed that he would not want more than five thousand dollars. Mr. Allerton said, "You know Mr. Tobey, and you certainly do not think that he would introduce a thief to you."

Mr. Willard, however, would not discount the draft, and Mr. Allerton found himself in a position where he must have money, but what to do he did not know. Leaving the bank, he accidentally met a man from Syracuse, New York, and asked him if he was acquainted with any banks in Chicago, and was told that he knew Aikens & Norton. He was taken to them and introduced. Mr. Aiken looked over the telegrams and signified his willingness to comply with Mr. Allerton's request, but that he would have to charge one per cent. for the use of the money. In this way Mr. Allerton became a customer of Aikens & Norton. The Civil war broke out and the nation needed money. Congress passed the National Bank Act, issuing bonds to secure the circulation. This was regarded by Mr. Allerton as a step in the right direction toward a national currency, as the nation had never had anything but "red dog" and "bob-tailed" currency. To start a national bank would aid the government and give the people an uniform cur-

rency, but for some reason the people seemed slow to start National banks. Mr. Allerton asked Mr. Aikens why he did not start one, and was answered, "because he feared he could not get the stock taken." Mr. Allerton said that he, with five other men, would take ten thousand dollars each. In this way the First National Bank of Chicago, one of the strongest financial institutions in the country, was started.

By his union with Pamilla W. Thompson, two children were born. Kate Bennett, born June 10, 1863, married Dr. Francis Sydney Papin, October 14, 1885, and after his death she married Hugo R. Johnson. Robert Henry, born March 20, 1873. The mother of these children died, and Mr. Allerton later married her sister, Agnes C. Thompson, the marriage ceremony being solemnized March 15, 1882. They now reside in a beautiful home on Prairie avenue, Chicago.

Mr. Allerton has been a very successful business man and is well known throughout the state and nation. He wrote the first letter published in the Chicago Tribune in favor of organizing the Union Stock Yards, so as to bring all buyers and sellers together, which has made it the greatest live stock market in the world, and also made Chicago a money center. He always had the desire to own a farm, when he succeeded in accumulating enough money. His desire has certainly been gratified, and he is to-day one of the largest farmers in the country who cultivates his own land, cultivating about forty thousand acres in the very best manner. He is said to have a hobby for purchasing poorly productive lands, and by cultivation "makes them blossom as a rose." He has large interests in ranches and gold mines, and has lands in Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania

and New York, and has always been interested in the live stock trade, and continues to ship live stock to New York and England.

Mr. Allerton received his early political education from Henry Clay and Horace Greeley, and has always been a strong believer in a protective tariff and free schools. He remembers that in the campaign of 1844, when Henry Clay was a candidate for the presidency, the issue was, "Shall we put a tariff on iron and inaugurate free schools?" The Democrats said that "a tariff would build up home monopolies and free schools would be a burden and a tax on the people." Clay replied, "Give the people free schools so as to increase their intelligence, their energy and industry, and home competition would reduce the price of iron." It was then one hundred dollars a ton. Remembering the words of Henry Clay, and believing the free school system has made this great nation. Mr. Allerton, by giving the land, has had school houses built on each of his farms. Since the organization of the party, he has been a stalwart Republican and has been mentioned and his election advocated by some of the best newspapers and best citizens of the state for the high office of United States Senator. That he would honor the office and the people of the state, goes without question. He once ran for mayor of Chicago in the interest of civil service, with no pledges to any one. His desire was to give the city an honest, clean administration. The office would have been no honor to him but he would have honored the office. It was his intention to employ the best engineers in the country to settle the vexed question of engineering, and in all departments of the city government to put the right man in the right place, irrespective of politics. He carried the north division of the city, and

the other intelligent wards, but was beaten by a sharp political trick of his opponent.

Mr. Allerton believes that all men should try to lead a successful life. This he owes to himself, his friends and his people. He believes that young men to-day have a better opportunities for advancement than when he was a boy, and that they have better teachers and better schools. Labor is higher and the necessities of life are cheaper, and therefore the opportunities are much greater for success. His life is certainly an object lesson for the young men of to-day, and he certainly deserves all the honor which he receives.

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#### MILTON TRICKLE.

This worthy citizen of Atkinson township, whose home is on section 27, was one of the boys in blue who fought so valiantly for the preservation of the Union during the dark days of the Rebellion. A native of Illinois, he was born in Stark county, June 11, 1839, and throughout life has been actively identified with the interests of this section of the state, his name being inseparably connected with agricultural affairs.

Edward Trickle, the father of our subject, was born in Anne Arundel county, Maryland, June 12, 1807, and belonged to an old and honored family of that state which was of Scotch origin. About 1812 the grandfather, Christopher Trickle, removed with his family to Ohio, where he died, his remains being interred in a fort with the soldiers. Edward Trickle grew to manhood in Ashland county, Ohio, and there married Rebecca Miller, a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania. Her father was also a pioneer of Ashland county, Ohio.

In 1836 the family came to Illinois, and remained on Spoon river in Peoria county, one winter, where the father made a living by hunting. In 1838 he located on the prairie in Stark county, where from a tract of wild land he developed a good farm. He became the owner of a large amount of land in different places, aggregating about eight hundred acres. He had quarter-sections on sections 27, 28, 33 and 34, Atkinson township, Henry county, including two hundred acres of land where our subject now resides. He continued his residence in Stark county, however, throughout life, and died on the old homestead May 20, 1897, when nearly ninety years of age. His wife departed this life in December, 1889. In the family of this worthy couple were four sons and five daughters, all of whom reached man and womanhood, and with the exception of one daughter and one son all still survive.

On the old homestead in Stark county Milton Trickle passed the days of his boyhood and youth in much the manner of farmer boys in a frontier settlement, aiding in the arduous task of transforming the wild land into rich and productive fields, while he attended the common schools of the neighborhood. His early education was supplemented by one winter's attendance at the seminary in Toulon. Feeling that his country needed his services, he enlisted in 1862, in Company F, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Ohio, and later transferred to the Army of the Tennessee, under command of General Sherman. His company was commanded by Captain Henderson, who later became colonel of the regiment. Mr. Trickle participated in the battles of Philadelphia, Tennessee, and Campbell's Station, the siege of Knoxville, and the

engagements at Bean Station, Kelley's Ford and Fair Garden, besides many skirmishes. Later he was in the battle of Buzzard's Roost, and then joined Sherman's command in the Atlanta campaign. He took part in the severe battle at Resaca, Georgia, and was under fire almost every day for some time. For a few weeks he was confined in the hospital on account of illness, and on his recovery rejoined his regiment in North Carolina, and under command of General Schofield went to Greensboro, that state, where the regiment remained until the close of the war. There Mr. Trickle was mustered out, and was honorably discharged at Chicago, June 22, 1865.

Returning to Stark county, he lived with his father until his marriage, March 11, 1866, when Miss Druzilla Shivers became his wife. She was born and reared in Ohio, and is a daughter of Hopkin Shivers. To our subject and his wife were born four children, namely: Ruby G. is the wife of George Taylor, of Toulon, by whom she has one child, Norris; Jean Edward, who took a three years' course at the naval academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and is now serving as assistant postmaster of Easton, Maryland, is married and has a daughter, Aneta; Florence E. is at home with her parents; and Onaway Earl is a telegraph operator in Nebraska.

Soon after his marriage Mr. Trickle located upon his present farm, and at once began its improvement and cultivation. He has erected thereon a good set of farm buildings, including a very comfortable residence. His fine farm consists of two hundred acres adjoining the corporate limits of the village of Atkinson and is one of the most desirable places of its size in the township. He continued to actively engage in farming and



stock raising until 1895, when he rented his land and has since lived retired, though he still lives upon his farm and attends to keeping the things about the place.

Since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, Mr. Trickle has affiliated with the Republican party, but has never cared for political honors. He has, however, efficiently served as road commissioner, school trustee and school director, and has been a delegate to county and congressional conventions of his party. He is an honored member of the Grand Army post at Annawan, and at one time held membership with the Modern Woodmen of America. Having been a resident of this section of the state for over sixty-one years, Mr. Trickle has seen almost its entire development. He well remembers when large herds of deer were often seen, and other wild game was plenty; when there were no railroads, telegraphs or telephones; and when nearly all the land was still in its primitive condition. In the work of development and progress he has ever borne his part, and is accounted one of the most useful and valued citizens of his community.

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#### HON. THOMAS NOWERS.

Probably no man in Henry county is more widely known or occupies a more prominent position in business circles than Hon. Thomas Nowers, chairman of the county board of supervisors and president of the Bank of Atkinson. A native of New York, he was born in Oneida county, February 12, 1834, and is a son of Thomas and Decima (Foster) Nowers, both of whom were natives of England, though they were married in New York state.

In early life the father learned the dry-goods business, which he followed continuously until his emigration to America, receiving no holidays. It was in 1830 that he crossed the Atlantic on a sailing vessel, landing in New York after ten weeks spent upon the water. After a short time spent in that city he went to Oneida county, where he engaged in farming and also operated a sawmill, shipping his products to Albany by canal boat. Coming west in 1849, he first located in Mercer county, Illinois, which was then but sparsely settled, and there he followed farming for two years. He next conducted a tavern in Moline for the same length of time, it being known as the Moline House. The old building is still standing. Mr. Nowers made his home in that city until coming to Henry county in 1856, when he located on a farm a mile and a half east of where the village of Atkinson now stands, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1862. He then removed to the village and turned his attention to the grain, lumber and mercantile business, which he continued to carry on until his retirement from active business on the 1st of January, 1866. He was every ready to aid any worthy enterprise for the good of his community, and the poor and needy always found in him a friend. For several years he efficiently served as supervisor of Atkinson township, and held the office of highway commissioner for fifteen years. He was born in Kent county, England, August 24, 1805, and died May 26, 1888, while his wife was born October 26, 1807, and died March 22, 1875.

Unto this worthy couple were born nine children, of whom two died in infancy, the others being as follows: Thomas is the oldest of the family. John F. is engaged in business as a partner of our subject. Will-



iam first married Helen Scott and after her death wedded Elizabeth Roberts and is engaged in farming in Atkinson township. Elizabeth is the wife of H. L. Lyon, who is engaged in general mercantile and lumber business in Atkinson, occupying the store built by our subject and his brother in the fall of 1865. Mary is the wife of Richard Walters and a resident of Atkinson. Louisa is the wife of William A. Mussey, a grain dealer of Atkinson. James was formerly engaged in farming in Cornwall township, but is now living retired in Atkinson.

The subject of this sketch received but a limited education in the district schools of Vienna, Oneida county, New York, but has gained a good practical knowledge by reading and observation in later years. At the age of fifteen he began his business career as a farm laborer, and after coming to Illinois aided his father in the cultivation of his farm in Mercer county. While a resident of Moline he had charge of the livery stable which his father conducted in connection with his tavern. In 1856 he rented a farm with his father in Atkinson township, this county, but after spending one summer here he returned to Moline in the fall and accepted a position as traveling collector for a manufacturer, his territory covering twenty-six counties in Iowa. Three days was the longest he was out of the saddle for six months, doing all his traveling on horseback. He remained in that employ for one year, and would often be on the road for three or four weeks at a time, carrying all the currency collected by him on his person. Later he was with the McCormick Reaper Company as agent and canvassed Henry, Mercer and Rock Island counties, Illinois. After three years spent with that firm he was taken into the office, where as

accountant and bookkeeper he remained the same length of time.

Returning to Atkinson in 1863, Mr. Nowers entered into business with his father, remaining with him until the latter's retirement, when his brother, John F., and brother-in-law, H. L. Lyon, purchased the father's interest. Business was conducted under the firm name of Nowers Brothers when our subject and his brother sold out to Lyon & Ransom, who still carry on the store. In connection with general mercantile business the brothers had also engaged in the implement and lumber business, and have conducted a general banking business since the 1st of April, 1881. As dealers in live stock they have done an extensive business since 1864 and have shipped as high as one hundred and fifty carloads a year and now average seventy-five carloads. Our subject was one of the organizers of the Farmers National Bank of Geneseo, of which he was a director for ten years. Besides his property in Atkinson he owns a farm of eighty acres adjoining the village, and also owns another eighty-acre tract elsewhere in Atkinson township.

In his political affiliations he is a staunch Republican and has taken a very prominent part in public affairs. Soon after attaining his majority he was elected township clerk in Rock Island county, and in 1866 was elected supervisor of Atkinson township, this county, which office he has now most creditably filled for twenty-five years. He was a member of the building committee when the court house was erected, and as chairman of the board he appointed the committee to erect the soldiers' monument at Cambridge, which was completed at a cost of eight thousand dollars and is a credit to the county. He was chairman of the finance

committee for a number of years, and for the past five years has been chairman of the board. He has been a delegate to state and county conventions of his party, and in 1883 was elected to the state legislature. So acceptably did he fill that position that he was re-elected in 1885, and while a member of the assembly he served on the following committees: township and county organizations, banking, claims and militia. One year he was a member of the committee on state charitable institutions and took a very active part in its work. During that time about five hundred thousand dollars were expended on enterprises. He was one of the five members of the house who had in charge the bill, which was afterward taken up by Governor Fifer, then in the senate and two other senators, appropriating four hundred thousand dollars for the erection of the insane hospital at Kankakee, which is to-day one of the best institutions in the state. While in the legislature Mr. Nowers took an active part in the passage of the high license bill, and was also instrumental in passing the general election law now in force. His public and his private life are alike above reproach, for his career has ever been one characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty, and he receives and merits the high regard of the entire community.

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#### PAUL L. JOHNSON.

Prominent among the successful business men of Bishop Hill is this well-known hardware merchant, who was born at that place, June 22, 1861, and is a son of John B. Johnson, one of the colonists, who settled here in 1850 after a long and tedious journey of three months' duration. The father was a native of Sweden and there he

was first married, but his wife and five children died while on their way to join the colony at Bishop Hill. The only surviving child was Catherine, who married Jonas Olson, who died November 18, 1898, aged ninety-six. She resides in Bishop Hill. On his arrival here Mr. Johnson followed his trade of wagon making until the colony disbanded in 1860, when he commenced farming upon the land which fell to his lot, and to which he added until at the time of his death he owned a fine farm of two hundred and forty acres in Weller township, which was improved by him. He was a man of powerful build and was recognized as the giant of the colony. Religiously he was of the Second Adventist faith, and politically was a Republican. He was interested in maintaining good schools in his district, and efficiently served as school director. After an active, busy and useful life he passed away in 1891, at the age of seventy-seven years, honored and respected by all who knew him. In the colony he married Miss Britta Jonsdotter, who was also born in Sweden, in 1827, and came with the colonists to this country in 1850. By this union were born three sons and six daughters, of whom one daughter died in infancy. The others are John E., a farmer of Weller township; Olof W., who lives on the old home place in the same township; Paul L., our subject; Matilda, wife of John Nordstrom of Weller township; Olive M. who lives on the home farm with her mother and brother; Pauline, wife of Jonas Bergren, of Weller township; Emma C., wife of Jonas Linfors of the same township; and Lottie B., wife of Peter G. Gergien, of Weller township.

During boyhood Paul L. Johnson attended the common school near his home,

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MRS. P. L. JOHNSON.

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and also took up higher mathematics and bookkeeping under private instruction, thus well fitting himself for a business career. He remained at home assisting his father in the labors of the farm until he was married in 1882, to Miss Amanda Johnson, who died July 28, 1887, leaving three sons, Roswell M., Clarence R. and LeRoy, who have since found homes with relatives. Mr. Johnson was again married, December 24, 1890, his second union being with Miss Emma A. Olson, who was born in Bishop Hill, May 19, 1868, and was a student of the Galva high school, after which she engaged in teaching in the township and village schools. Her father, Olof Olson, one of the colonists, is still living in Weller township. His other children are Jennie V., wife of E. L. Swanson, postmaster at Bishop Hill, and Henry G., at home.

After his first marriage Mr. Johnson engaged in farming for himself until his first wife died, when he removed to Bishop Hill and opened a repair and blacksmith shop. Seeing the needs of the people he increased his business, and now carries a full line of shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, ranges, farm machinery, wagons, buggies, pumps, etc., his stock being valued at four thousand dollars, while his annual business amounts to ten thousand. He purchased a lot and erected thereon the building which he now occupies. To his own diligence, enterprise, and good management is due his success in life.

In politics Mr. Johnson has always been associated with the independent party; has been a delegate to several county conventions, and in 1888 was a delegate to the national convention of the People's party at Cincinnati. Two years later he was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for county

clerk, and was defeated by the Republican candidate, who had a majority of four hundred and fifteen votes, while the county usually has a two thousand Republican majority. For several years he was trustee of the village and is now president of the board, which office he has held for two years. He also served as town clerk two years. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Good Templars, of which he was chief templar for three years; and also belongs to the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 1042, of which he is venerable consul, and has been a member of the board of managers. Mr. Johnson assisted in incorporating what is known as the Voluntary Donative Society in 1880, with a capital of twelve hundred dollars. The principal now amounts to about fifteen thousand dollars in notes and farm property, all of which has been obtained by donations, it being the object of the society to support the poor of Bishop Hill and Weller township. Its officers are C. G. Falk, president; Martin Johnson, vice-president; John Soderquist, treasurer; and Paul L. Johnson, secretary. They have already done an excellent work. Our subject is also president of the Bishop Hill Telephone Company, a local organization. For seventeen years he was a correspondent of the local papers, and has also made contributions to a number of city papers. He is one of the most intelligent and best informed citizens of his community, and is quite popular both in business and social circles.

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#### WILLIAM LANDWEHR.

Among the most popular and influential citizens of the northeastern part of Henry county is William Landwehr, one of the



leading business men of Hooppole. A native of Illinois, he was born near Wheeling, Cook county, January 23, 1854, and is a son of Diedrick and Louisa (Nelker) Landwehr, both natives of Germany, the former born in Hanover, July 5, 1820, the latter near Bremen, May 1, 1824. On coming to America in 1840, the father first located in Syracuse, New York, but after spending a short time in that city he removed to Wheeling, Illinois, after remaining a short time in Chicago. Later he lived in Des Plaines, Cook county, until coming to Henry county, in 1861, when he took up his residence on section 33, Yorktown township. Five years later he removed to section 32, and upon his farm erected the best house in the township. He successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits and was an extensive breeder of cattle and hogs. He was a member of the German Evangelical Church and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His death occurred on his farm in section 32, Yorktown township, January 27, 1886, and his wife died November 5, 1893. Their children were Margaret, wife of George Berge, of Tampico, Illinois; Mary, wife of George Arnold, of Missouri; William, our subject; and Frederick, who married Emma Shears and also lives in Tampico.

William Landwehr spent the days of his boyhood and youth in Cook and Henry counties, and remained with his father until the latter's death, when he took charge of the homestead farm, consisting of three hundred and thirty-three and a half acres on sections 32 and 33, Yorktown township, and sections 2 and 4, Alba township. In connection with its operation he also extensively engaged in buying and feeding stock for market, usually keeping on hand

over one hundred head of cattle. Although he still manages the farm he removed to Hooppole in 1897, and is now engaged in business as a dealer in wagons, buggies and farm implements. He is local agent for the Deering Harvester Company and the Moline Plow Company, and in this new venture he is meeting with good success. Besides his valuable farm he owns a splendid home and two other large lots in Hooppole.

On the 7th of December, 1879, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Landwehr and Miss Mary Ann Countryman, and they became the parents of two children, namely: Edward, who was born February 15, 1885, and died May 2, 1896; and Horace A., born July 15, 1896. Abraham Countryman, the father of Mrs. Landwehr, was born in Little Falls, Herkimer county, New York, November 30, 1830, and was the eldest son of Henry and Catherine (Doestader) Countryman, also natives of the Empire state. At the age of fourteen he came with his parents to Illinois, by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo and the Great Lakes to Chicago, and settled in Wheeling, Cook county, being among the pioneers of that region, where the father rented land and engaged in farming. On leaving home at the age of nineteen Abraham Countryman commenced learning the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and after three months' apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman for six months. At the end of that time he began taking contracts, and carried on business for himself as a builder until 1867, when he took possession of eighty acres of land on sections 19 and 20, Yorktown township, Henry county, which he had purchased in 1854. He made all of the improvements upon the place and placed the land under a high state of cultivation. Subsequently he bought more land adjoining

until he had one hundred and sixty acres besides property in Hoopole. Politically he was a lifelong Republican. He was married, May 5, 1855, to Magdalena Miller, a native of Bavaria, Germany, and to them were born six children: Mary A., wife of William Landwehr; Frank W., who married Katie Winterman, of Wisconsin, and resides in Greene county, Iowa; Edward, who married Lottie Goemmel and lives in Hoopole; William, who married Sylvia Goemmel and makes his home in Yorktown township, on the old homestead; Adley, who died at the age of eight years; and George, professor in a business college at Dallas, Oregon.

Mr. Landwehr is one of the trustees of the United English Evangelical Church of Hoopole. As a Republican he takes quite an active interest in local politics, and gives a cheerful support to all enterprises tending to advance the welfare of the community in which he resides. He is a very liberal man, giving much to charitable objects, and is one of the most popular and highly esteemed citizens of Yorktown township. Of unquestioned integrity, his word is considered as good as his bond, and he has the confidence of all who know him.

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### JOHN C. CARLSON.

For forty years John C. Carlson was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Osco township, Henry county, and having acquired a comfortable competence, he is now living a retired life in Aurora, Illinois. Like many of our best citizens he is a native of Sweden, born February 1, 1829, and there grew to manhood. He assisted his father in the work of the

home farm until he attained his majority, and then commenced working by the month as a laborer, being thus employed for about two years. He next rented land and engaged in farming on his own account. His parents both died in Sweden, in which country his sister, Mrs. Hattie Fritof, is still living. Another sister, Mrs. Carrie Weiberg, came to America and is now a resident of Nebraska. She has five children, who were assisted in obtaining an education by our subject, these being Charles, a prominent attorney of Peoria; Eric, general ticket agent for a railroad company at that place; Edgar, timekeeper for the Rock Island & Peoria railroad, with home at Peoria; John, who owns about four hundred acres of land in Jackson county, Nebraska, where he is now serving as supervisor; and Carrie, who is now Mrs. Frederickson of Nebraska, with whom his mother lives. Mr. Carlson is one of the most liberal and generous of men, and has always assisted his relatives to the best of his ability until they could secure a start for themselves. His nephew, Albert Peterson, was educated by him at Davenport College, and made his home with our subject for nine years. He is now one of the well-known men of Andover township, this county.

Wishing to better his condition in life, Mr. Carlson came to the United States in 1860 without capital and unable to speak the English language. For a year he worked as a farm laborer at nine dollars per month, in this country, during which time he became familiar with the customs of the country. Subsequently his wages were increased, and he was finally able to rent a small farm, which he operated with good success for three years. He then purchased a tract of forty acres, which he improved, and as fast

as his financial resources permitted he added to his acreage. For his first purchase he paid fourteen dollars and a half per acre, and for the last seventy-five dollars per acre. He now has a well-improved farm of two hundred acres in Osco township. In his labors Mr. Carlson has met with most excellent success, and although a hard working man he has believed in enjoying life as he went along. He has always been willing to assist any deserving person and has gained an enviable reputation among his many friends and acquaintances in his neighborhood. When he purchased his farm it was raw prairie, but he erected thereon good, modern buildings, planted trees, and otherwise beautified the place, until he now has one of the best-improved farms in Osco township. In connection with general farming he always engaged in stock raising.

Before leaving Sweden Mr. Carlson was married, in 1851, to Miss Annie Anderson, by whom he had one child, who died at the age of five years. The wife died March 28, 1899, on the home place which she had helped to build up. She was seventy-nine years of age at the time of her death, and was a consistent and faithful member of the Swedish Lutheran Church, of Andover, to which Mr. Carlson also belongs, and of which he has always been a liberal supporter. His name is a synonym for generosity and benevolence, and is one of the men who are a benefit to any community. An extensive traveler, he has visited all through the north and west as far south as the Mexican border of Texas.

Besides his property in Henry county, Mr. Carlson has made investments in real estate in Morgan Park, Chicago. Politically he is a stanch Republican, and has

worked untiringly for his party, although he has never aspired to office. Since 1884 he has practically lived retired upon his farm in Osco township, while he has rented the land, and in 1900 moved to Aurora, where he expects to spend his remaining days in ease and comfort, enjoying a well-earned rest. His has been a useful and honorable career and he can well afford to lay aside all business cares. Few men are better known in the community where he has so long resided, and he is held in high regard by all.

In Aurora, Mr. Carlson makes his home with Mrs. Alma Ahmgreen, who was born in Sweden, November 23, 1866, and there received a good education in the languages, also taking a thorough business course. With a sister she came to America in 1887, and the following year married Charles Ahmgreen, now deceased, who was a mechanic of Chicago. Her son, Archer, born in 1889, has made a trip to Sweden to visit his grandparents, who are well-to-do people of that country. She has two sisters: Beda, wife of Albert Shultz, who is foreman machinist of the Automatic Machine Company of Aurora; Edith, an employe in the department store of Scott & Pease of the same place; and one brother, Temer, who is also with the Automatic Machine Company.

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#### JOHN LEVI JENNINGS.

This well-known and prominent farmer of Burns township, and an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born on Christmas day, 1840, at Sheppardstown, Virginia, while his mother was there on a visit, his parents being Levi and Susan H. (Sheppard) Jen-



J. L. JENNINGS.

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nings, natives of Virginia and Ohio, respectively. They removed to Illinois about 1834 and first located in Peoria county, but in 1850 came to Henry county. The father first purchased five hundred and twenty acres of land in Cambridge township, consisting of the east half of section 12; the east half of the east half of the southwest quarter of section 12; and the northeast quarter of section 13. It was all under fence with exception of the northeast quarter of section 12, and upon this place he made his homestead; later he bought section 1 of Cambridge township; one hundred and twenty acres on section 13, consisting of the east half of the northwest quarter and the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter; and also bought two hundred acres on sections 8 and 9, including various timber tracts. Much of this was government land. Mr. Jennings also purchased the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6, Burns township; all of section 7 with exception of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter; the west half of the northeast quarter, the north half of the southeast quarter, and the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 18, Burns township; the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 17, the same township; and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 13, Cambridge township. To this property his widow afterward added two hundred acres. At one time Mr. Jennings owned several thousand acres in Peoria and Iroquois counties, but sold most of this before coming to Henry county. About 1854 or 1855 he went to Cass county, Iowa, and purchased ten thousand acres of land. He broke and improved a large amount of land in Henry county, Illinois, and was one of its most prosperous agriculturists, as well as one of its honored pioneers and highly

esteemed citizens. At the time of his death he owned probably twelve thousand acres of land in Iowa and Illinois. When our subject was six years old his father was thrown from a wagon and seriously injured. In a will made at that time he requested that all of his real estate be sold before his son attained his majority, and when the land was finally sold in the fall of 1861 it was disposed of at a great sacrifice. The father, however, recovered from the injuries above referred to and lived to be sixty-five years of age, dying on the 28th of December, 1859 at Henderson, Minnesota. He was a man of broad and liberal views and was a great reader. He not only had a large library for his own use, but kept a free library for the benefit of the people of his community. His wife died on the 1st of February, 1888.

Unto this worthy couple were born four children, of whom John L. is the third, the others being as follows: Ann V., born in Illinois, in 1836, married James Bush, a native of Ohio, who is now engaged in farming in Adair county, Iowa; Mary Jane, born in Peoria county, Illinois, is now the wife of N. B. Gould, president of the First National Bank of Cambridge; and Ella, born in Henry county, who died at the age of four years.

John L. Jennings spent the first nine years of his life in Peoria county, Illinois, and began his education under the direction of a private tutor. He then accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, and here attended the public schools near his boyhood home, but completed his education at Lombard University, in Galesburg, where he was a student for two years. In the fall of 1859 he went with his father on a trip through the north, and while at Henderson, Minnesota, the father died.

Mr. Jennings remained with his mother

until his first marriage in 1860 to Miss Mary Jane Collins. In 1867 he wedded Miss Mary Jane Beck. Mr. Jennings has two sons, John L., Jr., born July 7, 1871; and Roy F., born September 28, 1874. The latter is now married and has two children, William B. and Daisy J. For his third wife Mr. Jennings married Miss Sarah E. Pratt, their marriage being celebrated January 28, 1875.

When the country became involved in Civil war Mr. Jennings laid aside all personal interests and entered the service, enlisting August 15, 1862, in Company H, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as color sergeant of the regiment, which was assigned to the Army of the Ohio. He participated in the engagements at Monticello, Kentucky; Calhoun, Philadelphia, Campbell Station, Knoxville, Bean Station, Dandridge and Kelley's Ford, Tennessee; Resaca, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Utoy Creek, Rough and Ready, Jonesboro, and Atlanta, Georgia; Columbia, Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee; and Fort Anderson, Town Creek and Wilmington, North Carolina. Mr. Jennings was in twenty-three general engagements and about one hundred skirmishes. In the East Tennessee campaign he was under the command of General A. E. Burnside; under General Sherman in the Atlanta campaign of the fall and winter of 1864; and Major General Schofield in the North Carolina campaign of the spring of 1865. He was wounded in the battles of Knoxville, Utoy Creek, Franklin and Resaca, and at Franklin was left on the battlefield for dead. When the war was over and his services were no longer needed, he was mustered out at Greensboro, North Carolina, June 20, 1865, and discharged at Chicago.

After almost three years of arduous

and faithful service in the south, Mr. Jennings returned to his home in Burns township, where prior to entering the army he had begun to build the first fine house in the township. It is still one of the best, having double walls, while the doors and finishings are of a very superior quality, being from two to four inches in thickness. His fine farm consists of the west half of section 7, and he has made most of the improvements found thereon. One of its chief attractions is a large grove which he planted, there being not a shrub upon the place in the spring of 1866. In connection with his farming operations Mr. Jennings has successfully engaged in stock raising, having for many years kept a fine herd of short horn cattle and Berkshire hogs. For ten years he was also a traveling salesman for the Western Wheelscraper Company of Aurora.

Mr. Jennings is absolutely independent in politics. He is one of the representative citizens of his community who is as true to his duties of citizenship in days of peace as in time of war, and as a whole-souled, genial gentleman he makes many friends. Throughout life he has made a special study of geology and is recognized as a geologist in the International Scientific Directory. He now has over five hundred labeled specimens of minerals, fossils, etc., and also owns a fine private library containing the works of the best authors. He is a writer of considerable ability, and has contributed many able articles to the press both along the lines of road work and fiction. His writings, however, have been principally on economic subjects for county and city papers, and have met with favorable comment, showing conclusively that he thoroughly understands the topic of which he treats. He has visited



nearly every state lying between New England and the Rocky Mountains, including Canada and Manitoba, and consequently is somewhat of a traveler.

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### JOHN E. ODEMAN.

Among the leading business men and prominent citizens of Annawan, Illinois, is John E. Odeman, a blacksmith and wagon-maker, who was born in the city of Borros, Orsos, Sweden, October 16, 1854. His father, Emanuel Hanson, was a native of the same place, his birth occurring there July 15, 1812. By occupation he was a farmer. On the 17th of November, 1843, he married Lovisa Peterson, who was born in Frolunda, Sweden, August 10, 1817, and died April 27, 1882, while he passed away October 13, 1884. They never came to the new world. In their family were eight children, namely: Ingolissa, born December 6, 1843, died January 15, 1844; Emma Laurentine, born December 6, 1844, died October 9, 1855; John Aaron, born October 27, 1847, died April 28, 1848; John Aaron (second), born July 31, 1849, died October 19, 1854; Johannah Louisa, born October 22, 1851, died October 8, 1854; John Erick, our subject, is next in order of birth; Ida Amanda, born June 11, 1857, died September 27, 1857; and Andrew Peter, born March 8, 1859, died April 4, 1864.

John E. Odeman, the only survivor of this family, passed his boyhood and youth in the land of his birth, and on completing his literary education served a three years' apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade in Guttenburg, Sweden, at the end of which time he was ranked as a journeyman me-

chanic. With the hope of benefiting his financial condition he emigrated to America at the age of twenty-five years, landing in New York on Thanksgiving day, November 6, 1879. After spending three months working at his trade in New Britain, Connecticut, he came to Annawan, Illinois, in the spring of 1880, and found employment as a journeyman blacksmith with Joseph A. Hilding, for whom he worked six years. At the end of that period he bought out his employer, who returned to Sweden, and has since conducted business at his present location. He does all kinds of high class work, and also handled farm machinery, implements, buggies, wagons, etc., until 1898.

On the 6th of November, 1885, Mr. Odeman led to the marriage altar Miss Carolina Winblad, who was born in Kalva, Elfsburg, province of Guttenburg, Sweden, December 12, 1853, and is one of a family of seven children. Her parents, Andrew and Catherine (Everson) Neilson, both died when she was very young. The father was born November 11, 1802, died May 1, 1858; the mother was born December 28, 1810, and died December 21, 1853. Two of her brothers came to America: John M., born March 21, 1840, died October 12, 1896; and Nicholas Winblad. The latter is now engaged in the tailoring business in Chicago. He was born October 10, 1837. The other members of the family were Joseph, born July 24, 1835, a resident of Halsted, Sweden; Carl J., born March 13, 1842, who died in that country April 19, 1845; Anna Maria, born December 9, 1844, a resident of Halsenberg, Sweden; and Johannah, born February 11, 1849, who died in Stockholm. Mrs. Odeman came to America October 6, 1885, and has since made her home in Annawan, Illinois. Three

children blessed the union of our subject and his wife: Agnes Elvera, born August 13, 1886; Carl Leonard, who was born February 15, 1889, and died March 28, 1890; and Clara Levina, born May 12, 1891.

Mr. Odeman gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called upon him to serve as mayor of Annawan one term and as a member of the board of trustees two terms. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Masonic order, the Knights of Pythias, the Home Forum and the Modern Woodmen of America. Both he and his wife belong to the Eastern Star Chapter of Masonry and she is also a member of the Home Forum. In early life they held membership in the Swedish Lutheran Church, but are now identified with the Congregational Church, and are among the most highly-esteemed citizens of their community.

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### JOSEPH H. ANDERSON.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man who has arisen above his early surroundings, overcome the obstacles in his path and reached a high position in the business world. Throughout life Mr. Anderson has made the most of his advantages, and through his own well-directed efforts has steadily prospered until he is now one of the substantial farmers of Oxford township, his home being on section 9.

He was born in Sweden, February 16, 1837, and was there reared and educated until 1852, when he emigrated to America with his parents, Henry and Hannah Anderson. On landing in Boston, they imme-

diately started for Illinois, their destination being Henry county, but while passing through La Salle county, two miles north of La Salle, the father was taken ill with cholera and died. There Mrs. Anderson and her sons dug a grave and laid him to rest. This sad task completed they proceeded on their way, walking the entire distance from La Salle to Andover, Henry county. Later they located in Lynn township, where the two sons grew to manhood. For over thirty years Mrs. Anderson made her home with our subject, but died in 1892 while visiting her son Swanty in Red Oak, Iowa.

After coming to this country Joseph H. Anderson attended the common schools for a few winters, but is mostly self-educated. On starting out to earn his own livelihood he worked as a farm hand by the month for five years, and then operated rented land for several years. In 1862 he purchased sixty acres where he now resides, which at that time was entirely unimproved. He erected a small house thereon, and to its further improvement and cultivation has since devoted his energies until he now has a valuable farm. He has extended its boundaries from time to time until they now enclose three hundred acres; has enlarged and remodeled his residence, tiled the land, and set out shade trees. Besides this valuable place he owns a tract of nine hundred and sixty-three acres near Holdrege, Nebraska, all of which is well improved.

In Andover, Mr. Anderson was married, September 13, 1862, to Miss Matilda Christina Shult, who was born in Sweden and came to the new world when thirteen years of age. She is a sister of Hons Shult, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. They have seven children living, namely: Emma C., now the wife of

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J. H. ANDERSON.



MRS. J. H. ANDERSON.

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C. E. Johnson, a farmer of Phelps county, Nebraska; Anna S., wife of John E. Westerland of Lynn township, this county; Hilma C., wife of William Winquist of Phelps county, Nebraska; and Joseph Oscar, Ida, Victoria and Lilla, all at home. Three sons and one daughter died in childhood: Ida H., Oscar E., Henry Theodore and Henry L.

The Republican party has found in Mr. Anderson a staunch supporter of its principles since he cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Many years ago he served two terms as constable, and has been an efficient member of the school board and clerk of the district for a number of years, but has never cared for political honors. Fraternally he is a Knight Templar Mason, and is now serving as secretary of Oxford lodge, No. 367, F. & A. M., at New Windsor. He is a member of the Chapter at Rio and Commandery at Galesburg. In religious belief he is a Lutheran, while his wife and children hold membership in the Baptist Church. His career proves that the only true success in life is that which is accomplished by personal effort and consecutive industry. It proves that the road to success is open to all young men who have the courage to tread its pathway, and the life record of such a man should serve as an inspiration to the young of this and future generations, and teach by incontrovertible facts that success is ambition's answer.

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#### JOHN W. SHETLER.

One of Clover township's most prosperous and influential citizens is John W. Shetler, who is now a member of the honorable board of supervisors. His home farm, consisting of two hundred and fifty-eight acres

of land, is pleasantly located two and a half miles north of Woodhull, on section 18, and besides this valuable property he owns other well-improved farms elsewhere. He is one of the most successful agriculturists and stock raisers and dealers in the county.

Mr. Shetler was born July 13, 1840, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, of which his parents, William and Martha (Wolf) Shetler, were also natives. The Shetlers were of German descent and among the original settlers of the Keystone state. The parents of our subject spent their entire lives in Franklin county. His maternal grandfather, David Wolf, was from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

In the county of his nativity, John W. Shetler was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day, his education being acquired in the local schools. In 1860 when a young man, he came to Henry county, Illinois, and joined some Pennsylvania acquaintances who had located in Woodhull. After working for a short time by the month, he rented land and engaged in farming on his own account. Three years later he purchased his first land, consisting of eighty acres in Oxford township, which he at once began to improve and cultivate, making his home thereon until 1873, when he sold the place and bought one hundred and sixty acres of his present farm. He has since greatly improved the place by the erection of a good residence and substantial barns and outbuildings. He has also tiled the land and set out trees, which add greatly to the attractive appearance of the place. He has extended the boundaries of his farm until they now include two hundred and fifty-eight acres, and also owns a well-improved farm of one hundred acres on section 7, Clover township, another of one hundred and



sixty acres in Andover township, and three-quarters of a section of land in Barton county, Kansas, as well as Chicago property. This property has all been acquired through his own industry, perseverance and good management, as he started out in life for himself empty-handed.

In the spring of 1869 Mr. Shetler was married in Woodhull to Miss Nancy Knox, who was born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, but coming to Illinois in childhood was principally reared here. Her father, John Knox, died in Pennsylvania, and later the mother married James Barton, who brought the family to Illinois, in 1864, becoming one of the early settlers of Henry county. Mr. and Mrs. Shetler have a family of five children, namely: William, who is married and follows farming in Clover township; Fred C., a successful school teacher of this county; Edith M., wife of W. G. White, a farmer of this and Knox county; Grace M., wife of Harry M. Thayer, also a farmer of Henry county; and Laura Belle, who is engaged in teaching here. All of the children have been well educated, being graduates of the high school of Woodhull, and have successfully followed the teacher's profession.

Politically Mr. Shetler has been a life-long Democrat, and cast his first presidential ballot for George B. McClellan in 1864. In 1890 he was elected supervisor of Clover township, and served as such one term, being a member of the town accounts committee. In the spring of 1900 he was re-elected to the same office, and is now a member of the county accounts committee. He has been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party, and has always taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs. For years he has served on the school board

and was clerk of the district for some years. His wife and children hold membership in the Presbyterian Church of Woodhull, and while he is not a member of any religious denomination, he attends church with them, and contributes liberally to its support. He is a prominent member of the Odd Fellows lodge at Woodhull, in which he has filled all the chairs, and is now past grand and treasurer of the lodge. He was a member of the G. A. R., at Woodhull, as long as the post was in existence, having been one of the boys in blue during the Civil war.

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#### MRS. MATTIE E. BROWN.

Mrs. Mattie E. Brown, one of the highly-esteemed ladies of Osco township, is a native of Illinois, her birth having occurred in Farmington township, Fulton county, on the 15th of June, 1848. Her father, Henry Myers, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, November 2, 1813, and there grew to manhood, and received his education in the subscription schools of that day. He was the son of Valentine Myers, who spent the greater part of his life in Franklin county, where his death occurred when his son was about ten years of age. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Crill, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and they were the parents of eleven children.

In 1837, Henry Myers married Miss Marie Eshelman, daughter of John and Martha (Horsh) Eshelman, who were also natives of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and of an old family in that state. The maternal grandfather Horsh came to this country from Germany. In the family of John

and Martha Eshelman were eight children—Samuel, John, Marie, Daniel, Abraham, Martha, Michael and Catherine. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Myers lived in Pennsylvania for thirteen years, during which time five children were born unto them. In 1848 they decided to build up a new home in the prairie state and came west from Pittsburg by river, landing at Copperas creek, Fulton county, in the latter part of April. Mr. Myers then purchased eighty acres of land in Farmington township, which he afterwards sold. From time to time, however, he purchased land, and at one time was the owner of one thousand acres. He helped his boys to get a good start in life, and all now have comfortable homes and are well-to-do people.

To this worthy couple were born thirteen children, as follows: Isaac Newton, married Sarah Elliott, now deceased. During the Civil war he enlisted in Company G, One Hundred and Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the battle of Kenesaw Mountain. John Wesley married Helen Vittum and resides in Champaign, Illinois. Joseph C. wedded Mary Switzer and lives in Canton, Illinois. David M. married Kate Burrows and is engaged in farming near Bushnell, Illinois. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the same company that his brother was a member, and with his command took part in many hard fought battles. William Henry married Mida Kessler and is now a retired farmer of Canton. Daniel A. married Anna Nagley and is a retired farmer of Farmington. Henry William died in infancy. Mary C. died at the age of nineteen years. Mattie E., our subject, is next in order of birth. Adeline B. is the wife of William Norton, a farmer of Fairview township, Fulton county. Susan

E. is the wife of Charles Mull, a farmer living near Wichita, Kansas. Amanda J. is the wife of Henry Cheek, a farmer near Bushnell, Illinois. Nancy M. died at the age of two years.

Mr. Myers was a member of the German Baptist Church, and like those of the same faith, his life was simple, straightforward and unpretentious. He was a thoroughly good man, kind and charitable towards all, and his unswerving honesty was a marked feature of his character. He was an uncompromising temperance man, and was in hearty sympathy with the Prohibition movement. In early life he was a Whig, and cast his vote for William Henry Harrison. His death occurred in 1895. His good wife, who was also a member of the German Baptist Church, was called to her final rest in December, 1896. They were both buried in the Dunkard cemetery at Farmington, Illinois.

Mrs. Brown was reared in the county of her nativity and received her education in its public schools. There she became acquainted with James M. Brown, and in Farmington they were married January 25, 1872. He, too, was a native of Fulton county, born in Fairview township, November 15, 1834, and was a son of John and Sarah (Kirkpatrick) Brown. The father was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, of Irish ancestry, and the mother was of Scotch-Irish extraction. In their family were five sons and one daughter, namely: T. Scott was first sergeant of Company G, One Hundred and Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, during the war of the Rebellion. He lost his right arm at the shoulder in an engagement at Congree Creek, South Carolina, February 15, 1865. He participated in many a historic battle and

has a record equalled by few. He enlisted August 9, 1862, and his service ended with his disability. He is now a resident of Cambridge, Illinois. George C. is a retired farmer of Osco, this county. John G. married Anna M. Hegley and resides in Marshalltown, Iowa, in summer and in Daytona, Florida, in winter. He served throughout the Civil war as a sergeant major in the Fifty-fifth Illinois regiment, and for a number of years was a member of the state legislature of Iowa. Mary L. is the wife of Walter Hitchcock of Greenfield, Iowa. James M. was the next of the family. One son died in infancy.

During his boyhood and youth James M. Brown attended the public schools of his native township, and early acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. He, too, was one of the boys in blue during the dark days of the Rebellion, enlisting in Company B, One Hundred and Fifty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, February 7, 1865. Soon after entering the service he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, and participated in several hotly contested engagements, being discharged January 24, 1866, with an honorable military record. He then returned home and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. On the 5th of February, 1872, he came to Henry county, and for two or three years was engaged in farming near the village of Osco, in Osco township. He then purchased his father's farm of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he subsequently added eighty acres. He died May 4, 1893, after one year's illness. He was a highly esteemed citizen, and one of the leading men of his community.

Mrs. Brown has three children: Mae E. born February 13, 1874, resides with her mother in Osco; Roy Scott, born January

5, 1881, is attending the Geneseo Collegiate Institute and is living in that city; and Frank H., born July 29, 1883, is also a student of that school and resides with his mother in Osco. Mrs. Brown is a member of the Presbyterian Church, as was her husband also during his life.

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#### ANDREW J. SOLIDAY.

The subject of this sketch is one of the representative farmers and stock raisers of Yorktown township, his home being on section 31. He is a native of Henry county, his birth having occurred in Yorktown township, March 16, 1861. His father, Andrew Soliday, was born in Alsace, Germany, January 7, 1830, a son of Andrew and Margaret Soliday. Having lost his father in infancy he came to America with his mother at the age of six years and first located in Pennsylvania, where they spent a few months. There she married Jacob Grose, a native of Rhenish Bavaria. In February, 1837, the family removed to Allegany county, New York, where Mr. Grose died five years later. The mother and her children continued to reside there and in Livingston county, New York, until 1853, Mr. Soliday supporting the family by day labor. He came west on a prospecting tour, and in 1854 brought his mother and two half sisters, Sophia and Elizabeth Grose, to Henry county, Illinois, having decided to locate here. For two years he rented a farm in Loraine township belonging to his uncle, Jacob Shuler, and so successful was he in its operation that in 1855 he was able to purchase eighty acres of land on section 19, Yorktown township, buying the pre-empted claim of

Michael Shumaker for fifty dollars. This was entirely unimproved, but after erecting thereon a hewed log cabin, he located on his farm in January, 1856, and commenced to break his place. He traded a yoke of oxen and two cows for a team of horses, and with characteristic thrift and enterprise began the development of his land. At that time Yorktown township was nearly all swamp land, and Mr. Soliday got up a subscription to improve the road, while he himself hauled brush, wood and dirt to make what was known as the one hundred acre grade. On selling his first farm he secured another on section 31, the same township, which is still the homestead of the family. He first bought one hundred and seventy-five acres, but has since added to it and now has one of the best farms in that part of the county, comprising two hundred and seventy-six acres. His mother resided with him until her death, which occurred March 5, 1875. In early life he was a Whig but since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters. He has filled the offices of assessor, constable, highway commissioner and school director, and is recognized as one of the most valued and useful citizens of his community.

On the 14th of June, 1856, Andrew Soliday, the father of our subject, was united in marriage with Miss Mary Baker, who was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, April 1, 1839, a daughter of Barnhart and Mary (Smith) Baker. Her father was also born in the Keystone state of German ancestry, and followed the butcher business. In 1841 he started with a drove of sheep to Philadelphia, and being never heard of again is supposed to have been waylaid and murdered. His wife was a native of Alsace, Germany, and came to this country with her parents,

locating in Pennsylvania. After the death of her husband she came west with her family, and was again married in Chicago, her second husband being Frank Summers. In 1856 they came to Henry county, and located on a farm in Loraine township. By this union there were three children: Edward, a resident of Loraine, married Nancy Bollen, and they have nine children, Cora, Fred, Frank, John, Bernard, Letitia, Nettie, Elmer and Edith. Sarah, deceased, was the wife of Edward Ott, of Kansas, and they had two children, Almond and Hazel. Peter married Sarah Dietz and they have four children, Ada, Burt, Ora and Florence. The mother of these children died in 1842. By her first marriage she had two children, of whom Mrs. Soliday is the older. She resides on the home farm in Yorktown township. Jacob enlisted in the Ninth Illinois Cavalry during the Civil war and died in the service at Helena, Arkansas.

Andrew J. Soliday, of this review, is the third in order of birth in a family of seven children, the others being as follows: (1) Mary Ellen is the wife of Henry Minch, a farmer of Yorktown township, and they have five children, Jessie, Ray, Lizzie, Clayton and Catherine. (2) Jacob, a resident of Rhodes, Iowa, married Ida Urban, and they have two children, Ethel and Clayton. (4) Esther E. is the wife of John Vetter, a farmer of Atkinson township, this county, and they have four children, Lloyd, Marie, Erma and Roland. (5) Ida S. is the wife of William Johnston, of Jasper county, Iowa, and they have one child, Harland. (6) Hannah A. is at home. (7) Charles A. is a resident of Rhodes, Iowa.

In early life our subject attended the district schools near his boyhood home, and aided in the work of the farm. After his

father's death, February 10, 1897, he took full control of the place, and in its operation has met with most gratifying success. He raises horses and cattle for both breeding and market purposes, and also keeps an extensive flock of sheep and a fine herd of Poland China hogs. This branch of his business has proved quite profitable, and in all his undertakings he has steadily prospered. On the 5th of January, 1893, Mr. Soliday was united in marriage with Miss Tillie Shinlebbber, and they now have one child, Mildred, born March 18, 1897. Mrs. Soliday's father, Frederick Shinlebbber, was born in Germany, and on coming to America when a young man he settled at Deerfield, near Chicago, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for a time. He served through the war of the Rebellion as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and later was engaged in farming, near Hoop Pole, this county. He died in October, 1900, and was buried at that place. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Barbara Spath, was born in Peoria, and is still living near Hoop Pole. Of their three children Mrs. Soliday is the oldest; Wesley now manages the homestead farm for his mother; and Ida is also at home.

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#### HENRY E. HOUGHTON.

The prosperity of a community depends upon its business activity and the enterprise manifest in commercial circles is the foundation upon which is builded the material welfare of town, state and nation. The most important factors in public life at the present day are therefore the men who are in control of successful business in terests, and such a

one is Henry E. Houghton, an extensive stock dealer of Woodhull, Illinois.

He was born in Chester, Vermont, June 16, 1849, and is a son of Calvin C. and Lucy E. (Johnson) Houghton, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. In 1852, he was brought to Henry county, Illinois, by his parents, and grew to manhood upon the home farm in Clover towship. His primary education was obtained in the common schools of that locality, and later he attended the academic department of Knox College, Galesburg, and the high school of Abingdon, Illinois. He aided his father in the labors of the farm until the latter's death, and later succeeded to the old homestead, where he continued to reside until 1896. During that year he erected a commodious and pleasant residence in Woodhull, where he has since made his home, his time and attention being devoted to the buying and shipping of stock and to the management of his farm property, for he is now the owner of three valuable and well-improved farms of six hundred and twenty-five acres in Clover township. He is one of the most successful stock dealers in the county, and annually ships about one hundred carloads of stock to the city markets in partnership with J. W. Shelter. With W. C. Stickney and F. F. Bell he organized the company which are the present owners of the Woodhull Electric Light plant, which was erected and put into operation in September, 1900.

On the 25th of November, 1896, Mr. Houghton was united in marriage with Miss Laura May Woods, who was born in Pennsylvania, but was reared in Henry county, being a daughter of R. I. Woods, of Woodhull. By this union has been born one child, Helen Isabel.

Politically Mr. Houghton is an ardent

Republican, having affiliated with that party since casting his first presidential vote for General U. S. Grant in 1872. Being one of the leading citizens of his community he has been called upon to fill official positions of honor and trust, the duties of which he has most capably and satisfactorily discharged. He has been a delegate to the county, congressional and state conventions of his party, and for four consecutive years was an influential member of the county board of supervisors, serving on the committee on claims during that entire time. His wife holds membership in the Presbyterian Church.

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D. O. LOY.

D. O. Loy, a worthy representative of the industrial interests of Henry county, as well as a poet and author of ability, is now successfully engaged in the manufacture of brick and tile at Atkinson, and also operates a coal mine at the same place. He was born in Morrow county, Ohio, September 9, 1855, but in early childhood removed to Hancock county, this state, with his parents, George and Margaret (Cusic) Loy, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The father died when our subject was only five years old. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that pursuit in both Morrow and Hancock counties, Ohio, at the same time operating a saw mill. In his family were five children, namely: Sarah, wife of Joseph Barnhill, ex-county treasurer of Marion, Iowa; Martin and Melissa, both residents of McComb, Ohio; D. O., our subject; and Ella, deceased. For her second husband the mother married Robert Poe, and by that union had two children, one of whom is still living.

During his boyhood and youth Mr. Loy attended the country school in the winter, while the summer season was devoted to work. On coming to Illinois, at the age of thirteen years, he located in Piatt county, where he worked as a farm hand one year, and then was engaged in the clothing business with Joseph Kunis, at Champaign, for a time. Later he followed farming in Champaign county, one year, and then commenced learning the business of manufacturing brick. Subsequently he embarked in that business for himself at Monticello, where he built the first steam tile factory in that locality. Selling his plant in 1883 he removed to Carthage, where he was successfully engaged in the same business for a year, and then went to Eldora, Iowa, and bought an old terra cotta factory, which was destroyed by fire in 1885. Although his plant was uninsured he immediately rebuilt and resumed business. He finally returned to Illinois and purchased a factory which had formerly been run in opposition to his own, and a year later bought his old plant, operating the two together. In the meantime he went to Ashkum, Iroquois county, and built a very fine tile and brick factory, which he carried on until the hard times of 1893, when he closed out his business.

In the winter of 1893-4 Mr. Loy took the picture of the Illinois Model Farm, made of grains and grasses, to the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco, and placed it in the horticultural building. For two years he exhibited the same on the Pacific coast. He also published a book of poems, profusely illustrated, entitled *Poems of the Golden State Midwinter Fair*, and another entitled *Poems of the White City*. Returning to Illinois in 1896, he located in Atkinson, and again embarked in the manufacture of brick and tile.



Although he was without a dollar on reaching this place, he possessed the strong determination to succeed, and the prosperity that has since come to him is due entirely to his own industry, perseverance and good management. At present he is also operating a coal mine and in both undertakings is meeting with good success.

In religious belief Mr. Loy is a Presbyterian, and in politics is a Republican, taking an active interest in public affairs. The art of composition has always come naturally to him, and he has written many beautiful poems and songs. A number of these were on topics connected with the Spanish-American war, and he has also written many stirring campaign songs. He still has many poems of merit that have never been published, and deserves to be ranked among the leading poets and authors of the west. For twenty years he has been connected with the Clay Workers' Association, and has written and recited a number of odes in its honor, and has also done the same for the Annual Fire Chiefs' Association.

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#### MRS. MARY J. STITT.

One of the most highly respected ladies of Oxford township is Mrs. Mary J. Stitt, who has lived on the farm on section 27, where she now resides, for thirty-one years. She is a native of Knox county, Illinois, and a daughter of D. J. Paden, who was born in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1825, while the birth of her paternal grandfather, Isaac Paden, occurred in Fayette county, the same state, in 1800. Her ancestors were of Scotch origin and early settlers of those counties.

In the county of his nativity D. J. Paden

was reared and educated, and with his parents came to Illinois about 1842, locating in Knox county, where he married Lucinda McCaw, a native of Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of William McCaw, who was born in Scotland and died in the Keystone state. Throughout his active business life Mr. Paden followed the carpenter's and joiner's trade. In 1870 he removed to Page county, Iowa, and located on a farm. He is still living at the age of seventy-five years, and now makes his home with a son in that county, his wife having died December 20, 1890.

Mrs. Stitt was reared in Henry county, and received a good common-school education, which enabled her to successfully engage in teaching for about five years prior to her marriage. On the 19th of August, 1869, she gave her hand in marriage to James Stitt, who was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, October 4, 1827, and there grew to manhood. He was the son of William and Margaret (Harmanni) Stitt, his father being a farmer in Franklin county, and of Irish descent, the grandfather of our subject coming from county Down, Ireland, about 1791. William Stitt continued to engage in farming in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, until his coming to Oxford township, Henry county, Illinois, in 1856. He made his home near his son, and there died in February, 1873. His wife was also a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage. She made her home with her son James prior to her death in 1879. They were members of the Presbyterian Church.

In early life, James Stitt, our subject, learned the tailor's trade. In 1850 he made an overland trip to California with a wagon train, and spent two years in prospecting and mining in the gold fields, returning home





JAMES STITT.

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by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York city. In 1853 he was first married to Elizabeth Hammond, in Pennsylvania, and then removed to Stockbridge, Michigan, where he engaged in farming and working at his trade for a short time, but the following year came to Henry county, Illinois, arriving here on the 4th of July, 1854. He purchased the farm on section 27, Oxford township, where his family still reside, though at that time it was a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken prairie, which he at once began to improve and cultivate.

In 1862 Mr. Stitt joined the boys in blue of Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was chosen corporal of his company. He was in active service for three years, and participated in a number of important engagements, including the battles of Knoxville, Resaca, the Atlanta campaign, the battles of Franklin, Nashville and Wilmington, and the East Tennessee raid. He was also in a large number of skirmishes and lesser fights, and was twice wounded, first at Knoxville, Tennessee, and seriously at Wilmington, North Carolina. His term of enlistment having expired he was honorably discharged June 20, 1865.

Mr. Stitt's first wife died in January, 1860, leaving five of the seven children born to them, namely: Lawrence, who is married and lives in Colorado; Frank E., who is married and lives in Coin, Page county, Iowa; Amanda became the wife of W. C. Cole, December 9, 1885, and died September 9, 1896; Wesley K., who is married and resides in Viola, Illinois; and Elmer M., who makes his home in Montana. The children born of the second marriage are as follows: Charles, who is married and resides in Barton county, Kansas; James H. and William

L., who carry on the home farm for their mother, since the death of their father; Lucia, one of the successful teachers of the county, residing at home; and Harry W., who is attending the State University at Champaign, Illinois.

Upon his farm Mr. Stitt erected a commodious and substantial residence, and made many other permanent improvements, so that the farm is now one of the most desirable in the locality. Besides this property he had also owned land in Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. He was one of the most successful farmers and stock raisers of his community as well as an extensive stock buyer, and these industries are still carried on in a profitable manner by his sons, who annually ship from three to five carloads of cattle and hogs to the city markets. Politically he was identified with the Republican party for some years, but being a strong temperance man he finally gave his support to the men and measures of the Prohibition party. He served for some years as township school trustee, and filled other local offices of honor and trust. For over forty years he was a consistent and faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and his upright and honorable life gained for him the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He died upon his farm April 25, 1896, and was laid to rest in Summit Level cemetery. Since his death Mrs. Stitt and her sons have successfully managed the business affairs of the family, and she has displayed excellent business and executive ability. She is well and favorably known throughout this section of the county, and her family is one of prominence in the community where they reside. For thirty-four years she has also been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

## CHARLES R. LORY.

Charles R. Lory, the leading photographer of Kewanee, was born in Platteville, Wisconsin, on the 14th of February, 1856, and was only eight years old when he first came to Kewanee. His father, Richard Lory, was born in Cornwall, England, in 1831, and was there reared and educated, being nineteen years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lory. The family located in Platteville, Wisconsin, where Richard Lory married Miss Eliza Trenery, also a native of Cornwall, England, who as a child had come to this country with her parents and settled in Platteville. There they continued to make their home until their removal to Kewanee in 1864. Here Mr. Lory was engaged in the coal business until his death, which occurred August 25, 1877. His widow still survives him and is a member of the Primitive Methodist Church.

During his boyhood and youth Charles R. Lory pursued his studies in the public and high schools of Kewanee, after which he was variously employed for a time. In 1877 he commenced learning photography in a gallery in that city, and for a time followed his chosen occupation at Eldorado, Kansas, but in 1892 returned to Kewanee, where he opened a studio of his own. He was alone in business until 1897, when he formed a partnership with George M. Strong, a prominent business man of this place, but the following year purchased his partner's interest and has since conducted the business alone. He is widely recognized as one of the best and most artistic photographers in this section of the state, and therefore receives a liberal share of the public patronage.

On the 19th of August, 1888, Mr. Lory

was united in marriage with Miss Mary J. Thompson, a daughter of Robert S. and Nancy (Callender) Thompson, both natives of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania. The father's early life was spent upon a farm near Pittsburg, where he continued to make his home until coming to Kewanee, Illinois, in 1883. Here he died May 5, 1892. His wife had departed this life on the 20th of June, 1881. Mrs. Lory is a member of the Primitive Methodist Church, which her husband attends and supports.

For some time Mr. Lory has been a director of the Kewanee public library and a member of the purchasing committee. He has also served as secretary of the same for eight years, and to his untiring efforts much of the success of the library is due. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and he has been secretary of Camp, No. 84, for three years. He occupies a prominent position in musical circles, and for a number of years has been leader of the Kewanee Military Band, which is one of the finest bands in this locality. He is also very fond of literature and art, and has one of the best selected private libraries in this section of the state. In 1899 he built a beautiful home on Prospect street, in one of the finest residence portions of the city, and it has become a favorite resort of a cultured society circle.

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JOHN REARDON.

For many years John Reardon, who is now deceased, was one of the leading agriculturists of Munson township, and the fine farm which he there improved is still in possession of his widow. He was born in

county Cork, Ireland, July 4, 1825, and was a son of Peter and Mary (Fitzgerald) Reardon, also natives of the Emerald Isle, where they continued to make their home throughout life. In their family were three sons and three daughters, all of whom came to the United States and are now deceased.

It was in 1847 that our subject emigrated to America, sailing from Cork, Ireland, and landing in Quebec, Canada. After working for a time as a farm hand in the Dominion, he went to Michigan, and later to Toledo, Ohio, where he was employed on the docks. While there he was married, May 2, 1854, to Miss Margaret Clare, who was also born in Ireland, September 30, 1826, and came to America in April, 1847,—the year of the big emigration. She was one of a family of eight children, four sons and four daughters, who on coming to this country settled in Kingston, Canada, but soon became scattered. Mrs. Reardon's brothers are now deceased: one sister resides in Toledo, Ohio. Our subject and his wife had one child, Mary, born December 31, 1855. She is now the wife of August Johnson, a native of Sweden, who now operates the old homestead farm in Munson township, and they have three children, Sherman, John, Mary and May.

For one year after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Reardon continued to reside in Toledo, Ohio, and in 1859 removed to Bloomington, Illinois, near which place he engaged in farming for George Hill for four years. The following three years were spent in Galva, where Mr. Reardon was employed as section foreman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. At the end of that time he purchased one hundred and ten acres of land in Munson township, this county, from P. P. Allen. The land was all broken, but he erected the house and barn and made

many other improvements which added greatly to the value and attractive appearance of the place. For twenty years he continued to successfully engage in farming, but in 1888 purchased a good home in Geneseo, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred April 24, 1890. His remains were interred at Geneseo. His widow has since sold the house at that place and erected a more convenient cottage for herself, where she delights to entertain her many friends. She rents her farm to her son-in-law. Mr. Reardon always took an active and commendable interest in public affairs, and for three years efficiently served as road master in Munson township. In religious belief he was a Catholic, to which church his wife and daughter also belong. The family are highly respected and esteemed by all who know them.

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#### FRANK H. EDWARDS.

This prosperous and well-known farmer residing on section 10, Western township, is a man whose sound common sense and vigor, able management of his affairs have been important factors in his success, and with his undoubted integrity of character have given him an honored position among his fellow men.

Mr. Edwards was born in Moline, Rock Island county, August 2, 1857, and is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of this state. His father, Herbert Edwards, was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, about 1827, and was a son of William Edwards, who in 1835 brought his family to Green county and one year later to Illinois, becoming one of the first settlers of Moline and opening up a farm which is now within the city limits. There Herbert

Edwards grew to manhood, and in Rock Island county married Harriet Godon, a native of Michigan and a daughter of Amos Gordon, who was also a pioneer of that county. Throughout the greater part of his active business life Herbert Edwards followed the plasterer's trade, but in 1867 he removed to Henry county and located on a farm in Western township, following agricultural pursuits until his death, December 21, 1872. His widow has married again and now resides in Geneseo.

Reared in Henry county, Frank H. Edwards acquired his early education in its district schools, and later pursued his studies for a few terms under Professor Comstock, of Colona. He remained on the farm with his mother and operated a part of the place until twenty-five years of age. On the 23d of January, 1883, near Flanagan, Livingston county, Illinois, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Smith, a native of Maryland, and a daughter of Charles A. Smith, who removed from that state to Livingston county, where Mrs. Edwards was principally reared and educated. By this union were born four children: Ella B., H. Royce, Ethel H. and Elwood Glenn, all at home.

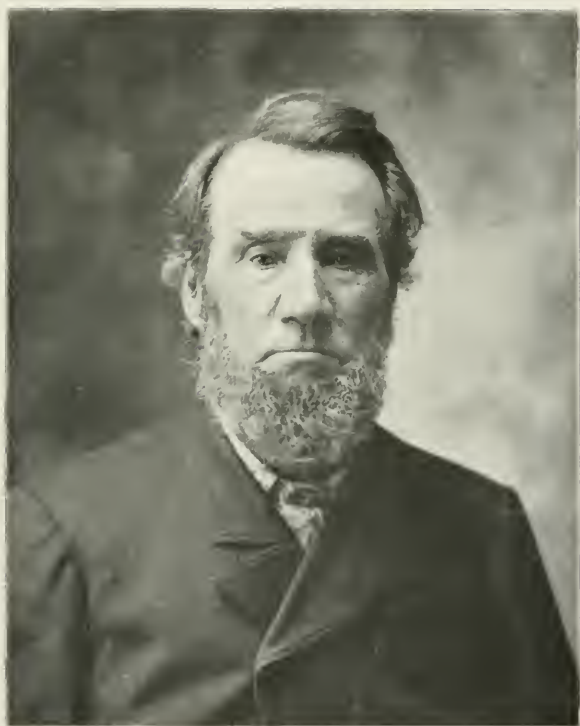
Charles A. Smith was born in Germany, and when young came to the United States, landing in New York and going from there to Maryland, where he married Elizabeth Hays, also a native of Germany, who was brought by her parents to this country when she was two and a half years old, the family locating in Cumberland. After their marriage they removed to Livingston county, Illinois, locating near Long Point, but later moving to a farm near Flanagan, where Mr. Smith now lives. His wife died December 8, 1898.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwards began their domestic life upon the farm in Western township where they still continue to reside. In its operation he has met with marked success, and to the original tract he has added from time to time until he now has five hundred and sixty acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. The well tilled fields are made to yield a golden tribute in return for the care and labor bestowed upon them, and everything about the place betokens thrift and prosperity. The buildings are neat and substantial, and the pleasant home is the abode of prosperity and good cheer. In connection with general farming Mr. Edwards raises and feeds considerable stock. The Republican party has always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles, but he has never cared for political preferment, desiring rather to give his undivided attention to his business interests. He and his wife are active and prominent members of the English Lutheran Church of Morristown, with which he is now officially connected, and they are people of prominence in the community where they reside.

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#### WILLIAM FORGY.

One of Clover township's most substantial and successful agriculturists is William Forgy, who dates his residence in Henry county from the 2nd of April, 1854, and today owns and occupies a fine farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 8, two and a half miles from Woodhull. He was born in what is now Morrow county, Ohio, May 27, 1826, and is a grandson of Robert Forgy, a native of Ireland, who came to the new world at an early day and settled in Mil-



WILLIAM FORGY.



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flin county, Pennsylvania, where he opened up and improved a farm. There the father, John Forgy, was born in 1799. On reaching manhood he was married in Washington county, Pennsylvania, to Miss Jane Miller, a native of that county, her father dying young. In early life John Forgy engaged in school teaching for some years, and in 1825 removed to Richland county, Ohio, becoming one of its first settlers. There he entered one hundred and twenty acres of timber land and in the midst of the wilderness improved a farm, upon which he reared his family. After the death of his first wife, who was the mother of our subject, he married again and removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where he purchased a place and spent the remainder of his days, dying February 14, 1872.

In the county of his nativity William Forgy passed the days of his boyhood and youth in much the usual manner of farmer boys, aiding in labors of field and meadow, and attending the district schools for a few weeks during the winter season when his services were not needed at home. In 1849 at the age of twenty-three years, he went to Iowa City, Iowa, and the following year crossed the plains to California with an ox team, landing in Bear Valley. He spent two years in gold mining on the Feather and Yuba rivers and making some money when his health permitted, but he lost considerable time on account of illness. In 1852 he returned to his old home in Ohio by way of the Nicaragua route to New York. In 1853 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchased land, but soon returned to Ohio to take care of the crops which he had planted. In the spring of 1854, however, he located upon his land in this county, and at once began the work of improvement and cultivation until he now has one of the best farms of its size

in the township. He purchased more land from time to time until he had four hundred acres, and throughout his business career has successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising.

Before leaving Ohio, Mr. Forgy was married, February 21, 1854, to Miss Eva Moody, a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Stockdale) Moody, who was born in the same neighborhood as her husband. Their wedding journey was the trip to this county, which was made by team and lasted twenty-seven days. They became the parents of five children who reached years of maturity, namely: Allen T., a resident of Galesburg, a graduate of Hedding College, who is married and has two children, Herman C., and Flora; Nellie J., also a graduate of Hedding College, wife of J. L. Carnes, by whom she has one daughter, Kate E.; Ralph Judd, a farmer of Union county, Iowa, who is married and has one child, and; William H., who died at the age of twenty-five years; and Robert J., who is now operating the home farm. All the children were offered good educational advantages. The wife and mother passed away January 12, 1899, and was laid to rest in Clover Chapel cemetery. She was a consistent and faithful member of the Woodhull Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. Forgy belongs. He cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce in 1852, and has since been identified with the Democracy, being a staunch supporter of its principles, although he has voted for prohibition. He was the first collector in Clover township, and for three terms most creditably and satisfactorily served as supervisor. He also filled the office of school director for twenty-five or thirty years, and has served as district clerk and president of the board, doing all in his power to advance the

educational interests of the community. Externally he has affiliated with the Grange and has served as master of the local Grange. He is an enterprising, public-spirited citizen and is ever ready to advance those interests for the public good.

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### O. W. LAGER.

O. W. Lager, of the firm of Lager & Company, is proprietor of "the Leader" of Annawan, and is one of the most progressive business men of that thriving little town. His ability, enterprise and upright methods have gained for him an enviable reputation in business circles, and although he is still a young man his popularity is established on a firm basis—that of his own well-tested merit.

Mr. Lager was born on a farm east of Stockholm, Sweden, January 1, 1877, and is a son of Alfred and Emily Lager, natives of the same locality, who brought their family to America in 1882, when our subject was five years old, and located in Geneseo. In his native land the father learned the carpenter's trade, which he still continues to follow at Geneseo.

Our subject is the third in order of birth in a family of eight children. He was educated in the public schools of Geneseo, and at the age of fourteen began his business career as clerk in the dry goods store of Bickel & Cook, of Geneseo, in whose employ he remained for eight years. In March, 1898, the firm of Lager & Company was formed and purchased the department store of J. L. & L. T. Dow at Annawan. They carry a large and well assorted stock of dry goods, boots, shoes, groceries, queensware, carpets and clothing, in fact everything found in a first class department store. By fair and

honorable dealing they have built up an excellent trade and now furnish employment to four clerks. Mr. Lager is also a member of the firm of C. W. Lager & Company, at Atkinson, the store at that place being under the management of his older brother, C. W. Lager. Both establishments are conducted on a strictly cash basis, and to-day are the leading business houses of the towns in which they are located. Religiously our subject is a member of the Swedish Lutheran Church.

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### DANIEL MALONEY.

Among the agriculturists of Henry county who have met with marked success in their life work and are now able to lay aside all business cares and spend the sunset of life in ease and retirement is Daniel Maloney, a well-known and honored citizen of Geneseo. He was born in county Limerick, Ireland, on the 17th of November, 1823, and was baptized at Sologhead by Rev. Thomas Dwyer, his sponsors being Thomas Hewitt and Maria Crowe. His parents were Daniel and Catherine (Croak) Maloney, also natives of county Limerick, who spent their entire lives on the Emerald Isle, where the father followed the occupation of farming. In their family were nine children, of whom two sons and three daughters came to America, while the others remained in Ireland.

Our subject was reared in county Tipperary, Ireland. It was in 1851 that he crossed the Atlantic from Liverpool on the West Point, a sailing vessel, which was eight weeks and three days in making the voyage at that time. On landing in New York, he went to Fairfield, Connecticut, where he worked on a farm two years. He then came west and spent four years in Kewanee, Illi-

nois, where he met and married Miss Mary Downey, who was born in county Kilkenny, Ireland, in 1837, a daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth (Phalen) Downey. At an early age she emigrated with her parents to Canada, where they spent seventeen years, and later resided for three years in Michigan before coming to Kewanee, Illinois. Her father, who was a farmer by occupation, died in 1866, and was buried in Galesburg, Illinois, while her mother died in 1868 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Of their eleven children all but two were born in Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Maloney are the parents of ten children, namely: William B., born January 19, 1850, married Nettie Fritz and is engaged in farming in Bureau county, Illinois; Patrick H., born March 17, 1860, and died December 14, 1878; Elizabeth, born September 27, 1862, and Louis Michael, and died January 26, 1898, leaving two children, Josie and Helen, who now reside with our subject; John T., born November 25, 1864, married Hattie McCullough, and is a retired farmer of Atkinson; Oscar D., born June 25, 1867, is also a resident of Atkinson; Joseph S. S., born September 16, 1869, was drowned while swimming near Geneseo, June 14, 1892; Francis L., born June 14, 1872, is a resident of Atkinson; James, born April 28, 1875, Mary E. P., born November 1, 1877, and Edward V., born November 15, 1879, are all at home with their parents.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Maloney lived in what is called the Scott settlement near Kewanee, and was working on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Later he rented a farm in Cornwall township, where he resided for twelve years, and then purchased eighty acres on section 12, the same township. On selling that place he bought one hundred and eighty-two acres

in Shabbona Grove, which he operated until 1888, and also owned three hundred and twenty acres in Loraine township, all of which property he acquired through his own industry, perseverance and good management. In 1888 he removed to Atkinson, where he made his home for ten years, and then came to Geneseo, building a large house fitted with all modern improvements, where he expects to spend his remaining days. In his political views he is a Democrat, and he and his family are all members of the Catholic Church. In looking back through the past we see a young man who came to the new world empty-handed in search of home and fortune, and at present we see his ambitious dreams realized, for he is now one of the most substantial as well as one of the most highly esteemed citizens of Geneseo, and well deserves mention in the history of his adopted country.

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#### THOMAS HUDSON.

Probably no man in this section of the state is more widely known than Thomas Hudson, who for many years has efficiently served as state inspector of coal mines for the second inspection district. He has made his home in Galva since 1883, it being about the center of his district. A native of England, he was born in the county of Northumberland on the 22nd of May, 1846, and is a son of George and Margaret (Robinson) Hudson, who spent their entire lives in that country as agriculturists. Thomas is the older of their two children, the other being Robert, who is still a resident of the mother country. There the father died when our subject was a small boy, and the mother later became the wife of Thomas Smiles, by whom

she had a daughter who died in Pennsylvania. Mr. Smiles, who was a miner by occupation, came to America and followed that pursuit in Pennsylvania for a time. Later he spent some time in Texas and then returned to the Keystone state.

During his boyhood Thomas Hudson pursued his studies in the common schools of his native land until thirteen years of age, when he commenced work in the mines of England as a trapper, and gradually worked his way upward to his present responsible position. He came to the new world in 1871, his destination being Henry, Illinois, where he had friends living, and after a short time spent near that city, he became a resident of Galva, where he engaged in coal mining for six months. Subsequently he followed the same occupation at Streator for ten years, and served as pit boss for a time.

In Marshall county, Illinois, Mr. Hudson was married in 1871 to Miss Eleanor Fairbairn, also a native of England, who died about a year after their marriage, leaving one daughter, Bella, now the wife of Le Roy Miller, a carpenter of Galva, by whom she has two children, Virginia and Helen. Mrs. Miller is a graduate of the high school of Galva and prior to her marriage successfully engaged in teaching school for a time. In 1877, Mr. Hudson was again married, his second union being with Miss Lizzie Huggans, who was born in New Jersey but was only two years old when she removed with her parents to Streator, Illinois. Of the seven children born of this marriage the two daughters died in early childhood. The sons survive, and are Fred, a barber of Galva, Charles B.; Harry, James Edward, and William McKinley. All are at home, and have been educated in the public schools of Galva.

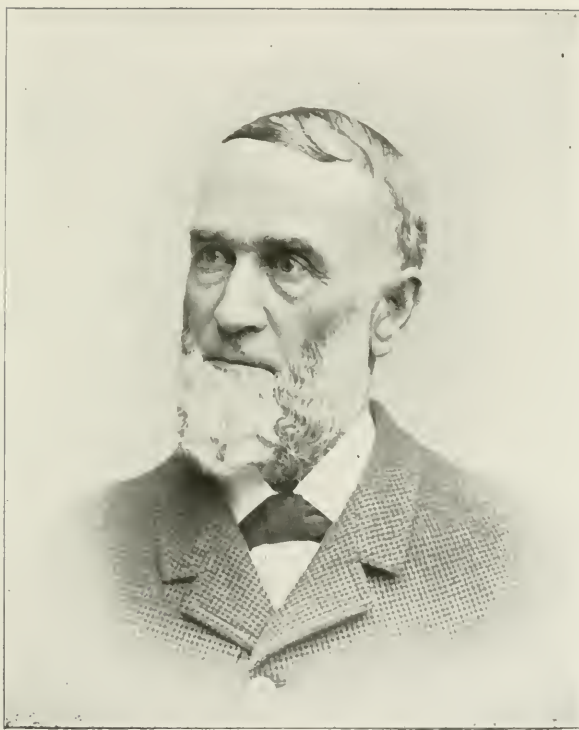
Mr. Hudson was appointed mine inspec-

tor by Governor Hamilton in 1883, having passed an examination as to his competency in mining affairs on such important matters as mining engineering, mining machinery and appliances; operation of coal mines; ventilation; geology and chemistry. He is a self-educated man, having had no opportunity to attend school since thirteen years of age, but is well informed on general topics and especially proficient on subjects pertaining to his chosen calling. Since first pertained mine inspector of the second district of Illinois, he has filled that position under every governor except Altgeld, passing the required examination every two years. His long retention plainly indicates his efficiency and trustworthiness. Galva being centrally located in his district he has since made it his home, and has been called upon to serve as a member of the town board of trustees of the village for six years. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and has been a member of the township Republican central committee. In the mining industry he is one of the most competent men of the city, and has made a thorough study of the two hundred mines now in operation in his district. He is one of the directors of the Homestead & Loan Association of Galva. He owns the property which he has made his home since his return to Galva in 1883. Fraternally Mr. Hudson is a Royal Arch Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of Galva and the chapter of Kewanee, and he is also a member of the Court of Honor of Galva, of which he is a trustee.

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#### L. T. DOW.

This well-known hardware merchant of Annawan, was born in that town on the 1st of April, 1866, and for the past six years



CAPT. JOHN L. DOW.

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has been a leading representative of its business interests. His father, Captain John L. Dow, was born in Canterbury, New Hampshire, May 6, 1830, and came west in 1846 with his father, Tristram Dow, who settled at Buda, Bureau county, Illinois. The house the grandfather erected at that place is still standing. There he took up a tract of unbroken prairie land from the government and to its improvements and cultivation devoted his time and energies until 1854, when the family came to Annawan. On coming west the journey was made by the Erie canal to Buffalo, the Great Lakes to Chicago, and by wagon the remaining distance. The family consisted of the following children: Joseph conducted a hotel and livery stable at Morris, Illinois, for some time and later ran an elevator at Wilton Junction, Iowa, for several years. From there he removed to Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, where he died in 1893. Tristram T. removed to Davenport, in 1870, and died there in 1882. During the Civil war he enlisted as a private and during his service was promoted to major. Elmira married Ezra Austin, of Buda, Illinois, and died several years ago. Josiah is a resident of Davenport, Iowa. John L., father of our subject, was the next of the family. Mary became the wife of Jacob Miller and died in Princetown, Illinois, in 1895, and Lyman, now deceased.

John L. Dow was educated in the public schools of his native place, and remained with the family until after their removal to Annawan, where he was engaged in mercantile business with his two brothers, Tristram T. and Josiah, for about ten years. They next turned their attention to the grain business, owning the old elevator which was destroyed by fire. They were also very extensive land owners in this locality. Sub-

sequently John L. Dow built the elevator now conducted by Mr. Dewey. In 1882 he removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he was interested in an elevator and also in the Crescent Mills, as a member of the firm of Dow, Gilman & Hancock. He was connected with the hardware business at Annawan, but throughout life devoted his time principally to the grain business. He died at his home in Davenport, July 5, 1899, honored and respected by all who knew him. October 1, 1861, he enlisted as a musician in a regimental band. When the regimental bands were discontinued and only one band for each brigade retained he was discharged and in August, 1862, re-enlisted in Co. A, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Upon the organization of the company he was elected second lieutenant of his company by a unanimous vote. He was mustered into the United States service at Peoria, Illinois, September 20, 1862, and promoted to first lieutenant April 13, 1863, to take effect February 1, 1863. On November 18, 1863, Captain Asa A. Lee was killed in action at Knoxville, Tenn., and March 5, 1864, First Lieutenant John L. Dow was promoted to Captain, his commission taking effect November 18, 1863, the day of Captain Lee's death. John L. Dow remained with his regiment from the time of his enlistment until the close of the year, excepting when detailed to other special service. As a soldier and an officer he always knew his duty and did it. In action he was always on the front line of danger with his men, in camp he was ever solicitous of the welfare and comfort of his comrades. October 8, 1862, his command left Peoria and went to Covington, Kentucky. From there they went to Lexington, arriving at the latter place October 24. Here his company was

engaged in scouting and skirmishing, against Morgan. Subsequently he was engaged in Monticello, Kentucky. During this service his regiment was mounted, doing cavalry service. He also participated in General Saunder's raid, Franklin, Tennessee, and Nashville, Tennessee. He was wounded in action at Kelley's Ford, Tennessee, January 28, 1864. On July 15, 1863, he was detailed as assistant inspector general and provost marshal until January 1, 1864, and April 3, 1865, he was again detailed as provost marshal of the Twenty-third Army Corps in which capacity he served until mustered out at the close of the war. He was a member of the commission appointed to carry out the terms of the military convention of the Federal and Confederate armies. At the close of the war he returned to Annawan.

He married Miss Maggie Lamb, October 4, 1862, a native of Galashiels, Scotland, born July 15, 1841, and came to America with her parents in 1850, settling in Annawan, Illinois. The marriage took place when Mr. Dow was encamped with his regiment at Peoria, Illinois. She now makes her home in Davenport. Our subject is the oldest of the five children born of this union, the others being Mary, wife of Charles Pasche, cashier of the Iowa National Bank of Davenport; J. H., who is engaged in the stock business at Winterset, Iowa; George, time-keeper for the Johnson Construction Company of Davenport; and Jennie, at home with her mother.

The first sixteen years of his life L. T. Dow passed in his native town, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Davenport. He attended the public schools of both places, and acquired a good practical education which has well fitted him for business life. On starting out in life for him-

self he was first engaged in the grain business at Winterset, Iowa, for four years and in 1894 returned to Annawan, becoming proprietor of the hardware store which he has since conducted. He is an energetic and progressive business man, and is meeting with well-merited success. He was married on the 4th of February, 1895, to Miss Myrtle Sweet, of Stuart, Iowa, a daughter of John L. Sweet, now deceased. They are quite popular socially and enjoy the hospitality of the best homes of Annawan.

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#### PERRY THEODORE LEWIS.

Among the young and enterprising farmers of Cornwall township, who are meeting with success in this chosen calling is Perry T. Lewis, who owns and operates a well improved and highly cultivated farm of eighty acres on section 6. A native of Henry county, he was born in Cornwall township, June 16, 1874, and is one of the four sons of William J. and Eliza (Claypool) Lewis, a sketch of whom appears on another page of this volume.

During his boyhood and youth our subject attended the local schools, and made his home with his father until twenty years of age. When not in school his time and attention was devoted to the work of the home farm, and in this way he acquired a good practical knowledge of the occupation which he now follows. In connection with general farming he devotes considerable time to the raising of stock, his specialty being Hereford cattle, which he raises for breeding purposes.

On the 28th of February, 1895, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Lewis and Miss

Hilda Borkgren, a native of this county, and a daughter of Charles and Mary (Sell) Borkgren, who were born in Sweden and came to America in 1866, locating in this county. Her parents are still residents of Cornwall township, where the father is engaged in farming. In their family are six children, namely: Theodore, born October 30, 1872, married Effie Willard and lives in Munson township, Henry county; Hilda, born October 29, 1874, is the wife of our subject; Frederick, born February 3, 1877; Martin, born November 9, 1880; Raymond, born December 28, 1886; and Mabel, born May 21, 1891, are all at home. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis are the parents of two children: Kyle Raymond, born December 2, 1895, and Ora Marie, born June 23, 1899.

Mr. Lewis uses his right of franchise in support of the Republican party and its principles, and he takes a commendable interest in public affairs. He is a member of No. 201, Mystic Workers, a beneficiary organization, and is one of the most popular young men of his community.

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#### WILLIAM R. WINTER.

William R. Winter, a representative farmer of Cornwall township, residing on section 24, is one of Henry county's native sons, his birth having occurred in Annawan township, on the 1st of March, 1860. His father, George Winter, was born in Lincolnshire, England, in 1833. He was one of a family of twelve children, four of whom came to this country and three are still living, namely: Jane, who married Robert Broadbent and resides in Cornwall township; Sarah married J. Little and resides in Bureau

county; Charles, who lives in Iowa. The other brother, John, was killed in the Civil war.

There he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Gash, a native of the same place, by whom he has one child. In 1858 he emigrated to America, the voyage from Liverpool being made on a sailing vessel. He landed at Castle Garden and after spending two days in New York proceeded to Chicago, where he staid over night, and then came direct to Annawan, Henry county. For one year he was in the employ of various farmers in that locality, then rented land for five years; and at the end of that period purchased one hundred and thirty acres of partially improved land in Cornwall township, to which he subsequently added one hundred and fifty acres. He placed his land under a high state of cultivation and made many improvements thereon. Having come to this country in limited circumstances he has ever made the most of his opportunities and through his own unaided efforts accumulated a handsome property, his life illustrating what can be accomplished through industry, perseverance, good management and a determination to succeed. He died on the 23d of September, 1899, and was buried in Fairview cemetery. His wife who was born October 3, 1818, is still living, making her home with our subject.

Reared upon the home farm William Winter acquired his literary education in the district schools of the neighborhood, and early obtained an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. He is now the owner of the old homestead and is successfully engaged in general farming and stock-raising. On the 18th of February, 1891, he led to the marriage altar Miss Priscilla Plumtree, a daughter of Elijah and Sophia (Bowler)

Plumtree, now residents of Kewanee. Her father was born in Cambridgeshire, England, and came to the new world in 1849, while the mother was born in London, England, and crossed the Atlantic to this country in 1848. Mr. and Mrs. Winter have had three children: William, who was born February 9, 1892, and died in infancy; Ethel Jane, born February 17, 1893; and Elijah, born June 30, 1897. In his political affiliations Mr. Winter is a Republican, and he has capably filled the office of school director for a number of years. He is public-spirited and progressive and takes a commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his community.

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#### LEWIS HUNT.

Among the leading representatives of the agricultural interests of Cornwall township is Lewis Hunt, whose home is on section 25. For almost sixty years he has been a resident of the county, and has therefore witnessed almost its entire development. When he located here in 1842 Morristown was the county seat, and the court house was a frame structure eighteen by twenty-four feet. The following year, however, this building was converted into a school house, as the county seat was removed to Cambridge.

Mr. Hunt was born in the town of Ledger, Cayuga county, New York, January 6, 1829, his parents being Thomas and Electa (Erwin) Hunt, both natives of Roxbury, Connecticut. In early life the father followed the trade of a cloth dresser and also engaged in farming to some extent. He lived for a time in Canada, about one hun-

dred and seventy-five miles east of Detroit, and from that place removed to Iowa, it requiring twenty-two days to make the journey. After two weeks spent in that state, however, he came to Illinois. In coming down the Mississippi the boat on which he was a passenger was frozen in the river and they crossed that stream on the ice April 11, 1842. Three days later the ice in the river was two feet thick, that being one of the coldest winters known in this section of the country. Our subject's brother purchased two hundred and ten acres of raw prairie land about a mile and a half from Colona Station, and our subject aided in its development. In early days he mowed grass where the station now stands, and at that time knew almost every man in the county. He is the second in order of birth in a family of three children. His brother, Charles, was born in New York, in 1819, and was married in Canada to Elizabeth Knight. By trade he was a shoemaker. He died and was buried at Geneseo, this county. The sister, Elizabeth, was born in New York in 1838.

Lewis Hunt made his first purchase of land in 1851, consisting of eighty acres of unbroken prairie land one mile south of Annawan, which he placed under cultivation and afterward traded for one hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land on section 25, Cornwall township, where he now resides. To this he has since added a tract of sixty acres, and now has a well improved and highly cultivated farm, whose neat and thrifty appearance is an evidence of his careful supervision and good business ability. In connection with general farming he is also engaged in stock raising.

In 1860 Mr. Hunt was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Rooney, a native of Tuscarawas, Ohio, and one of a family of nine

children. She came to this county in 1854 with her parents, Gabriel and Fannie (Baltzly) Rooney, the family locating in Cornwall township. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Hunt were born five children, namely: Leonidas, born December 28, 1861, died in childhood; John, born February 19, 1863, is at home; Edgar; Edward, born March 5, 1865, married Almira Bishop, a native of Ohio, and is now engaged in farming in Cornwall township, and Clarinda, born February 19, 1871, is at home. The wife and mother died March 18, 1898, and was laid to rest in Fairview cemetery, where the children have also been buried.

Mr. Hunt cast his first presidential vote for General Scott, the Whig candidate, and is now a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He is a member of the United Brethren Church, and is a man who commands the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life.

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#### JESSE E. BIEBINGER.

As manager of the Allerton farm, comprising four thousand acres of land in Loraine township, the subject of this sketch has become widely known throughout Henry county as a man of more than ordinary business ability and keen discrimination. A native of Ohio, he was born near Portsmouth, Scioto county, September 23, 1863, but almost his entire life has been passed in the Prairie state.

John Biebinger, father of our subject, was born in Germany and was six years old when he came to the United States with his father, Conrad Biebinger, who settled in Scioto county, Ohio, where he made his

home until his death. He followed farming both in his native land and in this country. John was the third in order of birth in his family of five children, and grew to manhood on the home farm, his education being acquired in the local schools. On the 27th of January, 1861, he was united in marriage with Miss Naomi Ellen Cockrell, who was born in Scioto county, a daughter of Jesse and Anna (Marsh) Cockrell, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. The marriage of her parents was celebrated in Scioto county, Ohio, where her father, with two brothers, located in the early part of the nineteenth century. He took up government land and became an extensive land owner. In his family were twelve children, and with one exception all reached years of maturity, Mrs. Biebinger being the youngest of the family. Her father died when she was but nine years old.

After his marriage John Biebinger carried on farming in his native state until January, 1865, when he came to Illinois, locating near Monticello, Piatt county, where he purchased land and engaged in the same pursuit with good success. He is now the owner of a well-improved and valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres near that place. In politics he is a Republican and he has been elected to a number of local offices. Religiously he is a faithful member of the Christian Church, and socially is a Royal Arch Mason. In his family are six children, namely: Anna Laura is the widow of William Kinder and a resident of Piatt county, Illinois; Jesse E., our subject, is the next of the family; David A. married Daisy Stroble, and is in the employ of the John Deere Plow Company at Moline; Isaac Newton, a resident of Piatt county, takes a very active and prominent part in county and state politics.

and was one of the presidential electors of Illinois in 1900; Marguerite and Leo are both at home. The daughters have all been school teachers of Piatt county.

After attending the common schools for some years Jesse E. Biebinger entered Union Christian College at Merom, Sullivan county, Indiana, where he completed his education. Later he was in the employ of the Wabash Railroad company as brakeman for three years and was then engaged in farming for Samuel Allerton, near Monticello, for three years. Subsequently he spent a year and a half in this county, constructing the levee on the Allerton place in Loraine township, and aiding in its improvement, as it was originally all swamp land. After this he again spent three years near Monticello, but since 1897 has acted as manager of Mr. Allerton's farm in Henry county, and has most creditably and acceptably filled that responsible position. He has from ten to fifty men in his employ and raises about two thousand three hundred and fifty acres of corn, while the remainder of the four thousand acres is devoted to oats and pasture. His corn crop amounted to about one hundred and twenty-five thousand bushels in 1900. Stock raising claims considerable of his attention and he ships annually about one thousand head of cattle and eight carloads of hogs. He is a very progressive and enterprising farmer, and is a man of sound business judgment.

On the 23d of February, 1890, Mr. Biebinger was united in marriage with Miss Mary Le Fevre, a native of Piatt county, and a daughter of Isaac and Annie (Peck) Le Fevre, who were born in Pennsylvania and Ohio, respectively, and in early life removed to Piatt county, Illinois, where Mr. Le Fevre followed farming. Our subject and his wife have two children, Vena and Vera, twins,

born November 11, 1900. In his political affiliations Mr. Biebinger is a Republican, but cares nothing for political honors. He takes an active part in those interests designed to promote the general welfare, and is one of the leading citizens of his community.

On March 1, 1901, Mr. Biebinger resigned his position as manager of the Allerton estate and accepted a position as superintendent of the shipping department of the John Deere Plow Company, of Moline, Illinois, where he has one hundred and fifty men under him.

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### JOSEPH WELLS.

Among Henry county's most prosperous and influential citizens are many whose early home was on the other side of the Atlantic. Joseph Wells, now one of the leading agriculturists of Cornwall township, is a native of England, his birth having occurred in Billingham, Lincolnshire, in 1836. His parents, William B. and Elizabeth (Bee) Wells, were life-long residents of that country. In their family were seven children.

Bidding good-by to home and native land in 1861, Mr. Wells took passage on the North Britain, a steamer of the Allen line, and after a voyage of eleven days landed in Portland, Maine. From that place he went to Rochester, New York, and after remaining there for two weeks came to Henry county, Illinois, taking up his residence in Atkinson township at the age of twenty-nine. For three years he worked on a farm and then went to Montana. He was three months in making the trip, traveling five hundred miles over a new road, and spending the 4th of July, 1864, on the banks of the Yellowstone river. One night Indians attacked the



camp and stole about fifty horses and one man was shot in the shoulder with a bow and arrow. At another time a party en route to California was a short distance in advance of the train our subject was with, and had over a hundred head of horses stolen. For five years he was successfully engaged in prospecting and mining for gold in that state, and then returned to this county. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres of partially improved land on section 9, Cornwall township, and to its further improvement and cultivation has since devoted his energies with most gratifying results. He has also added eighty acres of cultivated land to the original tract, while his landed possessions in Cornwall township now aggregate three hundred and thirty-three acres of very valuable and productive land, all of which property has been acquired through his own industry, indefatigable energy, and good business ability, guided by sound judgment.

In his political views Mr. Wells is a stalwart Republican, and he takes a commendable interest in the affairs of his adopted country. In August, 1874, he returned to England on a visit, sailing from New York on the 7th of that month, and landing at Liverpool after a very pleasant voyage of ten days. He remained in his native land until March, 1875, and then returned to this country on the steamer Republic of the White Star line. The weather was quite stormy coming back.

With Mr. Wells resides his nephew, John Wells, who was also born in Billingham, Lincolnshire, England, October 2, 1860, a son of James and Ann (Parker) Wells, natives of the same county, where the father followed the occupation of a farmer throughout life. John is one of fourteen children, and has two brothers who came to America after

he located here. It was in 1879 that he crossed the Atlantic from Liverpool to New York, and came immediately to Atkinson, Illinois. Since then he has engaged in farming in this county, and now makes his home with his uncle. On the 20th of February, 1890, he married Miss Francinia Barber, a daughter of C. S. Barber, an old settler of Burns township, and they now have one child, Charles Parker, who was born March 27, 1892. John Wells is also a Republican in politics, and has efficiently filled the office of school director.

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#### GEORGE FUNK.

Prominent among the farmers and stock raisers of Cornwall township, is George Funk whose valuable farm of three hundred and twenty acres is pleasantly located on section 31. A native of Virginia, he was born in Rockingham county, on the 10th of January, 1847, and is a son of Abraham and Matilda (Armentrout) Funk, also natives of the Old Dominion, the birth of the former occurring October 1, 1807, the latter December 26, 1811. They were married January 23, 1834, and became the parents of eight children, namely: David, born February 7, 1835, married Anna Neff and lives in Missouri; Malinda, born June 9, 1836, is the widow of Thomas Walsh and resides near Cambridge, Illinois; Susannah, born February 17, 1839, married John Weaver and died in Hamilton, Caldwell county, Missouri; Mary, born November 9, 1840, married H. F. Weaver, of Breckenridge, Missouri, and is now deceased; Christian, born November 10, 1842, married L. Jenkins and lives near Schuyler, Colfax county, Ne-



braska; Catherine, born June 2, 1844, is the wife of G. S. Will and lives near Breckenridge, Caldwell county, Missouri; George, our subject, is next in order of birth; and John, born December 23, 1850, died in childhood. The mother died in Virginia, July 28, 1851, and was laid to rest at Tressel church, Rockingham county. The father was again married, July 24, 1861, his second union being with Rebecca T. Shue, who was also born in Virginia, August 13, 1813. He followed the occupation of a farmer and stone cutter in his native state until 1864, when he came to Henry county, Illinois, arriving here on the 13th of January, that year. He had traded his property in Virginia with William Rehder for four hundred acres of improved land in Caldwell and Munson townships, and upon this farm he spent the remainder of his life, dying there April 20, 1875. His remains were interred at Liberty.

In the county of his nativity George Funk acquired his early education in the district schools, and during his youth assisted his father in the labors of the farm. He came with the family to this county, and on attaining his majority started out in life for himself as an agriculturist. After his father's death he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of the old homestead and to it has added from time to time until he now has three hundred and twenty acres in Cornwall and Munson townships, all under cultivation. His present pleasant residence was erected in 1893, and he has made many other improvements upon the place until it is now one of the best farms in the locality. The well tilled fields and the neat and thrifty appearance of the place testify to his careful supervision and good business ability. In addition to general farming he carries

on stock raising quite extensively, and ships three or four carloads to the city annually.

Mr. Funk was married on the 12th of February, 1874, to Miss Rebecca Funk, and they have become the parents of three children, two of whom are now living, namely: Abram, born November 23, 1874, aids in the operation of the home farm; and Amy A., born January 24, 1876, is the wife of Frank S. Sears. Politically Mr. Funk affiliates with the Republican party, and for seventeen years has most creditably filled the office of school director. Religiously he is a member of the Congregational Church, and is a man in whom the community places the utmost confidence.

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#### CASPER OTT.

This gentleman is one of the pioneers of Illinois, and has been an important factor in the development and upbuilding of Henry county, where he has now made his home for almost half a century. In 1868, he located upon his present farm on section 21, Yorktown township, and now has the best improved and most highly cultivated place in that locality.

A native of Pennsylvania, Mr. Ott was born in Warren county, October 29, 1836, and is a son of Casper and Elizabeth (Trier) Ott. He was the oldest of their nine children, the others being Louisa, who married A. Hickey, of Geneseo, Illinois, and died in March, 1877; David, who became a member of Company F, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, during the Civil war, and died at St. Louis after one year's service; Adam, deceased, who married Louisa Sand, the present wife of our subject; Sophia, wife of Louis Sand, of Moline, Illinois; Rosana, wife of Jacob Rose, of



CASPER OTT.

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Geneseo; Henry, who married Catherine Wolf and lives in Geneseo; Adolph, who married Lizzie Waltz and resides in the same place; and Jacob, who died at the age of nine years.

When only six months old Casper Ott accompanied his parents on their removal to Lake county, Illinois, being carried in his mother's arms from Pennsylvania to Chicago. There were several families in the party and the journey was made in covered wagons, then known as prairie schooners. There the father worked as a journeyman tailor, while the family made their home in a log cabin. Our subject had no educational advantages, never attending school but one day when twelve years of age. He worked with his father until he attained his majority, and together they came to Henry county, in 1853. The latter purchased a tract of one hundred and eighty acres of land in Loraine township, which our subject assisted in placing under cultivation.

On the 20th of October, 1861, in that township, Mr. Ott was united in marriage with Mary Elizabeth Rapp, by whom he had the following children: Amos, born July 1, 1863, in Loraine township, married Becky Himmel, and has three children, Harry E., Amanda and David L. He is now engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Prophetstown, Illinois. David, born November 1, 1865, died October 1, 1893. Sarah, born March 14, 1867, is also a resident of Prophetstown. Calvin, born July 10, 1869, married Minnie Sanderson, and lives in the same place. Leonard, born January 30, 1873, makes his home with his brother Amos. Cora E., born December 14, 1876, is teaching school in Alba township, this county. Mrs. Ott died December 30, 1876.

Mr. Ott was again married August 7, 1877, his second union being with Mrs. Louisa Ott, the widow of his brother, Adam, and a daughter of Ludwig and Dorothy (Lehmann) Sand, who were natives of Alsace, Germany, and early settlers of Geneseo, Illinois, where both died. By occupation the father was a farmer. Of his eleven children two died in infancy, the others being Lewis, who married Sophia Ott and resides in Moline, Illinois; Philip, who died in the army during the Civil war; Louisa, wife of our subject; Samuel, who wedded Mary Heinz and died in Kansas; Amelia, wife of Jacob Offerle, of Warren, Pennsylvania; Obed, who married Lillie Brown and lives in northern Iowa; Elizabeth, wife of Lawrence Offerle, of Offerle, Kansas; Benjamin, who married Louisa Urban and resides in Geneseo, Illinois; and Solomon, who died in Arizona. By her first marriage Mrs. Ott had the following children: Anna B., born November 9, 1867, is the wife of Irvin Luther, of Walnut, Illinois, and has three children, Eugene A., Mary L. and Ruth; and Carrie, born December 26, 1870, is the wife of Edward Zinser, of Yorktown township, this county and has three children, Arthur E., Nulford E. and Milan E.

After his first marriage Mr. Ott leased forty acres of land of his father, and later rented a tract of one hundred and twenty acres owned by him in Yorktown township. In 1868 our subject made his first purchase of land consisting of one hundred and sixty acres on section 21, the same township, belonging to his father, and has since added to it a tract of forty acres, so that he now owns a fine farm of two hundred acres, which he has placed under excellent cultivation. In 1889 he erected one of the best residences in the township, has also built a large barn,

and has supplied the place with all the conveniences and accessories found upon a model farm of the present day. In addition to his farm work Mr. Ott has engaged in house moving and is agent for the Home Insurance Company. He is an excellent harness maker and in all his undertakings has been quite successful, and he is now one of the well-to-do and substantial citizens of his community.

Although he had no educational privileges Mr. Ott fully realizes the advantages of a good education, and for twenty-eight years has efficiently served as school trustee in his district. He has also held the offices of constable and road commissioner, filling the latter position eleven years. He and his family are active members of the Evangelical Association in which he has served as class leader for years.

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#### ABRAM JACKSON LEWIS.

With the agricultural interests of Cornwall township, Abram J. Lewis has been closely identified for a number of years, and is now the owner of an excellent farm on section 9. He was born near Chillicothe, Ohio, on the 17th of February, 1851. His father, John Lewis, was born April 17, 1820, in Indiana township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, and when young removed to Ohio with his parents, William and Elizabeth Lewis, also natives of the Keystone state. He grew to manhood upon a farm in Richland township, Jackson county, Ohio, and on the 4th of May, 1847, wedded Miss Mary Cozad, of that county. On first coming to Illinois, in 1851, John Lewis located in Fulton county, but the following year took up his residence in Cornwall township, Henry

county, where he purchased a soldier's claim of one hundred and sixty acres on section 21. In his farming operations here he met with remarkable success, and added to his landed possessions from time to time until he had eleven hundred and sixty acres of well improved land, most of which was unbroken when it came into his possession, but being industrious, energetic and enterprising he became the owner of one of the most valuable estates in this county. In religious belief he was a Baptist and in politics a Democrat, and was a man highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. He died March 5, 1900, and his wife passed away July 26, 1898, the remains of both being interred in the Liberty Church burying ground in Cornwall township.

To this worthy couple were born fourteen children as follows: William J. married Eliza J. Claypool and is now deceased; Abram J., our subject, is next in order of birth; Samuel F. married Susan J. Rogers and follows farming in Atkinson township, this county; John H. married Delia Keppler and lives in Geneseo; James Andrew married Elizabeth Bentley and makes his home in Atkinson township; George W. married Florence De Bloie, and resides in Jasper county, near Newton, Illinois; Francis M. married Luzetta Williamson and is engaged in farming near Peoria; Charles A. married Lillian Carney and lives in Kansas City; Charity A. is the wife of James Fell, a resident of Geneseo, this county; Stephen A. married Charity Cozad and is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cornwall township, section 20; Alfred married Jennie Ole and is a farmer of Munson township; Albert T., a twin of Alfred, died in infancy; Robert lives in Kansas City; and Mary is the wife of George Hudson, of Indian Territory.

The subject of this sketch was only a year old when brought by his parents to Henry county, Illinois, and in the school of his home district he secured the greater part of his education, though he attended school at Atkinson one term. During his boyhood and youth he assisted in the labors of the farm and early acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits which has been of great benefit in his life work. He is now the owner of a well improved and highly cultivated farm of two hundred and eighty acres. His political support is always given the Democracy, and he capably filled the office of constable one term, but has never cared for political honors.

On the 13th of May, 1876, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Miss Mary Catherine Reese, a native of New York state, who died March 14, 1881. Of the two children born of that union, one, Lotta, married Warren Dunham, and resides in Geneseo township. The other, Roland, died aged one year and ten months. Mr. Lewis was again married, April 14, 1885, his second union being with Miss Martha J. McFarland, by whom he had one child, Mamie Blanch, who died in infancy.

Mrs. Lewis' parents are John and Samantha (Julian) McFarland, both natives of northeastern Ohio, the former born February 4, 1829, the latter August 22, 1832. They are now residents of Missouri. The names and dates of birth of their children are as follows: Henry A., December 29, 1852; Mary E., March 24, 1854; Sophia and Cynthia, twins, March 12, 1856; William S., February 1, 1858; Martha J., December 12, 1859; Joseph A., July 25, 1861; Robert S., February 25, 1863; Cora B., March 29, 1865; Emma F., December 25, 1866; Tony B., April 27, 1869; Leonard, July 14, 1871; and Agnes, April 25, 1873.

All are living with the exception of Leonard, who died July 16, 1872. The father removed to Missouri twenty-seven years ago, and has followed farming throughout life.

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### JOHN S. FARNAM.

One of the active, prominent and enterprising citizens of Cornwall township is the gentleman whose name heads this sketch, and who is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits on section 15. He was born in New Hampshire, April 26, 1833, and comes of good old New England stock, his parents being Jonathan and Phebe (Stevens) Farnam, also natives of the Granite state and pioneers of Illinois. By trade the father was a carpenter, but becoming a minister of the Christian Church he devoted considerable time to religious work. He died in this county March 28, 1875, honored and respected by all who knew him. His estimable wife passed away in 1852, aged thirty-seven years. They were the parents of six children, of whom John S. is fourth in order of birth. Sarah, born in 1825, is a resident of Nebraska and the widow of Randall Sargent, a farmer by occupation. Hannah C. is also living in Nebraska. Lucy married N. C. Bosworth, a farmer of California, now deceased. George W. enlisted during the Civil war in the First Kansas Cavalry, and was killed in his first battle, at Gunnison, Colorado, at the age of twenty-two years, his remains being interred at Kansas City. Luther is the wife of Edwin Bosworth, a farmer of California.

John S. Farnam was reared and educated in the east, and was eighteen years of age when he came to Illinois. He was first employed at farm work near Tiskilwa, Bureau county. His first purchase of land con-

sisted of eighty acres of unbroken prairie near that place, which he cultivated and improved. On disposing of that property he came to Cornwall township, Henry county, in 1856, and bought one hundred and sixty acres of land to which he subsequently added forty acres. He also owns eighty acres in Mineral township, Bureau county, all of which is under cultivation with the exception of forty acres of timber land. He broke the land and erected the buildings thereon, and to-day has one of the best improved farms in Cornwall township. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade with his father, and has built a number of bridges in this county, besides moving and constructing many houses.

At the age of twenty-one Mr. Farnam was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Tompkins, a native of Illinois and one of a family of six children. Her father, Martin Tompkins, died in this county in 1891, at the home of our subject. Of the ten children born to our subject and his wife the first four died in childhood; John is at home; George W. married Jennie Lane, a native of Henry county; Laura is the wife of Oliver Nicholson; Nellie is at home; Mabel is the wife of Walter Sleaford; and Martin married Sarah Cosner and lives at home.

During the dark days of the Rebellion Mr. Farnam manifested his patriotism by enlisting in Company D, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into the United States service at Peoria as a private, but in six months was promoted commissary sergeant and later to line sergeant. He participated in the battles of Resaca, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Utoy Creek, Rough and Ready, Jonesboro and Atlanta,

Georgia; Columbia and Franklin, Tennessee; and Fort Anderson, Town Creek and Wilmington, North Carolina; and was also in Sanders' raid into east Tennessee. He was wounded at Resaca, and during the battle of Franklin was thrown from a bridge and almost killed, falling twenty-five feet and striking on bed rock. He was confined in the hospital for six months and then returned to his regiment in Greensboro, North Carolina, and in June, 1865, was mustered out at the same place and in July was honorably discharged from the service at Chicago.

During the gold excitement at Pikes Peak Mr. Farnam went to Colorado, and was engaged in prospecting and mining near that place for three years, returning home with two thousand dollars in gold. He cast his first presidential vote in 1856 and is now a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party. At one time he was a member of the Grangers Association. He has filled the offices of school director and township supervisor in a most creditable and satisfactory manner, and has been prominently identified with the best interests of his locality during his entire residence there. He settled there before Cornwall township was organized and has done much to advance the general welfare, always supporting those enterprises which he believes will prove of public benefit. He was one of the brave defenders of the Union during the Civil war and has always been a loyal and patriotic citizen.

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#### BUENOS AYRES.

For over forty years this gentleman was closely identified with the agricultural and business interests of Henry county, and was



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accounted one of its most worthy citizens. By his well-directed efforts he acquired a comfortable competence, and was able to spend his last years in ease and retirement from active labor at his pleasant home in Geneseo.

Mr. Ayres was born in Hampden county, Massachusetts, January 17, 1810, a son of Asa and Mary (White) Ayres, who were also natives of the Bay state and of English descent. The family was founded in this country by three brothers who came from England in the early part of the seventeenth century and settled in Massachusetts. Our subject traced his ancestry back to Captain John Ayres, who located in Brookfield, Massachusetts, in 1648, and in 1662 removed to Ipswich, that state. He lost his life in a struggle with the Indians, to which the early settlers of the east were frequently subjected. He died August 3, 1675, leaving two sons, of whom John, the older of these, died in Ipswich, December 24, 1685. The other, Samuel Ayres, was successively a resident of Newbury and Rowley, Massachusetts. He was married at Ipswich, April 16, 1677, to Abigail, daughter of William Fellows, and to them were born ten children. Their son Joseph Ayres made his home in Brookfield, and was the father of Samuel Ayres, also a resident of that place and a weaver by trade. The latter was married January 21, 1742, to Martha Bell, and they became the parents of ten children. To this family belonged Asa Ayres, the father of our subject. He also had ten children, of whom Buenos was the youngest and belonged to the seventh generation of the family in America.

When the subject of this sketch was a lad of ten years, he accompanied his parents on their removal to the western reserve of

Ohio, where the father purchased one hundred acres of wild land and improved a farm in what is now Lake county. In early life Buenos Ayres learned the carpenter's and millwright's trade, and remained with his father until reaching manhood.

On the 1st of September, 1833, Mr. Ayres was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Osborne, who was born in Oxford, Connecticut, September 2, 1816, and was a representative of an old New England family, her parents being Ransom and Sarah (Hurd) Osborne. Soon after their marriage they removed to Willoughby, Ohio, where their two oldest children were born, and in the spring of 1837 took up their abode in Hicksville, Defiance county, that state, where six more children were added to the family. In 1850 they removed to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, where as a millwright Mr. Ayres was engaged in business for one year, being engaged in the construction of some important mills in that locality. In 1851 he brought his family to Illinois, and for two years worked at his trade in Bureau county. On coming to Henry county in 1853, he purchased a farm in Munson township and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In his farming operations he steadily prospered and became an extensive land owner. To his original purchase he added until he had three hundred and twenty acres of well improved and valuable land in his home farm, besides a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Cambridge township and real estate in Colorado and Geneseo. In 1877 he rented his farm and removed to Geneseo, where he lived retired until his death, which occurred on the 9th of September, 1895. He was a skilled mechanic and successful farmer, and was also a man of excellent business and executive ability, being able to carry forward to

successful completion whatever he undertook. In political sentiment he was a Republican. He attended the Unitarian Church, and was a man of strict integrity and honorable dealings, who possessed the good opinion of all who knew him. He was public-spirited and took an active interest in all that pertained to the advancement of his adopted county, and in his death the community realized that it had lost a valued citizen. His estimable wife passed away November 1, 1894.

Unto this worthy couple were born eleven children as follows: Sheldon H., born April 23, 1835, was married January 22, 1857, to Louisa Emery, who died in Galva, March 12, 1864, and in May, 1865 he married Sarah Frank. He went to Kansas during the troublesome times in that state prior to the Civil war, and as a free-state man took an active part in the border warfare. Orlando B., born July 26, 1836, married Annie L. Stone. He died in San Diego, California, March 27, 1900. George W., born January 6, 1838, died on the 10th of the following October. Mary A., born November 22, 1840, died three days later. Samuel P., born May 16, 1842, wedded Mary Ingelfield, and is editor and proprietor of the Marshalltown Herald, Marshalltown, Iowa. Esther E., born May 14, 1845, married J. D. Hill, of Geneseo, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. Roderick W., born April 26, 1848, is a resident of Bussey, Marion county, Iowa; married Sadie H. Ingelfield, and after her death was again married, December 27, 1876, his second union being with Edith M. Swain. Ransom O., born in Bureau county, Illinois, October 24, 1852, was married, January 26, 1877, to Fannie J. Reaver, and lives in Knoxville, Iowa. Azoline, born in Munson town-

ship, this county, August 24, 1854, died three days later. John C. F. is mentioned more fully below. Helen E., born in Munson township, September 3, 1859, died October 13, 1862.

John C. F. Ayres was born on the old homestead in Munson township, August 26, 1856, and during his boyhood assisted his father in the labors of the fields. He attended the local schools, and also the high school of Geneseo. On the 25th of December, 1879, he married Miss Sarah Alice Martin, a daughter of John S. and Dovey A. (Hamilton) Martin, who are also represented elsewhere in this volume. By this union were born seven children, namely: Carrie M., Jessie M., John D., Elsie M., Helen M., Laura A. and Lois. Mr. Ayres now owns the old homestead farm, consisting of one hundred and eighty-six acres of well improved and valuable land, which he rents, while he resides in Geneseo. In the spring of 1901 he embarked in the general farm implement business at that place and now carries a full line of wagons, buggies, steam threshers and all kinds of farm implements. He takes an active part in political affairs, and has held the office of assessor two terms, and school director for a number of years. He is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Home Forum Mutual Insurance Company, and is one of the most highly esteemed citizens of his community.

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#### N.AVER CLEMENTZ.

Among those agriculturists of Henry county whose places manifest to the most casual observer the energy and ability of the owner in his chosen calling is the subject of this personal history. He now owns two hundred and eighty acres of well-im-

proved and highly cultivated land on sections 4 and 9, Yorktown township.

Mr. Clementz was born in Alsace-Lorraine, at that time under the French government, on the 6th of July, 1844, but was only nine months old when brought to this country, in 1845, by his parents, John and Michelina (Highmiser) Clementz, both of whom were born near Strasburg, Germany, the former in 1813, the latter in 18—. The family first located two and a half miles from Naperville, in Du Page county, Illinois, where the father purchased one hundred and forty acres of land, partly covered with timber, and to the development and cultivation of this farm he devoted his time and attention for twelve years. During this time our subject aided in the work of the farm and learned very little English, as German was the language spoken in the home. He then accompanied the family on their removal to Loraine township, Henry county, where a farm of one hundred and thirty acres was purchased, and here he attended the district schools for a time, pursuing his studies in an old log hut with log seats standing on pegs driven into the floor. There were no desks. After seven years spent at this place the family returned to Naperville. Naver remained with his parents two years longer and then again came to Henry county, this time locating in Yorktown township. Subsequently the father traded his Naperville farm for land in Yorktown township, which our subject operated. In 1886 he purchased two hundred acres from his father, and has since bought eighty acres from Mr. Bogardus. This he still retains and has improved in a creditable manner. Nearly all of the entire tract has been broken by himself, and has been converted by him into one of the finest farms of York-

town township. In connection with general farming he is also engaged in raising cattle for market purposes.

Naver Clementz is the third in order of birth in a family of five children, the others being Josephine, wife of Conrad Seyler, of Prophetstown, Illinois; Lena, wife of D. Smith, a farmer of Yorktown township, this county; August, who married Barbara Creygar, and died in Naperville, in 1889; and Kate, wife of George Seyler, of Yorktown township.

Naver Clementz has been twice married. In December, 1869, in Loraine township, this county, he married Miss Louisa Gross, who died October 20, 1873, leaving two children, namely: Frank, who was born March 11, 1871, and resides with his father; and Dora, who was born February 7, 1873, and is now the wife of August Seyler, of Yorktown township. On the 20th of June, 1874, Mr. Clementz was united in marriage with Miss Mary Vogel, a native of Naperville, Illinois, and a daughter of Anthony and Mary Ann (Seyler) Vogel, lifelong residents of Germany. Her father was born near Strasburg, her mother in Alsace-Lorraine. Mrs. Vogel was the only daughter in the family of eight children, and is now the only survivor. Three of her brothers came to America. By his second marriage Mr. Clementz has eight children: Anna, born April 5, 1875, is the wife of Charles Bollenbach, of Columbus Junction, Iowa; William, born September 15, 1877, is at home; Bertha, born January 22, 1880, is the wife of Edward Bollenbach, of Yorktown Corners, Bureau county; and Martha, born January 28, 1883, Josephine, born May 12, 1886, Katie, born December 26, 1890, Fred, born September 19, 1892, and John, born February 7, 1894, are all at



home. Mrs. Clementz passed away in September, 1893. The family are communicants of the Roman Catholic Church, and are held in high regard by all who know them. For a number of years Mr. Clementz has served as school director, supporting the Democratic party, and he gives his support to every worthy enterprise for the public good.

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### JOHN S. MARTIN.

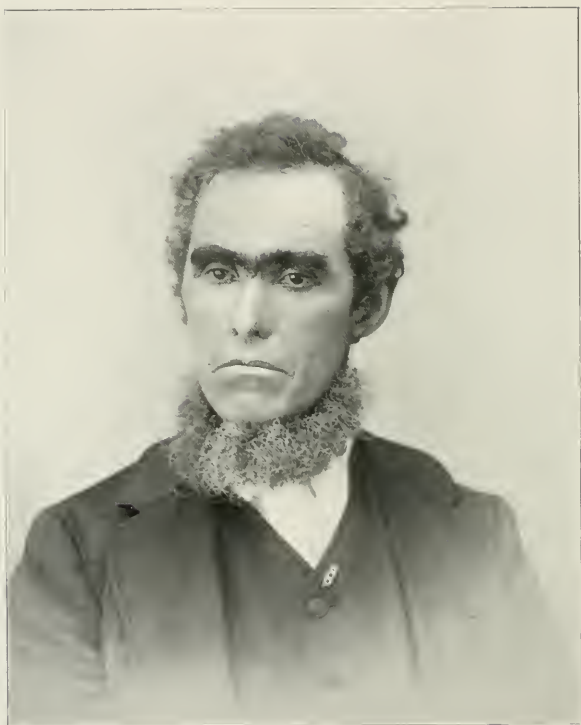
The life of this gentleman has been one of usefulness and he is now living retired in Geneseo, enjoying the fruits of former toil. He was born on the 26th of August, 1831, near Livonia, Washington county, Indiana, a son of Nathan and Sarah (Trimble) Martin. On the paternal side he is descended from Peter Martin, a native of the Old Dominion, who was born February 8, 1841, of German ancestry. His son, John Martin, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Martin's Hundred, near Richmond, Virginia, September 3, 1773, and became one of the first settlers of Kentucky, going to that state with the celebrated Daniel Boone. For some time he lived in a fort. In 1823 he removed with his family to Indiana, and in 1849 came to Illinois with his sons, James and John, locating in Woodford county, where he died October 3, 1855. His wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, was also born in Virginia, January 24, 1779, and died in Woodford county, Illinois, May 31, 1858. They were the parents of eleven children, namely: Stephen, who died in Washington county, Indiana; Nathan, the father of our subject; Achsah, wife of Absalom Little, of Clark county, Indiana, where her death occurred; Lemuel, who died in Sharon, Whiteside county, Illinois; Moses

Jeffries, who died in Greene county, Iowa; Allen, who died in Washington county, Indiana, and was buried on the old home farm; Enoch Redding, who died in Clark county, that state; Asa, who died in Olivette, Iowa; James M., who died in Washington county, Kansas; John Mason, a resident of Chicago; and Sarah Elizabeth, who married John Sherwood and died in Washington county, Indiana.

Nathan Martin, our subject's father, was born in Shelby county, Kentucky, January 12, 1802, and removed to Indiana with his parents in 1823, settling on Bear creek, near the town of Martinsburg, Washington county. Throughout life he followed the occupation of a farmer. In 1825 he made a trip on horseback to Fort Clarke, Illinois, and then returned to Indiana, where he continued to make his home until 1852, when he removed to Sharon, Whiteside county, Illinois. There his wife died March 25, 1864, and about two years later he went to Republic county, Kansas, where he purchased land, residing there until called to his final rest March 7, 1873. It was in Orange county, Indiana, March 18, 1829, that he married Miss Sarah Trimble, who was born near Paris, Bourbon county, Kentucky, August 1, 1802. Her father, George Trimble, was a native of Virginia and was also a companion of Daniel Boone in his early explorations and settlement of the "Dark and Bloody Ground." He wedded Mary Armstrong and to them were born seven children: Mary and Thomas, who both died in Orange county, Indiana; Jane, who died in Kentucky; Margaret and Elizabeth, who died in Indiana; Sarah, the mother of our subject; and George, who died in Indiana.

John S. Martin is the second in order of birth in a family of ten children, the others

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being as follows: George T. died in Sharon, Whiteside county, Illinois; Enoch M. is a resident of Colorado; Sarah Jane married Walter Stone and died in Sharon, Whiteside county; Achsah A. is the wife of David W. Hamilton, of Belleville, Republic county, Kansas; Nathan M. is a resident of Chula, Livingston county, Missouri; James A. died in Atlantic, Iowa; Amazetta Z. married Benona Benson, now a resident of Rock Island, and she died in Sharon, Whiteside county, Illinois; Mary C. is the widow of Frank Hadaway and a resident of Prophetstown, Whiteside county; Henrietta C. died in Sharon at the age of twenty years.

John S. Martin acquired his early education in the schools of Livonia, Indiana, and was reared on the home farm. When a young man he learned the tailor's trade at that place, where he worked for two years. With the hope of bettering his financial condition in the west, he went to Keokuk, Iowa, in 1850, and from there to Des Moines, which at that time was only a fort. On his return to Indiana, he took up cabinet making, which he followed for a short time in partnership with D. R. Pound at Middletown, Vigo county, but in June, 1851, he sold out and returned to his father's place in Washington county. Later in the same year he and his brother George came to Illinois and settled in Sharon, Whiteside county. In the spring of 1852 he assisted his father in moving with an ox team to this state. At Sharon he followed farming and also worked at the carpenter trade, in the meantime purchasing land in Phenix township, Henry county. In 1856 he removed to Geneseo, and located on Center street where he still makes his home. Here Mr. Martin turned his attention to carpenter work, and for a third of a century was in the employ of the Chicago, Rock

Island & Pacific Railroad as a general carpenter. He was foreman most of the time and division foreman for seven years, and is now living retired.

On the 25th of December, 1855, Mr. Martin married Miss Dovey Ann Hamilton, of Pekin, Washington county, Indiana, who was born in Lincolnton, North Carolina, November 20, 1828, and was a daughter of Ninian and Mary Margaret (Willfong) Hamilton, also natives of North Carolina. Her paternal grandparents were Archibald and Polly (Hawkins) Hamilton, natives of Maryland, and her maternal grandparents were George and Mary (Shuford) Willfong. Her parents removed to Pekin, Indiana, in 1831. Their children were Mary Susanna, who died in infancy; Dovey Ann, wife of our subject; Reuben, who died in childhood; Rebecca, who died in infancy; Ninian Bell, who died in Hartsville, Indiana; David Willfong, a resident of Belleville, Republic county, Kansas; Candace Shuford, widow of Isaac Martin, living on her father's old homestead in Pekin, Indiana; and George Washington, who died while serving in the Fifty-third Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war.

Six children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin, namely: (1) Hugh Hamilton, agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroad at Blue Island, Illinois, married Ada Hanna, of Colona, Henry county, and they have four children, Nellie P., Edna L., Eugene P. and Julia E. (2) S. Alice is the wife of John C. F. Ayres, who is represented on another page of this volume. (3) Emma R. is teaching school in Chicago. (4) Lillie May is a physician and surgeon of Albany, Wisconsin. She is the wife of Dr. Saxton J. Morgan. (5) M. Elsie is a book-keeper of Boston, Massachusetts. (6) J.

Morrison died at the age of twenty-one years. The mother of these children departed this life January 30, 1901.

Mr. Martin and his family hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he superintended the erection of the present church of that denomination built at Geneseo. He has also been a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows since 1865. He cast his first presidential vote for Winfield Scott, the Whig candidate, and is now a stalwart supporter of the Republican party. His career has ever been such as to gain for him the confidence and good will of his fellow citizens, and he is held in the highest respect and esteem by all who know him.

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#### FRANK S. SEARS.

This successful and prosperous farmer of Cornwall township was born on the old homestead where he now resides, October 15, 1861, and is a son of John and Mary (Jewett) Sears, both natives of Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut. The father was born on the 22nd of May, 1818, and in early life was engaged in merchandising down the Mississippi. In the fall of 1856 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and purchasing a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of wild land in Cornwall township he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. Subsequently he purchased a tract of similar size from his brother who had come with him to this state, and also bought another eighty acres, so that he had four hundred acres of land at the time of his death. This he placed under excellent cultivation and improved with a good set of farm buildings. He served as township clerk for a year or more and also filled the office of school director. He died in February, 1897, and his wife

passed away January 6, 1889, both being laid to rest in Fairview cemetery. They were among the most highly respected and honored citizens of their community. In the family of this worthy couple were seven children, namely: Mary J., wife of Dr. E. J. Porter, of Grand Island, Nebraska; Frank S., our subject; John, who wedded Mary Whiffels and lives in Annawan township, this county; Sarah A.: Nellie, who died May 14, 1884; William H., who married Naoma Fick and resides in Cornwall township; and Jessie L.

Frank S. Sears obtained his elementary education in the country schools near his boyhood home, and subsequently attended the high school at Geneseo for two years. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until the latter's death, and then took charge of the place, which he has since successfully carried on. Like his father, he is a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, and for two years he most acceptably served as township clerk. On the 14th of April, 1897, he led to the marriage altar Miss Amy A. Funk, a daughter of George Funk, a sketch of whom appears in this work, and they have become the parents of two children: George V., who was born March 27, 1898, and died on the 29th of the following April; and Attie Mildred, who was born March 4, 1900. The Sears family is one of the most prominent families of Cornwall township and wherever known is held in high regard.

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#### CHRISTIAN G. GIERHART.

In the respect that is accorded to men who have fought their way to success through unfavorable environments we find an unconscious recognition of the intrinsic



worth of a character which can not only endure so rough a test but gain new strength through the discipline. The following history sets forth briefly the steps by which our subject, now one of the substantial agriculturists of Henry county, overcame the disadvantages of his early life. He resides on section 6, Atkinson township, and is the owner of a fine farm of two hundred acres in that and Geneseo townships.

Mr. Gierhart was born in Richland county, Ohio, on the 17th of April, 1824, and is a son of Jonas H. and Susan (Stough) Gierhart, both natives of Maryland, where their marriage was celebrated. The father was born in 1792, and in 1814 removed to Ashland county, Ohio, which was then a vast wilderness. With his wife and child and one horse the journey was made to their new home in the Buckeye state. With his own hands he built a little cabin in the midst of the forest, and at once began to clear and improve a farm. In later years, with the assistance of his sons, he made a good farm of one hundred and sixty acres. About 1867 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and spent his last years with his children, dying here in February, 1873.

On the old homestead in Ohio, Christian G. Gierhart grew to manhood, aiding his father in carrying on the farm until he reached years of maturity. During the Mexican war he enlisted in 1846, in Company K, Third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was first engaged in guarding trains for about five hundred miles, later participating in the battle of Buena Vista. He was ill in the hospital for some time, and from the effects of that illness he has never fully recovered. At the close of the war he was honorably discharged at New Orleans. By

way of Cincinnati he returned to his old home in Ohio, and being in poor health remained on his father's farm about two years.

In November, 1849, Mr. Gierhart was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Gray, who was born in Pennsylvania and was about six years old when she accompanied her father, Joseph Gray, on his removal to Ohio, the family being among the early settlers of Ashland county. For some time after his marriage he worked at anything which he could find to do, and contracted to cut six hundred cords of wood, most of which he himself cut. In 1853 he came to Henry county, Illinois, and engaged in farming for Charles Demming, who at the advanced age of ninety-seven years is now living in Geneseo. While serving as justice of the peace in Ohio Mr. Demming had married Mr. and Mrs. Gierhart, and he swore Mr. Gierhart into the service in the Mexican war. He filled the office of state senator in Ohio, and held other positions of honor and trust.

Our subject continued in the employ of Mr. Demming at Geneseo for four years and during that time opened up a farm. In 1856 he made his first purchase of land consisting of eighty acres of raw prairie on section 6, Atkinson township, where he now resides, and at once turned his attention to its improvement and cultivation. He erected thereon a small house, which was his home for sixteen years, and was then replaced by a more commodious and pretentious dwelling. Other buildings have also been erected, an orchard set out and shade trees planted. He added to his original purchase from time to time and now has two hundred acres of valuable land, forty acres of which is just across the road from his

home in Geneseo township. At one time he owned three hundred acres, but has since disposed of a portion of this. Although he started out in life for himself in debt, he has steadily overcome the obstacles in the path to prosperity, and through his diligence, enterprise and good management has become quite well-to-do.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Gierhart were born seven children, namely: Martha Jane, wife of A. C. Rice, of Geneseo; Margaret Lovenia, wife of Theodore Miller, a farmer of Geneseo township; Susan, who married and died in Kansas, leaving three children, two of whom are now living; John E., a farmer of Geneseo township; Ida, wife of Myron McHenry; and J. O., an invalid, who is married and resides on the home farm; and Olive, who died at the age of seven months.

In 1862, during the Civil war, Mr. Gierhart raised a company, which became a part Volunteer Infantry, under command of of the One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Colonel Henderson, and was commissioned first lieutenant by Governor Yates, but being in ill health he was advised by the Colonel to resign after going south and returned home in the fall of that year. Politically he was a Jeffersonian Democrat and cast his first presidential ballot for James K. Polk in 1844. At local elections, however, when no issue is involved he votes independent of party lines. For the long period of twenty-eight years he was an efficient member of the school board and also served as president of the district. He filled the office of justice of the peace in Atchison township for eight years; was road commissioner twelve years; and has been a delegate to numerous conventions of his party. His official duties have been

performed with a fidelity and promptness worthy of the highest commendation, and he has always been found true to every trust reposed in him whether public or private. He is an active and prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Geneseo, was superintendent of the Sunday school for twelve years, and assisted in establishing one of the first country Sunday schools in the county.

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#### NORMAN SHEARER.

The fine farm on section 18, Cornwall township, belonging to this gentleman, invariably attracts the eye of the passing traveler as being under the supervision of a thorough and skillful agriculturist, and a man otherwise of good business qualifications. In connection with his farming operations he carries on stock raising quite extensively, and in all his undertakings has been remarkably successful.

Mr. Shearer was born in Cornwall township, June 13, 1859, and is a son of Lewis and Permelia (Burget) Shearer, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. His early education was acquired at the district schools in the immediate vicinity of his home, and by reading and observation in later years he has greatly supplemented the knowledge there acquired. He remained on the home farm with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated April 5, 1885. Miss Mary McCafferty becoming his wife. She is a native of Ireland, and came to this country in 1866 with her parents, Charles and Rose (Diver) McCafferty, who were also born on the Emerald isle. They became residents of

Cornwall township, this county. Their children were Sarah, wife of E. B. Stehlins; Mary, wife of our subject; Bridget, wife of Terrence McCabe; Pacea, who wedded Mary Dwyer; Maggie, wife of D. H. Robins; Katie; Fannie, wife of Thomas Cole; and John. Mr. and Mrs. Shearer have two children: Blanche, born January 6, 1886, and Edith, born July 5, 1887, both attending school.

Mr. Shearer owns two hundred and forty acres of land, which he has placed under excellent cultivation, and on which he has made many useful and valuable improvements which add greatly to the attractive appearance of the place. He makes a specialty of stock raising and shipping, and is justly regarded as one of the most progressive and reliable business men of his community.

As a Republican Mr. Shearer takes quite an active part in local positions, and he is now acceptably serving as supervisor of Cornwall township, having been elected to that responsible position in April, 1900. He has also filled the office of school director for the past few years. Socially he is a member of the Modern Woodmen Camp at Atchison, and the Fraternal Tribune at Geneseo.

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#### CALVIN F. WOLEVER.

Among the young and enterprising farmers of Cornwall township there is probably none more energetic or thoroughgoing than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He now owns a fine farm of one hundred and eighty-seven acres on section 18. He was born where he

now resides, June 16, 1875, and is a son of R. W. and Roena (Foster) Wolever, both natives of Illinois, the former born near Teoria, in 1844, the latter near Geneseo, this county. The Wolever family was originally from New Jersey. The father was first married in 1865, to a Mrs. Frey, who died two years later, leaving one child. In 1867 he wedded Roena Foster, and to them were born four children, one son and three daughters, namely: Letha, who died January 13, 1901, was the wife of John Hughey, a teamster of Stark county; Lottie, who died in childhood; Calvin F., our subject; and Lucy married Fred Schwenker. The parents now reside in Moline, Rock Island county, Illinois. The father was reared and educated in Galva, where his father conducted a hotel for about eight years, and after reaching manhood engaged in farming in this county for some years, and took a very active and prominent part in public affairs of a political nature. The Republican party has always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has most acceptably filled the offices of school director, assessor for twelve years, and supervisor for eight years. Fraternally he was a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Home Forum.

Calvin F. Wolever grew to manhood upon his father's farm, and acquired his education in the district schools of Cornwall and Atkinson townships. He early became familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and from his father purchased the old homestead consisting of one hundred and sixty-five acres of land on section 18, Cornwall township, to which he has since added twenty-two acres. He now has one of the most highly cultivated and best improved farms in the

locality. Politically he follows in the footsteps of his father and is a supporter of the Republican party. He was married in 1898 to Miss Maggie Wolf, a native of Henry county, and a daughter of Bernard and Dorothy (Gravenhurst) Wolf, and they now have a little son, Robert, born November 1, 1900.

### FREDERICK A. HURLBUTT.

Henry county has many prosperous and successful farmers who are the architects of their own fortunes, having through their own unaided efforts gained a handsome competence. Among these is the subject of this personal history, who has been identified with the development and upbuilding of the county since 1858, while his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural and financial interests. He makes his home on section 6, Galva township, where he owns a fine farm.

Mr. Hurlbutt was born in New Hampshire, November 9, 1831, a son of Alba and Laura (Osgood) Hurlbutt, natives of the same state. By profession the father was a physician and was a graduate of one of the eastern schools of medicine. He was born June 24, 1794. On coming west in 1840 he located south of Victoria, in Knox county, and while engaged in the practice of his profession his sons improved and operated the farm. In politics he was a Whig. He died upon his farm in Knox county, October 1, 1858, and the death of his wife occurred March 14, 1871, in Henry county. She was born June 16, 1802.

Unto this worthy couple were born nine children, of whom one died in infancy, the others being as follows: Hubbard, born May

23, 1822, died on the old homestead November 23, 1844; Edmund, born May 6, 1824, died in Marshalltown, Iowa, in the fall of 1898; Nathaniel, born September 22, 1826, died while prospecting in California in 1849; Laura, born March 27, 1829, married Leander Taylor and died on the old homestead May 21, 1865; Frederick A., our subject, is next in order of birth; Francis, born June 22, 1837, who lives on the old homestead in Knox county, was a soldier of the Civil war, but soon after the battle of Fort Donelson was taken ill and returned home after serving one year; Susan, born June 22, 1844, is the wife of Alexander A. Taylor, a farmer of Nebraska; and Charles, born March 10, 1846, died in that state, October 10, 1894. The children were educated in the common schools of Knox county.

During his boyhood Frederick A. Hurlbutt pursued his studies in a primitive log school house with its slab benches and other crude furniture. He remained at home assisting in the labors of the farm until after the death of his father in 1858, when he came to Henry county and purchased eighty acres of unimproved land in Burns township, which he at once began to break and cultivate. At first he met with many reverses and was forced to endure many hardships, but after the Civil war his prospects became brighter and he steadily prospered in his farming operations. As his financial resources increased he added to his landed possessions from time to time until he now owns one thousand acres of valuable land in this county divided into five farms which are located in Weller, Galva and Burns townships. He is one of the largest land owners in the southern part of the county, and having started out in life for himself

with no capital his success is due to hard work and good management. His property is all well improved with good buildings, and the land is fully tiled and under a high state of cultivation. At one time Mr. Hurlbutt was extensively engaged in raising cattle for market, and has always kept a good grade of draft and road horses. He has not confined his attention wholly to agricultural pursuits, but was one of the promoters and a large stockholder of the Farmers Elevator of Galva; also a director and vice-president of the stock company of same; a stockholder and director of the Galva State Bank; and a stockholder of the First National Bank of that place.

On the 31st of October, 1860, Mr. Hurlbutt was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Osgood, who was also born in New Hampshire in 1830, but at that time was living with her parents in Knox county, Illinois, whither the family removed in 1841. Her father, Willard Osgood, was of English ancestry. He took up land in Knox county and there spent his remaining days. In his family were only two children, the older being Levi, a resident of Marshalltown, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hurlbutt are the parents of nine children: (1) Edgar L., born December 20, 1861, lives on part of his father's land. (2) Elmer A., born May 14, 1863, is a farmer of Weller township. He married Effie Michaels and they have four children, Earl E., Marion, Edna and Edgar. (3) Levi H., born October 5, 1865, lives on his father's land in Burns township. He married Margaret Sewell, now deceased, and they have two children, Leo and Marguerite. (4) Minnie L., born October 24, 1867, is the wife of John Peugh, of Nebraska, and they have four children, Gladys, Lettie, Zelda and Laurie. (5) Jennie M.,

born July 11, 1870, is the wife of Frank Penney, of Burns township. (6) Frederick N., born January 2, 1873, lives in Burns township. He married Winnie Hamilton, and they have two children, Hazel and Raymond. (7) Zelda A., born August 31, 1875, lives with her brother Levi. (8) Charles H., born December 11, 1878, and (9) Frank, born December 12, 1880, are both at home. All have been educated in the district schools.

As a Republican Mr. Hurlbutt takes an active interest in public affairs, and has held several minor township offices, serving as school director many years, and also as trustee. He gives to the support of church work although not a member of any religious denomination, and never withholds his aid from any enterprise which he believes calculated to advance the moral, educational or material welfare of his community. For sixty years he has been a resident of this section of the state, and has borne an important part in its upbuilding and advancement. As a business man he ranks among the ablest of Galva township, and his success in life is due to no inherited fortune, or to any happy succession of advantageous circumstances, but to his own sturdy will, steady application, studious habits, tireless industry and sterling integrity.

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#### JOSEPH BURSTON.

Joseph Burston, who is now living a retired life in Geneseo, Illinois, was born in Sweden, on the 9th of December, 1821, and is a son of Isaac and Mary (Swanson) Johnston, lifelong residents of that country, where the father died in 1836, aged sixty

years, the mother in 1863, aged seventy-six. He was the only one of their seven children to come to America, the others all remaining in Sweden.

Mr. Burston was reared and educated in his native land, and was there married, in 1842, to Miss Mary Johnston, who died in 1864. Five years later he was again married, his second union being with Mary Johnston, also a native of Sweden. He worked on a farm in that country until shortly after his second marriage, when he emigrated to the United States, landing in Boston after a voyage of sixteen days. Immediately after his arrival he proceeded to Geneseo, Illinois, and obtained work on the farm of D. Ford. For eighteen years he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits, and then removed to Geneseo, purchasing seven acres of land at the edge of the city, and building thereon a good home, where he is now living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest.

By his first marriage Mr. Burston had five children, all born in Sweden, namely: (1) Gust, born March 14, 1842, married Christina Johnston, of Sweden, and they came to America with his father in 1869, locating in Geneseo, where Gust worked in a wagon factory. On the 14th of February, 1900, he returned to his native land to engage in the same business. (2) Charlotte, born December 13, 1844, married John Larson, who died in Sweden in 1870, and she later came to America, and was again married in Moline, Illinois, her second husband being Swan Brown, also a native of Sweden. They still reside in Moline. (3) Charles, born March 13, 1849, wedded Mary Johnston, a native of Sweden, and they also make their home in Moline. (4) Lena, born December 10, 1851, is the widow of

Oscar Bueling, who died in 1885, and she, too, is a resident of Moline. (5) Fred, born March 14, 1863, married Addie Johnston and lives in Moline.

In early life Mr. Burston was a most industrious man, was honorable and upright in all his dealings, and his career has ever been such as to commend him to the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact. He is an active and consistent member of the Swedish Lutheran Church of Geneseo, and is now serving as deacon of the same.

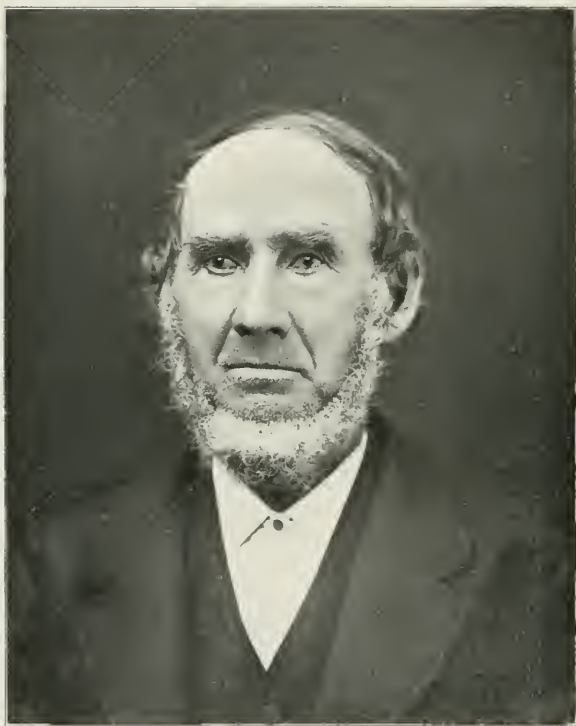
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#### LEWIS SHEARER.

Prominent among the successful farmers and representative citizens of Cornwall township is the gentleman whose name introduces this article, his home being on section 18, where he has a well improved and highly cultivated farm. A native of New York, he was born in Wilton, Saratoga county, about five miles east of Saratoga Springs, in 1817, and is a son of James and Elizabeth (Ingersoll) Shearer. In 1834 he removed with the family to Livingston county, in the same state, and settled on the Wadsworth lands. Five years later he became a resident of Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he worked with his father on the farm, which was located about seven miles northeast of La Fayette. They found a market for their wheat at Michigan City, where it was worth fifty cents a bushel, and in exchange received salt, leather, cotton and the various articles needed in their pioneer home. At that time all shoes and boots were made by shoemakers who went from house to house, and most of the material for clothing

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LEWIS SHEARER.



MRS. LEWIS SHEARER.

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was woven in the home. Our subject's mother died on the old homestead in Tippecanoe county, Indiana. James Shearer was born October 6, 1777, and died in 1863, his remains being interred by the side of his wife near the old Tippecanoe battle ground.

Lewis Shearer not only aided in the arduous task of clearing and improving the home farm, but during his residence in Indiana also taught school two terms. He had twenty-five scholars, from whom he received two dollars each for a three-months term. On leaving home he engaged in farming upon rented land in Warren county, Indiana, for one year.

Mr. Shearer was married in Indiana in 1843, to Miss Permelia Burget, who was born in Ohio, February 16, 1821, and died June 16, 1899. She was buried at Liberty Church cemetery, where her sons are also interred. She was a daughter of Silas and Sarah (Henderson) Burget. By this union were born the following named children: (1) Sarah, born October 8, 1844, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, married Nelson Waterhouse, and they have two children—Grace, who was born August 25, 1872, and is now the wife of J. Dwyer, a motorman of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Pearl, who was born March 26, 1882, and is at home with her parents. (2) Mary Ann, born May 31, 1849, resides in Chicago. (3) Albert James, born in Cornwall township, Henry county, Illinois, September 2, 1853, died April 29, 1872. (4) Bruce, born March 24, 1856, was thrown from a horse, and from the effects of the injuries received, died in 1867. (5) Norman, born June 13, 1859, married Mary McCafferty, daughter of Charles and Rose McCafferty, who reside in Sheffield, Illinois, and they have two children—Blanche, born January 16, 1886,

and Edith, born July 5, 1887, both residing at home. (6) Lewis Ross, born May 19, 1861, lives in Munson township, this county. He married Amanda Munson and they have four children—Lilly, Burget, Albert and Clara, all living at home.

Mr. Shearer came to Henry county, Illinois, in the fall of 1850, and spent the following winter in a rented house near Kewanee. In the spring of 1851 he purchased seventy-five and a half acres of land, part of which was timber, of James S. Hamilton, and also one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken prairie land in Cornwall township, of Captain Jack. Since that time he has been an active factor in the development and progress of Henry county, and in his farming operations has met with unqualified success, his farm, which was developed from a wild tract, being one of the best in the township.

In early life Mr. Shearer was a Democrat, but since the formation of the Republican party has been one of its staunch adherents, and has ever taken a prominent part in public affairs. He was one of the first judges of election in what is now Cornwall township, but which was prior to the formation of the township. In 1852 he was asked to take the position of road overseer, but declined to serve, but the following year he was again appointed to that position and accepted the office. For a number of years he efficiently served as school director, and also filled the office of township trustee. In 1857 he was first elected supervisor of his township, and served until 1861, and in 1862 was appointed to fill a vacancy in that position, and continued to serve as supervisor for seventeen years, filling the office with credit to himself and the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He has done

much to advance the interests of the community in which he lives, and is counted one of its most influential and popular citizens. Religiously he has been a member of the Christian church for several years.

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#### WILLIAM PORTER.

Among the honored pioneers and highly esteemed citizens of Henry county is numbered William Porter, who located here in the spring of 1843 and has since been prominently identified with its growth and development. He is now the owner of a fine farm of two hundred and seventy-three acres on sections 3 and 4, Cornwall township, which is under a high state of cultivation and well improved.

Mr. Porter was born in South Huntingdon township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, on the 15th of September, 1815, and is a son of Daniel and Catherine (Gaffney) Porter, the former a native of Virginia, the latter of Mt. Pleasant township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. In 1834 the father brought his family to Illinois, and after traveling all over the state took up his residence in Decatur on the 6th of October, that year. On account of the frequency of prairie fires he avoided the newer settlements. He spent the 4th of July in Danville, and remained for about four weeks in Bloomington on this trip. He bought a farm of two hundred and forty acres adjoining Decatur, which was already fenced and under cultivation.

William Porter is the fifth in order of birth in a family of eleven children, the others being John, who was drowned in the Youghiogheny river in Pennsylvania;

twins, who died in infancy; Edward, who died in Reno, Iowa, at the age of seventy-seven years, leaving a large family living near that place; Isaiah, who went to California in 1849, and lived on the Pacific coast until his death, which occurred at Tacoma, Washington; Harriet, who married William White and died in Stark county, Illinois; Lucinda, wife of Daniel Gingrich of the same county; Catherine, who married Samuel Airhart, and also died in Stark county. Both were graduates of Knox College, of Galesburg. Aaron, a resident of California; and Elizabeth, who died at the age of three years.

The subject of this sketch came with his parents to Illinois, and remained on the farm near Decatur until June, 1837, when he went to Stark county. There he entered one hundred and sixty acres of unbroken land, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies until coming to Henry county in the spring of 1843. He purchased eighty acres of land in Cornwall township, and traded his Stark county farm for a partially improved tract of two hundred acres. It is now under a high state of cultivation with good and substantial buildings, all of which have been erected by Mr. Porter. The neat and thrifty appearance of the place plainly indicates his careful supervision.

In Stark county, on the 5th of May, 1840, Mr. Porter married Miss Eleanor Hamilton, who was born on the 16th of February, 1818, in South Huntingdon township, Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, and died in Cornwall township, this county, May 20, 1885. She was one of a family of six children whose parents were Alexander and Elizabeth (Steele) Hamilton. The children born to our subject and his wife

were as follows: Mary Martha, now the wife of John T. Rondema, farmer of the state of Washington; Alexander Hamilton, who died in infancy; Jane Ellen, who died at the age of four years; William C., deceased, who married Amanda Turpin and followed merchandising at Hartwell, Nebraska; Charles, who died in infancy; Ella and Daniel, twins, the former of whom first married Horace G. Benedict and, second, Charles S. Terpening, a farmer and school teacher, and the latter married Sarah Lloyd and follows farming; Epaphroditus J., who married Miss Mary Jewett Sears and is a physician at Grand Island, Nebraska, having graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1878; Josie, wife of Allison Orville Taylor, a merchant of Minatare, Nebraska; Viola, wife of James Dysart, a stock raiser of Eagle, Nebraska, and Bowen, who married America Ernst, and died at Gold Hill, Oregon, of which place he was a physician, being a graduate of the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College; he was also a student in the Rush Medical College.

Mr. Porter has always taken an active and commendable interest in public affairs, especially educational matters, and has efficiently served as school director. Politically he is identified at present with the Peoples party, and has always been a warm supporter of the principles advocated by Abraham Lincoln, and fraternally is connected with the Grange. In religious belief he is a Baptist, and is an earnest and consistent member of that church. Through the fifty-eight years of his residence here Mr. Porter has become widely known, and his many excellent traits of character have gained him the high regard of a host of friends.

In 1849, in company with two others from Bureau county, Illinois, our subject started for the gold fields of California, making the trip with ox teams in about four months' time. On the Little Blue river they joined a wagon train, so that when they finally crossed the great plains there were sixty-five men and one woman and baby, the wife of our subject's brother Isaiah. He remained in California two years, prospecting and mining. His trip did not prove a financial success. The return trip was made by water, via New Orleans, and the Mississippi river to Peoria, then by stage to Henry county.

In 1861 he again went to California, via New York City by boat to Aspinwall, by rail, ocean and the Isthmus to Panama and then by boat to San Francisco. He engaged in mining in Nevada and remained four years, returning in 1865 by water to New York, thence by rail to Henry county. He crossed the isthmus over the now proposed canal route by stage and river steamers. In 1883 he went to the state of Washington, via the Northern Pacific, being a passenger on the first train to cross the mountains from St. Paul.

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### JOHN TAYLOR.

More than sixty-three years ago John Taylor came to Henry county, Illinois, and for almost half a century was actively interested in its progress. His labors as one of the founders of the county justly entitle him to a prominent place in its annals. He was born on the 16th of August, 1821, in New Hampshire, of which state his parents, Andrew and Polly (Brown) Taylor, were

also natives, the former born January 17, 1789, the latter June 16, 1785. At an early day the family removed to New York state, where the mother died, and later went to Valparaiso, Indiana, making the journey with ox teams. In 1837 they came to Henry county, Illinois, and the father took up a tract of government land in Atkinson township, where he made his home until his death, which occurred October 26, 1843. Throughout his active business life he followed the occupation of a farmer.

John Taylor was the third in order of birth in a family of four children, the others being as follows: Nathan Woodbury died in Atkinson, this county. Of his seven children one was killed in a coal bank; two are living in this county; two in Iowa; one in Kansas; and one in Stark county, Illinois. James N. also died in Atkinson, and two of his six children are deceased, while two live in Bradford, Stark county; one in Missouri; and one in Iowa. Mrs. Mary E. Hamilton is a widow living in Geneseo, Illinois. She is the mother of seven children, four of whom are still living and reside in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The subject of this review was about sixteen years of age when he came with his father to this county, and he aided in transforming the wild land into a good farm. Prior to his marriage he became the owner of eighty acres of land, only eight acres of which had been broken, but he soon placed the remainder under cultivation, and later purchased another eighty-acre tract of wild land. Around this entire tract he placed a hedge fence and upon the place erected a comfortable residence and a good set of farm buildings, making it his home until his death, which occurred October 12, 1885. He was the first collector of Corn-

wall township, and also filled the office of school director. He bore a very active and important part in the early development of the county, and was one of the most honored pioneers and useful citizens. At one time he was an active member of the Granger Association, and was ever identified with those enterprises which he believed would prove of public benefit.

On the 15th of November, 1849, Mr. Taylor was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Ogden, who was born in Pennsylvania, February 25, 1831, and is a daughter of John H. and Remembrance (Evans) Ogden, natives of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, respectively. The father was born February 13, 1804, and died October 21, 1840, while the mother is also deceased, the remains of both being interred in Colberts cemetery on the Rock river. They, too, were pioneers of this county. In their family were four sons and two daughters, namely: Samuel, born May 7, 1827, died April 30, 1854; Thomas E., born March 21, 1829, died October 13, 1844; Mrs. Taylor is next in order of birth; Mary Emeline, born February 4, 1833, died in Iowa, April 10, 1887; James E., born December 8, 1834, died May 30, 1850; and John, born November 12, 1836, died January 2, 1887.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor became the parents of eight children: (1) James A., born June 6, 1851, married Sarah Berdue, a native of Illinois, and they have six children, James Albert, John A., Gertrude E., Ella M., May M. and Florence E. (2) Mary M., born May 2, 1853, is the wife of George Hill, a native of Virginia, and a farmer and teacher by occupation. Of their six children only George and Arthur E. are now living. Roy, Eva, Ella E. and an infant are deceased. (3) Byron M., born May 20, 1856, married



Fanny Welch, a native of Illinois, and they have two daughters, Libby and Elsie. (4) John Augustus, born March 15, 1858, married Rosa McBude, of Davenport, Iowa, and they have three children living, Madge, Grace E. and Augusta. (5) Orin W., born March 5, 1860, and (6) Ella, born May 12, 1862, are both at home. (7) George W., born December 25, 1864, died September 20, 1867. (8) Emeline, born March 22, 1867, died September 17, the same year.

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### ERIC ANDERSON.

Among the leading and popular citizens of Weller township is Eric Anderson, who has efficiently served as supervisor of that township since 1890. He was born in the central part of Sweden, February 5, 1847, a son of Jons and Christine (Olson) Anderson, natives of the same country, the birth of the former occurring November 2, 1811, the latter May 16, 1815. In 1850 the father brought his family to the United States, and located at Bishop Hill, Henry county, Illinois. During the greater part of the time from 1850 until 1861, he worked at his trade as a blacksmith, but when the colony there was disbanded in the latter year he took up farming in Weller township, continuing to follow the same until his death, which occurred January 10, 1892. He was a man of exceptionally fine physique, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His marriage to Christine Olson resulted in the birth of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: Christine, deceased wife of Eric Olson; Olof, a farmer of Weller township, who enlisted in 1861 in Company D, Fifty-seventh Illinois Vol-

unteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war; Andrew, who was a member of the same company and was killed in battle at Corinth, Mississippi, October 4, 1862; Anna, widow of James W. Kennedy and a resident of Galva, Illinois; Eric, the subject of this sketch; and Justus, a farmer of Weller township. The mother of these children died November 10, 1891.

During his boyhood Eric Anderson attended the district school at Bishop Hill, and on completing his education worked with his father on the home farm until twenty years of age. During the following three years he was employed as a farm hand by others, and then engaged in farming for himself on a tract of rented land in Weller township. A few years later he made his first purchase, consisting of twenty-five acres, which he operated in addition to rented land. He has increased his landed possessions from time to time by the purchase of small tracts, until he now has one hundred and two acres of well improved and valuable land.

In 1870, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Miss Martha Peterson, who was also born in Sweden and came to America alone in 1866, her people never emigrating to this country. By this union was born one child, Andrew, who remains on the home farm. The family attend the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are people of prominence in the community where they reside. By his ballot Mr. Anderson supports the men and measures of the Republican party, and his fellow citizens recognizing his worth and ability have called upon him to serve as supervisor of Weller township since 1890. He has also filled the office of school director for many years. He is what the world terms a self-made man as he started out in life for himself with no capital, and the prosperity

that has come to him is due entirely to his own industry, perseverance and good management.

### PROFESSOR MARTIN LUTHER.

In this age of intellectual activity, when success in the business world depends not upon mere physical prowess but upon mental activity, upon an ability to master the principles and details of any enterprise, the work of the educator has become of even greater importance than ever before. Long occupying a prominent rank among the educators of Henry county is Professor Martin Luther, of Geneseo, who is now filling the important position of county superintendent of schools.

A native of Illinois, he was born in Waukegan, Lake county, December 27, 1849, and is a son of John J. and Mary Ursilla (Fehlman) Luther, the former a native of New York, the latter of France. In 1862 the family removed to Hooppole, Henry county, where the father engaged in farming until his death, which occurred November 7, 1900. He was a member of the Evangelical Association and a supporter of the Republican party. As one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community he was called upon to serve as supervisor of Yorktown township, and also filled the office of school director for a number of years. His widow still resides in Hooppole.

Professor Luther is the third in order of birth in a family of thirteen children, the others being John Jacob, a resident of Goddard, Kansas; Sarah S., wife of George Engel, also of Goddard, Kansas; William D., who is married and lives in Glasgow,

Montana; Mary A., wife of Edward Smith of Paton, Iowa; Louisa B., wife of Abraham Miller, of Hooppole, Illinois; Hannah M., who died in Hooppole, in March, 1897; Helen, a resident of Hooppole; Daniel E., who married Lucy Hoffman and lives in Adel, Iowa; Rosetta A., wife of George Hoffman, of Adel, Iowa; Irvin E., who married Bertha Ott and resides in Walnut, Illinois; Clinton F., who married Nina Withrow and makes his home in Sheffield, Illinois; and Josephine L., a resident of Hooppole.

In the district schools of Henry county Professor Luther acquired his elementary education, and later attended the Evangelical College at Naperville, Illinois. On leaving that institution he commenced his educational work, and has since taught school in Boone and Greene counties, Iowa, and in Bureau, Whiteside and Henry counties, Illinois, having devoted thirty-two years to that profession. He is not only a well-educated man, but possesses, so essential to a successful educator, the faculty of imparting to others the knowledge he has acquired. In 1893 he was appointed county superintendent of schools in Henry county, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of his predecessor, and after creditably filling that office for fifteen months was elected to the same position, in which he is now serving his third term. With a correct appreciation of the responsibilities that devolve upon the teacher he is well fitted for this office, and is making continual advancement along the lines of educational progress, each year witnessing an improvement in his methods of instruction.

Professor Luther was married December 27, 1877, on the twenty-eighth anniversary of his birth, to Miss Augusta L. Ringel, who

is one of a family of eight children, their parents being John and Georgena Frederika Matilda (Voigt) Ringel, who were born in Germany and came to America in 1840. More extended mention is made of her family in connection with the sketch of Henry I. Ringel on another page of this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Luther have four children, namely: Bernice M., born January 5, 1879, was appointed by the school board as assistant county superintendent in September, 1900, and is now aiding her father in the work of the office; Jessie L., born August 31, 1880, is teaching in the district schools of Henry county; Leroy E., born February 21, 1883, is a student in the high school of Geneseo; and Georgiana M., born January 13, 1887, is also attending school in Geneseo.

As a Republican Professor Luther takes an active interest in political affairs. In his social relations he is a member of Utopia Lodge, No. 310, K. P.; the Camp of Modern Woodmen, No. 40; and the Knights of the Globe, No. 176. He is a man of high intellectuality, broad human sympathies and tolerance, and imbued with fine sensibilities and clearly defined principles. Honor and integrity are synonymous with his name and he enjoys the respect, confidence and high regard of the people of Henry county.

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#### HENDRICK VASTINE FISHER.

The ancestors of this prominent citizen, on both the maternal and paternal sides, were eminent in public affairs in colonial days, and bore an active and honorable part in the Revolutionary war. The family tree first took root in Holland, and was transplanted by Hendrick Fisher, the great grand-

father of Colonel Fisher, who came to this country in 1703. This ancestor was one of the founders of the Dutch Reformed church in America, and was the first president of the old Queen's College, not Ruter's. At the beginning of the Revolution he was a member of the New Jersey Assembly, was president of the historic primeval congress which met in New York from 1756 until independence was declared in 1776. The study of history of that period will show that no man was so frequently honored and entrusted with responsible duties as this sterling patriot. The parents of Colonel Fisher were Caleb Brokaw and Mary Vastine Fisher. The father was born at Bound Brook, New Jersey, and when a young man removed to Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, and for many years was prominent in financial and business affairs. He was a pioneer in anthracite coal operations. He was an ardent Abolitionist, and was a member of the Republican party for its inception.

Colonel Fisher was educated in the public school of Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, where he resided, and at Wyoming Seminary, at Kingston, Pennsylvania. Upon starting in life on his own account, he first secured a position in the office of the L. & B. R. R., now the D. L. & W. In 1867 he came to Illinois, locating first at Aurora where he lived for about two years, and then removed to Geneseo where he has resided ever since. He early engaged in the general hardware business and later in the manufacture of stoves, and was the first president of the Geneseo Stove Company, and is interested in real estate and banking. His business affairs have been both honorable and successful. He married Miss Abbie F. Steele, only child of Robert F. and Anna E. (Hardy) Steele. They have three children: Eliza E.,

Helen V., and Aileen S. He has always been prominent in everything that pertains to the advancement of the financial, social the religious prosperity of the city, and has been called to fill many positions of honor and trust, such as member of the city council, member of the board of education, trustee of the Northwestern Normal School and editor of the Henry County News.

He has always been an unflinching Republican, and has distinguished himself in the councils of that part of the state. He was elected to the legislature in 1887, and although it was his first term he was assigned to the chairmanship of the important committee of canal and river improvement, before which came the important question of the cession of the property of the Illinois and Michigan canal to the government in the construction of the Hennepin canal. He was appointed chairman of the committee on railroads, one of the most important in the house. In both thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions he introduced and strongly supported bills which had for their object the erection of an insane hospital in the northwestern part of the state, but although these bills were at the time defeated, the measure was made successful, through his efforts, during his first term in the senate. This hospital is located at Watertown, in his district. In 1894 his election to the senate occurred. The thirty-third district he represented, comprised the counties of Rock Island and Henry. His majority was eight thousand one hundred and seventy-four. President Harrison's majority in that district was only about three thousand five hundred. He served as president *pro tempore* of the senate of the fortieth general assembly being the unanimous choice of the Republican caucus. He presided with dignity and

impartiality and was governor of the state during the absence of the governor and lieutenant governor. He is a member of the Congregational Church and a Knight Templar. He was commissioned colonel and aid-de-camp to the commander-in-chief of the Illinois National Guard, in which organization he is very popular and which has no better friend. No resident of the state stands higher in citizenship and no Republican more sincere.

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#### ERNEST SALZMANN.

This well-known farmer residing on section 1, Alba township, is one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to the new world. He was born in Loudefeld, Hesse-Cassel, June 11, 1845, a son of Henry and Anna Sabina Salzmann, also natives of Germany, where the father died in 1856. By occupation he was a miller and farmer. The mother came to America in 1880, and now makes her home with her son Christian in Alba township, five miles from Annawan. He was married at our subject's house to Martless Brandow. There is also another brother Reinhart, the oldest of the three, who married Eva Ott and came to America in 1880. Those of the family now deceased were Conrad, Henrich, Sabina, Mollie and Frederick.

Ernest Salzmann was educated in the district schools of his native land, and by assisting in the work of the home farm he acquired a thorough knowledge of agricultural pursuits. He crossed the ocean, landing in New York on the 10th of April, 1869, and proceeded at once to Ottawa, Illinois, where he worked for a Mr. Ackerman, now

of Geneseo, hauling ice and doing general farm work. From September of that year until the last of January, 1870, he was in the employ of Henry Goembel, of Annawan township, this county. He then purchased two hundred and five acres of land in Alba township, for which he paid one thousand dollars, having brought with him to this country twelve hundred dollars in gold that he had received from his father's estate. The timber had been cut from the land, but it was a great task to remove the stumps and place the land under cultivation. He met with many other hardships and difficulties in those early days. His land was near what is now known as the swamp, fifteen hundred acres of which are still uncultivated. At that time it was supposed to have no bottom and no teams ever crossed it. It was inhabited by millions of black birds, wild ducks, geese, etc., which would flock to Mr. Salzmann's fields and destroy his corn, so that he lost from three to four hundred bushels each year. This was very discouraging but he determined to remain. Gradually a part of the swamp was tiled and the birds became scarce. To the cultivation and improvement of his land Mr. Salzmann has devoted his energies until he now has one of the best farms in this section of the state. In his labors he was ably assisted by his estimable wife, who in their early struggles often helped him in the fields, and was to him a true helpmeet. In connection with general farming he raises cattle for market.

On the 1st of January, 1870, Mr. Salzmann was united in marriage with Miss Martha Lickhart, of Ottawa, Illinois, who was born in the same place as her husband, September 15, 1845, and in 1860 came to America with her parents, John and Annie (Sandrock) Lickhart, also natives of Ger-

many. The mother died in Bureau county, Illinois, in 1880, and the father, who was a mason by trade, passed away the following year. They had four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: George, Casper, Conrad and Martha. Mr. and Mrs. Salzmann are the parents of eight children: Sabana, born May 11, 1871, died April 18, 1881; Christian, born April 5, 1874, died August 20, 1874; George, born November 4, 1876, died August 22, 1878; Mollie, born June 18, 1878, died October 24, 1878; Henry, born October 15, 1879; Lizzie, born April 11, 1882; Theodore, born September 18, 1883, and Amil, born February 18, 1887, are all at home.

Mr. Salzmann is insured in the Aetna and Northwestern Insurance Companies. He has filled the office of road commissioner, and also served as school director for two years, proving a most efficient officer. Religiously he is a member of the Evangelical Church of Hooppole, and as one of the leading and representative citizens of his community he is certainly deserving of prominent mention in the history of his adopted county.

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#### HUGH ARMSTRONG.

Numbered among the prominent citizens and successful agriculturists of Cornwall township is the gentleman whose name introduces this review, his home being on section 27, where he owns and operates a valuable farm of two hundred and forty acres. He was born in Cornwall township, April 5, 1850. His father, Hugh Armstrong, Sr., was a native of Ireland, born in 1816. In 1853 he came to America, sailing from Liverpool to New York, and first located in

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where for some time he was employed in a rolling mill. There he married Miss Mariette Livingston, a native of that city, and in 1855 they came to Henry county, Illinois, locating in Corn-wall township, one-half mile west of the present home of our subject. The father first purchased forty acres of unimproved land, on which he erected a log cabin, and at once commenced to improve his property, doing his plowing with an ox team. Later he sold that place and bought eighty acres of wild land, which after placing under cultivation he sold. His next place was an improved farm of one hundred acres, and on disposing of that he bought a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which he retained throughout the remainder of his life, adding to it from time to time until he had five hundred acres of well improved and valuable land at the time of his death, which occurred in 1884. His remains were interred in Liberty cemetery. His wife died in 1879 at the age of sixty-seven years, and was laid to rest in the same place. He was engaged in stock-raising as well as farming and found that branch of his business quite profitable. By his ballot he supported the men and measures of the Republican party, and always took a commendable interest in public affairs, as every true American citizen should.

The subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth in a family of four children, the others being as follows: George, born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1854, married Matilda Fronk, a native of Illinois, and died August 19, 1900, leaving eleven children. Martha, born in 1861, died in 1890, and was buried near her parents in Liberty cemetery. William, born in 1862, married Ada Dynes and died in 1897, leaving a widow and one child living in Atkinson.

Hugh Armstrong, whose name stands at the head of this sketch, was reared upon his father's farm and early acquired an excellent knowledge of all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, while his literary education was obtained in the local schools. His fine farm of two hundred and forty acres is under a high state of cultivation and is improved with good and substantial buildings, in fact everything about the place testifies to the industry and progressive spirit of the owner, who is accounted one of the most thorough and skillful agriculturists of the community. Since attaining his majority he has always identified himself with the Republican party, and has most creditably filled the office of school director. On the 12th of October, 1881, he was united in marriage with Miss Anna Dynes, a daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Crosby) Dynes, of Atkinson. By this union there is one child, Martha, born in June, 1893.

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#### HENRY J. RINGEL.

Henry J. Ringel, a successful farmer residing on section 35, Yorktown township, was born in New York on the 29th of March, 1852, and is a son of John Ringel, a native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, who came to America in 1848 and settled in New York. In 1851 he married Miss Georgiana Voigt, a native of Prussia, Germany, and a daughter of Frederick Voigt, who became a resident of Peoria, Illinois, where he lived retired until called from this life at the advanced age of ninety years. John Ringel also removed to Peoria county, where he worked at his trade of broom making and



also engaged in farming until 1865, when he came to Henry county and bought eighty acres of land on section 36, Yorktown township. He kept adding to his property until he had three hundred and twenty-five acres, and throughout the remainder of his life successfully engaged in its operation. He died in 1899, at the age of seventy-nine years, and was buried in Hooppole cemetery. His wife is still living and makes her home with our subject.

The nine children born to this worthy couple were as follows: Henry J., our subject; Mary, the wife of John Brown, of Yorktown township; a daughter who died in infancy; Augusta, wife of Martin Luther, county superintendent of schools and a resident of Geneseo; Minnie, wife of Reuben Ott, of Oklahoma; John, who died at the age of nineteen years; William, a manufacturer of hardware novelties at Peoria; Rebecca, wife of George Urban, of Yorktown township; and Emma, who died at the age of fourteen years.

Henry J. Ringel was only six months old when brought from the state of New York to Illinois by his parents, and was thirteen years of age when the family took up their residence in this county. He began his education in the common schools of Peoria county; later attended the public schools of Henry county; and subsequently became a student at Naperville College. After completing his education he worked with his father on the home farm until he attained his majority.

On the 3d of February, 1887, Mr. Ringel was united in marriage with Miss Katie E. Vetter, a native of Henry county and a daughter of Michael and Mary (Haeffer) Vetter, who were married in this county. The father was born in Germany and was sixteen years of age when he crossed the At-

lantic and took up his residence in Pennsylvania, coming to Henry county, Illinois, twelve years later. The mother is a native of the Keystone state. They are the parents of five children: Kate E., wife of our subject; John, a farmer of Alba township; Minnie, a school teacher residing with her parents; Anna and Alfred, both at home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ringel were born five children, namely: John, now attending school; Clayton, who died at the age of two weeks; Vera Standly and Gertrude.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Ringel was working for his father and he and his wife began their domestic life on the old homestead. He has since purchased the interests of the other heirs in this place, and in its operation has met with excellent success. He not only settled his father's estate, but was also appointed administrator of the Swanson estate, being noted for his reliability and sound judgment in the management of business affairs. Like his father he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and has been a delegate to numerous county and state conventions. He has served as school director nine years, and has also filled the office of town clerk, tax collector and assessor, holding the last named position at the present time. Religiously both he and his wife are members of the United Evangelical Church, and socially he belongs to Hooppole Camp, No. 126, M. W. A., of which he has been clerk ten years. He is one of the most popular and influential citizens of his community.

#### GEORGE ARNETT.

Prominent among the successful agriculturists of Henry county is George Arnett, who for over sixty years has been closely



identified with the history of the county, while his name is inseparably connected with its farming interests. He is a man of keen discrimination and sound judgment, and his pronounced business ability and excellent management have brought to him a high degree of success, so that he is now one of the wealthiest citizens of Geneseo, where he is now living a retired life.

Mr. Arnett was born in Warren, Warren county, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1833, and is a son of Louis and Clara (Schotte) Arnett, natives of France and Germany, respectively. On first coming to this state the father located in Chicago, at which time it was a mere village, and he was offered a house and lot near the present post office for six months' work, but refused the offer. In 1837 he came to Henry county and took up two hundred and forty acres of government land in Loraine township. Upon the wild unbroken prairie, he built a log house, and commenced the cultivation of his land. Later he added more land to this farm, but finally sold the place and purchased a farm in Whiteside county. There his wife died in March, 1860, and about four years afterward he disposed of all his farming interests and went to live with his son-in-law, David Heller. Being unable to speak a word of English on coming to America, he met with many hindrances in business transactions, but he finally acquired a knowledge of the language through his own unaided efforts, and could converse very fluently, thus showing what can be accomplished if one has perseverance and a determination to succeed. He was a member of the Evangelical Church, and in politics was first a Whig and later a Republican. He died in January, 1868, honored and respected by all who knew him.

— George Arnett, of this review, is the

eleventh in order of birth in a family of twelve children, eight of whom were born in Germany, the others in Warren, Pennsylvania, where the parents located on their emigration to America. The children were Louis, who died in Warren, Pennsylvania; Jacob, who died in Geneseo, Illinois, in 1899; Mary, who wedded Samuel Cogswell, and both died in the Keystone state; Anthony, a resident of Colorado; Catherine, who married David Heller, and lived for some years in Loraine township, this county, but was a resident of Geneseo at the time of her death, which occurred in 1900; Joseph, whose home adjoins that of our subject in Geneseo; John, who died in this county in 1898; Philip, who died in California in 1850; Susan, who married Simeon Heller, a brother of David, and both died in Henry county; William, who died in Loraine township in 1898, while his widow is now a resident of Geneseo; George, our subject; and Samuel, also a resident of Geneseo.

During his boyhood and youth George Arnett had scarcely any educational advantages, and the knowledge he has acquired has been obtained in the practical school of experience. He remained on the home farm until he attained his majority, when on the 28th of March, 1853, he started for California with fifty dollars in his pocket, this being the capital with which he began life for himself. He crossed the plains and over the mountains in a large covered wagon, known as a prairie schooner, drawn by several teams of horses. As there were no bridges the rivers had to be forded, and to keep the wagons from running over the horses in going down the mountains, trees had to be chained to them, and trailed behind tops foremost. The company with which Mr. Arnett trav-

elled had several fights with the Indians, and their horses were stolen by the red men a number of times, but were afterward recaptured. In 1854 during his residence in California, he participated in one of the Indian wars. On his way to that state he stopped in Oregon where he was employed as a farm laborer a short time. Here he contracted fever and ague, from which he suffered for two weeks. He bought an Indian pony on which he traveled over five hundred miles through a trackless wilderness, carrying his provisions with him. He had nails driven into the heels of his boots for spurs. On his arrival at the Golden Gate Mr. Arnett found employment with his brother at seventy-five dollars per month, having charge of his pack train up in the mountains for six months. He then purchased the train and outfit from his brother, and engaged in the same business on his own account with good success. He can relate many thrilling and interesting experiences of his life in the far west.

After about four years spent in California, Mr. Arnett returned to Henry county, Illinois, arriving home just before Christmas of 1856, and took charge of the farm. His first purchase of land consisted of one hundred and sixty acres in Loraine township, which he bought of his father. During the war he had the misfortune to have his house destroyed by fire. In the summer of 1864 it was impossible to find men willing to work upon the farm, and his wife drove the horses to the reaper, while he and his hired man bound one hundred and seventy-five acres of grain. As wheat advanced in price to three dollars per bushel, he was enabled to get a good start in life. From time to time he added to his landed possessions until he now owns thirteen hundred acres of good land in

Henry county, and also has twenty-four hundred and eighty acres of land under cultivation in Minnesota. In connection with farming he has engaged in stock-raising, his specialty being fine Durham cattle, and he has been most successful in this as well as other business transactions.

On the 15th of November, 1857, Mr. Arnett married Miss Margaret Sieben, who was born November 2, 1841, a daughter of Joseph and Apollonia (Gabel) Sieben, of whom extended mention is made in the sketch of Leonard Sieben, on another page of this volume. Six children bless this union, namely: (1) Harriet M., born September 12, 1858, in Loraine township, is now the wife of William Hudnell, a druggist of Helena, Montana, and they have one daughter, Inez. (2) Julia, born January 8, 1862, is the wife of Almont A. Row, of Washington, Iowa, and they have four children, William, Arnett, Marguerite and Catherine. (3) Frank, born August 8, 1865, was married June 6, 1900, to Dr. Elma Brockman, who is a graduate of the Western Dental College of Kansas City, Missouri. He is now engaged in the cattle business in Culbertson, Montana. (4) Alberta, born February 2, 1870, is the wife of P. W. Kempster, who is engaged in the hardware and implement business in Prophetstown, Illinois, and they have three children: C. C. Arnett and Oliver. (5) Perry E., born February 2, 1874, is now a successful farmer of Rock county, Minnesota. His father gave him a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, and to this he has since added a tract of similar size. (6) Floyd H., born March 31, 1881, makes his home with his parents, and is now studying pharmacy at the Northwestern University of Chicago.

By his ballot Mr. Arnett supports the

men and measures of the Republican party, and has taken quite an active interest in local politics. He served as school director in Phenix township for twenty years, where he also served as supervisor eight years. Commencing life in limited circumstances, he has made his own way to the front rank in business affairs, having the ability to plan wisely and execute with energy, which characteristics never fail to bring success. After a useful and honorable career he can now well afford to lay aside business cares and enjoys the fruits of former toil. Mrs. Arnett is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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#### JOHN J. WEAVER.

Prominent among the business men of Geneseo is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. As a dealer in poultry and fine horses he is now doing a successful and profitable business. He is a man of superior executive ability and sound judgment, and occupies an enviable position in the business world.

Mr. Weaver was born at Hampton, Rock Island county, Illinois, on the 26th of July, 1858, and is a son of Jacob and Mary (Weigand) Weaver, both natives of Germany. The father was born September 22, 1829, and was only five years old when he came with his parents to the new world, the voyage lasting nine weeks. In 1838 the family located in Rock Island county, Illinois, taking up their residence in Moline when it contained only four or five houses, while most of the country round about was still in its primitive condition. There the grandfather of our subject, John Weaver, died in 1840. His widow subsequently married a Mr. Yost, who purchased land on Hampton Bluffs

and in the midst of the heavy timber developed a farm. John Weaver lived with his mother and step-father until twenty-one years of age, and then entered the employ of M. W. Wright, who conducted a store and packing house in Hapton. Mr. Weaver was subsequently engaged in the pork packing business for many years, and in 1869 he came to Henry county, becoming one of the extensive and successful farmers here. In 1891 he retired from active labor, and has since made his home with our subject in Geneseo, where he is enjoying a well-earned rest. In two different townships he served as road commissioner for many years. He was reared in the Catholic Church and still adheres to that faith. His estimable wife held membership in the Lutheran Church. She was born January 31, 1830, in Germany, and came to America with her parents in 1847. Her death occurred on the 20th of February, 1896. She was a devoted wife, an excellent mother, and obliging neighbor, who was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew her. In the family were only two children, of whom our subject is the younger. His sister Maggie C. is the wife of Albert Grossenburg, who holds an excellent position in the cutlery works at Fremont, Ohio, and they have two children, Elmer J. and Della M.

From the age of eleven years John J. Weaver was reared upon a farm, and his education was obtained in the schools of Hampton and Geneseo. When his school days were over, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, which he successfully carried on until 1894, when he sold his farm of two hundred acres and invested his capital in his present business, becoming a member of Farber & Weaver, of Geneseo. Later he sold his interest to his partner, and has

since carried on operations in connection with L. F. Glawe. They deal in poultry and eggs and also handle track horses. Although they have met with much opposition from similar firms in the county, they have already built up an excellent trade, and their business proves quite profitable.

In 1891 Mr. Weaver married Miss Laura A. Way, a native of Geneseo and a daughter of E. M. and M. E. Way, of this city. By this union were born twin daughters, Mary L. and Minerva C. The wife and mother died June 19, 1894, at the age of thirty-two years. She was a very devout member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, sang in the choir and took an active part in all church work. Prior to her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching for several years, two years of this time being a teacher in the city schools of Geneseo. She was an excellent woman, and was beloved by all who knew her. On the 7th of June, 1896, Mr. Weaver was again married, his second union being with Miss Addie M. Cooper, also a native of Geneseo and a daughter of the late J. H. Cooper, of this county. Our subject and his wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he is also connected with Stewart Lodge, No. 92, F. & A. M. He takes quite an active interest in political affairs, and has always cast his ballot with the Republican party. He is a man whose genial temperament, sound judgment and well-proved integrity have brought him the esteem and friendship of a host of friends far and near.

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#### WILLIAM J. LEWIS.

William J. Lewis, deceased, was for many years one of the most substantial and prosperous agriculturists of Cornwall town-

ship, as well as one of its most highly esteemed citizens. He was born in Ohio, on the 18th of June, 1849, a son of John and Mary Elizabeth (Cozad) Lewis. In 1852 he came to this state with his father and took up his residence in Cornwall township, Henry county, where he continued to make his home until called to his final rest September 6, 1896.

Mr. Lewis was educated in the district schools near his boyhood home, and upon his father's farm early acquired an excellent knowledge of agricultural pursuits. Throughout his business career he engaged in farming and stock-raising, and met with marked success in his labors, having accumulated at the time of his death four hundred and ten acres of land, all under excellent cultivation and well improved, and some real estate in Geneseo.

On the 6th of March, 1869, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Claypool, a native of Illinois, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Edward W., born February 7, 1870, is the executor of his father's estate, and is successfully engaged in farming and stock-raising in section 6, Cornwall township. He has filled the offices of tax collector and road commissioner and is one of the leading young farmers of his community. On the 6th of March, 1895, he married Mary E. Wood, a daughter of George and Elizabeth (Bowman) Wood of Rock Island. James Frederick, born September 4, 1871, married Fanny C. Wonderly, a native of this county, and is now living in Geneseo township, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres besides eighty acres of well cultivated land in Cornwall township. Perry Theodore, born June 16, 1874, married Hilda Borkgren, a native of this state, and they

live in Cornwall township. David Harry, born October 16, 1877, married Virginia C. Wood, a sister of his brother's wife. For his second wife Mr. Lewis married Miss Eveline Doyle, a native of Pennsylvania, who still survives him and makes her home in Geneseo.

Mr. Lewis gave his political support to the men and measures of Democracy, and took quite an active interest in local politics. He capably and satisfactorily filled a number of township offices of honor and trust, and was justly regarded as one of the representative citizens of his community.

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### JACOB JACOBSON.

Among Weller township's prominent and influential citizens none stand higher in public esteem than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He was born on the 24th of May, 1850, in the Bishop Hill colony, of which his father, Jacob Jacobson, Sr., was one of the founders, having located here in 1847. The birth of the father occurred in Sweden, March 18, 1817, and in the fall of 1846 he came with the colony to America. He left Sweden in charge of a company of the colonists in the latter part of the summer of 1846, sailing from Stockholm on a small sailing vessel. When within a day's voyage of land they were caught in a terrific storm which completely disabled the vessel and carried away the rudder, rendering them entirely helpless. The captain and crew gave the ship up as lost, but five of the company, including Mr. Jacobson, went down in the hold and hunted up iron and material with which they set to work and repaired the rudder. The vessel arrived in New York shortly before Christmas, four weeks after the break-

ing of the rudder, and after having been on the ocean over thirteen weeks. The major portion of the company was left in Brooklyn until spring, while Mr. Jacobson, with a party of thirty of the strongest and most robust of the men left New York shortly after New Years, and set out for their destination, Bishop Hill. From New York to Albany they traveled by boat, after which they traveled mostly by rail and stage until they reached Toledo, Ohio, the remainder of the journey being made on foot, reaching Bishop Hill in the middle of February, 1847. They were accompanied by one woman, Sophia Shon, who did the cooking for them.

Mr. Jacobson was one of the seven trustees of the colony and had charge of their horses and oxen, each of the company being assigned some special work as best suited their abilities. After the breaking up of the colony in 1860, he embarked in general merchandising, in partnership with Swan Swanson, who still survives, and carried on the business until 1872, when owing to the ill health of Mr. Jacobson the partnership was dissolved. At the time the colony broke up he came into possession of considerable land in Weller township, which he later added to by purchase, and which was successfully operated under his personal supervision, and was converted into one of the most highly cultivated tracts in the locality. He made a specialty of raising stock and broom corn, and met with marked success in the latter venture. Having had to work hard from early boyhood he was self-educated, but was well informed on the leading questions and issues of the day. He was public-spirited and progressive, and took quite an active and prominent part in public affairs. He was one of the original trustees of the Bishop Hill colony, and after the breaking up of the



JACOB JACOBSON.

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colony was supervisor of Weller township two terms and constable of the township. He was one of the directors who superintended the erection of the school building at that place, and was prominently identified with all enterprises for the good of the community. In 1873 he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church and was an active worker and supporter of the same until his death, which occurred December 15, 1883. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Helena Peterson, was born January 25, 1821, and died September 8, 1888. They were the parents of four children, but our subject is now the only survivor, the three daughters having died in infancy. Two of the father's brothers also came to America with the Bishop Hill colony, these being Olof, who died of cholera in 1852; and Swan Bjorklund, who died in this county in 1880.

During his boyhood and youth Mr. Jacobson, of this review, pursued his studies in the public schools of Bishop Hill. As soon as large enough to be of any assistance he commenced to aid in the farm work, and for four years he engaged in clerking, first in the stores of Bishop Hill and later in Galva, though always making his home in the former place. After the death of his father he operated the farm for two years, and then rented it and embarked in the lumber business, which he carried on for three years. Since then he has practically lived retired though he continues to personally manage his business affairs. He has made a number of valuable and useful improvements upon the old homestead and has a very comfortable home. He is one of the stockholders and directors of the First National Bank of Galva, and has been called upon to administer several estates, his fellow citizens having the utmost confidence in him.

On the 2nd of September, 1886, Mr. Jacobson was united in marriage with Miss Hannah V. Wigren, who was born near Attica, Indiana, March 11, 1850. Her father, Rev. John Wigren, was a prominent minister of the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church and one of the pioneers of Fountain county, Indiana, but is now living retired in Chicago with his wife and one son. He reared a large family, of whom three sons were Methodist Episcopal ministers, while another is connected with the bank at Galva. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson have three children: Helena C., Margaret E. and Robert E., who are being educated in the common schools of Bishop Hill.

Since attaining his majority Mr. Jacobson has affiliated with the Republican party, and has several times been a delegate to county and congressional conventions, while in 1900 he was a delegate to the state convention at Peoria. His father also served as a delegate to the conventions of his party. Our subject has been honored with a number of local offices, which he has most capably and satisfactorily filled. In March, 1880, he was appointed school treasurer, and has been re-appointed to that position every two years since. He was census enumerator of Weller township in 1900, and was for nine years commissioner of highways and treasurer of the same. Mr. Jacobson is now an active and influential member of the village board of Bishop Hill, and at various times has served as trustee and clerk, having always been prominently identified with the interests of the community. He is president of the Swedish-American Republican League of Henry county; and is recorder of Seva Legion No. 6, Select Knights of America, of Bishop Hill. He is also a Master Mason, belonging to the lodge at Galva. His wife holds membership in the

Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a liberal supporter, and while the church was being rebuilt in 1900 he served as a member of the building committee and treasurer. He is of a very genial and social nature, and is held in high regard by all who know him.

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#### WILLIAM LAMB.

Many years ago there came to Henry county William Lamb and family whose early home was on the other side of the Atlantic. He was born in Selkirk, Scotland, on the 3d of November, 1810, and there he grew to manhood. At Edinburg, he was married July 1, 1834, his wife, Mrs. Margaret M. Lamb, being a native of that city, born January 26, 1816. In 1849 they crossed the ocean to Boston, Massachusetts, and six years later came to Henry county, Illinois, locating at Annawan, where Mr. Lamb was serving as agent for the Rock Island Railroad at the time of his death, which occurred November 22, 1856. In 1866 his wife was appointed postmistress of that place, and continued to fill the office until she was called to her final resting place July 18, 1900, at the age of eighty-four years.

Unto this worthy couple were born nine children, namely: Catherine, born in Selkirk, Scotland, May 21, 1835, is the wife of Joseph Stevens, of Annawan; William, born in Selkirk, June 14, 1837, died in Annawan, October 9, 1854; Mary R., born in Selkirk, March 20, 1839, was married, January 20, 1863, to Theron Smith, and died July 18, 1876; Margaret B., born in Galashiels, Scotland, July 15, 1841, was married October 4, 1862, to John L. Dow, a prominent hard-

ware merchant of Annawan; Isabella, born in Galashiels, August 1, 1843, was married January 12, 1873, to Caleb Swayze of Annawan; Johanna, born in Edinburg, Scotland, May 18, 1847, succeeded her mother as postmistress of Annawan in 1900, and is now filling that position; Robert H., born in Boston, November 14, 1849, married May Cronan, October 29, 1889, and resides in Kewanee, Illinois; Jesse, born in Belle Isle, Massachusetts, November 3, 1851, died November 15, 1851; and Ellen, born in Morris, Illinois, November 20, 1854, was married, August 30, 1881, to D. A. Jones and resides in Moline, Illinois. The family is one of the highest respectability, and its members are held in the highest esteem wherever known.

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#### JAMES McRELL.

Burns township has no more popular or influential citizen than James McReil, who has been honored with a number of local offices, and has always been found true to every trust reposed in him. He was born in Ireland in 1838, and was a son of Robert McReil. When quite young he emigrated with the family to America and took up his residence in Philadelphia. On leaving that city he removed to Wisconsin, and in 1856 came to Henry county, Illinois. Subsequently his parents also came to this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the death of both occurring here.

On coming to Henry county James McReil located upon his present farm in Burns township, where he owns two hundred and eighty-two acres of valuable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation

and improved with good buildings. In his political affiliations he is a stalwart Democrat, and on his party ticket was elected supervisor of his township, which office he creditably and satisfactorily filled for six years. He has also served as commissioner of highways and school director for several years, and his official duties have always been most conscientiously and faithfully performed.

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#### WILBUR F. STOWELL.

Willbur F. Stowell, one of the leading and representative citizens of Yorktown township, was born there on the 16th of August, 1853, and belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of Henry county. His father, Lyman Stowell, was born in Colesville, Broome county, New York, February 19, 1810, and was the oldest son of Aaron and Elizabeth (Pratt) Stowell, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Broome county, New York. When twelve years of age Lyman accompanied his parents on their removal to Chenango county, New York, where he grew to manhood upon a farm, his education being acquired in the subscription schools then in vogue in that section. When twenty-two years of age he went to Steuben county, the same state, for the purpose of learning the millwright's trade, having a natural aptitude for the use of tools. His brother Allanson was a craftsman of the same kind. In 1836 they came to Illinois, floating down the Ohio river on a raft to Louisville, Kentucky, whence they proceeded on horseback to Quincy, this state, a distance of four hundred miles. There they spent two months in building a mill, but on account of malaria left that place and went to Pleasant Valley, Iowa,

that state being then a territory. There several months were passed in the construction of mills, but they returned to Quincy in the fall of 1836. The following spring they again went to Pleasant Valley and resumed work at their trade. In the fall of 1837 they went to Prophetstown, Whiteside county, Illinois, and erected a sawmill on Coon creek, and also built the first frame house in that town. In 1838 they came to Henry county for the first time and built a mill on Spring creek in Atkinson township.

Lyman Stowell then discontinued work at his trade and turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1844 he rented a farm at Woodward's Bluff, six miles from Prophetstown, and was its occupant and manager until 1848, when he removed to Henry county, becoming the first settler of Yorktown township, which was then known as township 18, range 5. He made a claim on section 9, and built thereon a log house, which he covered with shingles, which he manufactured out of burr oak from his own timber. Six years later he entered the land and secured the title to the same. He placed it under a high state of cultivation and later bought additional tracts, having at the time of his death one hundred and seventy-seven acres, which is now the property of our subject. It is one of the best improved places of the locality, being supplied with everything found upon a model farm of the present day, including an elegant home. The log house which he first erected was located sixty rods west of our subject's present residence. The Stowell school, located upon this farm, was the first in the township, and was built a short time after Lyman Stowell's arrival here and mainly through his individual efforts. There his children all received good common-school educations. He also assisted in laying out the first road be-

tween Annawan and Yorktown. Among the most important mills constructed by Mr. Stowell was the Camden mill on the Mississippi river south of Rock Island and opposite where Milan now stands. At that time it was the leading mill in this part of the country. During the early years of his residence in this state he formed the acquaintance of many celebrated Indians, including Wa-bo-kie, chief of the Winnebagoes and commonly known as the Prophet, after whom Prophetstown was named; and he also knew Keokuk, chief of the Sacs and Foxes. In his youth he was a schoolmate of Joseph Smith, the Mormon Prophet, who was killed at Carthage, Illinois, in 1844, and both boarded with the former's uncle, Josiah Stowell. It was there that he overheard the planning of the Mormon bible after the discovery of the Uram and Thumim, the glasses and engraved tablets, and he used to relate many interesting stories of Smith and his followers. One day he found the prophet in the wood house searching earnestly, Smith explaining that he had lost one of the magic glasses, which he alleged enabled the wearer to discover hidden treasures, as well as to translate the tablets of the book of Mormon. Mr. Stowell wanted to know why he did not take the other glass and find the one that was lost, but received no satisfactory reply. Smith used to take his adherents out at night and search for hidden treasures, one of the essentials being that no word was to be spoken during the search. Often Mr. Stowell and his comrades who were not under the prophet's influence, would follow them and watch their endeavors, but the charm would always be broken by some incautious exclamation on the part of the searchers or by interference of the boys. As he overheard the planning of the Mormon bible, Mr. Stowell in later

years often wondered how Smith gained so many followers. He cast his first presidential vote for William Henry Harrison, and on the organization of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters. His fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, often called him to office. He was the first justice of the peace in Yorktown township and held that position a number of years. He also served as township collector and school director, taking a great interest in educational matters. Prior to his marriage he engaged in teaching school for a number of years. On account of a crippled foot he could never enter the military service of his country, but was always a loyal and patriotic citizen, and took a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He was a member of the Methodist Church, being converted under the ministry of Rev. Barton Cartwright in 1855. He died December 31, 1899, honored and respected by all who knew him.

In Prophetstown, Illinois, Lyman Stowell was married, in 1843, to Miss Sarah Leach, a native of Johnsburg, Warren county, New York, who died February 22, 1901, at the age of eighty-six years. By this union were born four children: Caroline, born February 2, 1848, married S. L. Sweeney, and both are now deceased, while their family lives in Arkansas; Emma Jane, born June 30, 1850, is the wife of J. H. Sweeney, of Jewell Junction, Iowa; Wilbur F. is next in order of birth; and Sarah A., born February 26, 1857, is the wife of C. R. Burrows, of Leon, Illinois.

Mr. Stowell, of this review, was reared on the home farm and throughout his active business life has engaged in its operation. He is a thorough and skillful agriculturist and has met with excellent success in his labors. Besides the old homestead he owns

a quarter-section of land in Oklahoma. On the 20th of October, 1874, he was united in marriage with Miss Lydia A. C. Luther, and to them have been born two children, namely: Harrietta L., born July 24, 1875, is the wife of S. S. Swanson, who resides with Mr. Stowell, and they have one child, Roland Noble, born March 6, 1900; and Florence E., born February 1, 1881, was married, June 14, 1899, to G. F. Day, of New Carlisle, Ohio. They also have an adopted son, Harold E., born May 21, 1897.

Jacob Luther, the father of Mrs. Stowell, was born on the river Rhine in Weinberg, Germany, in 1815, and about 1823 came to America with his parents, Jacob and Louisa Luther, locating in Livingston county, New York. About 1828 they removed to Pennsylvania, and ten years later came to Illinois, arriving in Chicago in the fall of 1838. They spent the winter in that city, in the heart of which mud was then knee deep, and town lots could be had for a day's work. The following spring the family went to Lake county, and Jacob Luther, Sr., purchased eighty acres of land twenty-two miles northwest of Chicago, which was entirely unimproved. They were among the first settlers of that locality. Later they came to Geneseo, Henry county, where Mrs. Stowell's grandfather died. Her grandmother died at Desplaines, Illinois. Their children were Jacob; Emeline, who became the wife of Jacob Ott, of Yorktown township, and both are now deceased; Elizabeth, wife of Jesse Wilmot, of Missouri; George, deceased, who married Sallie Schock, both deceased; Peter, deceased, who wedded Mary Miller. They formerly lived in Yorktown township, though his widow now resides in Iowa; John, deceased, who married Mary Fehlman, a resident of Hooppole; William, who died in California unmarried;

David, who first married Caroline Erslinger and second Caroline Reig and lives in Geneseo; and Mary Ann, who became the wife of Benhart Wolf and both are now deceased. Jacob Luther, Jr., the father of Mrs. Stowell, was the second settler in Yorktown township, and in those early days was a great hunter, being considered one of the best shots in this part of the country. He often hunted deer with the Indians. He was a millwright by trade and invented one of the first turbine wheels in the United States. During his residence in Yorktown township, he lived on section 31, in what is known as Hooppole. In 1856 he removed to Geneseo, where he was engaged in mercantile business for a year, and then went to Rome, Jones county, Iowa, where he made his home nine years, then moved to Anamosa, Jones county, Iowa, though he died while working at his trade in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1876, at the age of sixty-two years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Emeline M. Hawert, was born in 1812, and died in March, 1881. They were the parents of ten children, namely: Mary Magdalene, who died at the age of two years; Elizabeth, deceased wife of William A. Anderson, of Trinidad, Colorado; Mary, who died at the age of nine years; Louisa, wife of Eli Walker, of Bosworth, Missouri; Jonathan, who was a member of Company B, Ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry in the Civil war and died in Andersonville prison; Alfred, who died at the age of nine years; Aaron, a physician of Clay county, Kansas, who married Ada Brown; Lydia A. C., wife of our subject; Henrietta, deceased wife of James Randall, of Sigourney, Iowa; and Sarah L., wife of C. L. Shaw, of Oklahoma.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Stowell a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has taken quite an influ-

ential part in local politics. He has served his fellow citizens as school director nine years; constable six years and highway commissioner nine years, and his official duties have been performed with a promptness and fidelity worthy of the highest commendation. He and his wife are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is a trustee, while she is a member of the official board. They are worthy representatives of two of the oldest and most honored families of Yorktown township, and well merit the high regard in which they are held.

#### STARKS N. BARKER.

The subject of this review is one of the representative business men and prominent citizens of Annawan, Illinois, dating his residence here from 1859. He is a native of the Empire state, his birth having occurred in the town of Albion, Oswego county, New York, January 1, 1835. The first of the Barker family to come to America was a native of Wales and one of the early settlers of Boston, Massachusetts, and from him the several branches of the family now scattered throughout the country are descended.

Ebenezer Barker, the father of our subject, was born in Bridgewater, New York, November 17, 1800, a son of Ebenezer and Polly (Buellong) Barker, who reared a family of twelve sons. Our subject's father and grandfather were blacksmiths by trade, and the former followed that occupation near Watertown, New York, for some years. About twenty years before his death he removed to Baraboo, Wisconsin, where he passed away January 2, 1881. He was married June 22, 1823, to Miss Clarissa M. Starks, who was born in Massachusetts,

March 12, 1805, and departed this life September 15, 1879. They were the parents of thirteen children, namely: Polly B., born May 25, 1824, married S. W. Finster, and they spent most of their lives in New York, but died in Madison, Wisconsin, their remains being interred at Pulaski, New York; Clarissa M., born September 25, 1825, is the wife of Daniel Van Sice, of Englewood, Illinois; Susan, born August 21, 1827, is the widow of Benjamin Bart and a resident of Belville, New York; Mary A., born February 1, 1829, died in infancy; Electa J., born January 31, 1830, married Henry Brewster, of New York, and is now deceased; Eliza C., born July 22, 1832, is also deceased; Starks N. is next in order of birth; Sarah A., born May 2, 1837, is the widow of Osman Jones and a resident of New York state; John, born March 29, 1839, died in Baraboo, Wisconsin; Harriet A., born January 11, 1842, is the wife of Joseph Barton, of Fairfield, Wisconsin; Francis N., born January 21, 1844, died in Idaho; G. Scott, born October 30, 1846, died at the age of two years; William L., born September 14, 1850, is a resident of Denver, Colorado.

In early life Starks N. Barker learned the blacksmith's trade with his father, and remained with his parents until 1858, when, at the age of twenty-three years, he went to Table Grove, Fulton county, Illinois, where he spent six months. He then spent a short time in Missouri, and on his return to Illinois stopped at Kewanee and Annawan. In the fall of 1858 and the following winter he taught school in district No. 1, about three miles south of Annawan, having previously followed that occupation in New York for a time. From March, 1859, until February, 1866, he conducted a blacksmith shop in Annawan, and then opened a general store at the place where he



still carries on business, though he has since enlarged the building by an addition in the rear. He carries a large and well-selected stock of general merchandise and enjoys a liberal share of the public patronage.

Mr. Barker was married, January 1, 1862, to Miss Helen J. Hartley, who was born in Bureau county, Illinois, November 27, 1840, a daughter of James B. and Sarah (Fritchey) Hartley. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, December 25, 1818, and her mother April 17, 1819. They were the parents of thirteen children. Mr. and Mrs. Barker have three children living, namely: Frank S., born December 5, 1864; Duke F., March 17, 1868; and Sada A., August 9, 1875. All are at home, and Duke F. is with his father in the store.

As a Republican Mr. Barker has ever taken an active and prominent part in local politics, and has been a delegate to most of the county conventions of his party. He cast his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont. He has capably and satisfactorily filled the offices of town clerk, school treasurer and justice of the peace; and for eight years he ably represented his township in the board of supervisors. For a quarter of a century he has been a member of the Free & Accepted Order of Masons, and in his life has faithfully followed the teachings of that benevolent order.

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### JAMES PARKER.

Among the old and honored residents of Henry county was the late James Parker, whose home was on section 1, Cornwall township. A native of England, he was born in Boothtown, near Halifax, York-

shire, November 28, 1816, and was a son of George and Mary (Scott) Parker, who spent their entire lives in that country. In his native land he followed the occupation of an engineer.

In 1855 Mr. Parker took passage on a vessel at Liverpool, and after a voyage of three weeks landed in New York. A week later he reached Sheffield, Illinois, and continued to make his home in this state throughout life. Before leaving England he had purchased eighty acres of unbroken land on section 1, Cornwall township, this county, through his brother-in-law, and soon after his arrival here he took up his residence thereon. To it he added until at one time he had three hundred and forty-eight acres all under cultivation with the exception of twenty-eight acres of timberland. He never had occasion to regret his immigration to America, for here he prospered, becoming one of the well-to-do and substantial men of his community, as well as one of the most highly esteemed citizens. He cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln and continued to affiliate with the Republican party throughout life, supporting William McKinley in 1896. He capably filled the offices of road commissioner and school director, but never cared for political honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests.

Mr. Parker was married in England prior to coming to the new world, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah Prince, a native of that country and a daughter of George and Rebecca Prince, who were also born there. Thirteen children blessed this union, namely: Eliza, born May 5, 1836, is the wife of Thomas Crosby, Kewanee, Illinois; George, born March 21, 1838, died May 6, 1839; Fanny, born April 16, 1839,



died in infancy; Fergus, born May 3, 1841, served three years as a member of Company G, Ninth Illinois Cavalry, and lost his health in the army, dying October 5, 1866, leaving a wife and one daughter, Mary E., married and living at Denver, Colorado; George P., born March 1, 1843, married Alice Henry and is engaged in farming in Shenandoah, Iowa; Priscilla, born May 5, 1845, is the wife of John Bowen, of Kewanee, Illinois; Lucy, born June 12, 1847, died October 21, 1855; Rose A., born August 16, 1849, is the wife of Francis E. Morey, of Kewanee township, this county; Robert, born December 2, 1851, married Ella Workman and lives in Atkinson; Mary E., born August 31, 1853, is the wife of Samuel M. Kerr, of Walnut, Iowa; Alice M., born September 4, 1856, is the wife of John Galvin, of Walnut, Iowa; James, born July 22, 1859, is mentioned below; and John T., born August 31, 1863, died January 12, 1866. On the 3d of January, 1901, the father of these children passed away after a lingering illness of three months, and was laid to rest in Fairview cemetery by the side of his wife, who died March 16, 1892. They stood high in the community where they so long made their home, and those who knew them best were numbered among their warmest friends.

James Parker, Jr., son of our subject, was born on the old homestead in Cornwall township where he still resides, and was educated in the local schools. As soon as old enough to be of any assistance he commenced to aid in the work of the farm, and on attaining his majority rented a portion of the place. Later he purchased land from his father and now owns three hundred and fifty acres. He was married, December 9, 1880, to Miss Mary A. Arkland, who was born in Canada, September 7, 1859,

and they have become the parents of four children: Babel G., born December 18, 1881, is now attending the high school of Kewanee; and Chester L., born November 14, 1883, Dessie L., born April 24, 1885, and John W., born August 18, 1886, are all attending the home school. John and Sarah (Ellis) Arkland, the parents of Mrs. Parker, were natives of Canada, from which country they came to the United States in 1864, locating in Annawan, this county. The father, who was a carpenter by trade, died in 1879, and was buried in Fairview cemetery, but the mother is still living and makes her home in Atkinson. They had five children of whom Mrs. Parker is the oldest, the others being as follows: Sarah Minerva, born October 30, 1860, lives with her mother in Atkinson; Richard D., born February 24, 1865, wedded Mary E. Kelsey, and is engaged in farming in Calhoun county, Iowa; John Quincy died in Nebraska; Samuel, born September 6, 1874, married Sarah Stagner and follows farming in Cornwall township, this county.

Politically James Parker, Jr., is also identified with the Republican party, and his fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability for office, have called upon him to serve as school director, supervisor and justice of the peace. Fraternally he is an honored member of the Modern Woodmen Camp, No. 118, of Atkinson, and the Royal Neighbors of America, of which latter order Mrs. Parker is also a member.

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#### ANDREW SMITH.

This well-known farmer, who is now efficiently serving as supervisor of Loraine township, was born in Rhine Baden, Ger-

many, July 20, 1842, a son of Andrew and Margaret (Worth) Smith, both of whom were natives of the same province. Throughout the greater part of his life the father engaged in mining iron ore, and died in 1856, at the age of fifty-two years. His wife passed away six months previous at the same age. Of their five children three reached maturity, namely: Margaret, a resident of Loraine township, this county, and widow of Joseph Trinkle, one of the early settlers of this locality; Andrew, our subject; and Mathias, who married Lena Lane and lives in Johnson, Nebraska.

Mr. Smith of this review was reared and educated in his native land, where he continued to make his home until the fall of 1860, when he sailed from Havre, France, for New York, in company with his younger brother, Mathias. The voyage lasted thirty-six days, during which they encountered three storms, but our subject was never sea-sick. On landing in this country he was unable to speak a word of English. He remained in New York city from Friday until the following Monday, and then started for Chicago by railroad, but it then required a week to make the trip. He spent one week in the latter city, during which time he carried a ton of coal up four flights of stairs for seventy-five cents, but found no other employment.

Mr. Smith then came to Henry county, where his mother's sister was living, and remained with her and her husband until the following April, when he commenced work for Jacob Barnhart at seven dollars per month, but at the end of the first month his wages were raised to eight dollars. He remained with that gentleman for nine months, and then attended school for a month and a half, after which he worked

for George Ester one summer for thirteen dollars per month. During the following five years he was in the employ of Joseph Arnett and then rented a farm in Loraine township one year.

On the 2d of March, 1868, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Mary Arnett, who was born in Whiteside county, Illinois. Her parents, Jacob and Charlotte (Summers) Arnett, were natives of Loraine, France, and Monheim, Germany, respectively, and were young when they came with their parents to this country, locating in Pennsylvania, where their marriage was celebrated. They continued to make their home there for a few years, and in 1835 went to Chicago by way of the Great Lakes. There Mr. Arnett purchased forty acres of land in what is now the heart of the city. Later he walked to Whiteside county and took up a tract of government land near Portland, on which he and his family subsequently located. Their first home was a log cabin of one room, and for some time Mr. Arnett hauled all his grain either to Chicago or Galena with oxen. He was one of the men who went to California during the gold excitement in 1849 and there engaged in teaming for about two years with good success. The trip to the Pacific coast was made with ox teams and consumed six months, but after disposing of his business there, he returned to Illinois by the Panama route to New York. For twenty years thereafter he engaged in farming, but his last days were spent in retirement from active labor at Geneseo, where he died May 11, 1899, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife died August 27, 1881, at the age of sixty-six. He was one of the most successful and enterprising farmers of Whiteside county, and owned over one thousand

acres of valuable land. In his family were the following named children: Louis, a resident of Portland township, Whiteside county; Samuel, a retired citizen of Geneseo; Philip, also a resident of Whiteside county; Mary, wife of our subject; Albert, a farmer of North Platte, Nebraska; Clara, wife of Abraham Rapp, of Loraine township, Henry county; and Otilla, wife of Charles Alber, of Kansas City, Kansas.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Smith have been born eight children: (1) Albert A., a farmer of South Dakota, married Lola Crommett of Lodi, that state, and they have two children, Milo and Arnett. (2) Otilla R., is the wife of Joseph Oberle, Jr., of Loraine township, this county, and they have two children, Floyd and Lottie. (3) Lotta S. is the wife of Joseph Roos, a farmer of Loraine township. (4) Frank W. married Millie Urick and now holds the position of receiving clerk in the penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois. (5) Flora B. is the wife of Edward Heller, of Loraine township, and they have two children, Alva and Pearl. (6) Bernice I. is the wife of Vader Lansford, of Loraine township, and they have two children, Marie and Leslie. (7) Alden A. aids his father in the operation of the home farm. (8) Matt Henry is taking a literary course in the Geneseo Seminary.

After his marriage Mr. Smith rented the Joseph Arnett farm for two years more, and then bought one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 21, Loraine township, on which had previously been built a one room cottage and a log stable. He has since purchased eighty acres on section 16 and forty acres on section 3, so that he now owns two hundred and eighty acres of rich and arable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general

farming he is successfully engaged in raising and feeding stock for market.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Catholic Church at Hoopole, Yorktown township, and fraternally is connected with the Modern Woodmen of America, while his wife is a charter member of the Home Forum. In political sentiment he is a staunch Republican, and has creditably and acceptably filled several local offices. He has served as school director several years; as school treasurer about ten years; as road commissioner six years; and since 1888 has been supervisor of Loraine township. He was a member of the equalization committee some time, and is now chairman of the educational committee. He is now serving as ditch commissioner, and is treasurer of the big slough drainage district.

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#### PETER A. PETERSON.

This thrifty and enterprising farmer residing on section 26, Western township, has made his home in Henry county since 1852. He was born in Sweden, on the 30th of December, 1844, and is a son of C. J. and Anna Louise (Rosenmiller) Peterson, also natives of that country. The father was born in 1815, and in early life followed farming in Sweden, where he continued to make his home until after the birth of three of his children, namely: Christine, a widow living in Missouri; Ann Matilda, who is keeping house for our subject; and Peter A., of this review. Two other children were added to the family after coming to this country, these being Lotta, wife of A. G. Samuelson, of Des Moines, Iowa, by whom she has five sons, Ernest, Walter, Sherman, Edwin and Elmer G.; and G. H., who after his mar-

riage owned and operated the old homestead, where he died in 1892. Of his four children Carl Henry died at the age of two years, while Arthur A., Cora and Nellie are still living. It was in 1849 that the father brought his family to the new world, and after spending about three years in Warren county, Pennsylvania, he came to Henry county, Illinois, making the journey by team. He located on section 35, Western township, where he opened up and improved a farm of eighty acres, making it his home until called to his final rest in 1897. His wife died January 1, 1880, and the remains of both were interred in Andover cemetery.

Peter A. Peterson was only five years old when brought by his parents to this country, and in 1852 he came with them to Henry county, where he grew to manhood on the home farm, his education being obtained in the local schools. He remained with his father until he attained his majority, and then started out in life for himself as a farmer upon a tract of forty acres, which he broke, fenced and improved, erecting thereon a small house, which he has since remodeled and enlarged. He has also built a nice large barn with a basement, has erected outbuildings and set out fruit and forest trees which add greatly to the attractive appearance of the place. He has purchased more land from time to time and now has a valuable farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. In connection with general farming he raises and fattens cattle for the market, shipping one car load each year, besides a large number of hogs. To his industry, enterprise and good management may be attributed his success in life, and he is now numbered among the substantial citizens of his community.

Politically Mr. Peterson has been a life-long Republican, casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864, but he has never cared for official honors. As an advocate of good schools and competent teachers, he efficiently served as a member of the school board for a number of years, and was also district clerk for some years. Religiously he is a member of the Lutheran Church.

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### CARL GUTSCHLAG.

Carl Gutschlag, residing at No. 331 South Elliott street, is a well known brick layer of Kewanee and is now efficiently serving as alderman from the fifth ward. He was born near Brandenburg, Germany, August 5, 1858, a son of Carl and Louisa Gutschlag, who spent their entire lives in that country. The father, who was a laborer by occupation, died at the age of fifty-six years, the mother at the age of thirty-six. In their family were seven children, two of whom died in childhood, the others being Carl, our subject; Louisa, wife of Herman Gleich, of Kewanee; William, a resident of Germany; and August and Gustav, both of Kewanee.

Carl Gutschlag was reared and educated in his native land, and was twenty-four years of age when he emigrated to America in company with his cousin, Christian Crumstoff, he being the first of the family to cross the Atlantic. On landing in New York, he proceeded at once to Kewanee, Illinois. In early life he had learned the brick layer's trade in Germany, completing his apprenticeship at the age of seventeen years, and after working as a journeyman for a time, he began taking contracts. For the past

seven years he has engaged in business on his own account and has erected several of the large buildings in Kewanee and the surrounding country.

On the 24th of February, 1887, Mr. Gutschlag was united in marriage with Miss Mary Deutschland, who was born in Germany in 1863, but was only a year old when brought to the United States by her parents. William and Caroline (Keuter) Deutschland. The family located in Kewanee township, this county, where the mother is still living at the age of seventy-four years, but the father died December 4, 1893, at the age of seventy-two. They had six children, namely: William, a farmer of Kewanee township; Minnie and Louisa, who both died in infancy; Amelia, a resident of Kewanee; Mary, wife of our subject; and Albert, who died in 1895, at the age of twenty-nine years. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gutschlag were Lenora M., William F. C., Louis T. and Margaret C., all living; and Paul R., who died in April, 1899, at the age of sixteen months.

Mr. and Mrs. Gutschlag are both members of the German Evangelical Church and he is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party and its principles. In April, 1899, he was elected alderman from his ward for a term of two years, and has filled that position in a most creditable and satisfactory manner.

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#### NELS F. ANDERSON.

This well-known and prominent lawyer of Galva, Illinois, was born in the southern part of Sweden, February 11, 1858, a son of Nels and Maria (Kolokowski) Anderson, who were also born in Sweden, though the

latter's parents were natives of Ireland. The father of our subject was a well-educated man and a lumber merchant of his native land. In 1871 he brought his family to America and settled in Greene, Iowa, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres and devoted the remainder of his life to agricultural pursuits. On coming to this country he was well situated financially, and throughout his business career met with excellent success. Religiously he was an active member of the Swedish Lutheran Church, and gave liberally to its support. He died in 1881, and his wife passed away in 1894.

Unto this worthy couple were born eight children, all of whom are still living, namely: Nelson, the subject of this sketch; Christine, a graduate of Ann Arbor University and now a physician of Detroit, Michigan; Andrew W., who was educated at Knox College, Galesburg, and is now station agent for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company at Lake Elmo, Minnesota; F. E., a graduate of Ann Arbor University and an attorney of Tacoma, Washington; Otto, also a graduate of Ann Arbor University and a dentist of Stillwater, Minnesota; Theodore, a graduate of the Iowa University, and a resident of Tacoma, Washington; Hannah, an artist of Chicago, who pursued a literary course at the Chicago University, and was graduated from that institution; and Cornelius, who was graduated from Knox College, Galesburg, and is now studying medicine at the Northwestern Medical College of Chicago.

The early education of Nels F. Anderson was obtained in a Latin school in Sweden. He accompanied his parents on their emigration to the new world and remained with them until he had completed his education.

In 1877 he entered Knox College, where he pursued a literary course and was graduated in 1882. He took a preparatory course at the law school of the Union College of Law in Chicago, where he was a student for one year, and for eighteen months thereafter he read law with Thomas E. Milchrist, now state senator. After his admission to the bar in 1886 he remained in Chicago until the following year, and then went to Salina, Kansas, where he opened an office and engaged in the practice of his profession for three years. In 1890 he came to Galva, and has since had his office at his present location. He has accumulated a very complete and valuable law library, and has built up a large and lucrative practice which is constantly increasing.

In 1889 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Miss May Winn Williams, who was born in Henry, Illinois, in 1863, a daughter of William Potter and Petronella (Hoagland) Williams. Her mother died in 1894, and her father, who was by occupation a farmer, is now living in Henry. They had five children, namely: Kate Esmond, a resident of Newburg, New York; Archie, a farmer of Henry, Illinois; Bessie, at home; Anetta Wiley, of Utica, Illinois; and May Winn, wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have four children: Leland H., born in 1891; Sumner B., 1895; Richard Stanley, 1897; and Nelson Paul, 1899. The family own a pleasant home in Galva.

Since 1890 Mr. Anderson has been identified with the Democratic party, and has most creditably and acceptably served as village attorney for eight years. He was a member of the school board during the erection of the new school building in Galva, and served on the building committee. He has always been a strong advocate of those

enterprises which he believed would benefit his adopted town and county, and is recognized as a valuable citizen of the community. As a successful attorney he had made for himself an enviable reputation, and in 1897 he was the Democratic candidate for circuit judge. His name has also appeared on his party ticket for other county offices. Socially he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Masonic fraternity, both of Galva, while religiously his wife holds membership in the Congregational Church, and he is a supporter of the same.

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#### GEORGE H. JOHNSON.

Among the representative citizens and prominent farmers of Andover township is George H. Johnson, whose home is on section 31. He was born in that township on the 22nd of February, 1849, and is a son of Gustus and Caroline (Swanson) Johnson, both natives of Sweden, the former born October 24, 1824, the latter in 1819. Our subject's paternal grandfather, who was a blacksmith by trade, spent his entire life in that country, but the maternal grandfather crossed the Atlantic, and located in Henry county, Illinois, where the last seven years of his life were passed. He followed farming after the primitive methods with a Swedish grub hoe. The mother of our subject was the only one of his family to come to America, but Gustus Johnson had two sisters and one brother who emigrated to America, these being Jonas Peter, who is still living in Nebraska at the age of eighty-two years; Christine, who married Carl Carlson and both died of cholera in 1852; and Mary, who wedded S. Stephenson and



died in Anderson township, in 1882, while her husband is now living in the village of Andover.

Gustus Johnson, the father of our subject, followed farming in his native land until after his marriage and then came to the new world in 1848. He was one of the first to locate on the prairie in Andover township, Henry county, Illinois. His first purchase consisted of only ten acres, to which he later added thirty acres, making forty acres in the home place, where our subject now resides. He erected thereon a log cabin, which is now crumbling away. As he succeeded in his farming operations he kept adding to his land until he owned four hundred and eighty acres in this county and one hundred and sixty acres in Kansas. This property he divided among his children before his death. In connection with general farming he engaged in raising cattle, horses and hogs, and met with success in that enterprise. The Republican party always found in him a staunch supporter of its principles, but he would never accept office. He always took an active interest in church work, and was one of the organizers of the Swedish Lutheran Church, with which he held membership until after the completion of their house of worship in Andover, when he withdrew and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he also assisted in building up. He died on the old homestead April 24, 1895, and the mother of our subject passed away there in 1873.

Of the ten children born to this worthy couple three died in infancy. Those who reached years of maturity were George H., of this review; Mary Ellen, wife of Gust Anderson, who lives on the Andover road; Louisa, who married E. Anderson and died in Kansas in 1899; Emily, who died in

1879, unmarried; Andrew, a resident of Andover township; Mrs. Laura A. Moore, of San Diego, California; Mrs. Celia Mosenfeldt, a widow living in that state; and Julia, wife of John Lee, also of California. The children were all born, reared and educated in this county, but since their marriage they have become widely scattered.

During his boyhood George H. Johnson attended the district schools of Andover township, but his educational privileges were rather limited, as he was required to assist his father in the support of the family, being the eldest of the children. The knowledge he obtained in school, however, has been greatly supplemented by reading good literature in later years. He remained at home until he attained his majority and then started out in life for himself as a farmer, meeting with success from the beginning.

1871 Mr. Johnson married Miss Engstrom, who was born in Sweden in 1851, a daughter of Swan and Lonisa (Sunberg) Engstrom. Her father died in Sweden, and in 1856 her widowed mother came to America, bringing with her their five children, namely: Eric, who died in Minnesota; Elizabeth, wife of Alex Isaacson, of Boone county, Iowa; Christine, wife of Charles Johnson, of Lynn township; Ellen, deceased; and Annie, wife of our subject. The children were educated in the district schools but had little opportunity to avail themselves of its privileges. The mother made her home with them until her death, which occurred in Linn township.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born eight children, as follows: Dora is the wife of Gilbert Samuelson, of Osco township, and they have two children, Grace and Herbert. Della is the wife of William Samuelson, of Andover township; and they have



two children, Lester and Gladys. Almon assists his father in the work of the home farm. Mabel is the wife of Nettleton Burgeson, who lives in Lynn township, near Lynn Center. Wallace, George Harrison, Inez and Ruth are all at home. They have all received good common school educations, and the oldest son took a collegiate course at Moline.

After his marriage Mr. Johnson located on section 25, Lynn township, where he owned three hundred and sixty acres of land, and as a stock raiser and farmer he has had a very successful career. He continued his residence in Lynn township until 1897, when he returned to the old homestead on section 31, Andover township, consisting of two hundred acres. He purchased the interests of the other heirs in this place, for the purpose of keeping it in the family. He makes a specialty of raising Poland China hogs, short horn cattle and shire and Norman horses, and has always carried off several premiums at the county fairs where he has exhibited his stock. In 1900 he received the

banner for draft horses. He is also interested in sheep raising. He still owns three hundred and sixty acres of land on sections 25 and 26, Lynn township, besides the old homestead of two hundred acres on sections 31 and 32 Andover township, and has been wonderfully successful in business affairs. He has made many useful and valuable improvements upon these places.

In his political affiliations Mr. Johnson is an ardent Republican, and has taken quite an active and prominent part in public affairs. He is president of the township central committee; was supervisor of Lynn township five years; and was school director during his entire residence there, and since his return to Andover township has filled that office here. He is one of the directors of the State Bank of Orion, and is very prominent and influential both in business and political circles. He is one of the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is a member of the Odd Fellows lodge of Woodhull.

















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