

Ill. Hist. Surv.



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



THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

OF  
KANE 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."*—MACAULEY.

---

CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY,  
1898.

377323

1854

---

**“Biography is the only true history.”**

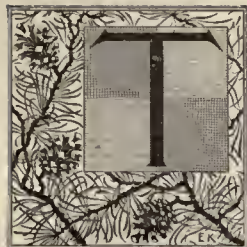
—EMERSON.

---

Survey

## PREFACE.

---



THE greatest of English historians, MACAULAY, and one of the most brilliant writers of the present century, has said: "The history of a country is best told in a record of the lives of its people." In conformity with this idea, the BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD has been prepared. Instead of going to musty records, and taking therefrom dry statistical matter that can be appreciated but by few, our corps of writers have gone to the people, the men and women who have, by their enterprise and industry, brought these counties 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.



STAN IN A HASTY  
GUT OF  
A R



HON. CHARLES WHEATON.



# BIOGRAPHICAL.

---

HON. CHARLES WHEATON, a leading member of the bar of Aurora, Illinois, was born in Warren, Rhode Island, May 29, 1829, and is the son of Nathan M. and Content B. (Maxwell) Wheaton, the former being the son of Charles Wheaton, who was born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and was the son of Nathaniel, who was a native of the same place. Nathaniel was the son of Daniel, who was also born in Rehoboth, while Daniel was the son of Ephraim, who was the son of Robert, who was born in England in 1606, and came to America in 1636, landing at Salem. He was the founder of the family in this country. From Salem, he removed to Rehoboth, where his death occurred. He was a minister of the Baptist church.

Nathan M. Wheaton was born in Warren, Rhode Island, in 1785. He was a merchant and trader, in his own ships, to the West Indies, Cuba and other islands. His death occurred July 3, 1861. He was a member of the Episcopal church, and in politics was a Whig. Content Maxwell, his wife, was a daughter of James and Content (Brayton) Maxwell, who were members of the society of Friends, or Quakers. Notwithstanding his religion, James Maxwell served in the war of the Revolution, going into the service from Rhode Island. He was of Scotch ancestry. The Braytons were also Quakers. Content Maxwell was born

in Warren, Rhode Island, December 26, 1795, and died in November, 1837. To Nathan M. Wheaton and wife were born nine children—Elbridge Gerry, Mary, Emma, Laura, Rebecca, Susan, Charles, Elizabeth, and one who died in infancy. Emma married William Baker; Laura married George L. Cooke; Susan married S. V. R. Hickox; and Elizabeth married Daniel L. Turner. All are now deceased save our subject and Elizabeth.

The early life of Charles Wheaton was spent at Warren, Rhode Island, and until sixteen years of age he attended the Episcopal school at Warren. He then came west, and entered the college, at Robin's Nest, known as Bishop Chase's Jubilee College, in Peoria county, Illinois, where he remained one year. To assist Bishop Chase, his father had bought two scholarships, one of which he used for his son. Upon leaving that college, he entered Trinity College at Hartford, Connecticut, from which he was graduated in June, 1849.

After his graduation, Mr. Wheaton entered the law office of Hon. Benjamin F. Thomas, at Worcester, Massachusetts, where he spent two years, and was admitted to the bar, in September, 1851. He there began practice, which he continued for three years, and in October, 1854, again came west, locating at Batavia, in January, 1855, then one of the most promising towns in

the Fox River Valley, where he opened his office. He practiced there until 1859, when he removed to Aurora, opened an office, and has here continued in active practice. His first partner was S. W. Burns and then A. G. McDole, the firm name being Wheaton & McDole. In 1873, he opened an office in Chicago, which was run under the firm name of Wheaton, Canfield & Smith. This partnership continued until 1875, when it was dissolved, since which time he has been alone. Since 1875, his time has almost entirely been devoted to the trial of cases, and there has been but few cases of importance, in this or adjoining counties, that he has not been on one side or the other.

Mr. Wheaton was united in marriage to Miss Sarah H. Brewster, July 17, 1860, at Middlebury, Vermont, of which place she is a native, born October 1, 1830. She is the daughter of Elisha and Rebecca (Fish) Brewster. Elisha Brewster was born at Norwich, Connecticut, in 1790, and was the son of Seabury Brewster, who was the son of Wrestling, who was a native of Norwich. His father, also named Wrestling, was likewise a native of Norwich, and whose father, also named Wrestling, was a native of Duxbury, Massachusetts. His father was Love Brewster, who was born in England, and who was the son of Elder William Brewster, who came over in the Mayflower in 1620. Elisha Brewster married Rebecca Fish, at Hartford, Connecticut, September 28, 1812. She was born September 28, 1789. Her father was Miller Fish, born in Bazrott, Connecticut, in 1764, and married Huldah Corning, who was born in Hartford, November 4, 1765. Their children were: Henry, Rebecca, John, Mary, Frederick, Edward J., George H., Huldah C., John M., Julia C. and Arthur M.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton are the parents of five children, as follows: Lizzie T., who married Charles H. Hale, of Aurora, by whom she has two children, Bessie W. and Helen L.; Clara S., at home; Sarah, the wife of Bert A. Allen, living in Aurora, and they have one child, Charles W.; Anna H., at home; and Mary F., who married Harry H. Holden, of Aurora, and they have one child, Sarah M.

Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton are members of the Congregational church, and in politics he is a Republican. In 1864 he was elected mayor of the city, but resigned before the expiration of his term. For four years he served as a member of the board of supervisors, and in 1870 was a member of the constitutional convention, in which body he was an active factor. He resides in a beautiful home, at 297 La Salle street, which he had erected for himself, and around him are all his family, to whom he has given a home, and in whose society he finds much enjoyment.

In his long professional career, Mr. Wheaton has much to be proud of. He has been eminently successful in the trial of cases, rarely losing a cause he espoused, and his arduous labors have brought him a liberal competency. His professional career has been free from trickery and questionable practices, so often resorted to by members of the bar. His strength has been in a good education, a sound knowledge of law, a careful study of cases placed in his charge, the completeness of his briefs, his skillful management, and his able, logical and eloquent pleading, having always the respect of the court and the confidence of the jury. His private life has been as pure as his professional one, and he holds the esteem and confidence of the community in which he has so long dwelt.

SAMUEL W. CHAPMAN, ex-postmaster of Elgin and senior member of the firm of S. W. & A. M. Chapman, dealers in carriages, wagons and agricultural implements, 26 River street, Elgin, is a truly representative citizen of Kane county, where almost his entire life has been spent. He was born in Wyoming, New York, September 9, 1843, and is the son of Samuel and Margaret (Spittal) Chapman, both of whom were natives of Glasgow, Scotland. Their family comprised nine children, four sons and five daughters, eight of whom are now living—Samuel W., of this sketch; Helen M., wife of Frank P. Smith, of Kinsley, Kansas; Mary E., wife of John Collins, of Harter, Kansas; Sarah J., wife of Edson B. Easton, of Guthrie, Oklahoma; Albert A., of Texas; John E., of Texas; Grace A., wife of Royal W. Kimball, of Elgin; Julia A., wife of George M. Peck, of Elgin; and Fred L., publisher of "The Ram's Horn," Chicago.

Samuel Chapman, the father, by occupation was a farmer, and came to America in 1841, locating in Wyoming, New York. In 1844, he came to Kane county, Illinois, and settled in Plato township, where he engaged in farming until his death. He first purchased forty acres of wild land, and as his means increased added to his possessions until he was the owner of four hundred and sixty acres. Thoroughly loyal to his adopted country, when the South rebelled against the general government he assisted in raising a company of cavalry known as the Plato Cavalry, of which he was commissioned first lieutenant. He and John S. Durand furnished the horses for the company, which they afterwards sold to the government. After the battle of Pea Ridge he resigned and came home. Politically he was a democrat, and while not caring for

office, served his township as supervisor for some years. His death occurred in October, 1886, at the age of seventy years. His good wife survived him more than a year, dying at the age of sixty-nine years. They were members of the Congregational church and died in the full assurance of faith in the life beyond the grave. Both were well known and universally esteemed.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, also named Samuel Chapman, was likewise a native of Scotland, and there died when about seventy-five years of age. His occupation was that of a farmer. The maternal grandfather, Andrew Spittal, was born in Scotland and died near Glasgow when about eighty years of age. He followed farming as a means of livelihood.

Samuel W. Chapman, our subject, was about one year old when brought by his parents to Kane county, and upon the old farm in Plato township his boyhood and youth were passed. The eldest in the family, he was early trained to labor upon the farm and knows from experience the meaning of hard work. His primary education was obtained in the subscription and district schools, and his collegiate training at Beloit College.

Soon after leaving college Mr. Chapman went to Burlington, Iowa, as cashier in the American and United States Express office, where he remained four years, discharging his duties in a faithful and conscientious manner. He then returned to Elgin and ran a flouring-mill for ten years, when he secured the position as agent of the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, remaining with that company for fifteen years, resigning in 1893, when he embarked in his present wagon, carriage and implement business. In 1896 he associated with him-



self A. M. Chapman, who, while of the same name, is no relation, and the business has since been conducted under the firm name of S. W. & A. M. Chapman. Notwithstanding the hard times since the business was begun, a good trade has been established, which is constantly increasing.

On the 15th of December, 1867, Mr. Chapman was united in marriage with Miss Alvena F. Stone, a native of Elgin township, and a daughter of Isaac and Abigail Stone, natives of New Hampshire, and who came to Kane county in 1831. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman now reside in a pleasant home, No. 753 Highland avenue, where they delight to entertain their many friends. Mrs. Chapman has for many years been a member of the Congregational church, and is well known in religious circles. Fraternally, Mr. Chapman is a Master Mason.

Like his father before him, Mr. Chapman is a thorough Democrat, and in the success of the party takes especial delight. His face is a familiar one in the conventions of the party, and his influence is felt in its councils. He has never cared for official position, as his tastes and inclinations ran in an entirely different channel. For seven years, however, he served as a member of the board of education, because of the fact that he is a firm believer in the public schools and desired to render all the aid in his power to make them efficient. In February, 1894, he was appointed by President Cleveland, and confirmed by the United States senate, as postmaster of Elgin, and served until February, 1898. His administration of the office was such as to win the confidence and good will of all the patrons of the office of whatever political belief.

As a business man Mr. Chapman is prob-

ably best known. For about eight years he has been a director in the Century club, a business men's association, and as such has exerted an influence for good in behalf of his adopted city. Thoroughly progressive, he is ever ready to champion anything that will advance the best interests of Elgin. This fact is well known, and this it is which commends him to all business and professional men, those on whose efforts the city relies for its growth and well-being. A citizen of the county for more than half a century, there is nothing that affords him more satisfaction than to see it take front rank among the counties of this great commonwealth, and to this end he is willing to bend all his energies.

MILTON THORNTON, who is living retired in the city of Geneva, has been a resident of Kane county for more than sixty-one years, having located here in May, 1837, at a time when the whole country was comparatively new, the cabins of the settlers being few and far between. He is a native of New Hampshire, born in the town of Thornton, Grafton county, October 20, 1809. His father, William Thornton, was also a native of New Hampshire, and a direct descendant of Matthew Thornton, of national reputation, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a farmer in New Hampshire, and there spent his entire life. His wife was Polly Bagley, a daughter of Winthrop Bagley, a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Milton Thornton grew to manhood in his native state, and had but limited educational advantages. He is mostly self-educated, his knowledge, which is of a practical nature, being acquired since reaching mature years. He remained on the home

farm with his father, assisting in its cultivation until he was twenty-eight years old. He then came west by way of the New York & Erie canal and the great lakes, to Chicago, and crossed the Fox river at Geneva May 24, 1837. He at once took up a claim in the town of Virgil, Kane county, comprising a tract of two hundred and seventy-five acres, on which he built a dwelling house, and, fencing the land, began its improvement. In due time he had a splendid farm, on which he resided for about forty years. He first built a small house, to which additions were later made.

For seven years after his arrival in Kane county, Mr. Thornton lived a bachelor's life, and during that time suffered from fever and ague, the prevailing disease of that early time, and also endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life. His first marriage was in June, 1844, when he married Miss Ruth Jenkins, a native of Columbia county, New York, who came to Illinois, with her father, Joseph Jenkins, who was also a pioneer of Kane county. There were two children by this union, both of whom died in childhood. This wife died January 27, 1847, and Mr. Thornton next married Paulina Bunker, the wedding ceremony taking place December 23, 1847. She was a native of Columbia county, New York, and died May 16, 1876, at the age of sixty-five years. There were also two children by this marriage, and they also died in childhood. In Campton township, May 31, 1877, Mr. Thornton married Mary C. Thompson, a native of Greenbrier county, West Virginia, who came to Illinois in childhood, and was reared in Kane county. Her father, Robert Thompson, was also a native of West Virginia, and one of the pioneers of Kane county.

In early life Mr. Thompson was an old-line Whig, and cast his first presidential vote for Henry Clay in 1832. In 1840 he voted, in Kane county, for Harrison and Tyler, "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." Being a strong anti-slavery man, and a believer in equal rights of all, he voted for John C. Fremont, in 1856, and has since been a staunch Republican, casting his last presidential vote at the age of eighty-seven for William McKinley and protection. He has never missed a presidential election since casting his first vote for that office. He has held several local positions of honor and trust, including township supervisor, justice of the peace, road commissioner, and in whatever position elected, made a faithful and efficient officer. He and his wife are members of the Unitarian church, being a firm believer in its doctrines and tenets. By his exemplary habits and upright character he has won the respect and esteem of all who know him.

---

WILLIAM W. BALDWIN is one of the younger members of the legal profession in Elgin, but his ability is by no means limited by his years, and he has now gained a clientage and reputation that many an older attorney might well envy. A native of Cooperstown, New York, born April 9, 1870, he is a son of Philander and Esther (Laberdie) Baldwin; the former of German ancestry and the latter of French ancestry. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a man of considerable prominence in Cooperstown, where he spent his entire life, and by speculation he became quite wealthy, but lost most of his money before his death. His son, Philander Baldwin, was a mason, contractor and builder for many years, but



now follows farming near Ottawa Lake, Michigan, where he and his wife now make their home. They are the parents of six children, all living: William W.; Mrs. Minnie Davidson, who resides in Wisconsin; Albert, in the Tri-State College, Toledo, Ohio; Philander, a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Wesley and John, still with their parents. The father of this family is a Jeffersonian Democrat in his political belief, and his wife is a Catholic in religious faith.

William W. Baldwin obtained his education in the common schools and received few advantages in his youth to fit him for the practical and responsible duties of life. He was ambitious, however, and made the most of his opportunities. In 1887 he came to Elgin, where he continued his education by pursuing a commercial course, after which he took up the study of law. By correspondence he pursued a two-years' law course under the direction of the Sprague University, and then entered the law office of Frank E. Shopen, who instructed him in the principles of jurisprudence for two years, after which he was admitted to the bar in Ottawa, Illinois, in December, 1896.

Mr. Baldwin at once returned to Elgin, opened an office and has since engaged in practice, meeting with gratifying success in his chosen calling. On the 15th of September, 1897, he formed a partnership with J. R. Powers, Jr., and the firm has attained considerable prominence in legal circles in Kane county. Mr. Baldwin was appointed notary public in 1895. In his business he has made a specialty of pension-law practice, also patent-law, and in the latter division of jurisprudence he has handled a number of very important cases with success. These have frequently called him to Wash-

ington; and he has won some notable victories in forensic encounters with men of high worth in the legal profession, a fact which plainly indicates his own ability. He is a member of the Chicago Law Students Association.

In his political relations Mr. Baldwin is a Republican and served as delegate to the Illinois Lincoln Republican League at Springfield in 1894. Socially he is connected with the Knights of the Globe and the Sons of Veterans. He is also a valued member of the First Baptist church and a man of benevolent, kindly nature.

Mr. Baldwin was married September 15, 1897, in Elgin, to Miss May L. Smith, a daughter of Curtis A. and Mary (Crowfoot) Smith. Her father is a representative of one of the old families of Elgin and is now connected with the Elgin Watch Factory in the responsible position of foreman of one of the departments. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin have a wide acquaintance and high standing in the social circles of Elgin and share in the warm regard of many friends.

---

ISAAC H. WARREN, a prominent attorney of Elgin, with office in the Home Bank Building, is a man who thoroughly loves his profession, and is eminently gifted with the capabilities of mind which are indispensable at the bar. In preparing a case for trial every fact, however insignificant, is carefully studied and its possible relevancy to the merits of the case weighed and considered. He is thoroughly familiar with authority and never at a loss for a precedent.

Mr. Warren was born March 8, 1851, in Boone county, Illinois, and is a son of John and Anna (Church) Warren. His maternal

grandfather, William Church, was an Englishman by birth and was a lieutenant in the English army, being in the service when Napoleon threatened to invade England. On coming to the United States William Church located in New York, where he followed the occupation of farming until his death. He married Miss Esther Deacon, and to them were born eight children—five sons and three daughters—of whom Mrs. Warren is the eldest. Two sons and all the daughters are still living, their average age being seventy-five years, and both in mind and body they are well preserved.

John Warren, our subject's father, was born in England, in 1811, and when nineteen years of age accompanied his parents on their emigration to America. He was one of a family of nine children—five sons and four daughters. During his younger years he engaged in farming in the Empire state, but at an early day came to Illinois, and upon a farm in Boone county lived until called from this life in 1884, at the age of seventy-three years. He was officially connected with the Congregational church, of which he and his wife were both earnest and faithful members. She is still living. Their children were as follows: J. W., a salesman living in Omaha, Nebraska; A. G., who died at the age of eighteen years; Isaac H., of this sketch; Etta, wife of W. W. Ware, a farmer of Batavia, New York; Josephine, deceased wife of Rev. M. N. Clark, a Congregational minister; and Della, wife of W. A. Whiting, a merchant of Poplar Grove, Illinois.

Reared on the old farm in Boone county, Illinois, Isaac H. Warren obtained his early education in the public schools of the locality, and he was later a student in Beloit College, of Wisconsin, having secured the

means to continue his studies by teaching for four years in the country schools. When his literary education was completed, he read law in the offices of several attorneys, and in January, 1891, was admitted to the bar, being licensed to practice before all the courts of the state. He at once opened an office in Elgin, and now enjoys a good practice.

On the 16th of May, 1882, Mr. Warren was united in marriage with Miss Viola O. McAllister, daughter of S. McAllister, of Elgin, and to them have been born two daughters: Louie O. and Vera L. Mr. Warren is a member of the Congregational church, while his wife is a Baptist in religious belief. Socially he is a prominent member of the Odd Fellows' lodge of Elgin, in which he is now serving as treasurer, and has passed through all the chairs in the Royal League, being past archon and deputy of the same. As a Republican he takes an active interest in political affairs, and has held some minor offices, including that of township collector and school director. In all the relations of life Mr. Warren displays that integrity of character that wins and holds the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact, and his many estimable traits of character have gained for him a host of warm friends. As a citizen he holds a prominent place in the regard of his fellow-townsmen.

---

**D**ANIEL VAN GORDER, a well-known contractor, and one of the highly respected citizens of Elgin, living at No. 432 Fulton street, is a native of New York; born May 15, 1830, near Aurora, on Lake Cayuga, in the town of Scipio, Cayuga county; and is a son of John and Sarah (Helms) Van



Gorder, who were born in Pennsylvania, of Holland ancestry. Throughout his business career the father engaged in contracting and hotel keeping, conducting a popular hostelry in Geneseo, New York, for more than twenty years. He was widely and favorably known, and well deserved the reputation he enjoyed of being one of the best landlords in his section of the state. He died August 20, 1852, aged sixty years, and his wife seven days later, at the age of fifty-nine. She was a devout and earnest Christian woman, a faithful member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and the poor and needy were never turned from her door empty-handed. She was kind and obliging at all times, and her home was the favorite stopping place with the minister. Of her nine children, Daniel is the eighth in order of birth, but only three are now living, the others being Selah, a contractor and builder, residing in Elmira, New York; and Amy, widow of Henry Boughton, and a resident of Galena, Kansas.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in his father's hotel at Geneseo, New York, which he visited a few years since, and in the public schools of that city he acquired his education. After leaving the school room he learned the painter's trade and for some years engaged in house painting, after which he was employed as clerk in hotels in New York City, Newark, New Jersey, and Rochester, New York. He began contracting in 1855, in New York, where he was employed as foreman on the Erie canal, but in 1857 came west, stopping first in Chicago. Subsequently he went to Dubuque, Iowa, and still later to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, where he spent some years as a railroad contractor. He has engaged in the same business in

many states, including Colorado, New York, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Alabama and Mississippi. From Memphis, Tennessee, he came to Elgin in 1889, and here he has since made his home while continuing to engage in both railroad and general contracting.

In 1849 was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Van Gorder and Miss Laura Welton, daughter of Amos Welton, of Canandaigua, New York, and to them was born a son, Charles, now a job printer and prominent citizen of Elgin, who married Hannah Bundy and has two children, Prentice and William. The first wife of our subject died in 1864, at the age of twenty-three years, and in 1866 he wedded Miss Susan Bundy by whom he has one daughter, Lucille, a proficient and popular music teacher, now connected with the Hecker's College of Music in Elgin. In religious belief the mother is an Episcopalian.

In 1859 Mr. Van Gorder was made a Mason at Prairie du Chien lodge, No. 106, F. & A. M., and has since affiliated with that fraternity. Politically he is not identified with any party but votes independently, endeavoring to support the man best qualified for office regardless of party ties. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge every duty devolving upon him, and he has a large circle of friends and acquaintances in the various states where he has been located at different times throughout his active and useful career.

---

JUDGE R. N. BOTSFORD, senior member of the firm of Botsford, Wayne & Botsford, lawyers, Cook block, Elgin, is one of the truly representative members of





JUDGE R. N. BOTSFORD.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

the legal profession in Kane county. Whatever may be said of the legal fraternity, it cannot be denied that members of the bar have been more prominent actors in public affairs than any other class of the community. This is but the natural result of causes which are manifest and require no explanation. The ability and training which qualify one to practice law also qualify him in many respects for the duties which lie outside the strict path of his profession and which touch the general interests of society. This is what makes him a leader of men and often leads him, sometimes in reality against his will, into the political arena, and in times of war into the military service as commander of regiments, brigades, divisions and corps. That the subject of this sketch has left his impress upon the history of Kane county, its annals for the past fifty years will duly attest.

Richard N. Botsford was born in Newton, Fairfield county, Connecticut, October 28, 1830, and is a son of Austin N. and Volucia V. (Glover) Botsford, also natives of the same state, and the parents of eight children, five of whom are now living: Richard N., our subject; Eugene M., of Newton, Connecticut; Austin N., of Fort Dodge, Iowa; Caroline, wife of Edward Parsons, of Connecticut; and Alosia, wife of Reuben Johnson, of New Haven, Connecticut.

Austin N. Botsford, the father, was a man of marked ability, and by occupation was a farmer. He served his district as a member of the legislature, and was also a captain of the state militia. Religiously he was a Universalist. His death occurred in 1842, at the age of forty-four years. After his death his wife married W. Northrup, who died many years ago. She lived to be

eighty years of age, dying in 1894, in New Haven, Connecticut.

The paternal grandfather, Philo Botsford, was a native of Connecticut, of English stock. He was the father of two children. His death occurred at the age of seventy-eight years. The maternal grandfather Glover was also born in Connecticut and died at the age of about fifty years.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state and is a graduate of the State Normal School, at New Britain, Connecticut. For some years after his graduation he taught school in Connecticut, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri. While engaged in teaching he read law, and in 1857 was admitted to the bar in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Removing to St. Charles, Kane county, for a time he was engaged in publishing a newspaper, and in 1858 commenced the practice of law there. In 1869 he removed to Elgin and has here continuously made his home from that time, engaged in the practice of his profession. While yet residing at St. Charles, in 1861, he was elected county judge and acceptably filled out a four-years' term.

On the 27th of December, 1860, Judge Botsford was united in marriage to Miss Ellen E. Bundy, daughter of P. E. and Pamela (Lowell) Bundy. By this union two children were born, Carl E. and Alosia. The latter died in 1892 at the age of eighteen years. The former is now the junior member of the firm of Botsford, Wayne & Botsford.

Politically Judge Botsford is a Democrat, and although he has always taken an active part in political affairs he has never been an office seeker. Business and professional interests have demanded of him his time, and he therefore left to others office seek-

ing. His reputation as an attorney secured him the nomination of his party for the office of supreme judge, in June, 1897, but as his party is in a strong minority in the district, he failed of an election. That he would have creditably filled the position is acknowledged by all, especially the legal fraternity.

The Judge comes of a long-lived race, his maternal grandmother living to be one hundred and two years old. Although near the three-score-and-ten mark, he is a well-preserved man with physical and mental abilities unabated. With the exception of a short time in Missouri and Wisconsin, he has been a resident of Kane county since 1851, and as stated, the impress of his mind has been left upon the county. He is honored and respected by all.

---

ELISHA WEED is a retired farmer living in the village of Hampshire, and is well and favorably known throughout Kane county. He was born in Bloomfield township, Trumbull county, Ohio, August 20, 1817. His educational advantages were such as were provided in the early days in his native county, when teachers were paid eight dollars a month and board around, many of them knowing but little more than some of their pupils. The school houses were built of logs and provided with wooden benches for seats.

John Weed, the father of our subject, was born near Bangor, Maine, and by occupation was a farmer. In the war of 1812 he served two years as sergeant in a Maine regiment and was in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. In Ohio he married Jemima Bigelow, daughter of Timothy Bigelow, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who came

with the family to Ohio, where he died. His wife was a Miss Hovey. In 1815 Timothy Bigelow moved with his family from Vermont to Ohio, the father and son walking all the way, the mother driving a four-horse wagon containing all their earthly possessions. In Cattaraugus county, New York, wolves killed one of their horses, and from there they drove three. They settled in Ohio when that was a wilderness and lived the life usual to pioneers. Of the nine children born to John and Jemima Weed, four are yet living, as follows: Elisha, our subject; George N., living in Ohio; Elizabeth, wife of John Burns, of Hampshire; and William, who resides in Missouri.

At the age of nineteen our subject went to Indiana, working in Bartholomew, Johnson, Floyd and Tippecanoe counties, at one time being employed on the old state road, from New Albany northwest. While at this work the contractor failed, and Mr. Weed could get no pay for his labor. The contractor promised to pay him, however, and agreed to keep him until he was paid. Mr. Weed walked one hundred miles to the contractor's home, where he remained for some time and was finally paid. For a time he rented land in Indiana and engaged in farming.

On the 10th of March, 1842, at Blue River, Bartholomew county, Indiana, Mr. Weed was united in marriage with Miss Julia A. Hartman, who was second in order of birth in a family of eleven children born to Francis and Magdeline (Gilbert) Hartman, both of German origin. She was born near Little York, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1822. A few years later her parents moved to Indiana and settled in Bartholomew county, at a time when the country was comparatively new, and where they had none of the comforts of their old Pennsyl-



vania home. The mother cried over the desolate outlook, but after a time became more contented. By this union there were five children: the first named died in infancy; Helen M. married E. L. Starks, of Starks Station, and died, leaving one daughter, Mabel H., while one child died in infancy; Francis W. married Rachel Dean, by whom he has four children, Carrie A., Harry, Edith and Frederick, and they reside in Sac county, Iowa; George A. married Jane Tait, and lives in Sac county, Iowa; and Frederick P. A., who married Harriet Plummer, and lives on the old home farm.

In 1845 Mr. Weed came to Kane county, Illinois, traveling by wagon drawn by oxen, and located in Hampshire township, where he bought forty acres on section 27, to which he later added one hundred and twenty acres. His deeds, signed by James K. Polk, then president of the United States, have never been transferred. Deer, wolves and wild game abounded in the country at that time and the few neighbors were very far apart. It was nearly all raw, unbroken prairie and timber.

Mr. Weed is a member of the Masonic order, and is the last of the charter members living, of Hampshire lodge, No. 443. He has been a Mason for over forty years. In early life he was a Whig, his first vote being for William H. Harrison, in 1840. Since the formation of the Republican party he has been a strong advocate of its principles, and has voted his party's ticket. In early life he served as constable, road commissioner, school director and in other minor official positions. He is now one of the solid and substantial men of Hampshire township. The conditions of life now existing are very different from what they were when Mr. and Mrs. Weed came to

Kane county, a young married couple. Mrs. Weed learned to spin, weave linen and wool, and in early days made all the clothes for herself and family. After a long and useful life they are now living in retirement, enjoying the fruits of their former toil, and surrounded by those who have intimately known them in days gone by.

JOHN R. POWERS, of the firm of Baldwin & Powers, attorneys of Elgin, was born in the city which is still his place of residence, April 6, 1870, his parents being John and Johannah (Sutton) Powers, who were natives of Ireland and Illinois respectively. The father was a cooper by trade, and at the beginning of the Rebellion he laid aside all business cares and offered his services to the Union, enlisting as a member of the Fifty-second Illinois Infantry, with which he went to the front. Afterward he joined Company K, Sixteenth New York Cavalry, serving during the greater part of the war as a scout. His command often engaged in skirmishes with Mosby's cavalry, and in one of these engagements he was wounded, and was sent to a hospital in Washington. A few days after his recovery he was sent out with a company to hunt up Booth, the assassin, and was in the command that captured him. After his return from the war he secured a position on the police force of Elgin and served creditably in that capacity until he was chosen for the office of city marshal in 1870. For eighteen years he filled the latter position, discharging his duties with marked fidelity and ability, a fact which is plainly indicated by his long continuance in office.

On his retirement from that position he was elected supervisor and served for one

term, after which he filled the office of constable, was then deputy sheriff, and was at one time alderman from the Seventh ward. When he left the office of marshal he purchased a half interest in the Elgin Ice Company, with which he was connected for two years. In 1897 he was again appointed marshal by Mayor Price, and is now serving in that capacity. In politics he is a stanch Republican, and is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He has a family of five living children—John R., May, Celia A., Mabel and Charles L., and has lost one daughter, Nellie.

John R. Powers, of this review, pursued his elementary education in the public schools of Elgin and afterward attended the Elgin Academy. At the same time he read law with the firm of Botsford & Wayne, and was admitted to the bar at Ottawa in June, 1897. He soon afterward entered into partnership with W. W. Baldwin, under the firm style of Baldwin & Powers, and the firm is now enjoying a fair clientage. They have pleasant offices in the Spurling Block, and they have already met with creditable success, while the business is constantly increasing. Mr. Powers is a young man of strong intellectuality and excellent business ability, and has the energy which always overcomes obstacles and ultimately reaches the goal of success. He is now holding the position of first sergeant in General W. F. Lynch camp, Sons of Veterans, also secretary of the Philomenian Club, and a member of several other social organizations. He has many friends in the community in which his entire life has been passed, and enjoys the confidence and respect of all.

**M**OSES H. THOMPSON.—The subject of this sketch has been almost a lifelong resident of Kane county, having come here with his parents in 1834, when but one year old. His father, Captain Thomas H. Thompson came to Chicago in 1833, returned to Plattsburg, New York, in 1834, and at once removed his family to Illinois, settling in Du Page county, and from there removed to Fox river valley in 1835, settling in what is now Dundee township, Kane county. Like all country boys in pioneer days, Mr. Thompson remained at home, working on his father's farm until twenty-one years of age.

When wishing for a broader and better education than could be obtained at the public schools, he took a course in civil engineering, which profession he followed for many years, beginning in the Galena and Dubuque lead mines about in 1858, and then upon government surveys and the early railroad lines west of the Mississippi. About 1860 he concluded to abandon the engineering and surveying business and engage in map publishing, which he did, confining himself almost exclusively to county map work, being the pioneer publisher in the west to show the name of each land owner upon each tract. This business was extended over nearly all of the northwestern states. In Illinois alone nearly one-third of the entire state was thus mapped. These maps were made so thorough and complete that copies were added to many of the libraries of the most prominent geographical societies of the world.

In 1872 Mr. Thompson became connected with the Elgin Gas Light Company, as its secretary and manager, in which position he continued about ten years. He then became identified with the South-



M. H. THOMPSON.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



western Lumber Company, as president and manager, but after four years' active management of the company's affairs, on account of ill health, it was determined to sell the property of the company, consisting of mills and pine lands in the state of Arkansas. After this Mr. Thompson returned to Elgin, his old home, where he has since resided. In 1864 he purchased one of the largest farms in Dundee township, from which time he has been largely engaged in the dairy business, and was among the first to make Elgin a pronounced dairy district. He was the first secretary of the Illinois State Dairymen's Association and continued as such for several years, always taking an interest in whatever pertains to the dairy interest of the state of Illinois. Mr. Thompson is now serving as president of the Elgin National Bank and has been since its organization in 1892. He is also president of the Old Settlers' Association of Fox River Valley. He is a member of the Lakeside, Century and Waltonian Clubs. In politics he is a staunch Republican, his father, Captain T. H. Thompson being one of the founders of that party.

In 1862 Mr. Thompson was married to Miss Clarissa I. Miller, daughter of David and Clarissa Miller, and to them have been born two children: Walter M. and Clara I. Walter M. married Miss Elizabeth Cliff, December 16, 1885, and they have two children: Arthur C. and Kathryn. Clara I. was married to John A. Carlisle in 1891, and they now have one son, Donald T. The parents of our subject, Captain T. H. and Sarah (Hoit) Thompson, were natives of Maine and Plattsburg, New York, respectively. The mother was a daughter of Colonel Moses X. Hoit, who, as well as

his ancestors, was among the foremost to make history during the American Revolution. The paternal ancestors of our subject were also among the defenders of the rights of this country.

---

DEWITT C. ADAMS, now living a retired life in the city of Dundee, but who for years was one of the active, enterprising and respected business men of this section of the state, is numbered among the old settlers who date their residence in Illinois since 1842. He was born in Cortland county, New York, January 29, 1824, and is of English descent, the family coming to this country at a very early date in its history. William Adams, his father, was born in Saratoga, Northumberland county, New York, in 1784, and was the son of Oliver Adams, also born in New York. Oliver Adams moved to Cortland county about 1804, and there made a home in the wilderness, where he reared his family. William Adams married Phebe Lewis, also a native of New York. After residing in Cortland county a number of years he removed to Syracuse, New York, and resided there four years. In 1842 he came to Illinois and settled in Cook county, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying at the residence of his son, DeWitt C., in 1859. His wife survived him five years, passing away January 1, 1864. They were laid to rest in the cemetery at Dundee. William Adams was a well-posted man and while taking an active interest in political affairs never sought nor would he hold public office.

In the family of William and Phebe Adams were three sons and two daughters who grew to mature years, as follows: Maria, wife of John Van Hoesen, of Hastings, Min-

nesota. Oliver, who was for many years a publisher of school records in Chicago, is now deceased. He was well-known throughout the state and elsewhere among educators as the publisher of Adams School Records and various school supplies which are yet used to some extent. DeWitt C., our subject, is next in order of birth. Harriet S. married Edward F. Wells, with whom she removed to San Diego, California, where she died. John C., who resides in Chicago, is a practical jeweler and was one of the original founders of the Elgin watch factory. He is now living a retired life. One daughter, Betsy, died at the age of fourteen years.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in Cortland county, and in the city of Syracuse, New York. He had fair educational advantages, which he improved as well as possible, but is mostly a self-educated man. He was eighteen years of age when he came with the family to Cook county, Illinois. For three winters after his arrival there he taught in the public schools, being one of the pioneer teachers of Cook county. His life work, however, was that of a farmer. Soon after coming of age he purchased two hundred forty acres of land in Barrington township, which he put under a high state of cultivation and on which he resided for many years. In 1883 he rented the place and moved to Dundee, purchased some lots and built his present residence. Previous to this, however, he had become interested in business in that city, having become part owner in a lumber and coal yard. After his removal to the city he took an active part in the management of the business for several years, but lately sold out and is now practically living a retired life.

Mr. Adams was married in Elgin November 25, 1852, to Mary E. Harvey, a native of New York, born in Herkimer county, and a daughter of David Harvey, a pioneer settler of Plato township, Kane county. She was reared in this county, and received her education in the schools of Elgin. For some years previous to her marriage she was a successful teacher in the public schools. She died at her home in Dundee, February 19, 1895, leaving one son and one daughter. The son, William H., is now a business man residing in Chicago, while the daughter, Mary E., yet resides at home, and is her father's housekeeper. She is a well-educated lady, a graduate of the Loring Young Ladies' School of Chicago. One daughter, Carrie, died at the age of seven years, while one son, Louie, died at the age of two and a half years, and another, Charles, died at the age of nine months.

In early life Mr. Adams was an old-line Whig, and, like his father, was a strong believer in the principles of that party. A friend of liberty, he united with the Republican party on its organization, and voted for its first presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, in 1856. Being a strong temperance man, he has of late identified himself with the Prohibition party. He has ever been a friend of education and the public schools, and has at all times used his influence in their behalf. Religiously he is a Baptist, of which church he has been a member for forty-eight years. The cause of the Master has ever been dear to his heart, and he has ever been willing to sacrifice time and money to advance its interests. For some years he was an active member of the Masonic fraternity, but of late has been dimitted.

When Mr. Adams came to Illinois he had but little of this world's goods, but by his own labor and enterprise he has accumulated a valuable property, and is recognized as one of the substantial men of Kane county. He is a man of exemplary habits, of upright character and worth, and has the confidence and esteem of all who know him, and his friends are numerous both throughout Kane and Cook counties.

In the summer of 1895 Mr. Adams and his daughter made a trip to Europe, visiting a number of the cities and kingdoms of that land. They first visited Glasgow and North Scotland, including Edinburgh, through some of the German states and Switzerland, Paris, Venice, Rome, London and Liverpool, and altogether had a pleasant and profitable time. They returned home in the fall of the same year, feeling well repaid for the time and money spent.

REV. CASPER J. HUTH, the popular priest in charge of St. Charles Catholic church at Hampshire, Illinois, was born in Cologne, Germany, September 22, 1845, and with the family emigrated to America in 1855, leaving their home May 27, sailing from Antwerp June 1, and landing in New York, June 17. His father, Peter Huth, was born in Cologne, September 15, 1819, and in his native country worked as a day laborer. With a view of bettering his condition he came to the United States and settled in Freeport, Illinois, where he made his home the remainder of his life, with the exception of a short time spent with our subject in Hampshire. Shortly before his death he returned to Freeport and died at the residence of his daughter, January 29, 1898. On coming to this country he secured work with the Chicago, Milwaukee

& St. Paul railroad, in whose services he remained for many years, filling various positions, and for a number of years before retiring had charge of the roundhouse at Freeport. His life though an uneventful one, he so lived as to merit the confidence and esteem of his fellow men. In his native city he married Cecelia Mevis, who became the mother of four children as follows: Caspar J., our subject; Mary, who died at the age of eleven years; Clara, who married John Zengerle, of Stillwater, Minnesota; and Theresa, wife of Charles Secker, of Freeport, Illinois, with whom the father made his home at the time of death.

While yet residing in Germany, our subject attended the parochial schools, which he also attended after coming to Freeport, and which was supplemented by attendance in the public schools of Freeport. He began his theological studies in the University of St. Louis, at St. Louis, Missouri, and later attended St. Mary's of the Lake, at Chicago, Illinois, where he remained seven years, and was then a short time in St. Francis College, Milwaukee, where he was ordained to the priesthood January 29, 1869.

Father Huth's ministry has been an unusual one in the length of time which he served at his various stations. His first charge was at Somonauk, De Kalb county, Illinois, where he remained fifteen and a half years, then took a vacation for six months, at the expiration of which time he was assigned to St. Charles church, in Hampshire. This was in the spring of 1885, since which time he has ministered to the spiritual wants of the congregation of that village, in sickness and in health, at the bridal altar, and at the bier. He is a man of energy and strong mental vigor, and



is greatly esteemed by Catholics and Protestants alike. One of his most pleasant recollections, is that of a visit while at Somonauk, of Archbishop, now Cardinal, Gibbons, who was visiting Bishop Froley, of Chicago. Many years after, at a large gathering of clergymen, at which the Cardinal was present, the latter recalled the visit and asked if the young priest who officiated at Somonauk was present, and when he was presented to him, gave the Father Huth a most cordial greeting.

After an absence of more than forty years from his native land, Father Huth now contemplates a trip abroad to revisit the place of his birth and greet his kindred whom he has not seen since boyhood. His many friends in Kane and De Kalb counties will wish him a pleasant journey and a safe return to take up the work of ministering to fallen humanity.

---

CHARLES P. REID, M. D., Hampshire, Illinois, is recognized as one of the best physicians in the north part of Kane county. He was born near Kingston, Frontenac county, Canada, October 16, 1848, and with his parents came to Kane county, Illinois. His father, David Reid, was born near Aiken Claunie, about thirty-five miles south of Glasgow, Scotland, February 13, 1813. His early life was spent in his native country, and in 1833, when twenty years of age, he emigrated to Canada, sailing from Campbellton on the vessel Margaret, of Londonderry. The voyage required three months, the vessel landing at Quebec. Two years later he was followed by his father, John Reid, the family settling near Kingston, in Frontenac county, where he lived seventeen years. John Reid, the

father of David, bought a farm of two hundred acres near Kingston, where his death occurred about 1852. His wife, Martha Armour, died about 1859. She was the daughter of William and Margaret Armour. John Reid was the son of William Reid, who married a Miss Gordon, and both died in Scotland.

In 1848, David Reid came to Kane county, Illinois, on a prospecting tour, and liking the country purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hampshire township, returned home and in the spring of 1850, moved here with his family. He is now living with his daughter on the old homestead, where he spent nearly half a century. At one time he was the owner of three hundred and sixty acres, forty acres of which he later sold, leaving him the possessor of the south half of section 17. He was a good farmer, a good citizen, and good neighbor, and is yet living at the age of eighty-five years, but in ill health from a stroke of paralysis. While yet residing in Canada, he married Olive Powley, a native of Frontenac county, Canada, born in April, 1813. Her death occurred at the family residence on section 17, Hampshire township, in 1871. She was the daughter of William Powley, a native of Pennsylvania, who attained the age of ninety years, and who married Elizabeth Hoffman. His parents lived in America prior to the Revolutionary war, but after the close of that struggle returned to their native country, Germany, but some years later again emigrated to the states. About the time of the outbreak of the war of 1812, William Powley moved to Canada, where he secured a good farm and passed the remainder of his life. He often related to his children, how at one time in the forest he ran out of



C. P. REID, M. D.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF

provisions, and killed, cooked and ate a rattlesnake, which he always declared was, under the circumstances, very good. Of the four children born to David and Olive Reid, three are yet living as follows: John, a speculator and banker of Kansas City, Kansas. Dr. Charles P., our subject. Martha, wife of Alexander R. Walker, lives on the old home farm, and ministers to, and cares for her aged father, in his affliction.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of Hampshire and the Elgin Academy, and for one year at Clark Seminary, now Jennings Seminary, in Aurora. He then taught school during six winter terms, being occupied with farm work during the summer seasons. He began teaching at the age of nineteen. Previous to this he began reading medicine, reading privately for a time and then in the office of Doctor Kelly, of Elgin. He then attended Bennett's Medical College of Chicago, from which he was graduated in 1872. He also studied pharmacy in Chicago, in the Pharmaceutical College, passing examination, and was for three years engaged in pharmacy in that city. In 1875 he began the practice of his profession in Hampshire, where he remained until 1888, when he joined his brother in Kansas City, Kansas, practicing there until 1894, when he returned to Hampshire. Since his first admission to practice, Dr. Reid has kept abreast of the times by occasional courses in medical colleges, having attended two courses of lectures in the Chicago Medical College, and one in Hahnemann, of the same city. In the summer of 1898, he proposes to again take a post-graduate course, obtaining a knowledge of the improved methods of medicine and surgery.

Dr. Reid, on the 6th of February, 1877,

2

married Rosamond Heath, a native of Germany, who died in Kansas City, Kansas, August 16, 1889, leaving one child, Guy, a pupil in the Hampshire High School. Two children, Olive and Mayne, died in infancy.

Dr. Reid delights in scientific subjects, and is of an inventive turn of mind. Among the creations of his inventive genius, may be mentioned an improved electric alarm, which gives warning when wires are cut or disabled, as well as when the apartment is surreptitiously entered. The fault with prior inventions has been that they get out of order and give no warning as to their condition.

Dr. Reid is prominent in business and social circles and was for eight years president of the village board, and for six years was a member of the school board. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Hampshire, in which he has filled all the chairs, and is a member of the Foresters and Knights of the Maccabees. A genial, wholesouled gentleman, he enjoys the esteem of the people amongst whom he has lived for nearly half a century.

**G**EORGE P. HARVEY.—The subject of this review is one whose history touches the pioneer epoch in the annals of Kane county and whose days were an integral part of that indissoluble chain which linked the early, formative period with that of later-day progress and prosperity. He has borne an important part in the upbuilding of this section of the state and his name deserves an honored place among its prominent pioneers. He is now living at No. 208 Kimball street.

Mr. Harvey was born December 22,



1816, in Ontario county, New York, a son of Joel and Polly (Bennett) Harvey. On the paternal side he is of English descent. His great-grandfather was Medad Harvey, while his grandfather was Joel Harvey, Sr., a farmer by occupation, who removed from New Hampshire to New York at an early day, locating near Utica, where he died at the age of seventy years. Our subject's maternal grandfather spent his last days in Herkimer county, New York.

Joel Harvey, Jr., was a native of Massachusetts, but spent the greater part of his early life upon a farm twelve miles east of Utica, New York. He married Polly Bennett, a native of Connecticut, and they became the parents of six children, who grew to man and womanhood. Four are still living, namely: George P.; Emily, wife of Paul R. Wright, of Santa Barbara, California, Sarah, wife of Major W. M. Taylor, of Chicago, Illinois; and Joel D., of Geneva, Illinois. The father was a blacksmith by trade. In 1835 he came by team to Illinois, accompanied by all the members of his family with the exception of our subject, who made the trip by water, as their goods were shipped in that way. They were followed by their faithful dog, who was very watchful of their possessions, not permitting a stranger to touch anything. The dog considered all Indians his enemies. The family arrived in Kane county in October, 1835, at which time there were only two log houses on the present site of Elgin, one on either side of the river. The father took up a claim of three hundred acres in the northern part of the town of St. Charles and improved and cultivated the place until his death, which occurred in 1840, at the age of forty-six. He took quite a prominent and influential part in public affairs, served

as treasurer of Kane county for one term, was justice of the peace several years, and held various township offices. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and was always a loyal and patriotic citizen. His estimable wife long survived him, dying June 10, 1872, at the age of seventy-four.

Mr. Harvey, of this review, was reared eight miles west of Syracuse, in Onondaga county, New York, on a farm, and completed his education in the academy in Baldwinsville. He was nineteen years of age when he came to Illinois, and in 1837 he purchased a farm of his own in Kane county, containing three hundred and twenty acres, which he improved and cultivated until his removal to Elgin, in 1848. Here he has since made his home with the exception of two years spent upon a farm in Elgin township. He built a large warehouse on the east side of the river for the Northwestern railroad in 1850-51, and had charge of the same for a number of years, storing all kinds of goods and grain. Later, in partnership with George W. Renwick, he engaged in the manufacture of threshing machines.

On the 13th of November, 1839, Mr. Harvey married Miss Mary L. Burr, a daughter of Atwell and Betsy (Wheeler) Burr, who came to Kane county from Pompey, Onondaga county, New York, in the spring of 1836, and first settled in St. Charles. Later they removed to Campton township, where they purchased land and continued to make their home until called from this life. They were of English descent, and Mrs. Burr was born and reared at the foot of the Hoosac mountains. Mr. Burr also aided in the war of 1812, and died about 1851.

Of the ten children born to Mr. and



Mrs. Harvey, four sons died in infancy. The others are as follows: Charles M. enlisted in the Seventh Illinois Infantry, under the first call for three-months' men, and after the expiration of his term re-enlisted in the Plato Cavalry, his company being first assigned to the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and later to the Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry, serving as first lieutenant of Company B. Re-enlisting again as a veteran, he served until the close of the war. He was with Sherman's army on the celebrated march from Atlanta to the sea, and was once slightly wounded while carrying dispatches. He married Clara E. Conger and lived in Waco, Texas, at which place he and his wife and daughter all died. Welford W. makes his home on a ranch near Buffalo, in Wyoming. He married Mrs. Mary E. Orr, by whom he has one son, Ray Phelps, and she has two daughters by her former marriage—Minnie and Nellis. Cecil C. was formerly a successful teacher for a number of years, but for the past fourteen years has been librarian of the city library of Elgin. Mary E. is also at home. Estelle E. is the wife of William Freck, a machinist and inventor living in Chicago, and they have three children—Florence, Howard B. and Margaret Loraine. Illione is a writer in an insurance office in Chicago. The wife and mother passed away September 19, 1895, when almost seventy-eight years of age. She was a member of the Universalist church, which her husband also attends.

With Mr. Harvey resides his aunt, Mrs. Emily (Harvey) Ainsworth, who in 1843 came to McHenry county, Illinois, but later spent a short time in Missouri. On her return to this state she located in Richview and subsequently removed to St. Charles,

where she had three sisters living, all now deceased. For the past twelve years she has made her home in Elgin, and is now eighty-eight years of age.

Mr. Harvey has ever been one of the popular and prominent citizens of the county, and in early life took quite an active and influential part in public affairs. In the fall of 1854 he was elected county treasurer, and two years later was made alderman of the third ward of Elgin, serving in that capacity for six years. Subsequently he filled the office of assessor of Elgin township for two terms. He also served as internal revenue assessor for Kane county two years. From 1860 until 1862, he lived on his farm, but in the latter year returned to Elgin, where he has since continued to reside. For sixty-two years he has been identified with the interests of the county, has seen almost its entire development, as on his arrival here the Indians were far more numerous than the white settlers and most of the land was still in its primitive condition. He is now the oldest member of Kane lodge, I. O. O. F., with which he has been connected since 1851. Although eighty-one years of age he is still well preserved. Nature deals kindly with the man who abuses not her laws, and although his business cares have been extensive age rests lightly upon him. It is safe to say that no man in Elgin has more or warmer friends than George P. Harvey.

THOMAS BISHOP, deceased, was a native of Devonshire, England, born September 12, 1820, and at the age of eight years accompanied his parents across the ocean to Canada, the family locating in Quebec, in the schools of which locality he

completed his education, which was begun in the mother country. After entering upon his business career he became interested in lumber and operated large tracts of forest land. He served as captain in the militia while in Quebec, and was a leading citizen of the community in which he made his home.

After his mother's death he and three brothers accompanied their father, Nathaniel Bishop, to Kane county, Illinois. The four sons secured work as farm hands, Thomas and one brother working on a farm on section 22, Elgin township, Henry and the other brother on a farm on section 28. After two years Thomas and William purchased a farm of two hundred and twenty-five acres, on which they had been employed, and Henry and his brother purchased the farm on section 28. In a few years two of the brothers went to Clinton, Illinois, and with the financial assistance of Thomas and Henry established themselves in the grain business, which they conducted with good success until their life labors were ended, winning a comfortable competence by their judicious management and untiring industry.

Immediately after becoming owner of the farm on section 22, Elgin township, Thomas Bishop began its further development and improvement and in 1856 erected the present commodious residence, which is one of the land marks of the neighborhood. He employed only common laborers to help him and laid the masonry, which is a fine specimen of cobble-stone range work, with his own hands. He also did the interior finishing and the home to-day stands as a monument of his thrift and enterprise. It has very substantial and thick walls like the edifices of the old countries, built to stand

for centuries. When he arrived in Kane county it was a wild and largely unsettled district. There was a stage road over the prairie and across his farm and all was open country. He hauled his produce to the Chicago market, finding there a little city just coming into prominence by reason of its shipping facilities. During the early years he also became an extensive stock trader, selling large numbers of cattle to the distillery companies and to the beef canning companies. He placed his land under a high state of cultivation until the well-tilled fields yielded to him a golden tribute and his farm became one of the best improved in the county. Neither was his attention given entirely to agricultural pursuits. He was a man of broad capability and made judicious investments in other business concerns which brought to him a handsome revenue. He was one of the organizers and stockholders of the Home National Bank, in which he served as a member of the directorate and was at one time a stockholder in the Elgin Canning Company. A man of strong personality he also took a leading part in local affairs and his influence and support were important factors in promoting the welfare of the community. He did efficient service in the interest of the public schools during his many years service as school director, and for about fourteen years he served as road commissioner, while for eight years he filled the office of supervisor, discharging all these duties with marked fidelity and promptness. He held membership in the Universalist church, and gave his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party.

Thomas Bishop was united in marriage to Miss Emma Stringer, who was born in Kane county, March 19, 1848, a daughter

of John A. and Ann (Sterricker) Stringer. Her father was born in Devonshire, England, July 20, 1807, and died June 17, 1895. He removed from England to Canada, at the age of fifteen years, resided for a time in New York, and in September, 1845, came to Kane county, where he acquired three hundred and forty acres of land on section 29, Elgin township. In early years he was a grain farmer, and later became largely interested in dairy farming. His parents were Richard and Hannah (Garbet) Stringer. The former died in Canada, about 1822, at the age of sixty years, and the latter attained the advanced age of ninety-four years. Mrs. Ann Stringer, mother of Mrs. Thomas Bishop, was born near London, England, June 7, 1816, and is now living in California with her daughter. She is still a well-preserved old lady, able to walk a number of miles, and took a long journey across the continent without great fatigue. Her parents were Rev. Thomas and Jane (Williams) Sterricker, the former a Methodist minister, who spent the greater part of his life in Cherry Valley, Otsego county, New York, where he died at the age of fifty-five years, while his wife passed away at the age of seventy-four.

By the marriage of Thomas Bishop and Emma Stringer were born six children: Clarence, of whom further mention is made in this sketch; Florence, his twin sister, who died at the age of six months; Frank, who died at the age of three months; Birdie, wife of A. M. Smythe, a jeweler, of Elgin; Wilbur and Walter, who are living in Elgin with their mother. The father of this family was called to the home beyond October 5, 1891, in his sixty-ninth year, and the community thereby lost one of its most valued citizens—a man whom to know was to honor. He was true to every trust reposed

in him, whether public or private; his honesty in all business transactions was above question; and he commanded the unqualified respect of those with whom he was brought in contact. He bore an important part in the work of development in Kane county, and his name will always be linked with those pioneers who laid the foundation for the present prosperity and advancement of this community.

CLARENCE BISHOP, the eldest son of Thomas and Emma Bishop, was born on the farm which is now his home, March 6, 1870. His elementary education, acquired in the district schools, was supplemented by study in the Elgin Academy and in Drew's Business College. At the age of eighteen years he put aside his text-books and became his father's able assistant on the farm, continuing his work with him until the father's death. He then operated the place for his mother until his marriage, in 1895, since which time he has leased the property from the estate. This is one of the best farms in the county, improved with large barns and outbuildings, supplied with a wind-mill connected with a well two hundred and sixty-five feet deep, which furnishes an inexhaustible supply of good water. There is also a mill and feed grinder and a twelve-horse power steam engine, and the fire appliances can throw a stream of water over any building on the farm. There is an ice-house with a capacity of one hundred tons, and thus upon his own place Mr. Bishop has all of the conveniences of city life. His land is sufficiently rolling to make good drainage, and is under a very high state of cultivation. He, however, raises hay and grain mostly for his stock, for he is a dairy farmer and keeps on hand from sixty to seventy head of high-grade cattle.



Mr. Bishop was united in marriage with Miss Emma L. Schumacher, a native of Pekin, Illinois, and a daughter of Rev. Henry Schumacher, who was born in Ohio, and died in Elgin April 25, 1885. He was a minister of the Evangelical church, and for twenty-five years was a member of the Illinois conference. His wife, whose maiden name was Susanna Klick, was a native of Pennsylvania, and now resides in Elgin.

Mr. Bishop is a member of the Universalist church, in which he has served as trustee for six years; gives his political support to the Republican party, and is an influential factor in the political circles in Kane county. He is now serving his second term as school trustee, is a member of the Lincoln Republican club, of Elgin, and has been a delegate to the state Republican convention in Springfield. He is a man of excellent business and executive ability, whose sound judgment, unflagging enterprise and capable management have brought to him a well-merited success. In manner he is pleasant and cordial, which, combined with his sterling worth, makes him one of the popular citizens of his native county.

**P**ROFESSOR MARVIN QUACKENBUSH, of Dundee, Illinois, is the efficient superintendent of public schools of Kane county, which position he has held since 1886. He is regarded as one of the best educators in the state, and as superintendent has but few equals. He is a native of New York, born in the town of Hatwick, Otsego county, November 25, 1842. His father, Abram Quackenbush, was also born in Otsego county in 1801, while his grandfather, James Quackenbush, was likewise a native of that state. The family were origi-

nally from Holland and settled in New York in the seventeenth century. Two brothers came from Holland about that time, one locating in Fort Orange, later called Albany, and the other in New York City. The branch of the family from which the Professor descended was that of the Albany brother. The name was originally spelled Quackenbos.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, James Quackenbush, was a soldier in the war of 1812, in which he held a commission. He settled in Otsego county, engaged in agriculture pursuits and there reared his family. Abram Quackenbush grew to manhood in that county, and in 1826 married Miss Delaney Wolf, also a native of New York, whose father was one of the early settlers of the Empire state and served in one of the old Indian wars. They were the parents of six children, as follows: Catherine, now the wife of Bradley Foss, of Laporte City, Iowa; Edward, a well educated man and a professional teacher for some years, and also a farmer, now living retired at Laporte City, Iowa; Maria, deceased; Adelia, now the wife of Rev. R. H. Wilkinson, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, now residing in Evanston, Illinois; Amelia, now the wife of Louis Dutton, of Chicago; and Marvin.

Abram Quackenbush was a farmer in Otsego county, New York, and there all his children were born. Desiring to give them better opportunities for advancement in life he determined to come west, and in 1850 they moved to Illinois, locating in Kane county, near the city of St. Charles, where he purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. While yet a young man he learned the blacksmith trade, which occupation he followed in his native state in

connection with farming. After residing in Kane county for some years he moved to Laporte City, Iowa, where he spent the remaining years of his life, dying at the residence of his daughter, in 1885, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. His wife preceded him to their heavenly home three years previously and both were laid to rest in the Laporte City cemetery, where a substantial monument marks their last resting place.

The subject of this sketch came to Kane county with his parents a lad of seven years, here grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools and in Jennings Seminary at Aurora, supplemented by a course at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, Chicago. The war for the Union was now in progress and our subject felt it his duty to enlist, and accordingly offered his service as a member of the Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, but was rejected at the examination on account of a severely injured foot. His desire, however, to assist in putting down the Rebellion was not cooled by his rejection, and in November, 1864, after raising a company of forty men, he joined the One Hundred and Fifty-third Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry and went to the front. He was assigned to the quartermaster's department, and served in that connection until July 21, 1865, when he was discharged for disability and returned to his home.

Previous to entering the service of his country Mr. Quackenbush had taught three terms in the public schools, and after his return resumed teaching, first in country schools and later in charge of the St. Charles school on the east side, where he remained six years. He then taught one year at Geneva, after which he taught

eleven years in Dundee. While in charge of the school at that place he received the nomination of superintendent of public schools of Kane county, to which position he was elected. He has been twice re-elected, both times without opposition. This certainly shows the popularity of the man and his efficiency as superintendent.

Professor Quackenbush was married at Clintonville, Illinois, in August, 1870, to Miss Eleanor Boynton, a native of Dundee, Illinois, and a daughter of Nathan and Margaret (McClure) Boynton, who were pioneer settlers of Dundee. By this union there is one son, Edward, a graduate of Hobart College, Geneva, New York, now taking a law course at Elgin, Illinois. The grandfather of Mrs. Quackenbush, General McClure, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and died in Elgin about 1850. His son-in-law, Captain Jamison, was the first commander of old Fort Dearborn, and he and his wife were the first white couple married in Kane county.

Politically Professor Quackenbush is a Republican, and supports the men and measures of that party in all general elections, but in local elections casts his ballot for the best men, regardless of politics. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, of the blue lodge at Dundee, Fox River chapter of Geneva, and of Bethel commandery at Elgin. He has served as master of the blue lodge and high priest of the commandery, and has represented his lodge in the grand lodge of the state and his commandery in the grand body of that order. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Congregationalist church, in which they both take an active interest. For almost fifty years he

has been identified with the interests of Kane county, especially in educational affairs. No man is better known in the county, and not one has more warm friends.

**MAJOR B. T. HUNT.**—More than sixty-one years have passed since this gentleman arrived in Kane county, and he is justly numbered among her honored pioneers and leading citizens. He has been prominently identified with her business interests, but is now living retired. 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.

Major Hunt was born October 19, 1812, in Abington, Plymouth county, Massachusetts, of which county, his father, Thomas Hunt, Jr., was also a native. There the grandfather, Thomas Hunt, Sr., reared his family and lived for many years. Our subject's mother, who bore the maiden name of Susannah Pool, was also born in the old Bay state. The father was a merchant, farmer and tanner, and was one of the first to extensively engage in the manufacture of shoes in New England. He was one of the representative and successful business men of the state.

The subject of this sketch is the only one of the family now living. In his native place he grew to manhood and obtained a good common-school education, which has well fitted him for the practical duties of business life. During his youth he assisted his father in the tanning and manufacturing business, as well as in the store, and thus obtained a good practical knowledge of business affairs, which has been of great value to him in later years. After the father be-

came too old to have active charge of the business, the older brother, Joseph, and Thomas assumed control and built up the large shoe factory in that section, employing many men.

In 1836, during his early manhood, Major Hunt came west, locating in St. Charles on the 10th of September. Through a friend he purchased a half interest in two hundred acres of land east of the Fox river—the original town site—the other owners being Reed Fersons and Ira Minard. These three gentlemen engaged in merchandise there through the summer of 1836, but in the fall the Major returned to Massachusetts, locating permanently here the following spring. They continued in mercantile pursuits together for a couple of years, and then our subject sold his interest and started in business on his own account. Selling his general store in 1850, he built a tannery, which he successfully operated until 1861, when his plant was destroyed by fire. Subsequently he embarked in the hardware business, in which he was interested until 1890, and also erected, at St. Charles, the first paper mill in the northwest, beginning the business on a small scale, with Mr. Butler, but gradually it developed into a large concern. Subsequently he built a new mill on the west side of the river, put in modern machinery, and did an extensive business for many years. In 1850 he leased the factory to Butler & Hunt, who continued its operation. The Major has been instrumental in establishing a number of enterprises that have not only advanced his own prosperity but have been extremely beneficial to the city.

At St. Charles, October 12, 1842, Major Hunt was united in marriage with Miss Harriet H. Lathrop, who was born in New York





MAJOR B. T. HUNT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF N. H. S.



and reared near Auburn, Cayuga county, that state. Her father, Simon Lathrop, settled in St. Charles as early as 1841. He had been a merchant previous to his removal to the west. He had three daughters. They became the parents of four children, of whom Charles, the eldest, died when young. (2) Frank Bradley is married and has four children, one son and three daughters. In 1887 he removed to Iowa, and for ten years engaged in agricultural pursuits in that state. In October, 1897, he and his family returned to St. Charles, where they are now living. With his son, Frank C., he is engaged in the hardware business in St. Charles. (3) Clarence married and located in St. Charles, whence he removed to Michigan, and later was engaged in business for about three years in Chicago. He then returned to St. Charles, where he died in the summer of 1897. (4) Wilbur C. obtained an excellent education and adopted the legal profession, which he followed in St. Charles for some years. He was a man of superior business ability and had the confidence and esteem of all. He died suddenly in the summer of 1897, leaving a wife and two sons, besides his parents and many friends to mourn his loss.

Politically, Major Hunt is a Jacksonian Democrat, and has ever been a stalwart supporter of the principles of that party, but has never cared for official honors, though he served for a number of years on the board of trustees of the village. He served as the first treasurer of Kane county; the receipts for the first year was about seventy-five cents. In those days the sheriff collected all taxes, and the treasurer served only in a nominal capacity. During his younger years he also served as major of the county militia. His estimable wife is a member of the

Baptist church. Major Hunt has witnessed almost the entire growth and development of Kane county, and in the upbuilding and prosperity of St. Charles he has been an important factor, giving his aid to all objects which he believed calculated to prove of public benefit. He is widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state, and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends.

**THOMAS W. DUNCAN.**—The expression "the 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 what is one of the leading industrial concerns of the state—the Illinois Watch Case Factory. No special advantages gave him a good start in life; he worked his way upward by energy, perseverance and diligence and the prosperity which is now his is the fitting reward of his own honorable efforts.

A native of Lindsay, Canada, Thomas Wellington Duncan was born December 6, 1858, and is a son of James and Mary (Hawkins) Duncan. His paternal grandfather was Thomas Duncan, a native of Belfast, Ireland, which city was also the birthplace of James Duncan, who left his native land in 1837 and immigrated to Lindsay, Canada. He was by trade a carriagemaker and followed that occupation until his retirement from business life about fifteen years ago. He is still living in Lindsay, a respected and valued citizen of that community. His wife was a daughter of

Thomas and Jane Hawkins and was born in Edinburg, Scotland, where her parents spent their entire lives. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan are members of the Episcopal church. Their family numbered six children—Thomas, Jane, Margaret, John, James and William, of whom the first and last are still living, William being a resident of St. Louis, Missouri.

In the city of his birth Mr. Duncan, of this review, acquired his education and in Toronto, Canada, he learned the watchmaker's trade. In 1881 he removed to Chicago, and in 1887 became a member of the firm of M. C. Eppenstein & Company, wholesale jewelers of that city. In 1888 the Illinois Watch Case Company was incorporated and began the manufacture of watch cases on Clinton street. On the 1st of May, 1890, the factory was removed from Chicago to Elgin, where an extensive business is now carried on in the manufacture of gold and silver watch cases. The company is capitalized for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars and their output is about five hundred thousand watch cases, which are sold in all parts of this country and shipped extensively abroad, even to Switzerland, the country famous for its watches. Their reputation for the excellence of their goods as well as the business reliability of the house extends throughout the country and has secured them an extensive patronage which yields to them a handsome financial return. In 1895 they added a new department to their business—the manufacture of bicycles, and invested one hundred thousand dollars in this enterprise. Their special wheels are the Elgin King and the Elgin Queen, which find a ready sale on the market by reason of their durability, their lightness, the ease

with which they are manipulated and the other strong points of the first-class wheel. They manufactured the celebrated ten thousand dollar cycle of the Chicago Cycle exhibition in 1896. It was one of the "King" cycles and won the prize on the exhibition. It has been sent to Europe where it will be placed on exhibition first at a cycle show in Belfast, Ireland, and then in other cities of Great Britain, after which it will be exhibited on the continent. One hundred operatives are employed in the manufacture of the wheels and employment is furnished to four hundred hands in the watchcase department. The officers of the company are Thomas W. Duncan, president and treasurer; M. Abraham, secretary; and T. W. Duncan, M. C. Eppenstein and S. C. Eppenstein, directors.

Mr. Duncan is a supporter of the principles of the Republican party, and neglects no duty of citizenship, but seeks no political office. However, he is a very public-spirited and progressive citizen, and has done much for the advancement and improvement of the city in which he makes his home. Prominent in the Masonic fraternity, he holds membership in Garden City lodge, No. 141, A. F. & A. M.; York chapter, R. A. M.; Apollo commandery, K. T., and the Oriental consistory, S. P. R. S., all of Chicago. His name is synonymous with honorable business dealing, and in all circles Mr. Duncan commands the respect and esteem of those whom he has met.

---

**FRANKLIN S. BOSWORTH.**—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. Mr. Bosworth, through such means, has attained a leading place among the representative men of Elgin, and his well-spent and honorable life commands the respect of all who know him.

Mr. Bosworth is a native of Boston, Erie county, New York, and a son of Benjamin F. and Almira (Smith) Bosworth. His father was born in Greenfield, New York, and was a son of Alfred Bosworth, who was born in Bristol, Rhode Island, of English parentage. The latter came to the West in the fall of 1839, taking up his residence in Dundee, Illinois, where he died in June, 1861. In his early life he followed the hatter's trade, but in his later years engaged in farming. He married Olive Child, a native of the Empire state, and they became parents of six children: Benjamin F., Oliver C., Increase C., Lucinda C., Mary C., wife of Harry Weed; Lucinda, wife of Alfred Edwards; and Abbie M., wife of Benjamin Simonds. All of this family are now deceased.

Dr. Benjamin F. Bosworth, father of our subject, studied medicine in early life, and practiced his profession until his removal to Illinois. He located in Chicago in 1856, and engaged in merchandising in that place until his removal to McHenry, Illinois, where he conducted a mercantile establishment until his death, in September, 1843. In politics he was a Whig. In his early manhood he was graduated at Union College, New York, then a noted institution of learning, and while practicing medicine was very successful. His wife, a daughter of Amos Smith, was also a native of New York. She was a member of the Methodist Episco-

pal church, and died in New York about 1834.

Franklin S. Bosworth, their only child, was born December 17, 1832, and acquired his education in the common schools. He began merchandising in 1852, in connection with I. C. Bosworth, at Dundee, Illinois, where he carried on business until June, 1871, when he removed to Elgin. Here he purchased an interest in a hardware store on the East Side, which he successfully conducted until September, 1883, when he sold to Metcalf & Reed. In 1888 he purchased an interest in a lumber yard on the West Side and soon afterward extended his field of operations by dealing in coal. For three years he was associated in business with Lewis Eaton, but on the expiration of that period purchased his partner's interest, and was alone until 1896, when he admitted to a partnership his son, Frank H. Bosworth. The business is now conducted under the name of F. S. Bosworth & Son and they carry all kinds of lumber and hard and soft coal, and have built up a very extensive, profitable and satisfactory trade.

On the 4th of January, 1859, at Dundee, Illinois, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Bosworth and Miss Sarah E. Hunt, a daughter of Ward E. and Mary Hunt, her father a native of Vermont. Four children were born of this union, of whom the eldest, Reuben H., is now deceased. Edward is professor of Greek and also occupies the chair of theology in Oberlin College of Ohio. After completing his preliminary education in the common schools, he was for two years a student in Oberlin College, and then matriculated in Yale College, where he was graduated with honors. He is a young man of splendid mental attainments and exceptionally brilliant prospects. He married



Miss Bertha McClure, of Elgin. Mary is now the wife of Walter F. Skeelee, a resident of Los Angeles, California. Frank H. is with his father in business.

The family are members of the Congregational church, and in politics Mr. Bosworth and his sons are Republicans. He has been honored with several local offices; was elected a member of the city council in 1879, and in 1880 was elected mayor of Elgin, filling that office for two consecutive terms. His administration was progressive, and the city's interests were materially promoted through his efforts. He manifests a deep interest in the welfare of Elgin, and his influence and support are given to all measures beneficial to the municipality. Loyal to all public duties, honorable in all business relations, faithful to all the obligations of social life, he stands as one of the leading men of Kane county.

**J**OHN W. SEYMOUR, whose residence in Illinois covers more than half a century, and whose home has been maintained in Elgin for twenty-five years, belongs to that heroic pioneer band who were the advance guard of civilization in the northern section of the state, and who, since that time, have been prominent in support of all interests calculated to promote the general welfare. A native of Yates county, New York, he was born March 3, 1833, and is descended from one of three brothers who emigrated from England and took up their residence in the Empire state prior to the war of the Revolution. Jesse Seymour, the grandfather of our subject, served his country in the war of 1812, and his father, Ebenezer Seymour, was one of those who

aided the heroes who fought for the independence of the colonies by supplying the army with cattle and other necessities.

John Seymour, the father of our subject, was born in Putnam county, New York, December 2, 1784, while his wife, Elizabeth Seymour, was a native of Yates county, that state, born December 1, 1794. In the spring of 1842 they emigrated to Illinois, locating at Miller's Grove, in the town of Barrington, Cook county. They were accompanied by their ten children, all of whom located in this state. The father died August 27, 1876, at the home of his son, John W., in Elgin, and the mother passed away on the old homestead in Cook county, September 28, 1881. He was a staunch Republican in politics and in his early life was a member of the Baptist church, but afterwards joined the Methodist church with his wife. Of the children, five are yet living: Harvey, of Elgin; Mrs. H. M. Campbell, of Edgewood, Illinois; Mrs. J. M. Miller, of Elgin; Joseph B., of Aurora, and John W., our subject.

The last named came to Illinois with his parents when nine years of age and was reared in their home. Later his home became theirs, and upon their death by inheritance and purchase he became the owner of the old farm, comprising three hundred and fifty acres of valuable land. He was married December 31, 1857, to Miss Emily L. Wood, of Volo, Lake county, Illinois, a native of Gainesville, Wyoming county, New York, born July 1, 1837. With her parents, George L. and Phoebe (Potter) Wood, she came to Volo Lake, in 1844, and continued a resident of this state until called to the home beyond. By her marriage she had two children, William H., born March 3, 1859, and Kleber A., who



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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



JOHN W. SEYMOUR.



MRS. J. W. SEYMOUR.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



was born July 6, 1865, and died August 15, 1888.

In 1868 Mr. Seymour removed with his family to Barrington Station, Cook county, where he was engaged in merchandising in connection with A. K. Townsend, who was also assistant postmaster. In 1873 he took up his residence in Elgin, and has since been identified with the interests of that city. He has done much to promote its commercial prosperity through his connection with various enterprises. In the summer of 1882 he went abroad, accompanied by his wife, making the journey both a business and pleasure trip. After visiting the principal cities and points of interest in Scotland, England and France, he purchased and imported fifteen head of fine Percheron horses, and has since been engaged in the breeding of that stock in company with his son, William H. In 1892 they located what is known as the Concho Valley stock ranch, four miles north of San Angelo, Texas. Their stock has gained a wide reputation in the horse markets of the country, and their enterprise has been attended with most gratifying success. The ranch is under the personal supervision of the son, who married Jennie E. Hendrickson, daughter of Norman G. and Emily (Townsend) Hendrickson, by whom he has one son, Claude H. William H. Seymour is also engaged in dealing in coal, wood, cement, etc., in Elgin, as a member of the firm of Adams & Seymour.

In connection with his other business interests, John W. Seymour aided in the organization of the Elgin National Bank in the spring of 1892, and is a member of its directorate. From the beginning the institution has been a paying investment, and is regarded as one of the most reliable banking

concerns of the county. Mr. Seymour is a man of sound judgment, keen discernment and excellent executive ability, entirely trustworthy, and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. His success is well merited, being the legitimate outcome of his well-directed efforts.

In his political views he is a stalwart Republican, and he served as school trustee in the town of Barrington. He is a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of which body Mrs. Seymour was also a member, and in which she took a deep and kindly interest, as well as in all charitable work. She was a lady greatly beloved by all who knew her, and her death, which occurred July 31, 1897, was mourned by many friends. In loving remembrance, the following lines were dedicated to her:

"A precious one from us has gone;  
A voice we loved is stilled;  
A place is vacant in our home  
Which never can be filled.  
God, in His wisdom, has recalled  
The boon His love had given;  
And though the body slumbers here,  
The soul is safe in Heaven."

Mr. Seymour still makes his home in Elgin, and occupies his residence, at No. 165 North Gifford street, which he erected twenty-five years ago. It is still one of the best homes of the city, and its hospitable doors are ever open for the reception of his many friends.

SILAS BALDWIN, who, after a long and useful life in which toil was the principal ingredient, is now living retired in the village of Hampshire, Illinois, is a native of Vermont, born in Dorset, Bennington county, May 15, 1823. He attended the district school at Dorset Hollow, and

worked on neighboring farms by the month until twenty-six years old, when he had saved enough by his economy to buy a fifty-acre farm, which he cultivated for four years. The farm was almost covered with maple trees, from which he made maple sugar, selling the same through New York. The chance for advancement in life was thought by him to be very slim, and while, like Stephen A. Douglas, he considered Vermont a good place to be born in, he believed the West a better place in which to grow. In 1853 he sold his farm and came west; went first to Iowa, but not liking that country as well, came to Kane county, Illinois, where he bought eighty acres on sections 26 and 27, Hampshire township, which he improved, and on which he resided until March, 1890, when he retired from active life, visited one year with relatives in the east, and in 1891 purchased a comfortable home in the village of Hampshire, where he is now taking life easy.

Thomas Baldwin, the father of our subject, was born April 4, 1774, and died July 4, 1854. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Baldwin, the former dying January 9, 1808, at the age of seventy-nine years, and the latter dying March 13, 1808, at the age of sixty years. Thomas Baldwin was a blacksmith by trade and an expert tool-maker. When regular work was slack, he made fine tools for carpenters and others, and traveled through the country selling them. He was of thrifty Yankee stock, and moved from Connecticut to Vermont about 1817. A man of strong vitality, full of energy and ingenuity, he could not help succeeding in life. On the 19th of April, 1817, he married Polly Lamphor, born at Mansfield, Connecticut, in 1788, and dying in 1862. She was the daughter of John and

Mary Lamphor, the latter of whom died in 1813.

The subject of this sketch was the last born in a family of seven children born to Thomas and Polly Baldwin. He has two brothers living in Vermont and a sister living in California. Silas Baldwin was first married in Vermont, near Dorset, to Miriam Mumpsted, born January 5, 1819, and who died in Hampshire township November 4, 1878. Of the four children born to them, one died in Vermont and two in Hampshire township. The living one is Elizabeth Ann, who married Burdette C. DeWitt, by whom she has six children, as follows: Lillian M., who married J. William Webster, of Cresco, Iowa, by whom she has one son, DeWitt; Benjamin C.; Charles; Miriam E.; Roxie L. and Hazel M.

Mr. Baldwin's second marriage was at Tecumseh, Michigan, where he married Mrs. Louisa Norton, widow of James T. Norton, born at Poultney, Rutland county, Vermont, and a daughter of Abijah Williams, Jr., a native of Massachusetts, born April 28, 1785, and who died at Poultney, Vermont, June 27, 1845, at the age of sixty years. Abijah Williams, Sr., was the son of John Williams, who married Asenath Hodge. John Williams was one of three brothers who came from England in colonial days. Abijah Williams, Jr., married Lucinda Hill, born in Hartford, Connecticut, and a daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Davis) Hill, her father being a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Politically Mr. Baldwin was formerly an abolitionist, casting his first presidential vote for James G. Birney. On the organization of the Republican party, he became an advocate of its principles and with that party has continued to act until the present

time. For twenty-five years he served as school director, supervisor three years, and has served as road commissioner, school trustee and village trustee, and was superintendent of Sunday-schools in an early day for a number of years. He is of that self-reliant New England stock, a well-known figure in the village thoroughfares, and is highly respected for his just and upright life.

**D**UNCAN FORBES is one of the representative citizens of Kane county, whose birth occurred in "bonnie" Scotland, but who for forty years has been a resident of this country. He is now enjoying a well-earned rest in the village of Dundee, where he has resided since 1894. He was born August 12, 1834, in Perthshire, Scotland, and there grew to manhood. After attending the common schools for a time he was apprenticed to learn the cabinetmaker's and joiner's trade, serving a four-years' term. After completing his trade he worked as a journeyman for a time, but, believing the new world afforded better opportunities for advancement, he came to America in 1858, locating first in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where he worked as a journeyman two years. In March, 1861, he located in Chicago and went to work at ship carpentering. In July of the same year he commenced contracting, and built a house in Barrington township and one in Dundee.

Up to this time Mr. Forbes was a single man, but on the 12th of December, 1862, he was united in marriage, in Dundee township, with Miss Jeannette Cochran, a native of Scotland, who came to the United States when a child of nine years. Her father, Malcolm Cochran, was also a native of Scotland, who came to Dundee township,

Kane county, in 1849, where he engaged in farming, following that occupation throughout life. After their marriage Mr. Forbes moved to Chicago and engaged in the furniture trade for nine years, building up in that time a most satisfactory trade. In October, 1871, he returned to Kane county, and located in Dundee township on the old Cochran homestead, where he and his brother-in-law, John Cochran, engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1894. He further improved and developed the place, and had one of the best farms in Dundee township. For twenty-three years he continued to give personal attention to the farm, and then rented the place and moved to Dundee, purchased a lot and built a large and substantial residence, one of the best in the village, and is now living a retired life.

Mr. Forbes politically is a staunch Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant. He has supported the nominees of that party from that time to the present, casting his last vote for William McKinley in 1896. A friend of education and the public schools, he served some years as a member of the school board. He also served as township trustee for some fifteen years, but never desired or sought public office. Mr. and Mrs. Forbes were reared in the Presbyterian faith, but of late years have attended and supported the Congregational church.

Mr. Forbes has been a resident of Illinois for thirty-seven years, and Mrs. Forbes for forty-nine years. They have witnessed much of the growth and development of Kane county and northern Illinois, and are numbered among the esteemed old settlers. He is known in Dundee and Kane county as a man of exemplary habits, of tried integrity and worth, and he and his estimable



wife are held in the highest esteem by all who know them. Commencing life a poor man, with nothing but willing hands and a stout heart, with the assistance of his good wife he has accumulated a good property, and they can well afford to spend the rest of their lives in ease and retirement.

John Cochran, the brother of Mrs. Forbes, came with his parents to this country a lad of twelve years. He here grew to manhood and continued to work upon the farm until his death, which occurred July 14, 1894. For two years he and his sister conducted the home farm, and also for a time were partners in the furniture trade. He was a man of sterling character, and one of the honest yeomen of the county.

---

**A**BEL D. GIFFORD, a retired farmer and pioneer of 1837, now resides in a beautiful home at No. 254 Villa street, Elgin. He is a native of Chenango county, New York, born in Sherburne, August 9, 1818, and is a son of Asa and Dinah (Talcott) Gifford, natives of Massachusetts, who at a very early day settled in Chenango county, New York, removing from there to Oneida county, where their last days were spent, the latter dying in November, 1822, at the age of about fifty-seven years, and the former in May, 1837, in his seventieth year. They were the parents of eleven children, five sons and six daughters, ten of whom grew to manhood and womanhood—Ruth, Experience, James T., Peleg, Sarah, Susan, Asa, Hezekiah and Harriet. Of this number, Peleg died when about a year old, and Sarah, died at the age of twenty-two.

All of the children then living came west and located in Kane county, in 1835, ex-

cept Abel D., who remained at home to care for his parents. Both parents were members of the Baptist church, of which the father was a deacon for many years. By trade he was a carpenter, at which occupation he spent his early life. Later he engaged in merchandising, but the last years of his life were spent in agricultural pursuits. He was a good reader, a close observer, and a very prominent man in his community. For one term he served as sheriff of his county, was county judge and a justice of the peace for some years.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, who was of English descent, died in Massachusetts in middle life. The maternal grandfather Talcott was a judge in Herkimer county, New York, and at one time was very wealthy, but lost his money and property in unfortunate law-suits. He was about seventy-eight years old when he died.

Abel D. Gifford, of whom we now write, was reared upon a farm in Chenango county, New York, and was early in life inured to hard labor. His education was received in the public schools of his native county, supplemented by a few terms in Vernon Academy. Soon after the death of his father he came to Illinois and located on a farm two miles east of the then city limits of Elgin, but which now adjoins the city. This was six years before the government survey. His first purchase was two hundred and sixty acres, which he finely improved and which yet remains in his possession. Since 1889 he has lived in Elgin, his son, Charles A., operating the home farm, where he is also engaged in dairying, having between seventy and eighty cows. During the season, his son also operates a threshing machine.

On the 20th of February, 1838, Mr.





A. D. GIFFORD.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Gifford was united in marriage with Miss Harriet M. Root, a daughter of Dr. Anson Root, a pioneer physician of Kane county. By this union there was one child, Frank A., who died at the age of nine months. Eighteen days later the little one's mother gave up her life. Religiously she was a Baptist. The second union of Mr. Gifford was on the 9th of August, 1855, when he married Miss Julia E. Chappell, daughter of Harvey M. and Mary Chappell. For a number of years prior to her marriage Mrs. Gifford taught school in Kane county. By this union there were two children, Carrie L. and Charles A. The former married Charles Holden, and they have two children, Hazel H. and Gifford Merrell. Charles A. married Miss Florence D. Stickney, who died in March, 1897. They had four children, Frank A., Stanley, Walter and Florence.

The second wife of Mr. Gifford died July 10, 1893, in her sixty-ninth year. Religiously she was also a Baptist, and in the work of the church took a deep and commendable interest. For his third wife Mr. Gifford chose Mrs. Clara F. Whitten, widow of Dr. Parker Whitten and daughter of David and Harriet (Cain) Flood. Their wedding ceremony took place December 15, 1896. For some years the present Mrs. Gifford was a successful teacher in Richmond, Virginia, and Atlanta, Georgia, where she gave instruction to several hundred colored children. By her first marriage Mrs. Gifford had two children—Parker Merritt, who was killed by a kick from a horse when one year old; and Manfred Pitt, who is studying medicine at the Vermont State University.

Mrs. Gifford's parents were natives of the state of Maine. In early life her father

was a farmer, and later a trader. He died in Lewiston, Maine, in 1865, at the age of forty-five years. His widow is still living, and makes her home at Woodsville, New Hampshire. The father was a consistent member of the Baptist church, while the mother holds membership with the Christian church. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Gifford, John Flood, was a native of Maine, of supposedly Irish descent. In the war of 1812 he served his country faithfully and well. Her maternal grandfather, Moses Cain, was also for a time in the military service. By occupation he was a farmer and a minister of the gospel.

The Gifford family are well known in Kane county. James T. Gifford, a brother of our subject, laid out the city of Elgin, naming it after the title of a piece of music that he fancied. As stated, the entire family, save the parents, came to Kane county and settled in the vicinity of Elgin in pioneer days. All were highly honored citizens, whose names and memories are cherished by their many friends and acquaintances.

Abel D. Gifford has now been a resident of this vicinity for more than sixty years, and has been identified with its growth and prosperity. The country was then wild indeed, and the thriving cities now in northern Illinois existed but in name. Chicago then gave no evidence of its present prosperity and magnificent proportions.

Since his thirteenth year Mr. Gifford has been a member of the Baptist church, and and is the only surviving charter member of the First Baptist church of Elgin, which was organized in 1838, and of which he has been trustee since its organization and deacon for about fifty years. In the service of his Master he has always taken special delight, and has done much to advance the

cause in the place which has so long been his home. Mrs. Gifford is also a member of the Baptist church.

Politically, Mr. Gifford is a Republican, with which party he has been connected since its organization. A strong believer in liberty, he naturally allied himself with the Republicans and labored for the success of the party. In the discharge of his duties as a citizen he has served in several local offices, being road commissioner of Hanover township for several years and also township assessor. On coming to Elgin he built his present beautiful home in 1889. On the premises he makes his own gas for lighting purposes, although he uses in connection electricity. The house is heated by steam and is handsomely furnished and most home like.

In all his life Mr. Gifford never drank intoxicating liquors of any kind, never chewed tobacco, and never smoked but a few times. His life has been indeed a temperate one, and no man stands higher in the estimation of the people. All esteem him for his many excellent qualities of head and heart.

**A**DIN MANN, a well-known surveyor, civil engineer and prominent citizen of Elgin, residing at No. 112 Porter street, was born in Oxford, New Hampshire, October 14, 1816, and his parents, Aaron and Sarah (Ingraham) Mann, were natives of the same state. Of their seven children, six sons and one daughter, only two are now living, Adin, and Monroe, a resident of Montana.

The father, a farmer by occupation, came to Illinois in 1838 with his family and settled on a "claim" in the western part of Elgin township, Kane county, that our

subject had taken up the year previous. Overwork and change of climate broke down his health the first season and he turned over the active operations of the farm to the boys, and cultivated only his garden which he always kept in prime condition till his death in 1852, when seventy-seven years of age. His faithful wife survived him only three weeks, dying at the age of sixty-three. Both were earnest members of the Congregational church. He served as captain of a militia company in the war of 1812.

John Mann, our subject's paternal grandfather, was of English and Welsh descent, and born in Hebron, Connecticut, and was the youngest of twelve sons. His father was joint proprietor of a township on the Connecticut river, in the northerly part of New Hampshire, having surveyed the lands under the Crown and obtaining title to one-half of the territory surveyed.

These lands he offered to each of his several sons as they became of age, if they would go up and settle on it, but they all refused till it came to John, the youngest. He said "Yes, I will go," and with his young bride, a little woman of one hundred pounds weight, he started for the northern wilds, to find his promised land, and pursued his journey to the end of all roads or means of conveyance. Here he engaged a man with a "dugout" to take his little worldly effects and row up the river, while he hired a horse from a frontier settler, and mounting, took his little wife on the "pillion" behind him, and pushed on through the tangled forest sixty miles further, and dismounting they stood there alone on an October in 1765 in the solitude of the wilderness. The man who had navigated the "dugout" took back the horse to its owner.



They found and took possession of a log shanty that some daring adventurer had built and abandoned after felling two acres of the surrounding dense timber. Thus John Mann, with a small stock of provisions, an axe, jack-knife and drawing-knife, and the wife with a bed, a six-quart iron kettle and a three-pint tin dish, started out, at the coming on of winter, to commence the battle of life and carve out for themselves a home and fortune in the wilderness, and they succeeded. Being a cooper, with his axe, jack-knife and drawing-knife, he soon made a pail and tub for the wife, and learning that a settlement some distance up the river had raised some corn and improvised a crude mill to grind it into meal, he made a dozen more pails in the same crude way, and a hand-sled, going fifteen miles over into Vermont to his nearest neighbor to borrow a small augur for the purpose, and, when the river froze over, took his wares on the sled and hauled them up to the Haverhill settlement, traded them for corn, which he brought back in the shape of meal. In the spring he burned off the brush and limbs on the two acres of fallen timber, and planted corn among the logs and raised one hundred and fifty bushels. Thereafter his granary was never empty, and he became known the country round as the Joseph of Egypt, where all who needed could find a supply of grain. His little wife presented him with twelve sons and three daughters, all who lived to marry but one, and, dying at the age of eighty-four, John Mann left one hundred and fifty-six living descendants.

Our subject's maternal grandfather was also of English descent and spent his entire life in the old Granite state, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. His daughter,

Mrs. Mann, was one of the heirs to the lands on which the city of Sheffield, England, the great steel manufacturing centre is builded, by will to the children of the fourth generation of the testator, of whom Mrs. Mann was one, but the loss of certain papers has hitherto defeated a successful prosecution of the claim. On the old homestead in New Hampshire, which was a part of the John Mann tract, where he first opened his eyes to the light of day, Adin Mann remained till he attained his majority, during the last three years of which he worked on the farm in summer, taught school in the winter and attended the Kimble Union Academy at the spring and fall terms, where he acquired a good practical education. In the summer of 1837 he came to Illinois and "took up a claim" on the as yet unsurveyed government lands in the west part of Elgin township, anticipating a future home for his father's family, and had some land broken up. Later in the season he returned to the old home, and in the spring of 1838 the whole family with two or three others, in all thirty persons, in wagons, started for Illinois, where they safely landed the latter part of June, after a tedious journey of nearly six weeks. A frame house was soon erected and the work of improvement began in earnest; shade trees and orchards were soon planted and in a short time the wild prairie assumed the aspect of a thrifty New England home. Later, when the public lands came into market, the claim was divided between the three older sons, one part becoming the property of our subject, who devoted the summer seasons to the farm and taught school in Elgin in the winter, being among the first teachers in this section of the state. In 1841 Mr. Mann returned to the old eastern home for

"the girl he left behind him," and on the 30th of May married Miss Lydia P. Wright, daughter of Wincol F. and Mary (Worcester) Wright, and to them were born six sons and two daughters—Henry P., Eugene, Frank W., George W., Howard, Mary W., Hattie M. and Charles E. In 1843 Mr. Mann was elected justice of the peace and county surveyor, and moved from the farm into Elgin, but at the end of two years, on account of ill health, resigned the office of justice of the peace and returned to the farm, retaining, however, the surveyor's office, to which position in after years he was several times elected. He was notary public for many years, and also township assessor. He also served as county treasurer in 1860 and 1861, when, on the breaking out of the war, the currency which he received at par depreciated to less than fifty cents on the dollar, and he was one of forty-two county treasurers who went under in the crash. The question might, perhaps, have been properly raised whether he and his sureties should be the sufferers, or whether the community at large, from whom he had received the currency in good faith, should have made good the losses. He turned over every species of property he possessed to make good the losses, except a cow, two pigs and a few bushels of wheat, leaving still a deficiency of \$5,000, which his bail promptly paid. He then, broken in spirit, but patriotic to the core, procured authority from the governor to raise a company for the army, and in six days had one hundred brave boys enlisted, mustered into the United States service, and with his company and third son hastened to the rendezvous at Camp Butler, where he became captain of Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteer

Infantry. The two older sons had entered the service the year previous, and the fourth followed as soon as he could carry a gun. The father and four sons put in fourteen years of hard service, always at the front, and were one hundred and twenty-five days under battle and siege, and, what is quite remarkable, neither received a wound. He participated in quite a number of important battles, including the engagements at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, which General Grant declared to be the most important battle of the war, also at Yazoo and Bentonville, and in an exposed position and under fire through the siege of Vicksburg, where he had command of the left wing of the charging party at the blowing up of Fort Hill. Later he was appointed chief engineer of the Vicksburg district, which position he filled with marked ability and efficiency till mustered out of the service, August 14, 1865, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. When Lee surrendered, the headquarters of the department of the Mississippi was moved from Vicksburg to Jackson, with thirty thousand troops at that and other points in the interior. Mr. Mann was ordered to examine and report the condition of railroad communication between the two points, and found the whole line from the Big Black river to Jackson (thirty-five miles) in a condition of utter wreck, over one hundred bridges and culverts burned out, fourteen miles of the rails torn up and bent, ties burned and other material destroyed or carried away.

This he was ordered to rebuild at once, to furnish the timber, ties and other needed material, straighten the bent and twisted rails and put the road in running order, and was given seven regiments of colored troops to do it with, and in the meantime to fur-

nish transportation and forward all supplies for the troops at Jackson and interior until the railroad could be rebuilt, and he was obliged to put on a transportation train of nine hundred mules for that purpose.

There being no white troops in reach from which to obtain the necessary skilled labor, he was compelled to pick up and hire old railroad men and mechanics wherever he could find them, and had one hundred and forty such on his pay roll, a large part of whom were returned Confederate soldiers.

The work was prosecuted vigorously. Material procured, timber cut and hewed in the forests, fifty miles away, bridges built, rails straightened and laid, and engines soon on the track. During these later months our subject had the work of three men on his shoulders, yet every branch of the business was pushed forward with system and vigor, he often riding forty miles on horseback in the night to be present at some point where his presence was needed in the morning. Thus he closed his military career, with the consciousness of having discharged every duty devolving upon him with promptness and efficiency and to the entire satisfaction of all his superiors in office, and with the warm regard of all who served under him, for he always looked after the comfort of the common soldier, often dismounting while on the march and putting a tired soldier boy in his saddle, or taking up a half dozen guns and balancing them across the saddle in front of him, to relieve the weary ones of a part of their burden, and looking after the comfort of the sick as far as possible.

He had saved over four thousand dollars from his army pay and when discharged from the military service went into the lum-

ber business, and became partner in three steam sawmills and a large body of pine timber land, his family having removed to Vicksburg near the close of the war. The business prospect was most excellent, his interest being capable of yielding him a daily net income of fifty dollars, from which he hoped soon to liquidate all his obligations in Illinois. But the fates combined to crush him again at the end of the war as it had done at the beginning, and after a year of hard work and struggle, with the life of himself and family in constant peril, he gave up the contest and with funds barely sufficient to reach Kane county, he returned to his old home in Batavia, broken in health and penniless. The bitterness of the South against the old Yankee soldiers and the refusal of the railroads to ship his lumber to market, with other causes, compelled him to abandon a property worth ten thousand dollars.

After returning to Batavia, Illinois, he engaged in map-making for a Philadelphia publishing firm, and made county atlases in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, and a state atlas of Kansas and Nebraska, which embraced a sectional map of every county in those states. He was an expert in this work. He filled the position of city engineer of Oil City for a time, and was assistant engineer at Topeka, Kansas, for a year and a half. With the exception of four years in Mississippi and twelve years in Kansas he has made his home in Kane county since 1837, and has been prominently identified with its interests. His life has been one of checkered vicissitudes, having lost the bottom dollar six times, yet when overwhelmed and buried beneath the avalanche of misfortune has heroically kicked off the sods and commenced anew the fight, and



although in his eighty-second year he is still very active and is now acceptably serving as city engineer of Elgin and deputy county surveyor of Kane county.

Fraternally, Mr. Mann affiliates with Veteran post, No. 49, G. A. R., and, politically, has always been identified with the Republican party. His life is exemplary in many 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. He has been a strictly temperate man, never using tobacco or liquor in any form, and both he and his wife are consistent members of the Congregational church. On the eightieth anniversary of his birth, the family and near relatives held a re-union at his home, it being a pleasant surprise to himself and wife. In memory of that occasion he penned the following beautiful poem, being too much surprised and affected at the time to give expression to his thoughts:

TO THE FRIENDS WHO SO PLEASANTLY  
SURPRISED US ON THE EIGHTI-  
ETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
OUR BIRTHDAY.

In the early morning still with dewdrops glittering,  
With the mists still curling and the robins twittering,  
While all varied nature, fresh from the couch of night,  
Robed in golden sunbeams, smiled with radiance  
bright.

In life's morning pathway, moist with the dew of  
youth,

I met a blushing maiden, as fair and pure as truth;  
She put her hand in mine with confidence and joy,  
We walked along together in bliss without alloy.

We roamed o'er life's meadows, through many downs  
and ups,

Breathing balm of roses, plucking the buttercups;  
Hand in hand together along life's devious way,  
Erst with joy or sorrow, we walked the live-long day.

But mid-day heat grew strong, our shoulders bent  
with care,

And many blinding griefs and burdens hard to bear;  
Yet in joy or sorrow, hand in hand as ever,  
Through all life's long journey we've walked along  
together.

Now the day is waning, the evening shades draw nigh,  
The hour is approaching to lay our labors by,  
Yet through twilight walking, hand in hand together,  
We still will journey on, nearing the dark river.

And will the angels come, as we stand together  
By the deep dark waters, and row us safely over  
To the land of beauty—to the realms forever blest—  
Where no sorrow reaches and weary ones find rest?

Will our absent loved ones, who've passed away be-  
fore,

Meet with joyous greeting our landing on their shore?  
Will those we leave behind come to that happy land?  
Shall we meet together, a full, unbroken band?

God in his mercy grant this, our most earnest prayer:  
Guide us all and keep us, and bring us over there,  
Over there, over there, a blest united band,  
Together over there, one in that happy land.

A. MANN.

Elgin, Illinois, October 14, 1896.

EBEN FOSS, residing at No. 631 Douglas avenue, Elgin, 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 life previous to 1885, is that of an active, enterprising, methodical and sagacious business man and farmer, who bent his energies to the honorable acquirement of a comfortable competence for himself and family.

Mr. Foss was born in Thornton, New Hampshire, June 10, 1822, a son of Eben and Mary (Webster) Foss, also natives of that state, the former born January 9, 1785, the latter April 24, 1793. They were married November 2, 1815, at Thornton. When our subject was quite small he lost his mother, her death occurring March 24, 1826, but the father survived her many years, dying March 16, 1869. The paternal grandfather, who also bore the name of Eben Foss, was a native of New Hamp-



shire, where throughout life he followed the occupation of farming and reared a large family of children, including John, Eben, Langdon, Carter, Jacob, Milton, Ruth, Betsy, Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Durgin. The parents of these children were both members of the Congregational church.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was a private in the Colonial army during the Revolutionary war and late in life received a pension from the government. The great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Dustin, was at one time taken prisoner by the Indians while they were on the warpath and held in captivity for a time. Being notified of the approach of the red men, she sent word by one of the children to her husband who was plowing in the field at the time. He came at once to the house, brought out his seven children and bidding them to run ahead he slowly retreated, keeping the Indians back with his gun; he thus brought off his little flock in safety. His wife, who was unable to escape with him, was dragged into captivity. The party who captured Mrs. Dustin marched many days through the forest, at length reached an island in the Merrimac. Several days later, while the Indians were asleep, she, with the assistance of her nurse and a boy, who had also been captured, killed ten of the red men and returned home with their scalps that she might prove to the settlers, beyond a doubt, what she had done.

The mother of our subject had two brothers, Betton and Bradley, and perhaps others, besides several sisters—Mrs. Sargent, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Chatman, and Harriet, who was twice married, her second husband being a Mr. Greely, who conducted a hotel in Thornton, New Hampshire, for many years.

Eben Foss, of this review, is the fourth in order of birth in a family of six children, as follows: Betton, born February 10, 1817, was married in May, 1841, and both he and his wife are now deceased, his death occurring August 21, 1859. Mary Ann, born August 2, 1818, married Charles Caldon, and died in 1882, leaving four children, who live in New Hampshire. Hannah Jane, born May 11, 1820, was married in December, 1842, to Oris Hitchcock, and died in 1891, leaving the following children—Pascal, Charles, Frank, Mary, wife of Charles Sharp; Mrs. Hattie Andrews, Mrs. Clara Bell Loveless, Mrs. Ella Sharp, and Ellen. Eben, our subject. Bradley V., born July 29, 1824, was married July 11, 1852, and now lives in Laporte City, Iowa. Harriet Webster, born February 8, 1826, was married May 9, 1850, to Daniel Brandon, and died in 1887. After the death of the mother of these children, the father married Charlotte Elliott, by whom he had one son—Charles Elliott, who was born May 28, 1828, and is now living in California. His children are Alvah and Louella, who are still living; and Ida, who died in 1877, at the age of twenty years.

During his boyhood the subject of this sketch attended the district schools for three months during the winter season, while the remainder of the year was spent in assisting with the work of the home farm. When sixteen years of age he came with his parents to Campton township, Kane county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land at the government price of one dollar and a quarter per acre. He continued to work for his father until he attained his majority, and became thoroughly familiar with every department of farm work. On starting out in life for himself, he con-

tinued to follow the pursuit to which he had been reared, and became one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers in his locality. The land which he purchased from the government he continued to operate until 1884, and to the original tract added until he had one hundred and seventy-four acres of valuable land, which he sold for nearly sixty-seven dollars per acre. He then removed to Elgin, where he has since lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

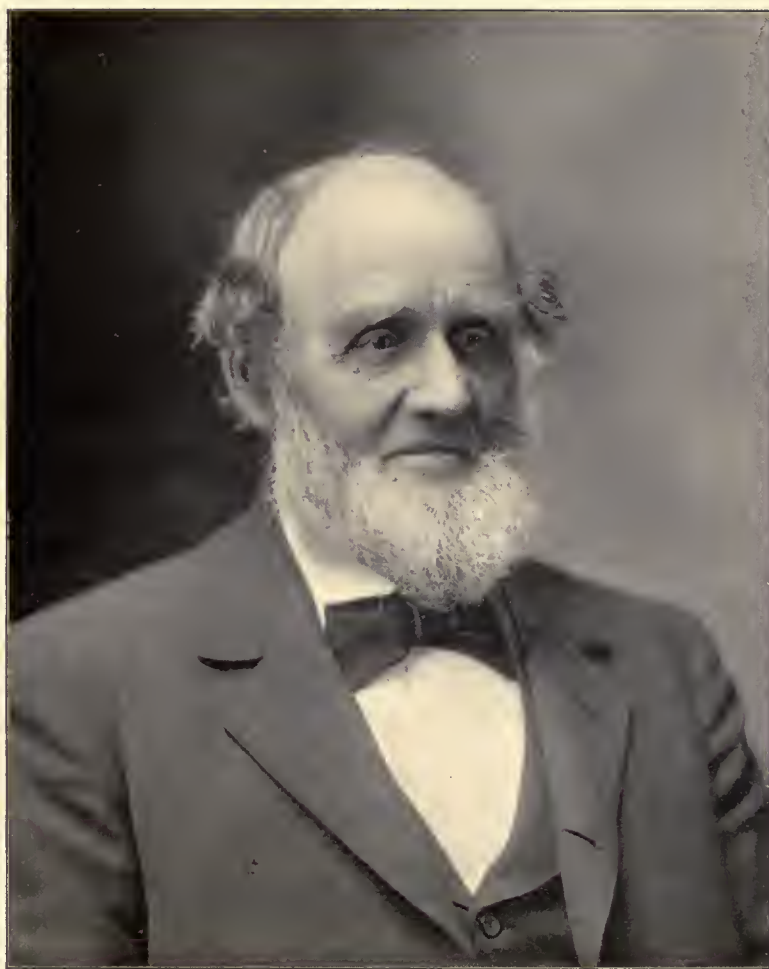
In 1847 Mr. Foss was united in marriage to Mrs. Emily C. (Ravlin) Cleveland, who died November 18, 1885, at the age of sixty-six years. She was a consistent Christian woman, a member of the Baptist church. By her first marriage she had one son, still living—Charles L. Cleveland, of Scranton, Greene county, Iowa, who married Wealthy Allen and has two children, Fred and Frank. Three children blessed the second union, namely: Mary Webster, who died at the age of one year; Harriet, widow of J. A. Daniels, who died February 12, 1896, in California, aged fifty-three years, and left one son, John F., now a student in the public schools; and Mary F., wife of J. H. Williams, of Elgin, by whom she has five children—Howard, Clarence, Lloyd, Ruth and Grace.

Mr. Foss cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor, but has never taken a very active part in politics aside from voting. 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 as an honored pioneer and highly-respected citizen he is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of his adopted county.

**J**ONATHAN TEFFT, a farmer living two and one-half miles south of Elgin City, is numbered among the earliest settlers of Kane county, the family emigrating from Madison county, New York, and locating in Kane county in the fall of 1835. The paternal grandfather, Jeremiah Tefft, was a native of Rhode Island, married "Rhoda Hoxie, of Richmond, Kings county, Colony of Rhode Island," as the old marriage certificate reads, which is in possession of our subject, "October 23, 1768, by Edward Perry, J. P." After the close of the Revolution he moved to Madison county, New York, which was then the far western frontier. There he spent the remainder of his life and reared his large family, one of whom, Jonathan, was the father of our subject.

Jonathan Tefft, Sr., was born in Madison county, New York, where he married Elizabeth Collins, born December 8, 1792, and daughter of Solomon Collins. By this union were fourteen children, six of whom are yet living: Amos, living in Nebraska; Jonathan, our subject; Thomas W., now serving as alderman of the sixth ward in Elgin; Louisa, widow of P. C. Gilbert, residing in Elgin; Emeline, widow of William Worden, now residing in Kansas; and Rhoda, who married Chauncey B. Halley, and now lives in Barrington, Cook county.

On coming west, Jonathan Tefft, Sr., settled first on a farm in Cook county, adjoining the present city of Elgin, a part of which is now Lord's Park. The year following he bought a claim, the farm on which our subject now resides, lying in section 36, Elgin township, and section 31, Hanover township, Cook county. The first farm in Cook county he sold to his son, Dr. Joseph Tefft, the first physician in Elgin. His death occurred in Elgin, January 26, 1886, having



JONATHAN TEFFT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



almost attained his seventy-sixth year. In his political views he was originally a Democrat, later a Republican, a man of great strength of character, never sought office, but served in many official positions. Jonathan Tefft, Sr., was one of three commissioners to lay out and establish a road from Elgin to St. Charles on the east side of Fox river.

Jonathan Tefft, our subject, was born in the town of Lebanon, Madison county, New York, was reared on a farm, and attended the district schools until the age of eighteen, when the family moved west. He attended school one winter after coming to Illinois in a log school house two miles south of Elgin. His first purchase of land was one hundred and ten acres lying northeast of Elgin, and in 1850 he purchased one hundred and forty-three acres in section 31, range 9, lying south of his father's homestead. On that place he resided until March 1, 1865, when he moved to the old farm.

Mr. Tefft was married near Elgin April 8, 1841, to Miss Delinda West, a native of Madison county, New York, and daughter of Isaac West, who first married Ruth Wilcox, daughter of Daniel Wilcox. The Wests moved from the same neighborhood in Madison county, New York, the year following the emigration of the Tefft family. Of the three children of Isaac and Ruth West, Mrs. Tefft alone survives. He died in 1876 at the age of eighty-two years. To Mr. and Mrs. Tefft five children have been born, only two of whom are now living, Jenny and Frank.

As a practical farmer, Mr. Tefft is excelled by few. He has a large dairy farm, which consists of two hundred and eighty acres, fifty-two acres lying in Kane county and the rest in Cook county, and is well im-

proved in every respect. His father's old house is still standing on the farm, but he resides in a house erected by himself in 1888, which cost nearly five thousand dollars. On the place are one hundred head of cattle, eighty of which are milch cows. He has a large cattle barn, thirty-six by one hundred and forty-six feet, horse barn forty by forty feet, and tool shed thirty-two by thirty-six feet. The entire farm is under a high state of cultivation, and everything about the place shows a thrift of the owner.

In politics Mr. Tefft is a Republican, with which party he has acted since its organization. He has been honored by his townsmen with a number of official positions. He was made a Master Mason in the Elgin lodge, No. 117, in 1854, and was one of the charter members of South Elgin lodge in 1865. On the surrender of its charter he again united with Elgin lodge, No. 117. He was a member of Fox River chapter at St. Charles, and of Bethel commandery at Elgin. He was formerly a member of the Sycamore commandery at Sycamore. At one time he was a member of the Board of Trade of Elgin.

Mr. Tefft is one of the few men yet living who saw almost this entire country in its virgin state, and has done as much as any other one man to develop its resources and make it the garden spot of the west. On his arrival here there were but few cabins on the east side of the river at Elgin and but three on the west side. He has hunted deer on the present site of the city, and assisted in breaking the prairie on its present site. He remembers when the Indians came from the northwest to spear fish in the Fox river. Nearly all of his long and useful life has been spent in Elgin township, and few men are better known in Kane county.

JOHN L. HEALY, a representative member of the bar of Elgin and a native of the city, was born August 3, 1861, his parents being Bernard and Catherine (Laughlin) Healy. His father was born in Dublin, Ireland, and was a son of Joseph Healy, an officer in the English army. The latter married Margaret Morgan and both he and his wife spent their entire lives in the old world. Bernard Healy was the only one of their family that ever crossed the Atlantic to America. He made the voyage in 1842 and soon after took up his residence in Elgin, where he embarked in the harness and a saddlery business, engaging longer in active and uninterrupted business than any other in the county. He aided in laying out the town of Elgin in connection with James T. Gifford and named two streets in honor of his favorite authors, William E. Channing and Joseph Addison. He was a man of extensive reading and broad general culture and his memory was remarkably retentive. In all matters of business his word was as good as his bond and he had the respect and confidence of all who knew him. He was a man of remarkable purity of character, of earnest purpose and upright life, and his life record forms an indispensable part of the history of the county. In politics he was a Democrat, and in religious belief was a Catholic. His death occurred November 6, 1894, but his widow is still living in Dundee, Illinois. They had a family of six children: Bernard; John Leander, of this sketch; Richard, who died in infancy; Walter E., who was a graduate of Ann Arbor University and now a student in Mr. Healy's law office; May E. and Charles, all residents of Kane county. The father of this family was twice married, and the children of the other union are Joseph and Rosann. Their

mother bore the maiden name of Winifred Anderson, and their marriage was celebrated in Manchester, England. Her son, Joseph, was a graduate of Notre Dame and the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and studied law with Judge Silvanus Wilcox. He afterward became a partner of Botsford & Barry, and died in 1871, at the age of twenty-six years. He was a young man of splendid mental attainments and brilliant prospects. His sister died at St. Mary's College, while pursuing her studies there.

The public schools of Elgin afforded our subject his preliminary educational advantages, which were supplemented by a course in the high school of Dundee. He next entered St. Joseph's College, of Bardstown. He further continued his studies in Notre Dame University, and was graduated in 1879, after which he studied law in the office and under the direction of Botsford & Barry, of Elgin. He was admitted to the bar in Chicago, in 1884, passing an examination before the appellate court, and then spent one year traveling in Europe. He did some post-graduate work in Heidelberg and spent some time in Frankfort-on-the-Main and in other European cities, and, with a mind broadened by travel and the knowledge and culture which only travel can bring, he returned to his native land.

Locating in Elgin, Mr. Healy entered into partnership with Judge Henry B. Willis, under the firm name of Willis & Healy, a connection that was maintained for four years with excellent success. It was then dissolved by mutual consent and Mr. Healy has since been alone. He is engaged in general practice and is well versed in many departments of jurisprudence. He has a splendidly equipped office in the building which he owns, and enjoys a large

clientele. He also has other real-estate interests, including two store buildings adjoining the Spurling block, and has some valuable realty in Chicago.

In politics Mr. Healy is a Republican; socially, and is a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and other organizations. He has attained a well-merited success at the bar and in his other business enterprises, and Elgin regards him as one of her substantial and reliable citizens.

---

HERMAN H. AND GUSTAVE F. KIRCHHOFF, Hampshire, Illinois, doing business under the firm name of Kirchhoff Brothers, are dealers in lumber, grain, flour, feed, coal and wood. They carry a good stock of all things in their line and are doing a large and fairly prosperous business. They are well known throughout the northern part of Kane county and the adjoining portions of McHenry and De Kalb counties as young men of good business ability, and who can be depended upon in every business transaction. Henry Kirchhoff, their father, was born in Hanover, Germany, in 1833, and emigrated to America in 1845 with his father, John Henry Kirchhoff, who was a soldier against Napoleon, at Waterloo, and who died in Cook county, Illinois, at the age of seventy-nine years. Henry Kirchhoff married Mary Franzen, a daughter of Henry Franzen, who was an early settler of DuPage county. They became the parents of ten sons and two daughters, all of whom are living in Cook county, save Herman H. and Gustave K., of whom we write.

Herman H. Kirchhoff was born in the township of Leyden, Cook county, Illinois, January 27, 1862, and there made his home

until 1887, in the meantime attending the public schools and assisting upon the home farm. In company with C. A. Franzen he then went to Pingree Grove and opened a lumber, wool and coal yard, which they conducted for eleven years. Gustave F. Kirchhoff was also born in the township of Leyden, Cook county, Illinois, his birth occurring November 11, 1869. He also received his education in the public schools of the township and assisted upon the home farm. On the 1st of January, 1898, the two brothers moved to Hampshire and purchased the feed store of Werthwein & Zimmer, and in February following, the lumber yard of McClure & Struckman, a business in which, as already stated, they are meeting with success, being accommodating and popular.

Herman H. Kirchhoff was married December 21, 1892, in Elgin, Illinois, to Miss Margaret J. Shedden, of Plato township, and a daughter of John Shedden, who is now living a retired life in the city of Elgin. To them have been born one daughter, Florence Alice. Mr. and Mrs. Kirchhoff are members of the Presbyterian church and are active in all church and benevolent work. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Maccabees. In social circles they occupy a prominent place.

---

ROBERT ARCHIBALD, a successful and progressive farmer residing at No. 434 Chicago street, Elgin, is a native of Kane county, born in Dundee, March 11, 1852, and is the only child born of the union of Abram and Jane (Crichton) Archibald. The parents were both natives of Scotland, where they were married in 1847, and the following year they left their old home near



Glasgow and crossed the Atlantic to America. The father purchased a farm two miles and a half northwest of Dundee in Kane county, and here followed agricultural pursuits, although in his native land he had served as foreman in a colliery. On laying aside business cares, he moved to Elgin, where he died June 23, 1897, aged eighty-four years and one month. He was a worthy and highly respected citizen, ever kind and accommodating to his neighbors and friends, and just and honorable in all his dealings. His whole life was characterized by honesty, industry and those qualities essential to good citizenship. He was first a Republican in politics and later a Democrat, while in religious belief he was a Presbyterian, to which church his wife also belonged. She died April 8, 1893, at the age of eighty-one years. By a former marriage he had one son, Abram Archibald, Jr., now living near Los Angeles, California. The mother of our subject was also previously married, her first husband being Daniel McNeal, by whom she had three children: Malcolm and John, members of the firm of McNeal & Higgins, wholesale grocers on Market street, Chicago; and Anna, wife of Thomas Todd, of 136 South State street, Elgin. They came to the United States during childhood.

Robert Archibald began his education in the common schools of Kane county, and later attended the Elgin Academy. Since completing his education he has devoted his time and attention to farming, having become thoroughly familiar with all the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist upon the home farm where he was reared. Being a thorough and systematic farmer he has met with a well-deserved success and is now the owner of two valuable farms in

Kane county. In connection with general farming he is also engaged in dairying. Socially he affiliates with Dundee lodge, No. 190, F. & A. M., and politically is a Democrat. In the various relations of life he has always been the same earnest, upright, capable and courteous gentleman, winning the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

**D**WIGHT E. BURLINGAME, M. D., is one of the most prominent and successful physicians and surgeons of Elgin, his office being at his beautiful home at No. 18 Villa street. He was born in Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, June 8, 1844, and is a son of Daniel Fenner and Mary A. (Mason) Burlingame, also natives of the old Bay state. The family is of Danish origin and its first representatives in England were probably prisoners of war. It was founded in this country as early as 1640. The Doctor's grandfather, Elisha Burlingame, was a native of Rhode Island, and as a Continental soldier during the Revolutionary war, he fought in the battle of Long Island. He died of pneumonia in middle life, leaving four children, three sons and one daughter. James Mason, the Doctor's maternal grandfather, was also a native of Rhode Island, was a farmer and frontier tradesman, and died at an advanced age.

Daniel F. Burlingame was also a farmer by occupation, and died on his farm in Adams, Massachusetts, in 1895, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. During his early days he was captain of the state militia, and did considerable business in settling up estates as a referee and appraiser. His wife departed this life in 1893 at the age of eighty-six years. Both were consistent members of the Congregational church, and



were highly respected by all who knew them. Four sons and one daughter were born to them, of whom four are still living—Elisha, a resident of Adams, Massachusetts; Dwight E.; Phœbe A.; and John L., of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Under the parental roof Dr. Burlingame grew to manhood, and after attending the public schools of his native state for some time, he graduated from a high school in 1865. Subsequently he entered the medical department of the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, and graduated from that institution in 1869 with the degree of M. D. The following year he opened an office in Elgin at his present location. He has that true love for his work without which there can be no success, and has always been a progressive physician, constantly improving on his own and others' methods and gaining further encouragement and inspiration from the performance of each day's duties. Regularly each year he makes a trip to the east for the purpose of visiting noted medical institutions to refresh his memory and obtain the latest ideas on the science of medicine and surgery. He regularly visits the old University Medical School of Philadelphia, one of the most thorough medical schools in the country where the work of such men as Drs. Joseph Price, Ashurdt, Baldy, Penrose, Deavor, and Hart is studied. He also visits the celebrated Bellevue Hospital Medical College and the Post Graduate School of New York, whose corps of teachers are nowhere excelled for their ability and skillful work, both in medicine and surgery. In 1892 he crossed the ocean and visited the hospitals in Europe, especially those of Berlin, Germany, and Paris, France, gaining much useful and practical knowledge. Although en-

gaged in general practice, he makes a specialty of surgery and is recognized as one of the most skillful surgeons in Northern Illinois. At present and for some years he has been a member of the surgical staff of Sherman Hospital, Elgin, Illinois. In his chosen calling he has met with remarkable success.

In 1872, Dr. Burlingame was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Winchester, a native of Canada and daughter of Dr. Edgar and Anna Maria (Martin) Winchester, the former born in the province of Quebec and the latter in England. In early life Dr. Winchester moved with his father's family to Walpole, lower Canada, where he grew to manhood and received a good education. He studied medicine in that country and attended a medical college in Toronto, Canada, later graduated at Ann Arbor and took a post-graduate course in Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. About 1852 he removed with his family to Dundee, Kane county, where he engaged in practice a few years and then moved to Elgin, where he soon became well established and was recognized as one of the best physicians and surgeons in the place.

In 1858, Mrs. Winchester departed this life. She was a woman of excellent reputation, and in early life was a member of the Church of England, but later in life united with the Baptists and was a member of that body at the time of her death. She was a mother of four children, two of whom are now living—Mrs. Burlingame and Dr. William G., a successful dentist of Detroit, Michigan. Later Dr. Winchester married Miss Lydia Choate Perkins, of Elgin, by whom he had three children, only one now living, Maud, residing with her mother in San Bernadino, California.

Early in 1862, Dr. Winchester offered his services to the general government and in March 25th of that year received his commission as surgeon and was assigned to the Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He joined his command about a week before the battle of Pittsburg Landing, and coming to the front a young, unknown surgeon, he was assigned by his superior officer to a minor position in one of the field hospitals during the fight. While performing his duty, a captain was brought in wounded, a ball having passed through the bone of one of his arms. The surgeon in charge said the arm must come off, and his opinion was concurred in by other surgeons present. The captain refused to submit to its amputation and in some way Dr. Winchester was called upon for his opinion. After examining the arm he said that it could be saved though the operation would shorten it a little. The other surgeons smiled incredulously, but the Doctor proceeded to work, cutting out a portion of the bone and bringing the parts together. The operation was quickly, neatly and skillfully performed that the Doctor was at once put to surgical work and his ability was recognized by all. After serving over two years he resigned his position, which was accepted April 23, 1864.

Returning to his home in Elgin, Dr. Winchester resumed the practice of his profession and continued until 1871, when he removed to San Bernadino, California, where he died in 1875. He was a consistent member of the Baptist church, and took as active a part in church work as his professional duties would permit. Every Sunday morning especial found him in the house of God. His widow is yet living in San Bernadino.

To Dr. and Mrs. Burlingame two children

have been born—Anna M. and Hattie F., both at home. The family hold membership in the Baptist church and occupy an enviable position in social circles. Externally the Doctor belongs to Monitor lodge, F. & A. M.; Loyal L. Munn chapter, R. A. M.; and Bethel commandery, K. T. He is also a member of the Century Club of Elgin; the Fox River Valley Medical Society; the Illinois State Medical Association; the American Medical Association. Politically he is independent. Wherever the Doctor goes he wins friends and has the happy faculty of being able to retain them. His popularity has made him a great favorite in all circles.

---

COLONEL WILLIAM SMAILES, who has attained distinction in military circles, and is one of the leading merchant tailors of Elgin, 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. Smailes is a native of England, born in Burlington, Yorkshire, May 14, 1842, a son of William and Mary (Witty) Smailes. The father and also the grandfather, David Smailes, followed the tailor's trade as a life work. In 1853 William Smailes, Sr., brought his family to America and located in Elgin, Illinois, where throughout the remainder of his life he worked at his trade, at the same time being also interested in farming. His death occurred in December, 1881. In his family were five children, namely: Rebecca, who married James O'Connor, and died in 1872; William; Mary Ann; Janet; and Frederick, who died in 1897. In

his religious views the father was liberal and in politics was a staunch Republican.

Having accompanied his parents on their removal to this country, William Smailes, Jr., grew to manhood in Elgin and in the Elgin Academy completed his literary education, being one of the first pupils in that institution. While not in school he worked principally upon his father's farm until after the outbreak of the Civil war. In December, 1863, he enlisted in Company A, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was ordered to the front in the spring of the following year. During his first engagement—the battle of Resaca—he was wounded in the left leg below the knee and was first sent to the field hospital, from there to Nashville, Tennessee, thence to New Albany, Indiana, and later to Quincy, Illinois. When he had sufficiently recovered, he was assigned to the medical department at Quincy, where he remained until April, 1865, and was then engaged in military duty on Rock Island until mustered out November 15, 1865.

Returning to his home in Elgin, Mr. Smailes worked at the tailor's trade for others for a while, and then embarked in business on his own account, then as a member of the firm of William Smailes & Sons, and later Smailes Brothers. Since the death of his brother he has been alone and to-day enjoys an excellent trade, which has been built up through fair dealing and good workmanship, for he is acknowledged to be one of the best tailors in the city.

At Quincy, June 10, 1866, Mr. Smailes was united in marriage with Miss Emma Lane, daughter of James Lane, and to them were born four children. Anna, the eldest, is now the wife of Morton V. Gilbert, a prominent lawyer of Chicago, member of the well-known firm of Smith, Gil-

bert & Kreidler, and they have two children—Virginia and Katherine. The others of the family were Willie, now deceased; Fred J., who is employed in the watch factory; and Guy Garfield, deceased. Religiously the family is connected with the Universalist church.

The Republican party always finds in Mr. Smailes a stalwart supporter, and he takes quite an active and prominent part in local politics. He has been a member of the Republican executive committee, has been a delegate to numerous conventions, and in the spring of 1886 was elected alderman from the fifth ward. On leaving the army he did not allow his interest in military affairs to subside, but in 1876 organized a company of state guards, of which he served as captain for eight years. It was made Company E, Third Regiment Illinois National Guards, and was one of the best drilled companies in the regiment. For two years, in 1884 and 1885, Mr. Smailes served as lieutenant-colonel of the regiment. He is a prominent member of the Grand Army Post of Elgin, of which he was commander in 1894 and 1895, and has held other offices. He was also on the national staff of the Grand Army under Grand Commander Lawler. Mr. Smailes was the first secretary and is now serving as such at the Elgin Children's Home Association. Fraternally he is also an honored member of the Masonic order, belonging to the blue lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M.; Woodstock chapter, No. 36, R. A. M.; and Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T. In this order he is past master and past eminent commander. It is safe to say that no man in Elgin has more friends or is held in higher regard by the entire community than William Smailes.



WILLIAM H. WING, of Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, for many years one of the leading attorneys, real estate and loan agents of that city, with suite of rooms comprising the whole second floor of the First National Bank building, is one of the best known citizens of the county. He was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and is a son of Washington and Catherine (Himes) Wing, both natives of New York state, who after their marriage first settled in Washtenaw county, Michigan, and later moved to the adjoining county of Livingston, where they engaged in the occupation of farming, and while there Washington Wing was elected to the legislature of Michigan, and served in the session of 1845-6. In the summer of 1846 he came to Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, and purchased a farm just north of the city, the present site of the Ludlow shoe factory. Later he purchased and moved to a farm just west of the city, where the remainder of his life was passed and where he died in February, 1888. His wife, Catherine Wing, died there in March, 1854. They were the parents of four children: William H., our subject; George W., who died in Michigan, April 16, 1842; Mary V., who died in Elgin, on the farm last mentioned December 26, 1862; and Orlando A., now a farmer and resident of St. James, Minnesota.

After the death of his first wife, Washington Wing married Adeline Willits, of Delhi, Michigan, who survived him. They were the parents of two children: Edwin W., who resides on the old homestead, and Katie L., wife of Rev. Silas Sprowls, of Elsinore, California, where her mother also resides. Washington Wing was an active, progressive farmer, well and favorably known. For some years he served his

township as a member of the Kane county board of supervisors, and from time to time held other local official positions.

William H. Wing was ten years of age when he came with his parents to Elgin. His school life, beginning in the public schools of Livingston county, Michigan, was continued in the schools of Elgin and Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois. He was united in marriage with Miss Abby C. Saunders, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 18, 1861, and after reading law in the office of Silvanus Wilcox, at Elgin, and attending the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, was admitted to the bar to practice law in the various courts of Illinois, April 23, 1867. He soon afterward opened an office at Elgin, and from that time on for several years diligently and successfully followed his profession and the trial of cases in the various courts of Kane and adjoining counties. On the 18th of October, 1875, he was admitted to practice in the district and circuit courts of the United States for the northern district of Illinois, having cases in both of these courts at that time. Of late years he has omitted the trial of law cases as much as possible, as his large office, real estate and loan business required his entire attention. Several of the young men of Elgin have been students in his office at various times and are now successful practitioners.

For many years Mr. and Mrs. Wing occupied a beautiful home on Highland avenue in the city of Elgin, which was remodeled by them in 1891, making it one of the handsomest residences in the city. There was probably no residence in Elgin that contained more elaborate interior finish, while the exterior was also handsome and modern. This beautiful home was almost



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF



W. H. WING.



MRS. W. H. WING.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



destroyed by fire on the morning of March 20, 1897, at which time Mrs. Wing lost her life. No greater calamity ever befell the city of Elgin, and the sympathy of the entire community went out to the bereaved husband. Mrs. Wing was a native of New Hampshire, her maiden name being Abby C. Saunders, and was a daughter of Henry and Martha Saunders. In 1854, through the advice of the governor of New Hampshire, she gave up the comforts of her childhood home at Wilmot, that state, and came west in company with friends, among them Miss Kilbourne, who is now Mrs. Oscar Lawrence, of Kane county, Illinois, to engage in teaching. She soon secured and taught the district school in the new brick school house northwest of the city the coming fall and winter terms, and the following year took charge of one of the principal schools of Dundee, and among her pupils was Alfred Bosworth, the present cashier of the First National Bank at Elgin. Sending for her younger sister, Martha, who was still in the east, they continued teaching in the Dundee school, and were very successful.

In 1856 Miss Saunders came to Elgin and taught school in the building on the site of the present Mill street school, which was known as the Hamilton district. After her marriage to Mr. Wing, in 1861, she continued to teach for a time, and became principal of the Elgin high school. She also taught in the "old brick," where the high school is now located, and in the old Baptist church school, and in the Elgin Academy. She was a very able teacher, and a woman of much executive ability and very fine educational attainments. Her management of the school room was tactful and energetic, while her opinions were often

sought and relied upon by those outside of the school room. Many of the middle-aged men and women of Elgin owe the excellence of their instruction to her conscientious discharge of her duties as a teacher. In later years, as the wife of our subject, her home influence and management were quite as marked as her school government. The boundless hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wing encircled a host of friends from all points of the compass, and it was a rare occurrence to find her without a guest. To those who frequented her home and shared her genial entertainment, her presence was almost home itself, and the friendly words of advice or encouragement which she seemed so able to give to many an unfortunate or despairing one, can never be estimated in number or fruition. Ever ready to sacrifice herself for the benefit of others, doing through tire-some exertions what many probably never realized, her multiplied years of activity were being spent, and undoubtedly her going to the burning attic the second time that fatal morning was more with the thought of rescuing something that would be a pleasure or benefit to some one than the thought of danger.

The pathetic sadness of perishing in such an act, amid the smoke and flames made in consuming her lovely home and its manifold treasures—the labors and garnering of years—adds to the intensity. She never shrank from an arduous duty because of its great exertion, and it was grand to know the firm solidity of the pillar of strength there was in her friendship, which, when once drawn out, was an ever-flowing source of proffered good, and as reliable as the round of the seasons. A devoted wife, she made home her kingdom. Faithful to her friends, no sacrifice was too great in their service. Her

duties were discharged ably, conscientiously, cheerfully. The influence of her life can never be forgotten, for it is woven into the character of our citizens and our institutions.

Mrs. Wing was a member of the Woman's Club of Elgin, and engaged in many charitable enterprises. She verified by her life the lofty ideas that she honored. Through her philanthropic principles and kindness, many a helping hand has been extended to those needing charity. Few women were more highly esteemed or had more true friends. Those who knew her in early womanhood and who sat under her instruction, retained for her a warm place in their remembrance to the last. The last few years of her life she was compelled to remain somewhat retired on account of poor health, but her wealth of intellect never gave way. A true helpmeet to her husband, her counsel and advice were often sought by him to his great and lasting good. The funeral services were held March 22, 1897, at the Universalist Church, Elgin, conducted by Rev. A. N. Alcott. Her remains were then laid to rest in the beautiful Bluff City cemetery. Through the heroic efforts of the firemen the residence was saved from total destruction and has since been rebuilt, but the light of the home had gone out.

In his political views, Mr. Wing is a Republican, and since attaining his majority has always supported the party with time and money, but has never sought political office of any kind, preferring to follow his chosen profession. He has, however, been city attorney of Elgin, and for upward of five years was treasurer of the Illinois Northern Hospital for the Insane. Outside of his profession, and in a business way, he has been a director of the First National

Bank of Elgin for several years, is a stockholder in said bank, and also in the Elgin National Bank. He owns a fine farm of one hundred eighty-five acres on the western border of the city of Elgin, and other property in various parts of the city. Commencing life for himself with scarcely a dollar, Mr. Wing has been diligent, and applying himself closely to business, he laid the foundation for future prosperity, built securely thereon, and to-day is numbered among the men who, by labor, sound judgment, business sagacity and wise forethought, have provided for the time when it may be well to lay aside at least part of his many active business cares.

---

OWEN B. WELD, who resides in a beautiful home on the corner of Crystal street and Highland avenue, Elgin, is numbered among the pioneers of 1838. He was born at Oxford, New Hampshire, October 24, 1831, and is a son of Francis and Harriet (Mann) Weld, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of New Hampshire. The Welds are of English origin, the first of the name locating in Massachusetts prior to the Revolutionary war. The Manns were of Scotch origin, and were likewise early settlers of America. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Josiah Weld, was a native of Massachusetts, while his maternal grandfather, Aaron Mann, was born in New Hampshire. The latter married Sarah Melvin, and they reared a family of five children. After her death he married Miss Ingraham, by whom he had six children. By occupation he was a farmer. His death occurred when he was about eighty years old.

In 1838 the Weld, Merrill and Mann fam-

ilies, numbering seventeen in all, including Grandfather Weld, started from their New Hampshire home, bound for the Prairie state. With the exception of that part from Buffalo to Toledo, the entire journey was made by team. They arrived in Kane county June 6, 1838, and found, as yet, an almost unbroken wilderness. The present beautiful city of Elgin contained but three or four log cabins, and they were here two years before the country was surveyed by the general government.

Francis Weld, on his arrival in Kane county, made a claim to one hundred and thirty-six acres of land a mile and a quarter west of the city limits of Elgin, and the house stands precisely in the center of the township. He there lived until his death, in 1873, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife preceded him to their heavenly home eight years, dying in 1865. They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom are now living: Owen B., our subject; Mary, wife of Dr. Briggs, of Muscatine, Iowa; Newton F. and Salem E., both of Elgin. The parents were members of the Congregational church, and were numbered among the charter members of the first Congregational church of Elgin. In his native state Francis Weld followed the occupation of a shoemaker, which he had learned in his youth, but on coming to Kane county, he became a farmer, which calling he followed with success during the remainder of his life.

Owen B. Weld, our subject, was but seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Kane county. Although sixty years have since passed he has a distinct recollection of the country as it appeared to his young eyes. The old log schoolhouse, with its slab seats and puncheon floor, is

vividly remembered, for there he secured a limited education in the subscription schools. But the farm had to be cultivated, and, being the eldest son in the family, he was early trained to hard work, and hard work it was in those days. The farm implements of the present day were then unknown. There were no riding plows, no mowing machines, no reapers, no four-horse cultivators; in fact, every implement was of the rudest kind. To do the work required one had to be up with the sun, or even before the break of day, and happy was he if he could cease from his labors when the sun went down. The prairie sod did not always readily yield to the teeth of the wooden harrow, the rows into which the corn must be dropped were very long, but the work must be done.

When about fifteen years old, on account of the ill-health of his father, young Owen had to take charge of the farm. The responsibility was great, but he was equal to the occasion, and the old farm never suffered under his management. On the death of his father he purchased the interest of the other heirs in the old homestead and it yet remains in his possession. Its limits, however, have been extended, and it now comprises seven hundred acres of as fine land as one would wish to see. The improvements have always been well maintained. Tenement houses, barns and other outbuildings have been erected as the occasion demanded, and in 1897 there were four families living on the old homestead. In addition to this farm, Mr. Weld owns three hundred acres at Pingree Grove, where a little town is springing up, and which now contains a tile factory, stores, a good schoolhouse, a handsome park and a number of cottages.

On the 11th of January, 1854, Mr. Weld



was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth M. Kelley, a daughter of John and Eliza (Mansfield) Kelley, the former born in Schenectady, and the latter in Esptirs, New York, but who moved to Kane county in pioneer days. Two daughters were born of this union—Hattie E. and Mary May. The former married Orlando Wing, and they now reside in St. James, Minnesota. They have two daughters and one son—Mary Belle, Lyla Abby and Owen Weld Wing. Mrs. Wing has lately made application for membership in the Daughters of the Revolution, both Welds and Manns being represented in the Revolutionary war. Her great-great-great-grandfather, Stanford, was also in the service. Mary May married J. Frank Page and they now reside in Chicago.

Few persons are better known in Kane county than Mr. and Mrs. Weld, and their memory of bygone days is remarkable. Both remember well the Rev. N. C. Clark, the first Congregational minister to preach in Elgin, and also the Rev. Ambrose, the first Baptist minister to break the bread of life to the citizens of that place. Mrs. Weld remembers the first marriage which occurred in the neighborhood where her parents located. In religious belief Mr. and Mrs. Weld are Universalists, having an abiding faith in the love of God and in the final holiness and happiness of all mankind. Mrs. Weld has been an active member of the Universalist Ladies Benevolent Society since its organization, and has done much toward relieving the wants of the poor and deserving of Elgin. She is also a charter and life member of the Woman's Club, of Elgin.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Weld at No. 52 North Crystal street, Elgin, into which they moved in 1882, is one of the very best

houses in the city. It is a beautiful brick mansion, elegantly furnished and located on a fine site commanding a view of the business portion of the city. It is without doubt one of the most substantial built residences in the place. Here they from time to time entertain their host of friends in a most hospitable manner. Their acquaintance is very extended and they know personally nearly all the old settlers in the county.

Politically, Mr. Weld is a Prohibitionist, and to the cause of Prohibition has given study and thought as well as time and money. The liquor traffic has always had in him one of its most steadfast foes. He is also a firm believer in bimetallism, but as a politician he is but little known as he has never been an office seeker, and has always been content to give his time and attention to his business interests. As a farmer he was a pronounced success, and while practically living retired much of his time is yet spent in looking after his farming interests, and he now raises many fine horses and cattle. While more than three-score years have passed by in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Weld they have left but a light impress upon them and by their cheerful manners they brighten the lives of those around them. Few persons are more popular wherever known.

JOHN McDONOUGH is a retired farmer residing in Hampshire, Illinois, and who for many years was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and by a life of toil succeeded in accumulating enough of this world's goods to enable him to live in ease and retirement. He was born at Machelfield, near Belfast, County Antrim, Ireland, June 1, 1826. When quite young he accompanied his parents to America, sailing from Belfast, and



landing at Montreal, Canada, being thirteen weeks on the water. The family remained at Montreal one winter, and then moved some thirty or forty miles southeast of the city, on the line dividing Canada from the state of Vermont. He there lived until the age of seventeen, when he went to the town of Bridgeport, Addison county, Vermont, where he worked on farms for three years. Hearing of the advantages that were open to the aspiring ones in the west, he determined to emigrate where land was cheap, and the opportunities were much greater for the industrious one than in the east. Accordingly, in the fall of 1848, by ox team, he went to Ogdensburg, New York, thence by boat to the mouth of the Niagara river, and by team to Buffalo, and thence to Chicago by boat. While on the lakes they encountered some severe storms, at one time being storm-bound at Manitou, and again at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From Chicago he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Burlington township, where he purchased forty acres of land on section 35, to which he added from time to time, until he had a fine farm of two hundred acres. When he purchased the place there was on it a large log cabin, and thirty acres of land had been broken. It is now a well-improved farm, with a good house, barns and other out-buildings, and all improvements were made by our subject. For some years the farm has been used for dairy purposes, and on the place are usually kept about forty head of milch cows. John McDonough, Sr., the father of our subject, was also born in County Antrim, Ireland, and was the son of James McDonough, a native of Scotland, who emigrated to Ireland, and there died. John McDonough, Sr., married Rachel Holden, who was born in Ireland, but of Scot-

tish descent, and who died in Kentucky, at the age of sixty-nine years. They were the parents of seven sons and two daughters, five of whom came west, settling in Illinois and Iowa. The father also came west in 1851, and lived with our subject for many years, but died at the home of a daughter, who was married and living in Kentucky. The survivors of the family are: Mrs. Mary Steers, living in Kentucky; Richard, residing in Ogle county, Illinois; William, in Canada; Henry, in Missouri; John, in Hampshire, Kane county; Robert lived in Iowa, and is now deceased; and Mrs. Eliza Gould, in Chicago.

The subject of this sketch was first married in Burlington township, Kane county, November 20, 1852, to Miss Louisa Hamilton, born in Ohio, and a daughter of John and Sarah Hamilton. She died March 7, 1856, leaving one son, William, who married Ella Secord, and lives in Sycamore, De Kalb county, where he is operating a creamery. They have one son, Charles. On the 15th of October, 1859, Mr. McDonough was again married, his second union being with Miss Harriet Barber, born in Canada, and a daughter of Lahira and Anna (Nichols) Barber. By this second marriage there are three children as follows: Luella, who married Ed. Cripps, by whom she has one child, Belle, and they reside in Burlington township; Herman, who married Dora Kraft, and lives in Chicago; and Estelle, who married Eugene Young, by whom she has one daughter, Vera, and they reside in the village of Hampshire.

Mrs. Harriet McDonough, died February 14, 1897. She was a woman of lovely character, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and her death was sincerely mourned not alone by the bereaved

husband and children but by many friends throughout Kane and adjoining counties. Mr. McDonough is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he takes a lively interest. In politics he is a Republican and for many years served as school director and also as road commissioner. A residence of fifty years in Kane county has made him many friends who esteem him for his many estimable traits of character.

**G**EORGE E. HAWTHORNE.—History for the most part records only the lives of those who have attained distinction in military or political life, but in this practical era it is the business man who furnishes to his neighbors and to future generations the lessons that may be followed with profit. Those who become potential forces in a community are the men who in the face of opposition and competition work their way steadily upward, conquering all obstacles and overcoming all difficulties in their path, and their own successes lend added force to the welfare and progress of the communities with which they are connected.

Mr. Hawthorne is a representative of this type. He has long been connected with the commercial interests of Elgin and is still regarded as her leading hardware merchant. He was born in Falls Village, Connecticut, December 7, 1844, his parents being Thomas and Elizabeth Hawthorne. His father was a native of England and came to the United States in early life, taking up his residence in the Nutmeg state. His wife came from the little rock-ribbed country of Wales. His death occurred in Elgin several years ago and his wife passed away in 1864. The

family came west in the '80s, locating in this city. In his political views the father was a Republican. His family numbered six children, namely: Richard J.; Lotta, wife of Joseph Britton, of Falls Village, Connecticut; George E.; Frederick K., who started for Michigan fifteen years ago and has never been heard from; Sarah, wife of Frank Conant, a resident of Denver, Colorado; and Ella, who is living in Elgin.

George E. Hawthorne was reared on a farm and assisted his father in its cultivation until seventeen years of age. His initial studies were pursued in the common schools and supplemented by an academical course. When seventeen years of age he went to Winsted, Connecticut, where he learned the tinsmith's and plumber's trades, serving a three years' apprenticeship, after which he located in Armenia, New York, where he served in the capacity of foreman of two shops for a year.

Mr. Hawthorne then came to the west in 1866, arriving in Elgin on the 14th of November. Here he accepted a position as foreman for Edson A. Kimball, with whom he continued for two and a half years, and also spent a similar period in the service of Rodgers Brothers. He then purchased the store of his employers, at the corner of State and Chicago streets, carrying on business there for about two years, when in company with F. S. Bosworth, they purchased the hardware stock of J. A. Carlisle on Chicago street, on the east side, conducting both stores through the succeeding two years, when he consolidated the two, carrying on operations on the east side. About two years later he sold out to Mr. Bosworth, and after six months when his brother R. J. Hawthorne arrived from Iowa he entered into partnership with him and embarked in

business on Grove avenue under the firm name of Hawthorne Brothers. This was in 1876. In 1879 they erected a business block on Douglass avenue above the Home Bank building, occupying the same for eleven years, when they erected the splendid business block on DuPage street, which has now been occupied by the firm for about five years. This is a double building, three stories in height, and is occupied with an extensive stock of shelf and heavy hardware, stoves, furnaces and plumbers' supplies. They employ on an average about twelve hands and have a very large and profitable business, having secured an excellent trade by reason of the honorable dealing and the fine goods which they handle.

Mr. Hawthorne, of this sketch, is also interested in a creamery in Richmond, Illinois. At one time the firm had in operation seven creameries in Illinois and Wisconsin, but have now disposed of all save the one in Richmond. A few years ago they purchased the Spurling Block, the finest business building in the county, the lower floor being used for stores, the upper floors being converted into fine offices, supplied with all modern equipments and conveniences. Mr. Hawthorne, our subject, was also director of the Home National Bank for three years. He is a man of wide resource and excellent ability in matters of business, is quick to recognize and take advantage of opportunities and whatever he plans he carried forward to successful completion along honorable lines that have won a most enviable reputation in commercial circles.

Mr. Hawthorne was married in June, 1869, to Miss Emma Gregory, a native of Elgin and a daughter of S. Gregory. She is a member of the Congregational church

and a lady of culture and refinement, who presides with gracious hospitality over their pleasant home. In his political views Mr. Hawthorne is a Republican, and though often solicited to become a candidate for official honors has steadily declined. He is a valued member of Monitor lodge, A. F. & A. M., Loyal L. Munn chapter, R. A. M., and Bethel commandery, K. T. He also belongs to the Century club and to the Black Hawk club, which has fitted up a splendid summer resort on the banks of the beautiful Lake Kosh-Konong, Wisconsin. They have there a commodious club house, hunting lodge and other buildings, and the neighborhood affords ample opportunities to the followers of both Isaak Walton and Nimrod to indulge their tastes. The members of this club are from all parts of the United States, and meet in this lovely spot to enjoy the pleasures and charms of outdoor life.

Mr. Hawthorne is pre-eminently a man of affairs, yet has never pursued his business interests to the sacrifice of the development of a well-rounded character such as results from the cultivation of other interests. During the hot summer months he puts aside all cares and enjoys a season of rest and recreation in travel or in visiting the club resort before described, or other places of interest and beauty. He is a genial, whole-souled gentleman, of kindly manner, generous disposition and honorable purpose, and his well-spent life has gained to him many friends.

JOHN MANLY ADAMS, a leading photographer of Elgin, was born September 19, 1833, at Almer, Canada, and is a son of Edward and Abigail (Padelford) Adams, natives of Oxford, England, and Massachu-



setts, respectively. During his boyhood the father crossed the Atlantic and took up his residence in Canada, where he married and continued to live until his removal to Kane county, Illinois, in 1843, locating in Elgin. Throughout life he followed the occupation of shoemaking. He died in 1877, his wife April 27, 1857; both consistent and worthy members of the Baptist church.

In the public schools of Canada John M. Adams began his education, being ten years of age when he accompanied his parents on their removal to Elgin, where he attended the high school until sixteen years old. Three years later he started out to earn his livelihood by manufacturing mattresses, at which occupation he was engaged for three or four years with fair success. For about five years following he worked at the plasterer's trade, and then very successfully engaged in the butchering business for the four years preceding the Civil war. In 1861 he began learning photography, to which art he has since devoted his time and attention, and is now one of its most able representatives in Kane county. Being one of the best photographers in Elgin, he receives a liberal patronage, and as an upright, honorable business man, he commands the respect and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact.

In October, 1851, Mr. Adams was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Johnson, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Elgin with her parents, Samuel J. Johnson and wife, natives of Pennsylvania, now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams were born two children, namely: Spencer M., a photographer; and Mattie A., now the widow of Alfred Kingsley, of Barrington, Cook county, Illinois, and a resident of Elgin. The mother of these children, who was a consistent

member of the Baptist church, dying in October, 1879, Mr. Adams was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Barbara (Duston) Saunders, a native of Canada, and widow of Charles Saunders. She holds membership in the Presbyterian church. Politically, Mr. Adams has always been a Democrat, but has never taken an active part in politics, always refusing to accept office. He is a member of the Photographers' Association of the United States, and often attends their conventions.

SPENCER M. ADAMS, the son, was born in 1852, and was reared and educated in Elgin. With his father he learned photography, and has since successfully engaged in that business. He was married in 1875 to Miss Lizzie Hobrough, a native of Canada, who came to Elgin in 1869 with her parents, Charles and Mary Ann (Barnes) Hobrough, natives of England. To Mr. and Mrs. Adams have been born two children, Mabel, and Charley M., who died at thirteen years of age. The mother and daughter are both members of the Episcopal church. Politically Mr. Adams is an independent Democrat, while fraternally he is a member of Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, A. O. U. W. He is also a member of the National Photographers' Association, usually attends all its conventions, and has taken a number of premiums. Many of the portraits in this work are copies of photographs taken by him.

HENRY WARFORD, residing on sections 3 and 4, Geneva township, is practically living a retired life. He has been a resident of Kane county since 1844, and is therefore numbered among its early settlers, men who by their industry and self-





MR. AND MRS. HENRY WARFORD.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

denial have made the county to rank among the best in the state of Illinois. He is a native of the town of Butcome, Somersetshire, England, born December 11, 1818, and is the son of William and Ann (Weeks) Warford, both of whom were natives of the same shire. His father dying when he was but four years of age, eight years afterward he went to live with an uncle, and with him came to the United States in 1832. They first located in Onondaga county, New York, where he grew to manhood and received his education in the common schools.

A young man of twenty-six years, Mr. Warford came to Illinois and located in Geneva township, Kane county, and soon afterward purchased a tract of eighty acres of unimproved prairie land, two miles west of Geneva. He at once began its improvement, erecting upon the place a small frame house, to which he later added a wing, and in due course of time had a good, productive farm. He remained on that place about twelve years, but in the meantime had purchased thirty-five acres, where he now resides, and to which he removed after leaving his original farm. He has now one hundred and fourteen acres adjoining the corporate limits of Geneva, which is a well-improved and substantial farm.

Mr. Warford was united in marriage in Wayne county, New York, September 29, 1846, to Miss Hulda A. Hoag, a native of Wayne county, New York, and a daughter of Benjamin and Anna (Smith) Hoag, pioneers of that county, where they reared their family and spent the remainder of their lives. Previous to their marriage Mrs. Warford was a successful teacher in her native county. By this union six children were born, three of whom are now living: Alice M., wife of Jonathan Farrar, of Marshall

county, Kansas; Eunice H., wife of W. B. Guild, of Wheaton, Illinois; and Kate N., wife of H. W. Hawkins, of Geneva. They lost two infant sons. One daughter, Anna D., married Charles A. Barber, and they removed to Marysville, Kansas, where she died in March, 1890.

The first presidential vote of Mr. Warford was cast for Martin Van Buren in 1840. At that time he was really a believer in Whig principles, but the action of the Whigs, with their coonskins, hard cider and log cabins, so disgusted him that he cast his ballot for Van Buren. A believer in the equality of all men, he united with the Republican party on its organization in 1856, and voted for John C. Fremont. Being a strong temperance man, and in favor of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, since 1884 he has been identified with the Prohibition party. Since locating in Kane county he has held several local positions of honor and trust, including that of assessor, which position he held for six years. A friend of education in the public schools, he served some years as a member of the school board. While serving as a delegate to various county political conventions, he has never been a politician in the ordinary sense of the term. For many years he has been a member of the Congregational church, and has served upon its official board. His wife is also a member of that church, and both take an active and commendable interest in all departments of church work.

For fifty-four long years Mr. Warford has been a resident of Kane county, and while he came here a poor man, without means, by his industry and thrift, assisted by his estimable wife, he has accumulated a fair amount of this world's goods, and is now enjoying a well-earned rest, surrounded by

many friends, who esteem him for his many noble traits of character and Christian integrity.

RUSSELL WELD 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 which have entered into his business career and crowned his efforts with prosperity. He is now the senior member of the well-known firm of Weld & Hall, who conduct a large and popular drug store on Fountain Square, Elgin, while his residence is at No. 115 College street.

Like many of the most prominent citizens of Kane county, he is from the New England states, his birth having occurred June 18, 1824, in Orford, Grafton county, New Hampshire. His parents, Albigeance and Betsy (Town) Weld, were both natives of Massachusetts, the former born in Charlton. He was a farmer by occupation, and died in Spencer, Massachusetts, in 1852, aged fifty-two years. He had served his country as a soldier in the war of 1812, and had held various local offices of honor and trust. After his death the mother married Jonas Sibley, of Spencer, who is now deceased. She died in 1893, at the advanced age of ninety-five years. In religious belief she was a Methodist, and the father of our subject also belonged to that church. Their family consisted of seven children, of whom four are now living—Russell; Phylena, widow of Thomas Dwelley, of Oakham, Massachusetts; Daniel L., of the same place; and Adaline, wife of Clinton Bradway, of Medina, Ohio.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Josiah Weld, who was born in the old

Bay state, but his parents were natives of England, and landed in Boston some time during the eighteenth century. He was a farmer, and died in 1810, at the age of forty-two years. In his family were four sons and one daughter. The maternal grandfather of our subject was also a native of Massachusetts and of English descent. His wife, Azubah Town, lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and one.

The first eighteen years of his life Russell Weld spent in his native state, acquiring his literary education in the Lester Academy and learning the shoemaker's trade, which he successfully followed for about fifteen years. In 1842 he removed with his parents to East Brookfield, Massachusetts, where he made his home for four years. He was married September 29, 1846, to Miss Content H. Porter, a daughter of George and Esther (Adams) Porter. She became an active and prominent member of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Elgin, and her death, which occurred December 12, 1884, was widely and deeply mourned.

It was in April, 1869, that Mr. Weld removed to Elgin, where he has since made his home. In company with his cousin, Salem E., a native of this city, he opened a drug store, which they carried on until 1891, when the cousin sold his interest to Edwin Hall, and the firm became Weld & Hall. They do a large and profitable business, handling all kinds of drugs, wall-paper, glass, paints, oils, etc. Although not a member of the Methodist church, Mr. Weld attends its services, and is now serving as trustee of the church. Politically he is a strong Republican. Always courteous, kindly and affable, those who know him personally have for him warm regard, and he is now one of the most popular and in-



fluent business men of Elgin. He gives his support to all measures which he believes calculated to advance the general welfare, and is therefore justly numbered among the most public-spirited and progressive citizens of the place.

**J**OSEPH RICHARD HOLMES; chief of the Elgin water works, who for many years has filled this position to the entire satisfaction of the public, was born in Lincolnshire, England, at the town of Sleaford, November 12, 1851, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Lynton) Holmes, also natives of Lincolnshire. The father was a saddler by trade and followed that business as a life-work. He died when our subject was about five years of age, after which his widow married Charles Harris, who is also now deceased. By her first marriage the mother of our subject had two sons, Joseph and John, the latter now living in Lincolnshire, England, and by her second marriage had five children: Robert, Charles and Mary, wife of Thomas Best; Martha and Elizabeth.

When about six years old Mr. Holmes came to America with his widowed mother, the family living in Chicago until 1864, when they removed to Aurora and thence to Elgin. Our subject attended the common schools of Chicago and Aurora, and when a youth of fifteen began to learn the machinist's trade in the shops of Carter & Pinney, of the latter city. He applied himself diligently to the mastery of this business and became an expert in this line. Locating in Elgin in 1870, he entered the employ of Grownberg, Bearman & Company, in whose service he remained for five years, when he began work as an engineer. After a time

he went from Elgin to Chicago, where he was engaged on the construction of a factory, and in 1888 he returned to Elgin, where he has since occupied the responsible position of engineer of the city water works. The plant was constructed that year at a cost of one hundred and seventy thousand dollars, the stand pipe has a capacity of over five hundred thousand gallons while the Holly engines have a capacity of six million gallons and two Worthington engines have a capacity of a million and a half gallons. The plant is located at the foot of Grant avenue and is one of the most complete in the state. It is supplied with a splendid filtering system and the water furnished to Elgin's people is therefore clear and pure as crystal. From the beginning Mr. Holmes has served as engineer and no more capable or trustworthy man could be secured for the position. His thorough understanding of the workings of the most intricate machinery, his unquestioned reliability and his conscientious fidelity to duty make him one of the most valued representatives of the public service of Elgin.

Mr. Holmes was married in Dubuque, Iowa, in July, 1873, to Johanna Pabst, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Pabst, the former living in Elgin, while the latter is deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Holmes are the parents of six children: Hannah, Gertrude, Edward, Jessie, Katie and Joseph. Gertrude and Edward are now deceased, but the others are still at home. The family is an interesting one, in which the parents take a natural pride, and to their children they are giving good educational advantages so that they may become useful men and women. Mrs. Holmes is a member of the Catholic church and Mr. Holmes belongs to the Baptist church. His last presidential

vote was cast for Major McKinley, but in politics he is independent. He belongs to the N. A. S. E., No. 49, is now serving as one of its trustees and has filled other offices. He is a man of sterling worth, a loyal son of his adopted land, and in the friendship of many of Elgin's best citizens he shares.

**W**INFIELD S. GAMBLE, a well-known civil engineer residing in Elgin, was born in Evanston, Illinois, July 25, 1861, and is a worthy representative of an honored and distinguished family, his parents being General William and Sophia Fredreka (Steingrandt) Gamble. The father was born January 1, 1818, in county Farnagh, Ireland, and was the oldest of four brothers, the others being James, David and Osborne, who all died in Chicago, where they made their home. The paternal grandfather of our subject, who also bore the name of William, was a native of Ireland, and at an early day came with his family to the United States.

In his native land General Gamble was educated as a civil engineer, and was in the queen's service before his emigration to the new world. In 1839, when twenty-one years of age, he crossed the Atlantic, and for five years after his arrival served in the regular army as a member of the First New York Dragoons, stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. On leaving the army he located in Chicago, being in the government service at old Fort Dearborn until his removal to Evanston in 1859. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted in the Union service and was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, under Colonel Farnsworth. The regiment came into existence in this way: In August, 1861,

General Farnsworth proceeded to Washington, District of Columbia, visited President Lincoln and Secretary Cameron, and from the latter obtained an order to organize the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. The service at that time was greatly in need of more cavalry, and General Farnsworth was, by his extensive acquaintance, great ability and popularity well qualified for this work. He returned to St. Charles, Illinois, which he made his temporary headquarters, issued a call for twelve hundred men, and in two weeks the regiment was ready for duty. On the 18th of September, 1861, it was mustered into service and on October 14 started for Washington, arriving there two days later. With its twelve hundred stalwart men stepping to the tap of the drum and marching through the streets of Washington it created a great sensation.

When Colonel Farnsworth was promoted, Mr. Gamble became its colonel. With the Army of the Potomac he participated in many important engagements, and at the battle of Malvern Hill was wounded in the side by a minie ball. After two months spent at home he was able to rejoin his command though the wound was a very serious one, breaking two ribs and the ball lodging in his shoulder blade. He was commissioned brigadier-general September 25, 1865, his command being composed of the Eighth and Twelfth Illinois, the Twelfth New York, and also a part of an Indiana regiment and a part of a Pennsylvania regiment. With his command he took part in all of the important campaigns of the army of the Potomac until the surrender at Appomattox, serving with distinguished honor and bravery. He was one of the generals on duty at President Lincoln's funeral. After the Eighth Illinois Cavalry was mus-

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF IL. 11-15.



WINFIELD S. GAMBLE.





GEN. WILLIAM GAMBLE.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

tered out, he was on duty at Jefferson Barracks for about a year, being mustered out March 13, 1866, and July 28, 1866, he was mustered into the regular army as colonel of the Eighth United States Cavalry, which was ordered to California by way of the Isthmus. While waiting for transportation on the Isthmus the cholera broke out, and Colonel Gamble, with many of his troops, died from that dread disease December 20, 1866, being buried at Virgin's Hill, Nicaragua. He was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and was a warm friend of President Lincoln. With the First Methodist Episcopal church of Evanston he held membership, and was a true Christian gentleman, as well as a loyal, patriotic and devoted citizen of his adopted country.

The mother of our subject was born in Hanover, Germany, January 31, 1821, a daughter of George H. Steingrandt, who was a member of the army of that country. In 1838 the family emigrated to America and located in Alton, Illinois, where they continued to live until the death of Mrs. Steingrandt in 1867. After that her husband made a number of trips to Germany, and finally died in Hanover about 1872. In their family were five children, three of whom are still living, namely: Louis, a resident of California; Henry, of Springfield, Missouri; and Mrs. Louise Steinberg, of St. Louis. Mrs. Gamble was a Lutheran in religious faith. She died June 11, 1895, in St. Louis.

To General Gamble and wife were born the following children: Louise died in infancy; Louise D. is now the wife of George W. Huntoon, of Evanston. George H., now a resident of California, was a member of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry during the Civil war, and was confined for eighteen

months in Libby prison. After the war he was commissioned captain in the regular army, and was stationed at Fort Concho, Texas, later building Fort Stockton, where he was stationed for some time. William M., now in the grocery business in Pueblo, Colorado, was also one of the boys in blue, enlisting at the age of fifteen in the One Hundred Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Mary E. is a resident of St. Louis. Henry E. is now in Berlin, Germany. Emma is the wife of George H. Steinberg, of St. Louis. Victor H. L., city engineer of Rensselaer, Indiana. Winfield S. is the youngest now living. Besides Louise, those deceased are Elizabeth, Osborne, an infant and Josephine.

Reared in Evanston, Illinois, Winfield S. Gamble attended the common schools, and later was a student in the Northwestern University at that place. In the summer of 1879 he began life as a civil engineer in Dakota, in the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, and was subsequently in Iowa with the same road until December, 1880. The following January he went to Indiana where he built what was then called the Chicago & Indianapolis Air Line, now the Chicago, Louisville & Indianapolis railroad, being division engineer there. On the 1st of May, 1882, he entered the service of the Chicago & Great Southern railroad, remaining with them one year, and the following year was with the Northern Pacific railroad. He was next with the Grand Trunk, and in 1885 again went to Dakota in the employ of the Northwestern. For two years he was with the Lake Erie & Western railroad, having his headquarters at Bloomington, and was then in the government service on the drainage canal in 1887-8.

In June, 1889, Mr. Gamble came to Elgin, where for six years he served as city engineer, during which time he built the entire system of city railroads extending to Geneva, and also built the south annex to the Insane Asylum, which is regarded as the cheapest and best constructed building in the state, having enough money left out of the appropriation to furnish it. He ranks among the most able representatives of his profession in the state, and does an extensive and profitable business.

Politically Mr. Gamble is identified with the Republican party, and socially he affiliates with Gen. William F. Lynch camp, S. V. He is a man of fine address, of genial nature and winning manners and is popular with all who know him.

**G**EORGE P. HAGEN, the leading florist of Elgin, was born on the north side in Chicago, February 1, 1860, a son of George and Elizabeth (Shupp) Hagen. His maternal grandfather, Lewis Shupp, located in Chicago during the '50s, and throughout the remainder of his life engaged in gardening there. Our subject's father was a native of Germany, and on coming to the United States, in 1854, took up his residence in Chicago, where he and his wife still continue to live. By trade he is a carpenter, in politics is a Republican, and in religious belief is a Catholic. In the family were eight children, namely: Maggie, now the wife of Frederick Klingel, of Chicago; George P., of this sketch; August; John; Lizzie, wife of George Shall, of Chicago; Bertha, wife of Amiel Nelson, a florist of Chicago; Otto; and Franklin. With the exception of our subject, all live in Chicago.

In the public schools of Chicago George

P. Hagen acquired his education, and began his business career with W. D. Allen, a florist of that city, with whom he remained for about eight years. Subsequently he was with a Mr. Hanson at Rose Hill for two years and a half, after which he was in the employ of R. J. Donovan, of Rose Hill, for nine years. The following three years he engaged in market gardening on his own account, but during the World's Fair garden products were very low, and the business did not prove profitable. Selling out in the fall of 1893, he came to Elgin, where for three years and eight months he was employed as gardener and florist by the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, and on resigning that position, he leased property at No. 311 North Spring street, where he established his present floral gardens. His greenhouses are filled with a large variety of flowers both summer and winter, but he makes a specialty of the culture of roses and carnations, of which he has a very choice collection. His early training ably fitted him for the business, and he has succeeded in building up a large and profitable trade in Elgin and other places. The bright and sweet things of life have a great attraction for him, and he has that love for his business without which there is no success.

In Chicago Mr. Hagen was married February 17, 1884, to Miss Bertha Ebert, daughter of Frederick and Christine (Strauss) Ebert, who are still residents of that city. Mrs. Hagen was born in Strausburg, Germany, and was brought by her parents to this country. Our subject and his wife have four interesting children: Minnie, Ella, George P. and Myrtle.

The Democratic party finds in Mr. Hagen a staunch supporter, and in the Lutheran church he holds membership. Socially he



is a member of the Royal League of Elgin, and has the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

JOHN D. VOLTZ, one of the most efficient telegraph operators on the line of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, having charge of the station at South Elgin, is a native of Baltimore county, Maryland, his birth occurring at the family homestead on the Reistertown road, a few miles from Baltimore City, November 13, 1837. His father, Philip Voltz, was a native of Alsace-Lorraine, born in 1791, and was a soldier under the great Napoleon, being one of the few survivors of the disastrous campaign against Moscow. On the return of the Emperor from Elba he again took up arms and remained with him until the fatal battle of Waterloo. In 1818 Mr. Voltz came to America, locating in Baltimore, where he soon engaged in business as a market gardener, although he was a baker by trade, but which he never followed after his arrival in the United States. He married Miss Eliza Hurley, of Baltimore county, and died in 1854, at the age of sixty-three years.

John D. Voltz, of this review, pursued his education in the school at the corner of Green and Fayette streets, Baltimore, until the age of ten years, when he laid aside his text books to learn the more difficult lessons of practical business life. The first task assigned him consisted of the duties of messenger boy in the office of J. D. Pratt, who conducted a commercial agency. After six months he secured a position with the National Telegraph Company, working for a short time as messenger boy and then learning telegraphy. Since that time he has

made the business his life work, and has continually advanced in harmony with the improvements which have attended the art. When he entered upon this work the telegraph lines of the country were owned by four or five hundred small companies, but gradually they have been absorbed by two or three large companies, making a more perfect system.

When Mr. Voltz had attained considerable proficiency, he was given a place in the government offices in Washington, District of Columbia, and thence went to Frederick City, Maryland, after which he was transferred to Station No. 4 on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, followed service at the following places, successively: Alimont Station, Rolesburg, Cheat River Valley, Smithton, Parkersburg, West Virginia, Sandoval and East St. Louis, Illinois. Severing his connection with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company about 1859 he went to the south, accepting a position at Lynchburg, after which he was stationed at Knoxville, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; Augusta, Georgia, and Columbia, South Carolina, where he was located at the outbreak of the Civil war. At that time he became attached to the Army of the Cumberland and served until the close of hostilities under Colonel J. C. Van Duser.

When the war was over Mr. Voltz secured a position in Nashville as agent for the Nashville & Northwestern Railroad Company, thence went to Huntington, Tennessee, and later entered the employ of the Louisville & Nashville road, at Bowling Green, Kentucky. Later, at Clarksville, Tennessee, he was employed as bill clerk and afterward as agent until he was transferred to Nashville, Tennessee, where he remained as agent until 1880, when he went

to St. Louis. In 1883 he went to Chicago and entering the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company, was stationed as their agent at Clintonville, Elgin township. He has since been in the employ of that road, and is one of the most trusted and faithful representatives. His fidelity to duty and uniform courtesy to the patrons of the road has made him very popular, and he has gained a large circle of friends.

Mr. Voltz was united in marriage in South Elgin to Miss Viola F. Gulick, a native of Kane county, who died December 14, 1897. She was a daughter of Abraham and Matilda (Vastine) Gulick. Her father, born in Rush township, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1820, died November 26, 1894. He followed blacksmithing at Liberty Pole, Pennsylvania, and after his removal to Kane county, Illinois, purchased a large farm in Elgin township, which he successfully conducted. He was an enterprising, progressive business man and accumulated valuable farming land and other property. His parents were Charles and Catharine (Boone) Gulick. His wife, Mrs. Matilda Gulick, was also a native of Rush township, Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Louis and Martha (Boone) Vastine, the latter a daughter of Henry Boone, a son of the noted Kentucky pioneer, Daniel Boone. To Mr. and Mrs. Voltz were born three children: Jay DeWitt, Florence E. and Aletia M., who are yet with their father. Mr. Voltz is a valued member of several societies, is clerk of Rustic camp, No. 548, M. W. A., and belongs to Elgin lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M. and the Telegraphers Mutual Association. He attends the Methodist Episcopal church, and is one of the valued and esteemed residents of his adopted county,

whose well spent life commends him to the confidence and good will of all with whom he comes in contact.

ROBERT STRINGER, who resides on section 20, Elgin township, is a pioneer of 1844. He was born in Yorkshire, England, near the city of York, December 15, 1816, and is the son of Richard and Hannah (Garbutt) Stringer. In the spring of 1819 the family came to America, sailing from Hull in May of that year, and landing in Quebec, Canada, in the July following, being ten weeks and three days en route. From Quebec they went to Sharrington, near Montreal. The father was a native of Yorkshire, England, born in 1766, and died in Canada in 1822. He was a small farmer in his native country, but on locating in Canada purchased a farm of one hundred and eighty acres. His death was probably hastened from the fact of losing money in saving his eldest son from the press gang, that tried to press him again into the service after having once served on a man-of-war.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Hannah Stringer took charge of the whole farm. She was a woman of strong mind and force of character and of great executive ability. She reared a large family and gave each of her children as good educational advantages as the country afforded, inculcating principles that made all of them good citizens. She died at the home of our subject when ninety-five years of age, being strong in mind and body until the end. To Richard and Hannah Stringer were born eight children, as follows: William, who moved to Otsego county, New York, and located in Cherry Valley; Richard, who lost

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



ROBERT STRINGER,





MRS. ROBERT STRINGER.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

his sight by premature explosion, while working for the government on Rideau canal, for which he received a pension during life; Jane, who married John Burton and died in Kane county; Ellice, who married Arthur Allison, who settled in Kane county; George, whose sketch appears elsewhere in the work; William, who died in Cherry Valley, New York; Mark, who settled in Plato township; Robert, our subject; and John, who died in Elgin township.

Robert Stringer was but three years old when he came with his parents to Canada, where he grew to manhood and when old enough assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. He attended the public schools of Sharrington for a time, but obtained the greater part of his education at home, studying with the aid of his blind brother. The products of the farm were marketed at Montreal. Our subject would usually start at night with his loaded wagon, reaching La Prairie in the morning, and there taking the ferry nine miles to Montreal. The return trip was made at night, and after all it was found there was little pay for hard work. One by one his brothers came to the states, the last one with the exception of his blind brother, coming in 1844. Our subject remained with his mother working the farm, which, in 1837, she divided, giving him ninety acres, on which he erected a dwelling house near that of his mother.

In 1843 his mother came to Illinois to visit her sons, and liking the country, she wrote to her son Mark to sell out and come to Illinois. This he did in the spring of 1844, and on his arrival purchased one hundred and sixty acres. The deed for the latter, signed by President James K. Polk, was not received by him until 1850, and the old parchment deed is yet in his possession.

Part of this land he has sold, and he now owns two hundred and thirty acres, all but a very few acres lying in section 20, Elgin township. Twenty-five acres of unusually fine timber lies in Plato township. In the early days he raised winter wheat, until the climate became unfavorable. Later he raised stock, and finally it was made a dairy farm. In 1878, he retired from active farming, renting the farm to his son, reserving a part of the house to which he has built an addition.

On the 9th of November, 1841, while yet residing in Canada, Mr. Stringer was united in marriage with Miss Martha Dibb, a native of Yorkshire, England, born June 23, 1823. Her father, William Dibb, who was a farmer by occupation, located in Canada, in 1821. He married Mary Mitchell, a daughter of Richard and Mary (Johnson) Mitchell. He died at the age of seventy-five years, while his wife survived him many years, dying when ninety-five years old. To our subject and wife six children were born, as follows: Margaret, widow of Leman A. Wood, now resides at Lake Crystal, Minnesota; Mary, wife of Thomas D. Cookman, of Mason City, Iowa; Alfred H., married Alice Baker, in Boise City, Idaho, where he died; Clara Emily died at the age of two years; Edwin, who leased his father's farm July 4, 1878, married Annie Dadswell, a daughter of Henry Dadswell, by whom he has three children, Alvin H., Ellice, and Marion; and Clara Alice, wife of Albert Smith, of Elgin. All of these children are well provided in life.

While residing in Canada, Mr. Stringer served in the Royalist troops during the Canadian rebellion, in 1837-8, incited by Papineau, and sometimes called by his name. The only battle in which he was

engaged was that of Odeltown. Since coming to Kane county, he has seen wonderful changes in the country. Indians were occasionally seen for some years after his arrival, the prairies were all open and cattle ranged at will. He is one of the last left of the early settlers, a grand old man, universally honored, his long, upright life being a splendid example to the rising generation. In national and state elections, he votes the Democratic ticket but in local elections votes for the man, regardless of politics. During his early years he was a member of the Episcopal church, but of late attends the Methodist church.

**G**EORGE W. COOK, who conducts a bakery and restaurant in the village of Hampshire, is a well-known citizen of northern Kane county. He was born on section 31, Hampshire township, January 20, 1848, and was reared on the farm and attended the district school until the age of nineteen. When twenty years of age he received wages for his time and worked two years for his father. He then married and rented his father's farm for three years, after which he moved to the village of Hampshire and went into the business of well-digging and boring, and also in the sale of windmills. His dealings were quite extensive over three or four counties. He continued in that business for some years with gratifying success. In 1894 he bought a bakery and restaurant in the village of Hampshire, built a large brick store, 25 x 64 feet, two stories in height, and has an extensive trade in bakery goods, fancy groceries and confectionery, with fresh fruits in season.

Burnham Cook, the father of our sub-

ject, was born in Norwich, Connecticut, in 1809, and died in Hampshire township, Kane county, in 1871. By trade he was a molder, although he followed farming during the greater part of his life. Early in the '40s he left his eastern home and moved to Chicago, where he worked for some years, and then came to Hampshire township, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 31. He married Lucy Ann Lamphere, who was also born in Norwich, Connecticut, and who lived to be fifty-five years old. They were the parents of six children, of whom four are living, as follows: Timothy P., residing in California; Lucy Ann married William H. Pease, and they reside in Geneva, Illinois; William L., living in the village of Hampshire; and George W., our subject.

George W. Cook was united in marriage with Julia A. Gage, who was born in Hampshire township, and a daughter of Cyril and Julia A. (Fields) Gage, the latter born in Saybrook township, Ashtabula county, Ohio, and a daughter of Havilah and Hannah (Haywood) Fields. Cyril Gage was the son of Solomon Gage, a native of New Hampshire, who married Miriam Gurnsey, a daughter of Cyril Gurnsey. Of the eight children of Cyril and Julia A. Gage, Mrs. Cook is the first born. To George W. Cook and wife eight children have been born, six of whom are living, as follows: Burton C., who married Clara Amic; Minnie, deceased; Alverta, Lucy, George W., Jr., Earl, Edward and Marie.

In politics Mr. Cook is a Republican. For some years he served as school director and as a member of the village board of trustees two terms. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Maccabees and the Home



Forum. In the latter body his wife is also a member. As a business man, Mr. Cook is honest and upright, and his genial disposition makes him deservedly popular.

ROBERT S. EGAN, junior member of the law firm of Irwin & Egan, whose office is in the Cook Block, Elgin, was born in Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois, May 10, 1857, and is a son of William and Bridget (Sanders) Egan, who were natives of County Kilkenny, Ireland, and were the parents of seven children, as follows: Margaret, wife of William Tobin, of Rutland, Illinois; Alice, of Elgin; Mary, wife of Joseph King, of Elgin; Elizabeth, wife of Patrick Keefe, of Sycamore, Illinois; Robert S., our subject; Julia, wife of C. F. Irwin, of Elgin; and Anna, also of Elgin. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to America about 1848, locating at St. Charles, Illinois, where he remained one year. He then removed to Sycamore, where he engaged in farming for a few years, after which he returned to Kane county, dying here in 1879, at the age of about sixty-eight years. His wife survived him until 1893, departing this life at the age of seventy-one. Both were devout members of the Catholic church.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was Patrick Egan, a substantial farmer in Ireland, where he died at an advanced age. His father also died in Ireland, at the extreme old age of one hundred five years. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Robert Sanders, was also born in Ireland and was by occupation a farmer. He lived to the age of four score years.

Robert S. Egan, our subject, was four years of age when his parents returned to Kane county, where he has since continued

to reside. Until seventeen years of age he attended the country schools, and then took a two years' course at the Elgin Academy. For five years he taught schools, while at the same time he engaged in reading law. He began the study of law with Judge Henry B. Willis, who was formerly his school teacher. In March, 1882, he was admitted to the bar and at once opened an office in Elgin, where he engaged in practice alone for one year. He then formed a partnership with C. F. Irwin, which has continued since, the firm enjoying a large practice which extends into adjoining counties.

On the 22nd of September, 1886, Mr. Egan married Miss Laura A. Russell, daughter of Ira N. and Charlotte (Sherbourne) Russell, of Plato township, Kane county. They reside in a beautiful home at the corner of South and Jackson streets, Elgin.

Politically, Mr. Egan is a Democrat, with which party he has acted since attaining his majority, and he is now president of the Elgin Democratic Club. Possessed of good executive ability and being a fluent speaker, he has been enabled to do much for his party's cause in Elgin and Kane county. He has always been numbered among its most active workers, and in addition to his effective work on the platform, he has served as a delegate to the different state, district and county conventions. In 1883 he was elected city attorney of Elgin and served two years. Success has attended him in financial as well as legal affairs, and in addition to considerable real estate in Elgin, he is the owner of an excellent farm of one hundred sixty acres in Rutland township. He is also a stockholder in the Elgin National Bank, and serves as its attorney. Although comparatively young in the practice of law, Mr. Egan has already won an en-

viable reputation at the bar, having met with a very flattering success in the trial of cases. As a citizen he stands equally well, holding the confidence and respect of the people.

**D**R. SALEM E. WELD, senior member of the firm of Weld & Phillips, real estate dealers and insurance agents, located in the Home Bank building, Elgin, is a well known citizen, and a native of Kane county, born in Elgin township, just west of the city of that name, August 3, 1841. His parents, Francis and Harriet (Mann) Weld, were numbered among the pioneers of 1838, arriving here two years before the government survey was made, taking up a claim which was the farm on which our subject was born. (For further account of Francis Weld see sketch of Owen B. Weld, on another page of this work.)

Salem E. Weld was reared on his father's farm and attended the public and district schools of the neighborhood, receiving a good practical education. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-one years of age, and from the time when he was old enough to drop corn or follow a plow did his share in the farm work. About 1860 he commenced the study of medicine in the office of Drs. A. L. Clark & A. Turner, and continued to read under their instruction until 1862.

The war for the union had now been in progress about one year. Young men were daily enlisting and the call was issued for more volunteers. Having been in preparation for some years, the south was in better shape for service than the north, and up to that time had been successful in the greater number of engagements. Every defeat made the northern men more determined,

and the response to the calls of the present were quickly made. Our subject could not longer remain at home while his associates, the young men with whom he was reared, were daily going to the front. Accordingly, August 12, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under command of Col. John Van Arman. This regiment has a record for bravery and active service second to none. In the three years in which it was engaged it was in over one hundred battles and skirmishes. It was in the siege of Vicksburg, the battles of Chattanooga, Arkansas Post, the Atlanta campaign, and the march to the sea, also the march through the Carolinas, with the battles of Goldsboro, Columbia and others.

During the last two years of his service Dr. Weld had charge of the field hospital of the Second Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps as hospital steward, and had the credit of having the best hospital in the corps. He was offered the captaincy of his company, but on account of his profession preferred to stay with the hospital. The experience there gained has been of inestimable service to him since that time.

After the war Dr. Weld returned to Elgin, completed his medical studies and graduated from the Eclectic Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio, and began practice at St. Charles, Illinois, where he remained two years. He then returned to Elgin and opened a drug store in partnership with his cousin Russell, and for twenty-three years successfully engaged in that business. Selling his interest to Edwin Hall, he engaged in the real estate and insurance business. In 1896 he took into partnership H. W. Phillips, since which time the business has been conducted under the firm name of

Weld & Phillips. Its success has been all that could have been anticipated.

On the 14th of May, 1885, Dr. Weld was united in marriage with Miss M. Elizabeth Hoag, daughter of James and Mary A. (Branford) Hoag. Mrs. Weld is a native of St. Charles, Illinois. While having no children of their own, they have one adopted daughter, Mildred. Dr. and Mrs. Weld are Christian Scientists, and in the teachings of that people have the utmost faith, believing them to conform not only to the scriptures but to common sense and the science of life.

Fraternally Dr. Weld is a Mason, a member of Elgin lodge, No. 117, F. & A. M.; L. L. Munn chapter, No. 96, R. A. M.; Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T. Politically, he is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since becoming a voter. His first presidential vote was cast for U. S. Grant. Office holding has for him no special charm, but he served as coroner one term, from 1868. In 1872 he was elected alderman from the Fourth ward and served one term, and was library director twelve years.

Dr. and Mrs. Weld reside in a beautiful home, at No. 10 Hamilton avenue, Elgin, and there take pleasure in receiving their many friends. The Doctor represents one of the oldest families in Elgin, and, with the exception of the two years spent at St. Charles, has here made his home for fifty-six years. In the progress and development of the place he has borne no inconsiderable part, and is yet actively identified with its business interests. He has a large acquaintance throughout the county, and by all he is held in the highest esteem. His ancestry is of the best and most progressive people, those who have left their impress

upon the history of the country. Samuel Morey, a granduncle, was the first man who ever ran a steamboat in the United States.

EUGENIO W. K. CORNELL, manager of the Elgin Packing Company, Elgin, Illinois, has been a resident of Kane county for more than half a century. He is a native of New York, born in Galway, Saratoga county, May 10, 1823, and is the son of Asa and Clarinda (Smith) Cornell, the former a native of Cheshire, Massachusetts, and the latter of New York. By occupation the father was a farmer, following that vocation during his entire life. A man of deep religious conviction, he united with the Baptist church at an early age, and for some years served as deacon in his church. His death occurred at Albion, New York, in 1854, while his good wife survived him fifteen years, departing this life in 1869, at Ionia, Michigan, at the residence of her daughter. She was also a member of the Baptist church, an exemplary Christian woman, one whose delight was in doing good and making others happy.

The Cornells are of Welsh ancestry, the first of the name coming to America at an early period in the country's history. Joseph Cornell, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Rhode Island, a minister of the gospel in the Baptist church. His godly example seems to have had a remarkable effect upon the family, nearly all of whom early in life entered the service of the Master as members of that church. Ebenezer Smith, the maternal grandfather, was a farmer, and was born in New York.

The subject of this sketch was reared upon his farther's farm in Saratoga county,



New York, and after attending school for a time in the neighborhood of his home, entered Galway Academy, where he pursued the prescribed course and was graduated when but fifteen years old. He then commenced teaching and for five years followed that profession at Saratoga Springs, New York. At Schenectady, New York, he studied dentistry and there commenced practice. However, he did not long remain at that place as he thought he could find a more favorable locality in the rapidly growing west.

Before leaving his native state, Mr. Cornell resolved upon marriage, and accordingly on the 24th of January, 1843, he married Miss Matilda C. Padelford, a native of New York, and daughter of Sedate and Margaret (Barney) Padelford, both of whom were also natives of that state. By this union seven children were born: Anna Mary, who married B. C. Wilkins and died in 1864; Eudora Bell, who died in infancy; Clara C., wife of S. J. Gifford, of Elgin; Luella W., wife of William T. Wait, of Elgin; Fred A., who married Jennie Rice and now resides in San Francisco, California; Charles Walter, who first married Kittie Brown, and after her decease married Hattie B. Kneeland, now residing at Elgin; and Frank B., who married Emma Butler, of Elgin.

One year after his marriage, Mr. Cornell removed to Ionia, Michigan, where he followed his profession two years, and then came to Elgin, being the first dentist to locate in the city. For four years he engaged in active practice, visiting at more or less regular intervals the towns of Aurora, St. Charles, Woodstock and other places. He then sold out his practice and in company with S. D. Wilder and Finla L. Mc-

Clure, engaged in the dry goods trade under the firm name of Cornell, McClure & Company. This relation was continued until 1862, when he disposed of his interest in the business and went onto a farm, which he operated two seasons. In 1865 he returned to the city and formed a partnership with W. T. Wait and F. A. Cornell in the furniture business. In this line he continued with good success for fourteen years.

In 1879 Mr. Cornell was offered the position of assistant manager of the Elgin Packing Company, which was established and incorporated some ten years prior to this time, and which to-day has a national reputation, its canned goods, consisting of sweet corn, pumpkins, baked beans and lima beans, finding a ready sale in many of the leading cities of the country. The standard of the goods is always kept at No. 1. For ten years Mr. Cornell served as an assistant manager, since which time he has been general manager, and under his supervision much of the credit for the success of the company is due. The vegetables and other products used by this concern are raised in the vicinity of Elgin, and during the year several hundred people find employment in connection with the business. They have facilities for making all the cans used in packing their various brands and the factory continues work throughout the year. An average of over one million cases of goods are put up annually.

In early life Mr. Cornell voted with the Democratic party, but cast his last presidential vote for its candidate in 1852, when he voted for Franklin Pierce. By nature and training he espoused the cause of liberty, believing in the declaration of independence where it proclaims that all men are created equal. He therefore naturally



attached himself to the Republican party on its formation in 1854, and voted for its presidential candidate in 1856, the great pathfinder, John C. Fremont. From that time to the present he has advocated the principles of that party. While residing in Ionia, Michigan, he was appointed and served as postmaster, and soon after coming to Kane county was elected school inspector. This was before the office of county superintendent of schools was created, and the inspector served as examiner of teachers for his district. He has held other local offices, and it goes without saying that every duty undertaken was faithfully discharged.

When eighteen years of age Mr. Cornell gave himself to the Lord and united with the Baptist church, that church with which the family have been connected as far back as its history can be traced. The First Baptist church of Elgin was organized some eight years prior to his arrival here, but on making this his home he placed his membership therein, and for fifty-two years has been one of its leading and most influential members. Of those composing the body at the time of his coming, only two now remain. Some have moved to other points, but the greater number have passed to their reward. For many years he has been one of its trustees, and for a long time served as superintendent of its Sunday-school. The church to him has indeed been a means of grace. His love for it has been strengthened as the years have passed by. It is to him meat and drink. For it he has ever been willing to make sacrifices of time and means, and seldom is his place vacant at its regular services. No other organization has ever been able to draw him away, and in none other has he ever had a place, save for a time with the Good Templars, where

he hoped his influence might be useful in behalf of the temperance cause. Mrs. Cornell is also a member of the same church, and for it has the same love that characterizes her husband.

For more than fifty-five years Mr. and Mrs. Cornell have traveled life's journey together, happy in each other's love. While their hair has whitened, while they may not have that lightness of step which was theirs when they stood at the altar and took the vows of husband and wife, their hearts are light, and they have the assurance that they have the love and respect of their family and many friends, not alone in Elgin, but throughout Kane county.

---

CHARLES STERNBERG is a representative of that race who have done much to advance the interests of their adopted country, but who always have in their hearts a strong love for the fatherland. He was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, October 5, 1830, and there grew to manhood, spending the greater part of his youth on a farm. His educational advantages were limited, and he therefore is almost wholly self-educated, especially in the English language, which he acquired after coming to this country. After reaching the age of eighteen years he engaged at farm work at from twenty to twenty-five dollars per year, until his emigration to the United States. In 1858, he bade farewell to home and friends and set sail for the United States, landing in this country on the eighteenth of July. Coming direct to Dundee, Kane county, he worked here by the day at anything he could find to do. In the fall of that year he rented a farm in McHenry county, and there resided for five

years. In 1864 he made his first purchase of land, securing a farm of eighty acres at three thousand dollars, securing time on the greater part of its purchase price. There was a fair house and some improvements on the place, but Mr. Sternberg went to work and in due time had one of the finest farms in the township. He subsequently purchased fifty-five acres, which made him a valuable farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres.

John Sternberg, the father of our subject, was also a native of Germany and there married Mary Kracht, a Genoa lady. He came to this country with his son Charles, located in Dundee township, Kane county, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying at the age of seventy-four years. His wife survived him some years and died when eighty-six years old. They were the parents of seven children as follows: Sophia, who married John Schroeder and moved with her husband to Michigan and there died; Fred, a substantial farmer of Kane county, now living a retired life in Dundee; Charles, of this review; Christopher, who was a farmer of Cook county, but is now deceased; Christine, wife of William Lempke, a retired farmer of Dundee; Henry, who died in Dundee; and John, who died in Germany a lad of fourteen years.

Charles Sternberg, our subject, was united in marriage, at Dundee, January 27, 1861, with Miss Frederika Schroeder also a native of Germany and born in the same state. Her father, Franz Schroeder, who located in Kane county, spent the last years of his life with his children, dying here in 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Sternberg have six living children—Augusta, wife of John Fierke, residing in Dundee; Fred, who is

married and residing on the old homestead; John, a business man of Elgin, also married; Mary, residing at home; Henry, married and engaged in business in Dundee; and Emma, at home. Three of the children died in early childhood.

In the fall of 1886, Mr. Sternberg purchased a lot on the corner of First and South streets, where he erected a large and substantial dwelling, and where he has since lived a retired life. Politically he is a good Republican, with which party he has affiliated since becoming a naturalized citizen. He has been a resident of Kane county for forty years and is a well-known citizen, one who is esteemed for his many excellent traits of character. Commencing life here but with little means, he has accumulated sufficient to enable him to live practically a retired life.

**SIDNEY HEATH**, who for some years lived retired in his pleasant home at No. 233 Dundee avenue, Elgin, was numbered among the honored pioneers of Kane county, who located here when this locality was a wild and unimproved region. In the work of development he took an active part in the 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. Heath was born in West Hartford, Connecticut, January 22, 1812, and was a son of Richard Adams and Lydia (Steele) Heath. In their family were seven sons and one daughter, and our subject was the last of the number to enter into rest. The birth of the father occurred in Geneseo, New York, on Tuesday, June 7, 1785, and

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



SIDNEY HEATH.





MRS. CHARLOTTE HEATH.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILL. MMS

in early life he learned the shoemaker's trade. In 1836 he emigrated to Illinois, and after stopping a short time in Lockport, he came to Kane county in the fall of that year. His son Joseph had purchased of Ira Minard a tract of three hundred and forty acres, on which the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane is now located, and this he divided between his father and brothers, Horace and Sidney. The father improved and cultivated his portion until called from this life, dying on his farm July 10, 1870. His wife, who was born Tuesday, December 23, 1788, had passed away March 30, 1866. Both were faithful members of the Congregational church, and highly respected by all who knew them.

Joseph Heath, our subject's paternal grandfather, was born in New York, of Holland ancestry, was a farmer by occupation and aided the colonies in their successful struggle for independence during the Revolutionary war. His wife was of English extraction. The maternal grandfather, Joel Steele, was a native of Connecticut, and was also an agriculturist. He died at the age of fifty-nine years.

Reared in Connecticut, our subject was educated in the old-fashioned district schools, and during his youth learned the shoemaker's trade, while upon the home farm he became familiar with agricultural pursuits. At the age of fifteen he went to the city of Hartford, where he worked under the instruction of his brother Horace until coming to Illinois with his family in 1836. He owned and operated the farm, where the hospital for the insane is now located, until 1870, when he sold his one hundred and forty acres for one hundred dollars per acre, though he had only paid about five dollars per acre for the same. Since that time he

lived in Elgin, making his home at his family residence for over twenty-six years.

On the 28th of April, 1833, Mr. Heath led to the marriage altar Miss Charlotte Sophia London, who was born in Burlington, Connecticut, November 22, 1806, and was a daughter of Giles and Susanna (Daily) London. Five children blessed this union as follows: Charlotte Sophia, born October 24, 1837, married Samuel H. Norton; George S., born March 22, 1841, wedded Mary Cox, by whom he has three children: Harry E., John S. and Howard—and later he married again, and now lives in Boston; Susan Maria, born February 16, 1843, died at the age of three years; Warren H., born August 2, 1845, married Elvira Shepard, who died a year later, in 1870, and he afterward married Sarah A. Munger, of Woodstock, Illinois, by whom he has four sons—Milo S., Sidney J., George R. and Warren H. One son of our subject died in infancy. For fifty-eight and a half years Mr. and Mrs. Heath traveled life's journey together, and their's was indeed a happy married life. They celebrated their golden wedding, but our subject was later called upon to mourn the loss of his estimable wife, who died November 9, 1891. She was always active up to the time of her last illness, possessed a bright intellect, and was beloved by all who knew her. Both she and her husband were among the original members who organized the First Methodist Episcopal church in Elgin, in 1837, and he was the last of that little band to survive. He belonged to the first class formed here, and for many years served as class leader and steward. Although his father and brothers were all Democrats, Mr. Heath joined the Republican party on the outbreak of the Civil war, and voted for President Lincoln. When

eighty-four years of age he was still quite active and strong, and had a good memory. He was never seriously ill until eighty years of age, owing probably to his temperate habits. He was always a quiet, unostentatious man, but his fellow citizens recognized his true worth, and elected him to a number of township offices. Very conscientious and strictly honorable in all his dealings, he became widely and favorably known, and had many warm friends. His death occurred November 14, 1897, and his remains were laid to rest beside those of his loved companion, who preceded him to their heavenly home. In his death one more of that number of heroic men who located in Kane county in pioneer days was called to his reward. His familiar figure will no more go in and out among us, but of him it can be truthfully said, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they shall rest from their labor and their works do follow them."

FRANCIS B. PERKINS, secretary of the school board of the city of Elgin, is a native of Illinois, born in Barrington, Cook county, July 8, 1841, and is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the state, his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth (Proctor) Perkins, both of sturdy Puritan ancestry, having left their home in Essex, Massachusetts, and locating in Barrington in 1838, then an almost unbroken wilderness. They at once identified themselves with the religious and educational interests of the community, and helped to shape the early influences in the right direction. In their pioneer log house was taught one of the first schools of the township, and often religious meetings were held in the same place. The colporteur and

itinerant preacher of whatever creed always found a welcome, and in consequence of their open door for such guests it gained the name of Deacon's Tavern. Their first church home was with the Congregational church at Elgin, six miles away, whence they made their way on the Sabbath over prairie and through woodland on foot or by the slow-going ox wagon. Later they were charter members of the Dundee Congregational church, and still later of the church at Barrington, near their own farm home. They were pronounced in their views on temperance and slavery and gave all possible aid to all reforms. Their home was often the haven of rest to the black man on his way to Canada and freedom, and it was one of the many where was fostered that spirit of loyalty to the government and right that a generation later bore fruitage in an army of a million men who sprang to arms to maintain our free institutions. The father died in 1857 aged fifty-six years, his life no doubt shortened by the hardships incident to making a home under the adverse circumstances of a new county. He held honorably the office of deacon of the church for many years and though never prominent in politics was ever ready to bear his share of the responsibilities of citizenship. He had acquired a comfortable competence when he was called to lay down his life work, but the most precious legacy left his family was an unsullied name. His wife Elizabeth survived him some years, during which time she lived in Elgin, passing away in 1881 at the age of seventy-five years. She was a woman of heroic mold and the privation incident to the rough life of a new country served to bring into action the best and bravest of her nature. As in most homes transplanted from the refinements of



the east, the mother felt most keenly the limited advantages for schooling that the future seemed to promise, and no toil or effort was too great so that educational advantages might be provided for the family growing up about her. A like spirit was in other homes of this region and no wonder that our present splendid school system came into existence.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of seven children of whom four reached adult age. Three brothers died in early life. Elizabeth married Rev. John V. Downs, a pioneer Presbyterian minister of Illinois, and died at the age of sixty. John Proctor was for many years a conductor on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, now retired from active business, resides at Rockford, Illinois. Lydia Choate married Dr. Edgar Winchester, who was for a number of years a physician of large practice in Elgin, and, later, of San Bernardino, California, where he died and where she now resides.

The first sixteen years of his life Francis B. Perkins spent upon the farm home, thence after his father's death coming to Elgin to live with his mother, when for three years he attended the Elgin Academy, preparatory to entering Beloit College of Wisconsin, where he was pursuing his studies at the outbreak of the war. In August, 1861, at the first call for three-years men Mr. Perkins enlisted in Company A, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry Volunteers, and at once took the field with his regiment. In the campaign early in 1862, under the command of General Curtis, ending in the decisive battle of Pea Ridge and the expulsion of armed Confederates from the state of Missouri, he bore his share in the vicissitudes of camp march and battle field. About June 1, 1862,

a part of General Curtis' command, in which was the Thirty-sixth Illinois, was hurried to strengthen the lines in front of Corinth, Mississippi, where it arrived just before its evacuation. About this time he was transferred to Company K, Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, remaining a member of that regiment till the close of his service, though on detached duty the last part in the Topographical Engineer Corps. In this branch of the service he took part in the Atlanta campaign under General Sherman, during the summer of 1864. After the fall of Atlanta, his term of enlistment having expired, he was honorably discharged from the army and came home. After a few months of study in Bryant's Commercial College in Chicago, he again entered the service of the government in the quartermaster's department, as draughtsman and clerk, and was located at Columbus, Kentucky, Alexandria, Virginia, and Little Rock, Arkansas, remaining until the winding up of affairs by reason of the close of the war. During the season of 1866 he engaged in cotton planting on the Arkansas river bottoms, and was fortunately one of the few who found it a paying venture. In the fall of 1868 he entered the employ of the Elgin National Watch Co., and worked for them twenty years. Seventeen years he was a foreman of a department and many valuable improvements in the manufacture of watches were made and introduced by him during this time.

In 1869 he married Mary E. Raymond, a daughter of an early settler, Augustine Raymond. She was educated at the Elgin Academy and at eastern schools and was assistant principal of the Elgin High School at the time of their marriage.

She was an active worker in the Congregational church of which she was a mem-

ber and an efficient and faithful Sunday-school teacher. She died in 1873, leaving one son, Thomas E., now twenty-five years old, a musician by profession. His musical education was obtained under teachers at home and in Chicago and completing and graduating from the Metropolitan College of Music in New York City in 1897. He is now organist at the church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, New York.

Mr. Perkins has been a member of the First Congregational church since his sixteenth year, serving the church at different times in the offices of clerk, trustee and deacon, which office he now holds.

He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and is actively interested in all that the organization stands for. He is also secretary of the 52d Illinois Veteran Volunteer Association and is ever ready to help and encourage his former comrades in arms.

The influence of the forty years spent in the community where he now lives has always been found on the side of right and order and he has taken an active part in promoting those measures which he believes calculated to advance the educational, moral, and material welfare of his city.

**E**ZRA HANSON, deceased, was for many years one of the honored and highly-respected citizens of Elgin. He was born in Lebanon, Maine, April 22, 1806, a son of John B. and Dorcas (Libby) Hanson, also natives of the Pine Tree state, in whose family were fifteen children, six of whom reached years of maturity, the others dying either in infancy or early childhood. The father, who was a saddler and harnessmaker by trade, died in the east at about the age of fifty years, and his wife when forty-eight

years of age. The paternal grandfather, who was of English extraction, was a ship-builder of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and was killed while launching one of his vessels.

In his native state Ezra Hanson grew to manhood, and on the 5th of September, 1833, he was united in marriage with Miss Catherine Kimball Upton, who traced her ancestry back to one of the earliest families in America, its founder being John Upton, who was born in 1620, and came to New England in 1639 or a short time previous. He became one of the prominent citizens of Salem, Massachusetts, served as constable, was otherwise prominently identified with the growth and development of Salem, and died July 11, 1699. His son William was born in Salem, June 10, 1663, and died in 1739 or 1740. He and his brother received the Woodhill and other land in Salem from their father. Paul Upton, the son of William, was born in 1709, and was the father of Ezra and grandfather of David Upton, who was Mrs. Hanson's father. The last named was born in Danvers, Massachusetts, in 1772, and died in August, 1836; his wife bore the maiden name of Hepzibah Flint.

In 1837 Mr. Hanson came west, and first located on a farm near Sycamore, DeKalb county, Illinois. In 1843 he removed to Burlington, Kane county, and in 1854 came to Elgin, and made this place his home until called to the world beyond, June 15, 1890. Although he was a member of no religious denomination, he regularly attended the services of the Baptist church, and called himself an "outside deacon." A man of sterling integrity and strictly honest, he helped many to a better, nobler and higher life, and he was both widely and favorably known throughout Kane county.



EZRA HANSON.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



He was of a genial and jovial disposition, and was a great hand to tell jokes.

Mrs. Hanson, who was born in North Reading, Massachusetts, August 20, 1812, died in Elgin March 28, 1876. She was a devout member of the Baptist church, led a blameless and noble life, devoting most of her time to the interests of her family. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Hanson were as follows: Joseph H., born October 16, 1835, was an attorney, who died in Elgin August 14, 1892; Mary Upton, born January 10, 1839, in Sycamore, Illinois, is one of the highly-respected citizens of Elgin; Edward, born in Sycamore November 15, 1840, died September 9, 1841; Daniel King, born in Campton, Illinois, October 5, 1844, died in Burlington, Kane county, July 29, 1845.

**G**EORGE H. KNOTT, who is now successfully engaged in the grocery business at No. 482 Park street, Elgin, began his earthly career in Leicester, England, February 8, 1838, and in that place his parents, John P. and Eliza (Knott) Knott, were also born. The paternal grandfather spent his entire life in England, but the maternal grandfather, Thomas Knott, came to America in 1844, and located in Campton township, Kane county, Illinois. Later he removed to Chicago, where his wife died, and he subsequently made his home for a number of years in Mishwaukee, Indiana. He was a turner by trade, and continued to work at the turning lathe until eighty-three years of age. He died two years later in Turner Junction, Illinois. In his family were six children.

John P. Knott, our subject's father, was a shoemaker by trade. In early life he came to the new world, but after spending

eight years in St. Johns, New Brunswick, he returned to England. However, he again crossed the Atlantic in 1842, and after living for a short time in Campton, Kane county, Illinois, he located in Chicago, and for ten or twelve years conducted a shoe store at No. 9 Dearborn street. Later he spent three or four years at No. 67 Randolph street, and from there removed to West Madison street, but in 1859 he sold out and came to Elgin, where he continued to make his home until his death. Here he was engaged in the grocery business until his store was destroyed by fire in 1865, after which he lived retired. He died in 1876, aged sixty-seven years, and his wife passed away in June, 1895, at the age of eighty-three. Both were earnest and consistent members of the Baptist church, and were highly esteemed by all who knew them. Their family numbered six sons and one daughter, but only two are now living—George H. and Wallace H., both of Elgin.

Reared in Chicago, George H. Knott attended the old Fort Dearborn school, later pursued his studies in a private school conducted in the Methodist church, on Jefferson street, in that city, and after coming to Elgin, completed his education in the Elgin high school, under the direction of Professor Francis F. Haywood. He had clerked in a number of stores in Chicago before coming to Elgin in 1859, and with the exception of the time spent in the army and one year passed in Philadelphia, he has since been identified with the mercantile interests of this city.

In August, 1862, Mr. Knott enlisted in Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after serving for two years with that regiment he was detached and was with the con-

solidated A and B Battery until the close of the war. He took part in the battles of Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post and Nashville, the siege of Vicksburg, the Atlanta campaign, and many minor engagements, and on the 22d of July, 1864, when General McPherson fell, he was taken prisoner, being confined in Andersonville for sixty-one days.

Mr. Knott went to Philadelphia in 1865, but the following year returned to Elgin, where he clerked in a grocery store until 1870, when he embarked in the same business on his own account in partnership with John Cox, under the firm style of Cox & Knott. At the end of five years Mr. Cox withdrew and our subject continued the business alone for the same length of time, but at the end of that period sold out. Two years later he began dealing in coal oil, which business he carried on for seven years, but for the past thirteen years has again been interested in the grocery trade, conducting a store for some time on Chicago street, but now carries on operations at his home place, No. 482 Park street, where he has a neat store stocked with a fine grade of goods.

On the 8th of July, 1860, Mr. Knott was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Andrews, an adopted daughter of David E. Ambrose, and to them were born two children—Lillie M., now the wife of Walter Middleton, by whom she has one son, Walter; and Emma E., wife of Charles J. Reynolds, of Beloit, Wisconsin, by whom she has seven children. Mrs. Knott, who was a faithful member of the Baptist church, died in 1871, and for his second wife our subject chose Josephine Tourtellotte, who died fifteen months after her marriage. She, too, was a Baptist in religious belief. Mr.

Knott was again married October 19, 1875, his third union being with Mrs. Elizabeth Sears, and two sons have been born to them—George R. and Leon S.

Politically, Mr. Knott is identified with the Republican party; socially belongs to Veteran post, No. 49, G. A. R.; and religiously is a member of the Baptist church, while his present wife is connected with the Methodist church. They have many warm friends throughout the community, and they justly deserve the high regard in which they are held by all who know them.

ELISHA DUNBAR WALDRON has for many years been one of the conspicuous business men of Elgin, in which city he was born January 27, 1848. His father, Andrew J. Waldron, came west in 1842, and after a brief residence in Batavia made Elgin his permanent home (1845), living for many years on the present site of "The Spurling," where the subject of this sketch first opened his eyes to the light of day.

The father was a native of Vermont and his wife, Calista S. (Smith) Waldron, was born in New York. They were the parents of three children: Martha, now the wife of Joseph Vollar; E. Dunbar; and Bertha, wife of Dr. W. G. Stone, all living in Elgin. The Waldron family traces its ancestry to Coventry, England, and the first of the name to come to America was George Waldron, who landed at Boston in 1670. The name of Andrew J. Waldron is indelibly stamped upon the pioneer history of Elgin, where, as an attorney, justice of the peace, banker or business man, his integrity was never questioned and his business judgment was implicitly relied upon. He was twice elected mayor and successfully administered

the affairs of the city. He with five others was the original mover in securing the location of the National Watch Factory.

It is but natural, therefore, that E. Dunbar Waldron, who has inherited the public spirit of his father, should occupy to day a prominent place in his native city as a man whose energy and enterprise have been largely instrumental in encouraging and fostering the city's commercial and industrial interests, as well as in promoting in many ways the ethical, educational and religious well-being of the community.

After a practical education in the public schools and the Elgin Academy, Mr. Waldron left, on account of poor health, to work in a lumber yard, hoping to be benefited by the outdoor exercise, and the result was highly satisfactory. For eighteen months he was a clerk in the Elgin postoffice. His commercial instincts prompted him to engage in business for himself, and he devoted the next two years to a book store, of which he had become proprietor.

At this time Chicago, the great commercial heart of the greater northwest, attracted him and he invested in the wholesale wood and willowware business, giving it his personal attention until 1871, when the great fire destroyed the city, and swept his interests there out of existence. He then returned to Elgin and assisted in organizing the Home National Bank, of which he soon became assistant cashier, and then cashier, filling the latter important position of trust for eighteen years. He still retains his interest in the bank, and since 1890 has been its first vice-president. He is also president of the Home Saving Bank.

Conservatively progressive, Mr. Waldron has always been ready to help anything calculated to help Elgin, and many of his best

investments have been partially prompted by his loyalty to the city of his birth. He is at present, in addition to the above, treasurer of the Elgin Loan and Homestead Association, having held that position since the organization of the society; treasurer of the Elgin Packing Company; treasurer of the Elgin City, Carpentersville & Aurora Railway; President of the Elgin Lumber Company; and a stockholder in the National Watch Company, the South Elgin Stone Company, and other prosperous enterprises. He has also held the office of city treasurer a number of times. A Republican in politics, but believing in the purity of municipal government regardless of party lines, Mr. Waldron has always exerted a quiet influence upon local politics.

He is a member of the board of trustees of the Elgin Academy, a member of the Chicago Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Union League Club, of Chicago, and an honorary member of the Chicago Bankers' Club. A Universalist in religion, he has done much to aid that body, and the beautiful pipe organ in the Universalist church of Elgin is the gift of Mr. Waldron and his sisters, in memory of their mother, Mrs. Calista Waldron Slade.

On December 2, 1873, Mr. Waldron was married to Miss Louise Town, a daughter of J. J. and Esther (Graves) Town, of Des Moines, Iowa. Their home is at No. 181 South Gifford street, occupying a commanding elevation, and is surrounded by three acres of sloping lawn, shaded by venerable trees. It is one of Elgin's most substantial and beautiful homes. In Elgin and wherever known, the name of E. Dunbar Waldron is synonym for those qualities that go to make life worth living.



**JOHN NEWMAN.**—In proportion to its population the city of Elgin numbers among its men of wealth, standing, character and business enterprise as many as any city in the land. Among those recognized as being in the front, and whose skill and ability is unquestioned, is the man whose name heads this sketch, one who came to this country from across the water some forty years ago, an unknown lad, without influential friends to aid him in life's work. However, he brought with him a stout heart, willing hands and a determination to succeed, and success has crowned his efforts in a remarkable degree.

A native of England, Mr. Newman was born at Bishop Stortford, Herefordshire, March 11, 1842, and is a son of William and Emma (Thurgood) Newman, also natives of England, who lived and died in that country. Leaving school at the age of fourteen years, he was apprenticed to a draper and grocer, with whom he continued three years, and then resolved to come to the United States, where the opportunities were much greater than in his own country for the enterprising person. He was in his eighteenth year when he left his English home, and on the 29th of September, 1859, he landed at New York, and one month later he located in Chicago, where he found employment with Potter Palmer as clerk in his dry-goods store. After remaining with Mr. Palmer for about a year, he engaged with Ross & Foster, with whom he continued until 1864. Instead of spending all his salary on good clothes and for personal pleasure, as is so often done by mercantile clerks, from the amount received each payday he laid aside a portion, until his accumulations were sufficient to justify embarking in business on his own account.

Even at that time Elgin was quite a trading point, with a good reputation, and on leaving the employ of Ross & Foster he came direct to this place and bought out the dry-goods store of M. & J. McNeil, which business he still continues. From that time to the present, more than a third of a century, he has been identified with the business interests of the city. The store purchased of the McNeils has grown with the city's growth until to-day it is one of the largest in Kane county. To its supervision he has always given his personal attention, and his stock is at all times varied and suited to the times.

As his means increased Mr. Newman has branched out and invested in other enterprises that have not alone added to his individual wealth, but to the wealth and general prosperity of the city. About 1876 he established the Spring Brook creamery at Elgin. The business was commenced in a modest way, but with the determination to make it noted for the excellent quality of butter and cheese manufactured. It was but a short time before it became known that the mark upon the boxes and cases "From the Spring Brook Creamery," was a guarantee of excellent quality. Year by year the business increased and creamery after creamery was added until to-day the Spring Brook creameries have over forty plants in active operation. The same good quality has ever been maintained and the reputation of its manufactured product is a No. 1. The business is now conducted by the John Newman Company, of which he is the principal proprietor, being ably assisted by his brother, Joseph Newman, in the general management.

For some years Mr. Newman has been a stockholder in the First National Bank of





JOHN NEWMAN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Elgin, a stockholder and president of the Elgin City Banking Company, one of the strongest and safest savings banks in the state outside of Chicago. His conservative nature, combined with a progressive spirit, makes him a model officer of such a financial institution. For many years he acted as treasurer and vice-president of the Elgin Board of Trade, and since 1894 has been its president, a position which he ably fills, and which enables him to do much for his adopted city. He never hesitates to do that which will advance the general interests of the city and cause it to occupy a front rank among its sister cities in the great commonwealth of Illinois.

Mr. Newman has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Haddie Virginia Beaty, daughter of Colonel John Farr Beaty, who was for many years secretary of the Chicago Board of Trade. Their marriage was celebrated September 5, 1867, at the home of the bride's parents in Elgin. By this union were four children: Paul B., who is associated with his father in the mercantile trade; John B., who is employed in the First National Bank of Elgin; Hattie, a young lady admired and esteemed by all who knew her, who was called from this life May 5, 1895; and William, who is in the office of the John Newman Company. The mother of these children died April 27, 1876. She was a consistent member of the Protestant Episcopal church, one whose life was in strict conformity to the teachings of the lowly Nazarene.

The second marriage of Mr. Newman was on the 27th of October, 1887, when he wedded Mrs. Laura J. Borden, of Fort Bend county, Texas, a daughter of Ezekiel and Martha M. (Winfrey) George, natives of Wharton county, Texas. She is a lady

of high culture and rare social qualities, a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and enjoys the love and esteem of all who know her.

Politically, Mr. Newman is a Democrat, with which party he has acted since becoming a citizen of the United States. In 1896, on the division of the party on the silver question, he took the gold side, believing the honor and integrity of the country should be maintained, and not degraded as it would be by a debased currency as advocated by those favoring the unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. He is known as a Cleveland Democrat. While a politician in the true sense of the term, he has never been an office seeker. Time and again he has been solicited to give the use of his name as a candidate for mayor of Elgin, but has invariably refused the proffered honor. The only political office he ever held was that of trustee of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, receiving his appointment from Governor Altgeld. While he held the office he discharged his duties faithfully and well, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Because of the fact that he could not agree with the governor in his peculiar views on the silver question, or become a tool in his hand, he was removed by that gentleman, an act that did the governor no good, but which made Mr. Newman many warm friends.

A friend of education, Mr. Newman served for many years as a member of the board of education of Elgin, and for six years was its president. During that time four new school buildings were erected. For a number of years he has been treasurer of the Elgin Opera House Company. He has always held a prominent place in musical circles, and for years was president

of the Elgin Choral Union. The only society with which he is connected is the St. George Benevolent Society, of which he was presiding officer for a long time. Religiously he is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and for that Church in Elgin he has done much in various ways, contributing of his time and means to its upbuilding. He is also one of the leading members of the Century Club of Elgin.

While Mr. Newman is known as one of the most prosperous business men of Elgin, it must not be supposed that it has always been smooth sailing with him, and that no losses have been experienced. Twice he was burned out, entailing upon him heavy losses, but like the famed Phoenix, there arose from the ashes larger and better build-ings and more extensive stocks than before. On one occasion when burned out, and while the smoke was still going up, he rented a vacant storeroom, went to Chicago, purchased a new stock, and was ready for business within two days.

Such in brief is the life record of John Newman. For more than a third of a century he has gone in and out among the people of Elgin, leaving his impress upon almost every public enterprise, giving of his time and means to advance the city's interest. Broad and liberal minded, he is honored and respected by all. While at all times having a large number of men in his employ, he treats them kindly and in a considerate manner, showing himself to be their friend as they are his friends, and will do for him everything in their power.

Mr. and Mrs. Newman reside in a beautiful home at No. 321 Division street, Elgin, which is the abode of genuine hospitality, and where many friends are received and handsomely entertained. They have like-

wise a fine summer residence on Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where they spend a portion of the year. They believe in enjoying this life, as well they may.

---

ISAAC V. DOTY is a retired farmer residing on section 28, Hampshire township, and who has spent more than fifty-three years of his life in Kane county, Illinois. He was born in the town of Granville, near Lake Champlain, Washington county, New York, January 17, 1819, and is second in a family of five children born to Levi and Sallie (Bredenburgh) Doty. The father was a farmer and owned a large tract of land in Washington county, New York.

When our subject was but nine years old his mother died, and until the age of sixteen or seventeen years he attended a common school of his native state, after which he did farm work for neighbors. Later he rented a part of his father's farm, and, being united in marriage with Miss Celeste Thorington, began life for himself. She died leaving one child, Margaret, now the wife of Porter Baldwin, by whom she has six children.

In May, 1845, Mr. Doty left his native state for the west, taking a canal boat at Whitehall to Buffalo, New York, the fare being two dollars. They carried their own provisions with them for use upon the boat. From Buffalo they went to Chicago by lake, the fare for which was three dollars. From Chicago they came to what is now Starks Station, in Rutland township, Kane county, Illinois, where a brother-in-law was then living. He began farming on Starks' farm, where he remained three years, and then moved to Hampshire township, to the farm of his wife's father, eighty acres of which



had been deeded to her. This our subject commenced at once to improve, erected every building, made every rod of fence, set out many of the shade trees, and for many years was there engaged in agricultural pursuits.

On the 3d of October, 1855, the second marriage of our subject occurred in Hampshire township, when he wedded Mrs. Aurilla Ingersol, widow of Orrin L. Ingersol, and to them four children were born, as follows: Mary, who married Julius H. Norton, who served in the war for the Union, and their four living children are Julius, William, Emma and Aurilla. Lucy married C. V. Jacobs, who was also in the war, and by whom she had one child, Mary, who is living; she is now deceased. William, who married Flora King, by whom he has two children, Ruth and Donald. Sidney, who died at the age of four years. Mrs. Doty is a daughter of Philip Terwilliger, a native of New York state, and of an old Dutch family. He married Mary Low, of Orange county, New York, and a daughter of Daniel Low, who died at the age of eighty years. He married a Miss Crany, who attained the age of eighty-six years. Daniel Low, Jr., is now living at Chenango Forks, New York, at the age of ninety years. Philip Terwilliger served in the war of 1812. He came to Kane county, Illinois, and built the first frame house in Hampshire township, where he owned a large tract of land. He died at the age of sixty-nine years. His father, James Terwilliger, married Eliza Terwilliger, and their respective ages at death were seventy-seven and seventy-three.

Fraternally Mr. Doty is a member of the Masonic order, and religiously of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member. In politics he is a

Republican, and has held the offices of school director and road commissioner. Both Mr. and Mrs. Doty are numbered among the old settlers of Kane county. They remember when houses were few and far between, and they have seen wolves, deer and other game in large numbers in the vicinity. Mr. Doty was always a good marksman, and even now, at the age of seventy-nine years, can kill chickens with a rifle.

---

**WILLIAM HENNEL BLACK.**—Fortunate is he who has back of him an ancestry honorable and distinguished, and happy is he if his lines of life are cast in harmony therewith. Our subject is blessed in this respect, for he springs from prominent families of New England, and he has become one of the leading and representative citizens of Elgin.

Mr. Black was born in Ellsworth, Maine, January 1, 1845, a son of William Hennel and Abigail Eliza (Little) Black. His father was born in the same place October 18, 1811, a son of Colonel John and Mary (Cobb) Black. The birth of the grandfather occurred July 3, 1781, in London, England, where he obtained a good education, and when quite young entered the great banking house of Hope & Company, of that city, as clerk. While visiting London, in 1799, William Bingham, of Philadelphia, the principal proprietor of the great Bingham estate in Maine, employed Mr. Black to come to this country as clerk for General David Cobb, of Gouldsboro, Maine, agent for the estate. Mr. Black arrived the same year and soon mastered the details relating to the landed interests of the proprietors. From 1803 until 1808 he served as town clerk of Gouldsboro, was justice of the

peace in 1804-5. He soon secured the confidence of his employers, agents and all persons doing business with him, and when Donald Ross, local agent at Ellsworth, was compelled to resign on account of ill health, Mr. Black was appointed to succeed him, removing to that place. When General Cobb and his associate agent, Mr. Richards, resigned, he was appointed general agent of the estate, which position he continued to fill until 1850, when he was succeeded by his son, George N. Black. For many years he was largely interested in the manufacture of lumber and ship-building, and in his business acquired a comfortable competence. He took an active and prominent part in military affairs, was commissioned captain July 2, 1805, of a company in the Second Regiment, Second Brigade, Tenth Division of Massachusetts Militia, Eastern Division, of which his father-in-law, General Cobb, was major-general; later was elected major of the same regiment, was breveted lieutenant-colonel June 12, 1812, and commanded the regiment when it was called to Mount Desert to repel a threatened British invasion, 1812-13. Although he was British born and at that time an agent for foreign principals, he did not hesitate. He was commissioned colonel June 20, 1816, but February 11, 1817, resigned and was discharged. Subsequently he was for many years captain of the Cobb Light Infantry, an independent company organized near his home. He died at Ellsworth October 20, 1856. He was one of the most prominent men in his community, his honor and honesty were never questioned, and he possessed all of those qualities which go to make up a good citizen, neighbor and friend.

In 1802 Colonel John Black married Miss Mary Cobb, daughter of General David

and Eleanor (Bradish) Cobb. She was born at Taunton, Massachusetts, July 26, 1776, and died in Ellsworth, Maine, October 17, 1851. The children born to them are Mary Ann, John, Henry, Elizabeth, William Hennel, George Nixon, Alexander Baring and Charles Richards.

General David Cobb, a son of Colonel Thomas and Lydia (Leonard) Cobb, was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, September 14, 1748, and was graduated at Harvard College, in 1766, after which he studied medicine and engaged in practice at Taunton, Massachusetts, for some time. He was a representative to the general court from that place in 1774, and the same year was elected to the provincial congress which met in Cambridge. In 1777, during the Revolutionary war, he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the Sixteenth Massachusetts Regiment, was later elected colonel, and was afterward appointed by General Washington as one of his staff, where, out of five, he was second in rank. He always took a prominent part in public affairs, served as chief justice of the court of common pleas for eight years, was representative and speaker of the general court from 1789 to 1793, resigning when elected a member of the third congress of the United States, and held other prominent positions. He died April 17, 1830, honored and highly esteemed by all who knew him. In 1766 he married Eleanor, daughter of Ebenezer and Eunice (Cook) Bradish, of Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was born January 30, 1749, and died in Taunton, January 7, 1808. Their children were Eleanor Bradish, Betsy, Thomas, William Gray, Eunice, Mary (the paternal grandmother of our subject), David, Sally, Ebenezer, Henry Jackson, and David George

Washington. General Cobb was an intimate friend and associate of General Washington, Nathaniel Greene, Benjamin Lincoln, Henry Knox, Henry Jackson, General La Fayette and Alexander Hamilton.

Colonel Thomas Cobb, the father of the General, married Lydia, eldest daughter of James Leonard, of Taunton, Massachusetts, and the only son born to them was David. Morgan Cobb, father of Thomas, was born December 29, 1673, and died September 30, 1755. On the 22nd of May, 1735, he was married to Esther Hodges, a daughter of Henry Hodges and his wife Esther, daughter of Captain John Galloy, probably a direct descendant of Emperor Charlemagne. Mrs. Esther Cobb was born February 17, 1678, and was the mother of Thomas. Morgan Cobb was a son of Augustine Cobb, a native of Norfolk, England, who came to Taunton, Massachusetts, in 1670.

William H. Black, Sr., our subject's father, spent his entire life in Ellsworth, Maine, and throughout his business career engaged quite extensively in farming, lumbering and ship building. He met with good success until later in life, when he suffered some heavy losses, from which he was never fully able to recover. His death occurred October 17, 1883. On the 4th of June, 1834, he was married to Miss Abigail Eliza Little, who was born in Castine, Maine, September 16, 1810, a daughter of Doty and Mercy (Tilden) Little. Her father was born at Marshfield, Massachusetts, October 3, 1766, a son of Thomas Little, who was born in 1719, and was a son of John Little, who married Anna, daughter of Richard Warren, who came to this country in the Mayflower in 1620. Thomas Little, born 1719, married in 1750, Sarah Baker, a

daughter of Kenelm and Patience (Winslow) Baker, and they had ten children, all born in Marshfield, Massachusetts.

The children born to William H. and Abigail E. (Little) Black were as follows: Maria S., wife of Charles J. Perry, of Ellsworth, Maine; Harriet S., who first married Edward S. Tisdale, and after his death Andrew B. Spurling, of Elgin, Illinois, and died May 26, 1896; Charles S., who died as a paroled prisoner in the hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, September 16, 1864, from wounds received at Gaine's Mills, while in the service; Celia C., the wife of George A. Dickey, now of Wollaston, Massachusetts; Hollis C. married Mary E. Deming. His business was in Boston, residing in Wollaston; his death occurred at Allisworth, Maine, July 14, 1893; Oscar T., twin of Hollis C., died in infancy; William H., the subject of this sketch; Lucie L., wife of Harvard Greeley, of Ellsworth, and Mary H., also of Ellsworth.

Reared at the old home in Ellsworth, Mr. Black, of this review, began his education in the common schools of that locality, and later attended an academy. In Ellsworth he also learned the watch-maker's trade, and on the 6th of September, 1865, went to Waltham, Massachusetts, where he obtained a position in the finishing department of the watch factory, remaining there until December, 1867, when he first came to Elgin. He was employed in the finishing department of the watch factory at this place until 1870, when he returned to Waltham, but in June, 1873, again came to Elgin, where he has since made his home. During all this time he has been connected with the Elgin Watch Factory, and since the 1st of January, 1877, has been foreman of the finishing department, having about



one hundred men working under him. This long term of service in this capacity is an evidence that his services are duly appreciated by his employers.

In Elgin, on the 23d of May, 1868, Mr. Black was united in marriage with Mrs. Fannie S. Kilbourne, a native of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Joshua F. and Rebecca (Arnold) Smith, who were also born in Fitchburg, where one son is still living. Mr. and Mrs. Black have a pleasant home on Chicago street, Elgin, which was erected from plans made by himself. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, and socially affiliates with the Masonic fraternity. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman, who commands the respect and esteem of all who know him. Mrs. Black holds membership in the Universalist church, and like her husband has many warm friends in her adopted city.

**L**OUIS H. YARWOOD, proprietor of the Yarwood art studio, is one of the best artists in this part of the state, and is also a teacher in landscape and scenic painting. For almost half a century he has made his home in Elgin, but he was born in the east, his birth occurring in Oriskany, New York, November 25, 1827, and his parents, Henry and Katie A. (Wiggins) Yarwood, were also natives of that state. Our subject is the oldest of their four children, the others being Marcus S., a resident of Chicago; Phœbe, wife of G. R. Raymond, of Dubuque, Iowa; and Arthur J., who was a Union soldier during the Civil war, and is now living in Wyoming. While living in the east the father was employed as a woolen manufacturer and dyer and held various offices. His wife, who was an Episcopalian

in religious belief, died there at the age of forty-five years. In 1853 he came to Elgin, where he passed away at the age of fifty-nine years and eleven months. His father, Samuel Yarwood, was a native of England and died in New York, while the maternal grandfather of our subject, Benjamin Wiggins, was born in that state and died in Chicago, when about ninety-six years of age. His wife was only two or three years younger at the time of her death.

Mr. Yarwood, whose name introduces this sketch, began his education in the common schools of his native state and later attended the Whitestown Academy. He also began the study of painting when a child, and becoming very proficient in that art, he now devotes his entire attention to it. On his removal from New York to Elgin in 1851, he accepted the position of bookkeeper in S. N. Dexter's woolen factory, and later conducted a drug store for about fifteen years. The following eight years were spent as librarian of the Elgin public library, but since then he has devoted his energies to painting. He has gained a wide reputation as an artist of superior ability, to which he is justly entitled, his painting being among the finest produced in this section of the country.

Mr. Yarwood married Miss Caroline J. Drummond, and they have become the parents of three children—Willard H., who wedded Mary Hunter and had three children, Bertram and Marguerite, still living, and Willard H., deceased; Marc D., who is a successful piano teacher in Elgin; and Katie D., at home. The family have a pleasant home at No. 373 Park street, where they delight to entertain their many friends. A staunch Republican in politics, Mr. Yarwood was elected on that ticket to the posi-



tion of alderman for one term, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking. Socially he is identified with the Ancient Order of United Workmen.

ANSON C. BUCKLIN, now living a retired life in Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, was for many years a successful farmer and dairyman of Fox river valley. He dates his residence in Illinois since June, 1837, coming here when Northern Illinois was a wilderness. He was born in the town of Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, October 15, 1823. His father, Isaac Bucklin, was born in the same town, county and state, and on the same farm. His grandfather, Jeremiah Bucklin, was born in Rhode Island, in 1745, and removed to Adams, Massachusetts, in 1767, and took up a large tract of wild land. He served in the war for American independence, and was in the battle of Bennington. John Bucklin, the great-grandfather of our subject, was also born in Rhode Island, in which state he was quite prominent. His ancestors moved to Rhode Island with Roger Williams. He also moved to Adams, Massachusetts, and there the last years of his life were spent. Jeremiah Bucklin was one of the first settlers of Adams, Massachusetts, and was a millwright by trade. He built the first flouring mill in North Adams, for Oliver Parker, and at South Adams built one for himself on the present site of the Brown paper mill. At that that place he reared his family, and for many years was recognized as one of its prominent citizens.

Isaac Bucklin grew to manhood in Massachusetts, and there married Miss Achsa Wilmarth, a native of that state, born in Berkshire county. His birth occurred in

1790. They were the parents of three children—Anson C., our subject; Olive, who grew to mature years, but is now deceased; and Jane, who married George Browning, also deceased. Isaac Bucklin was a farmer and died in his native state, in 1826. In 1837 Mrs. Bucklin sold the old home farm, and, with her family, accompanied by some relatives, came to Illinois, by way of the Erie canal and the lakes to Chicago, and, moving farther west, located in the Fox river valley. She took up a claim of nearly three hundred acres of land, in what is now the township of Barrington, and also two hundred and forty acres on Fox river, which is now East Dundee. Making her home on the Barrington land, she built a house, improved the farm and there spent the last years of her life, dying about 1871.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his mother and family, and, a boy of thirteen, held the plow which turned the first furrow on the place and helped develop the farm. He remained with his mother until her death, she having conveyed to him the old homestead. He built there a good, large residence, barns and other buildings, and made of it one of the best dairy farms in Fox river valley. He commenced shipping milk to Chicago in 1856, and has continued in the dairy business since that time, usually having upon his place about seventy-five milch cows. In October, 1884, he left his son Henry on the farm and moved to Dundee, where he built a house and has since lived practically a retired life.

Mr. Bucklin was first married, in Cook county, in 1844, to Miss Julia Jinks, a native of Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and a daughter of Henry Jinks, a pioneer of Barrington township. She died October 15, 1873, leaving two children—Frances, wife

of Daniel Burks, a business man of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Henry I., a farmer residing on the old homestead, who was born December 24, 1853, and was married March 6, 1883, to Miss Mary Welsby, by whom he has three children, as follows: John A., born December 24, 1883; Julia I., born October 13, 1885; and Olive E., born December 3, 1887.

In October, 1877, our subject married Miss Emma Merritt, a native of New York, but then living in Bloomington, Illinois. She died about two years later, and in December, 1880, Mr. Bucklin married Mrs. Emma Miner, who was born and reared near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and daughter of Russell Mallory.

Politically Mr. Bucklin was first identified with the Abolition party, and on the organization of the Republican party became one of its staunch supporters, and in 1856 voted for its first presidential candidate, General John C. Fremont. Being ever a believer in temperance and the principle of prohibition, he has of late years supported the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife is also a member. For sixty-one years he has been a resident of the Fox River Valley, and the changes which have been made in that time can hardly be conceived, even by those most active in the transformation. Few men are better known and none more highly esteemed.

---

**H**ALSEY ROSENCRANS, M. D., deceased, was for a many years a prominent and successful physician and surgeon of Elgin. He was born September 14, 1818, in New Jersey, of which state his parents, Asa and Jane (Cole) Rosencrans

were also natives. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, removed from New Jersey to New York, and in 1834 came to Kane county, Illinois, where his sons, Horace and Frazier, had located one year before, being numbered among the earliest settlers of this section of the state. The family endured all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life, and from the wild land the father developed a good farm.

Dr. Rosencrans was the fourth in order of birth in a family of nine children, and during his boyhood and youth he assisted his father in the work of the farm, acquiring his literary education in the public schools. He accompanied his parents on their emigration to Illinois, studied medicine, and in the latter part of the '40s graduated from Rush Medical College. He began the practice of his chosen profession in Crystal Lake, Illinois, and later opened an office in Elgin.

The Doctor was one of the '49ers, having crossed the plains to California during the great gold excitement of that year, on a prospecting tour. Later his brother Garrett also went to the Pacific coast, and after about a year spent there, they returned together. Dr. Rosencrans did not engage in mining on account of the rough crowd with which he would have to associate. Locating in Calhoun county, southwestern Texas, he there engaged in the practice of medicine until 1863, when he was forced to leave, his life being in great danger. He was a man of deep convictions and dared even in Texas to make known his sentiment. He was warned by his friends that he must go, as an attack upon him was being planned. The Doctor was a physician in whom the best people of his acquaintance put implicit confidence and he was the only



HALSEY ROSENCRANS, M .D.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



one in his community that could handle yellow fever. Many of his southern friends told him: "If ever I have yellow fever, I want you to attend me, without reference to what it will cost or how we may differ in politics." His professional skill they admired, and they wanted his attention in case of sickness, hence he was permitted to remain in Texas long after others of his political faith were driven away, but finally he was forced to leave. Before the war he passed through two epidemics of yellow fever, and at one time he and a priest were the only ones left to care for many of the poor sick and dying who could not get away. From Texas he went to New Orleans, which was then in the hands of the Union forces, and was soon afterward appointed assistant surgeon in a hospital. Later he was transferred to another hospital on the Brazos, and continued to serve as surgeon in the Union army until the war ended. Subsequently he returned to Texas and resumed practice in the community where he had previously lived. In 1873 he came to Elgin, but two years later, during the terrible yellow fever epidemic, he went to Indianola, Texas, feeling it his duty to assist in caring for those suffering with that dread disease. Returning to Elgin, he successfully engaged in practice here for several years.

Dr. Rosencrans was twice married, his first union being with Miss Eliza Hale, by whom he had three children: Fannie is the wife of Captain Theodore Hayes, of Texas, and has four children—Charles, Wiltsie, Minnie and Fannie. Captain Hayes was an officer in the Union army. Lizzie is the wife of H. H. Bilter, a farmer of Eola, Illinois, and has four sons—Raymond, Carl, Eugene and Hale. Cora is the widow of

Thomas O'Neal, by whom she had seven children.

Mrs. Rosencrans died in New Orleans in 1863. The Doctor was again married September 11, 1873, his second union being with Miss Cynthia E. Bowen, and the marriage ceremony was performed by Professor C. G. Finney, president of Oberlin College, of which Mrs. Rosencrans is a graduate. She is a daughter of Lucius E. and Margaret (Dildine) Bowen, of Oberlin, Ohio, who now sleep side by side in the cemetery at that place. Mrs. Rosencrans is a consistent and faithful member of the Congregational church of Elgin, and both she and her husband held membership in the Scientific Society of that place. In social circles they also occupied an enviable position.

In 1886 Dr. Rosencrans went to Indianola, Texas, to visit his daughter, and at that place was killed on the 20th of August of that year. During a storm he was in his office, which was located in the same building with the signal service office. He and Captain Reed, who had charge of the signal service, were together. The Doctor told him they had better leave the building as it was swaying and would likely be blown over soon, but before they could do this another blast came and the building fell burying the Doctor and his friend, who were instantly killed by the falling timbers. They were soon covered with water and it was some hours before their remains could be removed. This was on Matagorda Bay in the region of the terrible storms to which that place is frequently subjected. Dr. Rosencrans was an eminent physician, having the professional skill which comes from faithful study and long and successful experience in his chosen calling. He was also an able writer, contributing many articles

of merit to papers and medical journals. Being genial and companionable, he was a favorite in society and wherever known was held in the highest regard.

---

**A**LDEN KENDRICK WRIGHT, who has for many years been at the head of one of the departments of the Elgin watch factory, is a native of New Hampshire, born November 8, 1842, in Hanover, of which place his parents, Horace and Mary Ann (Foster) Wright, were also natives. The paternal grandfather, Asa Wright, was born on the old homestead at Hanover, which had been in the family for many years. The Wrights were of Scotch origin, and came to the new world prior to the Revolutionary war. The grandfather of our subject was a farmer by occupation, but the father engaged in the tanning business, learning his trade with his father-in-law, Caleb Foster, and while in his service he became acquainted with his future wife. Throughout the greater part of his life Horace Wright lived in Hanover, New Hampshire, but spent his last days in Lebanon, that state, where he died October 13, 1871. He was a Universalist in religious belief, and in politics was first a Whig and later a Republican, joining that party on its organization, as he had ever been an anti-slavery man and was connected with the "underground railroad." He was of medium size, of a genial, though quiet disposition, and was very domestic in his tastes. Wherever known he was held in high regard, and was often called upon to hold different official positions, including those of selectman and tax collector. His wife, who was a faithful member of the Congregational

church, also died in Lebanon, November 24, 1872. She was a daughter of Caleb and Mary (Putnam) Foster, and granddaughter of Richard and Sarah (Greeley) Foster, the last named being a relative of Horace Greeley.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of four sons, the others being Roswell F., still a resident of Lebanon, New Hampshire; Orin S., of Clinton, Iowa; and William H., of Newport, New Hampshire. In the common schools of Lebanon Alden K. Wright began his education, later attending the Kimball Union Academy at Meridian, New Hampshire. When his school days were over he went to Haverhill, that state, where he served an apprenticeship to the watchmaker's trade, after which he was employed for three years by the firm of E. Howard & Company, at Roxbury, Massachusetts. While with this distinguished company he acquired his great skill in the business of watch-making. For a year and a half he was with the United States Watch Company, was with the Hampden Company for about the same length of time, and for the following three years was with the American Watch Company at Waltham, Massachusetts.

It was in 1874 that Mr. Wright came to Elgin and entered the employ of the Elgin Watch Company, with which he has ever since been connected, serving at first as inspector of watches. Being appointed assistant foreman, he served in that capacity for seventeen years, and for the past three years has been foreman in the finishing department B, overseeing about two hundred workmen. Through his vast experience in every department of watch manufacture, he is able to preside over his department with great skill, as he is qualified to quickly

detect any imperfection in the mechanism of the watches, which makes him a valuable man to the factory—one of superior usefulness.

In Boston, Massachusetts, May 21, 1874. Mr. Wright was united in marriage with Miss Nannie H. White, a native of that city, and a daughter of Henry Kirk and Harriet (Thompson) White. Her mother, a native of Gloucester, Massachusetts, died in September, 1897, the father dying in February, 1898, at Wrentham, that state. Their children were: Henry K., William N., Louis B., Alice P., wife of Adelbert Newton, of Boston; Nannie, wife of our subject; and Caroline, of Brooklyn, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Wright have three children: Louis W., Helen, and Arthur K.

Mrs. Wright is a member of the Universalist church of Elgin, and Mr. Wright, who is a good musician, has sung nearly all his life in church choirs until lately. Politically he is a supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, while fraternally he is a prominent member of the blue lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M.; Loyal Legion, Munn chapter, R. A. M.; and the Ancient Order of United Workmen. For the past two years he has been a member of the board of education in Elgin, and taking a deep and commendable interest in educational matters, has made him a very active and efficient member. He owns a pleasant and commodious home on Spring street, where he and his family delight to entertain their many friends. His chief source of recreation is found in hunting and fishing, of which sports he is extremely fond. Though a hard worker, he believes in devoting a portion of one's time to judicious and healthful recreation, and like most men who care for these sports, he is genial, gen-

erous and kind-hearted, being very popular with all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance.

ANSON W. ROOT, who is now practically living retired from business cares at his pleasant home, No. 277 Chicago street, Elgin, was born December 20, 1823, in Genesee county, New York, a son of Dr. Anson and Lucinda (Wilson) Root. The paternal grandfather, Ephraim Root, served in the Colonial army during the Revolutionary war, as a recruit from near Haverhill, New Hampshire, and as he carried a sword it is believed he was an officer. He spent his entire life in the east, dying in Genesee county, New York, when past the age of eighty years. By occupation he was a farmer. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sally Skinner, died at the age of eighty-five years. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Amos Wilson, departed this life at the advanced age of ninety-six years. One of his sons was Judge Isaac Wilson, of Batavia, Illinois.

Dr. Anson Root, our subject's father, was also a native of Genesee county, New York, and was surgeon of a regiment in the war of 1812, receiving for his services his regular pay as a surgeon and later a land warrant, which he located near Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He also served as a surgeon in the Canadian rebellion. In 1838 he came west, and after spending a year on the Fox river he took up his residence in Elgin, where he made his home until called to his final rest in 1866, at the age of eighty years. For fifty years he successfully engaged in the practice of his chosen profession, was one of the leading pioneer physicians of this section of the state, but spent his last years in retirement, enjoying a well-



earned rest. He served as alderman of Elgin for a time and held other public positions of honor and trust. His wife, who was for many years a consistent member of the Baptist church, died in 1847, at the age of fifty-four years. In their family were eight children, two sons and six daughters, but only three are now living: Orpha, widow of Samuel Burdick, and a resident of Elgin; Martha, wife of C. H. Loomis, of Los Angeles, California; and Anson W., of this sketch.

On leaving the home farm at an early age, Mr. Root, of this review, learned the trade of a clothier, and for about ten years engaged in the manufacture of cloth, after which he learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, following it some years. For twenty years he was also interested in the milling business, and still owns a good mill property in Elgin, which he rents, besides a number of houses there and a good farm near Beloit, Wisconsin, deriving from these a good income. He also has money securities.

In 1846 Mr. Root led to the marriage altar Miss Elizabeth, daughter of William Himes, of Michigan, and to them was born a son—William A., a resident of Elgin, who married Alda Gray, and has one child, Kate. The wife of our subject, who was a consistent member of the Baptist church, died in 1856, aged thirty-two years, and the same year Mr. Root married Miss Harriet B. Parmelee, a native of Waterloo, Canada, and a daughter of Rufus Parmelee. Two daughters blessed this union: Ida R., wife of R. E. Linkfield, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, by whom she has two children, Alice and Edith; and Alice M., wife of F. E. Wolcott, of Chicago, by whom she has one child, Maud.

In 1853 Mr. Root was initiated into the

mysteries of the Odd Fellows' society, and with one exception is now the oldest member of Kane lodge, of Elgin, in which he has filled all the chairs, and also been representative to the grand lodge. He was for about ten years a member of the Masonic order. His political support has always been given the Republican party, but at present he is what is termed a silver Republican, advocating the free coinage of silver. From 1847 until 1867 he made his home in Beloit, Wisconsin, and while there served as assessor eight years, alderman nine years, and was undersheriff and acting as deputy provost marshal during the Civil war, aiding in the capture of deserters, etc. For five years he also served as county superintendent of the poor, for the same length of time was county supervisor, and in Elgin also served as county supervisor five years and assessor three years. He is one of the reliable, enterprising men of the city, is deservedly popular with all classes of citizens, and his many estimable traits of character have won him a host of friends. His wife is a consistent and active member of the Baptist church.

---

**THOMAS W. TEFFT.**—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 that men who are still living among us, and by no means overburdened with years, can tell of their boyhood. The log cabin home, the still ruder school house with its rough seats made of slabs, its limited range of studies and its brief terms, arranged on the subscription plan, the routine of work at home, unrelieved by any of the modern devices by which machinery is



OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



THOMAS W. TEFFT.



MRS. T. W. TEFFT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



made to do in a short time what formerly occupied the entire year,—these and many similar descriptions will bring up in sharp contrast the advantages of to-day. The subject of this sketch, a highly-respected citizen of Elgin, and the present alderman from the Sixth ward, has many interesting reminiscences of this sort.

Mr. Tefft was born in the town of Lebanon, Madison county, New York, October 30, 1824, a son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Collins) Tefft, a sketch of whom is given in connection with Jonathan Tefft, Jr., on another page of this work. In the schools of his native county our subject began his education, and after the emigration of the family to Kane county, Illinois, in the fall of 1835, he pursued his studies in the old log school house on Gravel Hill, on the Bosworth farm, south of Elgin, and later in a school in the township of St. Charles until twenty-one years of age.

Mr. Tefft remained with his father until he attained his majority, aiding in the arduous task of transforming the wild land into highly-cultivated fields, and then he and his brother Eli operated the old homestead on the shares for one year. Coming to Elgin in 1846 he worked at anything which he could find to do. He purchased a team of oxen, with which he plowed gardens for the villagers. In the fall he worked with a threshing machine, which he and his brother subsequently leased and operated through the winter. As the entire country was devoted to the raising of grain at that time, there was much threshing to do. In the spring Mr. Tefft again broke prairie, sometimes using twelve or thirteen yoke of cattle to a plow. He continued to follow these occupations until March, 1849, when he started to California in a party of six men,

making the journey in two wagons. In May they crossed the Missouri river thirty miles above St. Joseph, and in September reached their destination, having avoided large parties in order to have plenty of feed for their cattle. Fortunately they were not troubled by the Indians. Mr. Tefft went direct to the mountains in Calaveras county, and in the summer of 1850 was joined by two brothers. He stayed in California two years, and always regrets that he did not remain there, buying land near Sacramento. He met with fair success in gold mining, and during the time when nothing else could be done he engaged in hunting, and sold the game not needed by himself and partners. Venison brought three shillings per pound.

In the fall of 1851 Mr. Tefft returned to Elgin by way of the Isthmus, New York and Chicago. The following year he built a large brick livery stable on the west side, Elgin, which he owned until 1865 conducting it for several years. He served his fellow citizens as constable, policeman and city marshal most of the time. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for three months, was commissioned second lieutenant, and was stationed in Chicago. Subsequently he re-enlisted in the one-hundred-days' service with the rank of first lieutenant, and was stationed most of the time at Columbus, Kentucky, doing guard duty.

After the war Lieutenant Tefft bought his brother Jonathan's farm, lying partly in section 36, Elgin township, Kane county, while part lies in Hanover township, Cook county, which he still owns, while his brother Jonathan, purchased the old homestead. Retiring from farm labor in 1876 our subject purchased a residence on Chicago street, Elgin, where he lived until 1881, when in

partnership with his brother, Eli, he bought a stone quarry at South Elgin and moved there to superintend the working of the quarry. After operating it successfully until 1884, they sold and he returned to his home on Chicago street, Elgin. The following year, however, he purchased a thirty-five-acre farm south of the asylum, on which he lived for six years, selling in 1891, when he bought his present home at 403 Jewett street.

Mr. Tefft has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Emily B. Joles, daughter of Spencer Joles, and to them were born five children: Egbert, who died at the age of four years; Harvey, who now lives in Idaho; Emma, who married Sylvester Mead, and has five children—Wilbur, Frank, Archie (deceased), Roy and George; they make their home with our subject; Albert P. and Bertram W., who are also residents of Idaho. Mrs. Tefft died in April, 1869, and he subsequently married Mrs. Frances (Gould) Kinloch, who by her first husband had one son, Sanford G. Kinloch, who made his home with our subject until he attained his majority and then bought Mr. Tefft's thirty-five-acre farm south of the asylum. The second wife died May 12, 1887.

Mr. Tefft was a charter member of Clintonville lodge, No. 511, F. & A. M., of which he was master for twelve years, and he now holds membership in Elgin Lodge, No. 117. Politically he is a stalwart Democrat. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and in the spring of 1897 was elected alderman from the sixth ward—a position he is now creditably and satisfactorily filling. He is always numbered among Elgin's valued citizens, and on the rolls of Kane county's honored pioneers his name should be among the foremost.

MALACHI CHRISTIAN GETZELMAN, of Elgin, 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. He is now one of the highly-respected citizens in Elgin, and his long residence in Kane county and the active part he has taken in its development well entitles him to representation in its history.

Mr. Getzelman was born in Bavaria, Waürtzburg, Germany, January 1, 1837, a son of Malachi and Mary (Getzelman) Getzelman. His father was a mason by trade, and in 1848 came to the United States, locating in Hampshire township, Kane county, where he purchased forty acres of unimproved timber land and began the development of a farm, to which he added until at the time of his death his homestead comprised one hundred and fifty acres of valuable land. In politics he was a Republican, and in religious belief was a Lutheran in early life, but later joined the Evangelical church. His death occurred in August, 1862, and his wife passed away on the 1st of August, 1882. They were parents of five children who reached mature years: Michael, Jacob, Malachi, Margaret, wife of John Haible, of Elgin, and Henry, who died in Nevada about twenty years ago.

In the land of his nativity Mr. Getzelman, of this sketch, attended the public schools, and at the age of eleven he accompanied his parents to America. He assisted his father in the operation of the home farm until after the inauguration of the Civil war,

when his loyalty to his adopted country prompted his enlistment, and on the 1st of October, 1861, he joined Company K, Fifty-second Illinois Infantry, going into camp at Geneva. About the 1st of November he went to St. Louis, thence to St. Joseph, Missouri, and later returned to Kentucky. With his command he started to Fort Donelson, making forced marches, but arrived just too late for participation in the battle. His company was then sent as guard over the prisoners to Chicago. On their return to the south they participated in the battle of Shiloh, followed by the siege and battle of Corinth, and all the battles from Look-out Mountain to the capture of Atlanta, including the memorable march with Sherman to the sea. From Savannah they marched through the Carolinas, joining Grant's army on the march to Richmond, and on the 24th of May, 1865, participated in the grand review in Washington, the most celebrated military pageant seen in the history of this country. Mr. Getzelman passed through the war uninjured, save on one occasion, when he received a slight bullet wound under the arm. At that time he and several companions were out on a foraging expedition, and were discovered and pursued by a band of Rebel cavalry. So greatly were they outnumbered by the boys in gray that they decided the best thing to be done was to flee, but the Rebels were well mounted and escape seemed almost impossible. However, fully aware that capture meant the horrors of Libby and Andersonville, Mr. Getzelman determined to escape if he could, feeling that he would rather be killed than enter one of those southern prison pens. Mounted on a mule, he put the animal to its best possible speed, but as he reached a fence the mule refused to jump it, and our

subject, then tumbling over the fence, made his way toward a swamp, pursued by the bullets of the enemy, several of which pierced his clothes, making him think that his earthly career was drawing to a close. However, he succeeded in reaching the swamp, and ultimately arrived at camp once more, but his companions were captured. The next day, when his colonel suggested that he had better go on another foraging expedition, he asked to be excused!

Mr. Getzelman was mustered out of the service July 6, 1865, and resumed agricultural pursuits which he successfully conducted for many years. He purchased eighty acres in Hampshire township, and for sixteen years made his home thereon, but in the meantime increased the boundaries of his farm until it comprised seven hundred acres of rich land in one tract. He placed much of this under cultivation, made many excellent improvements and developed one of the finest farms of the county. For a number of years he engaged in general farming, but later years turned his attention more specially to dairying. He was very industrious and enterprising and his well directed efforts, capable management and honorable business methods brought him a success which year by year added to his income until he is now the possessor of a very handsome competence. On leaving the farm he spent five years in the village of Hampshire and in 1893 removed to Elgin, where he purchased the Crosby residence on Highland avenue, a fine home in which he is now spending his declining days, surrounded by the comforts that go to make life worth the living. He has sold a portion of his old farm, but still retains the ownership of the homestead of three hundred acres, which he rents. He also has a farm



of three hundred and sixty acres in Dundee township and considerable city realty. All has been acquired through his own efforts and his property is a splendid indication of his busy and useful life.

Mr. Getzleman was married in Chicago, September 4, 1865, to Ernestine Rudolph, a daughter of George and Eva (Eichler) Rudolph, natives of Germany. Mrs. Getzleman was born in Saxony, and by her marriage has become the mother of the following children: Emma, wife of Israel Reams, of Hampshire; Lydia May, wife of Charles J. Smith, of Elgin, who was born in Marine, Illinois, a son of Erasmus and Louisa (Bright) Smith, the former a native of Baden and the latter of Saxony, Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were married June 1, 1878, and have one child, Ernest Theodore E., who has received a liberal education and is now a member of the class of 1898 in one of the Chicago law colleges. He is married. Benjamin C., who is married and living in Elgin, is a graduate pharmacist, but now occupies the position of bookkeeper in the Elgin National Bank. Edna and George died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Getzleman are members of the Christian Evangelical church and are people of the highest respectability, whose many excellencies of character have gained them the warm regard of all with whom they have come in contact. In politics he is a stanch Republican and is a valued member of Elgin Post, G. A. R. He is a director in the Elgin National Bank, and has ever taken a very active interest in the development and progress of the community, doing all in his power for the promotion of its business, political, educational and moral interests. While in Hampshire he served as a member of the school board. He is as

true to the duties of citizenship in times of peace as he was when following the starry banner on southern battle fields, and his life record is one well worthy of emulation.

---

EDWARD H. ABBOTT, M. D., is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Elgin, his office being at 157 Chicago street. In a few short years his devotion to his profession has won him a place among the ablest representatives of the medical fraternity in this locality.

Dr. Abbott was born in Elgin, in the old Adams house on Villa street November 6, 1866, being the first child born to Frank W. Abbott and his wife, Dora L. (Helm) Abbott, the former a native of New York, the latter of Hanover, Germany. The paternal grandfather, Hiram Abbott, was an American of Scotch descent, and his wife, Jennette Robinson, was a descendant of the Rev. Jedediah Hibbard, a hymn writer and Baptist minister of early New England times and a minute man in the Revolution. Hiram Abbott was a merchant of Cayuga county, New York, and died before reaching the age of fifty years, leaving one son and two daughters.

Otto and Fredericka (Berling) Helm, the Doctor's maternal grandparents, were natives of Germany, who coming to America early in 1850, located upon and developed a small farm in Barrington township, Cook county, Illinois. There Otto Helm died in middle life, while his wife surviving him, reached the age of seventy-two years. In their family were three sons and one daughter.

During his youth Frank W. Abbott first came to Elgin about 1856, but later traveled through the Rocky Mountain states and





E. H. ABBOTT, M. D.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

into Mexico, returning in 1861 to enlist as drummer in Company I, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After serving three years he re-enlisted and remained at the front until the close of the war, participating in the battles of Donelson, Shiloh, Siege of Corinth, Iuka, Corinth, Hatchie, Town Creek, Bear Creek, Resaca, Snake Creek Gap, Day's Ferry, Rowe Cross Roads, Dallas, Calhoun Cross Roads, Mills Grove, Kenesaw, Decatur, Atlanta, Lovejoy's Station, Jonesboro, Altoona, Bentonville, Sherman's march to the sea, and Savannah. After the war he entered the Elgin National Watch Works, where he was acting as job foreman at the time of his death, which occurred May 7, 1882, when he was forty-two years of age. He was an active member of the famous Elgin Military band for years. Fraternally he was a Master Mason, and politically a Republican. His widow still survives and with her children lives at No. 358 Yarwood street. Besides the Doctor there are two daughters—Catherine L., who is first assistant in the Gail Borden Public Library; and Jennette E., who is employed in one of the offices of the National Watch factory.

Dr. Abbott was handicapped in early life by the loss of his father, and at an early age, fourteen years, he took his father's place as the family mainstay. Beginning in the watch factory on his father's job, he worked his way upward, succeeding in everything he undertook. Thrown into the society of mechanics he developed an interest in that direction and mastered mechanical drawing and mathematics in several years of night work. Then turning to literature and science he continued his night work, being in this his own tutor. During the same time he took an active part in local athletic circles, also edited the watch factory

department of the Elgin "Every Saturday" for three years, acted as secretary of Kane lodge, No. 47, I. O. O. F., for the same length of time, and passed through the chairs in that lodge. In 1888 he helped organize the Republican Tinnners' Campaign companies, acting as chairman in the meetings of the organization. Beginning the study of medicine several years before leaving the watch factory, he entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, with a year of work to his credit and graduated from that institution in the spring of 1895. Soon after locating in Elgin, Dr. Abbott undertook the treatment of a severe case of burning of the limbs and body of a young lady of Elgin. The case was pronounced a hopeless one, the patient being at death's door. After faithful preparation hundreds of skin grafts were placed upon the denuded flesh with complete success, the young woman regaining her health with the restoration of the destroyed cuticle. The case was a record one of its kind, the surface grafted (two square feet) being one of the greatest ever reported to the medical profession. Chicago and St. Louis papers devoted much space to the operation, while nearly every paper in the middle states mentioned it. This case established the Doctor's reputation, and has been followed by others which gained him an enviable standing in his profession.

Dr. Abbott was recently elected a member of the Fox River Valley Medical Association and of the American Medical Association; takes an active part in the Odd Fellows, Independent Order of Forresters, Knights of the Maccabees, Mystic Workers of the World, Royal Circle, and the Sons of Veterans. In the latter organization he holds the State of Illinois Supreme Surgery upon the commander's staff. He is

also medical director of the Sons of Veterans' Life Association, the insurance branch of the order, and is a member of the Carleton Club.

In November, 1895, he purchased a half interest in the drug business at 159 Chicago street with C. F. Wm. Schultz & Company. The business has since been conducted with gratifying success, Mr. Schultz being a skilled pharmacist, a graduate of the Chicago School of Pharmacy, the pharmaceutical department of the University of Illinois. The aim of this firm is to keep only the best and choicest of drugs and druggists' sundries.

Politically the Doctor is an Independent Republican, and takes a commendable interest in public affairs. He is a whole-souled, genial gentleman of a literary turn of mind, having contributed a number of articles for the local and general press. Being yet young, his promise for future eminence is flattering.

---

**G**EORGE BAKER, fence manufacturer and dealer in fencing material, Hampshire, was born near Mansfield, Seneca county, Ohio, June 9, 1845. His father, Peter Baker, was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and his mother dying when he was about five years of age, he was taken and reared by an uncle, who lived near Green Springs, Ohio. In early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, at which he worked for many years, and at odd times after his removal to Hampshire township. Samuel Baker, the paternal grandfather, moved to Ohio, some years after his son Peter went to live with his uncle. He died there about 1858, at the age of eighty years. The Bakers are of German origin,

the first of the name settling in this country in colonial days. Peter Baker married Magdalena Cook, a native of Richland county, Ohio, and a daughter of John George Cook, who left Europe after the Napoleonic wars. To them were born seven children as follows: Sarah Ann, wife of Abraham Aurand, residing in Hampshire township; George, our subject; Jacob, living in Hampshire township; John, residing near the village of Hampshire; William, in Hampshire township; Harrison, living in Sandusky county, Ohio; and Lydia, wife of Chris Bowman, of Hampshire township.

In November, 1845, Peter Baker came with his family to Kane county, Illinois, and located on a farm a few miles northeast of the present village of Hampshire. He came by wagon, and was three months in making the trip. While camping on the bank of a river one evening, the father went to get wood and the mother to get water. Our subject, then but about six months old, was left under the wagon. When the mother returned, she found the little one had rolled nearly into the river. The place selected by Mr. Baker was in the heavy timber, which had to be cleared for cultivation. A log house was first erected and later a substantial frame house was built. Here the father followed farming until his death, in December, 1867, at the age of forty-seven years. The mother remained in possession of the farm, until her death, November 25, 1894, at the age of seventy-five years. Peter Baker was a very industrious man, and in bad weather and at night worked at his trade of shoemaking, and thus acquired money to pay for his farm.

The subject of this sketch was reared in



Hampshire township, and attended the district schools until the age of seventeen years. He remained upon the home farm, however, until November 17, 1864, when he enlisted in Company B, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, under command of Captain C. H. Shopleigh, and was mustered into the service at St. Charles, and was immediately sent to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, where the regiment was detained for some months. It was then sent to Lexington, Missouri, where it engaged in battle with the Rebels, after which it was sent to Macon City, guarding prisoners. They returned to Illinois in charge of the prisoners, which were left at Alton, and the regiment was then sent to Kansas, west of Fort Scott, thence to Verdegris river, in the Indian country, and in guarding the stage route in Smoky Hill Valley. When near Salt Lake City, our subject and a companion were cut off from the troop by Indians, and the two fought for several hours, when relief came. Our subject was shot in the leg and was sent to the hospital at Fort Bennett, thence to Fort Leavenworth, where he was mustered out and discharged from hospital, January 10, 1866, and was sent to the soldiers' home, where he remained until February 22, 1866, and then sent to Springfield, and from there home.

On his return home Mr. Baker began working on a farm for Mr. Rudolph, and, not yet being of age, his father took his wages, amounting to one hundred and fifty dollars, much to his sorrow. In the summer of 1867, he worked for M. J. Getzelman, for twenty-one dollars and fifty cents per month, and in the summer of 1868 for Samuel Gift. In 1869, he worked for Eberhardt Wertwein, and in the fall of that year went to Ohio, expecting to make a

visit of a few weeks. Arriving there he went to work for an uncle, with whom he remained two years. On the 7th of December, 1871, in Thompson township, Seneca county, Ohio, he married Caroline Deuchler, third in a family of eleven children, born in Alsace, France, in 1845, and who came with her parents to America in 1851, sailing in April from Havre, France, landing at New York, in June, being forty-two days on the water. Her father, Peter Deuchler, married Elizabeth Long, a daughter of Peter Long, a soldier under Napoleon. Peter Deuchler was killed by a runaway team, in 1872, at the age of seventy-two years. His wife survived him some years, dying at the age of sixty-seven years. To Mr. and Mrs. Baker four children have been born, as follows: Albert W., an employe in the tile factory, at Hampshire; Samuel R., a telegraph operator at New Lebanon, Illinois; Ida May and Lillie Annie, at home.

After his marriage, Mr. Baker rented a farm in Seneca county, Ohio, where he remained one year and then spent four years on a farm in Sandusky county, Ohio. In 1876 he returned to Kane county, rented a house and worked for Lucien Baldwin for one year, and then rented his father's old farm for four years. Shortly afterwards he bought his present place at the edge of the village of Hampshire, and built his residence. For two years he worked in the tile factory and at painting for four years. In 1883, he began his present business, and now manufactures several varieties of fencing and is also agent for several lines of patent fencing. He has erected many miles of fencing in Hampshire and adjoining townships. During the season in which fence building is dull he canvasses for Bibles and religious

books, and in a single year he has sold two hundred Bibles, and distributed two thousand Christian tracts. He and his family are all members of the Evangelical church. Fraternally he is a member of Hampshire post, G. A. R., and in politics is a Republican.

**F**RANCIS BURTON, an honored pioneer of Kane county, who is now living retired in Elgin, was born in Sherrington, near Montreal, Canada East, December 14, 1829, a son of John and Jane (Stringer) Burton, natives of Yorkshire, England, who emigrated to Canada about 1815, and were married in Montreal. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, enlisted as a volunteer in the French war, and was killed in an engagement at Odeltown, in 1838. His wife died in Kane county, Illinois, in 1866, a worthy member of the Episcopal church, to which the father also belonged. To them were born nine children, as follows: William, Richard, Mary, the wife of George Marshall, of South Elgin; John, Francis, George, who died at the age of seven years; Alice, widow of George Church; and Ann, wife of George Cookman.

Reared in Canada, Francis Burton obtained his education in the public schools of that country, and upon the home farm he early became familiar with every department of farm work. Coming to the United States in 1845, he located in Kane county, Illinois, where his brothers, William, Richard and John, had previously taken up their residence. In 1850, before he had attained his majority, he made his first purchase of land, it being a tract of ninety-six acres in Plato township, which he leased. In 1852 he had "an attack of the gold fever," and, with his brother Richard, crossed the

plains to California, where he engaged in mining for about six months with reasonable success, operating principally on Weaver creek. On his return to Illinois he worked in a distillery at Clintonville for a time, and then operated a farm, which he rented of his uncle. At the end of that time he purchased eighty acres in Elgin township, Kane county, to the cultivation and improvement of which he at once turned his attention. Subsequently he bought another eighty-acre tract adjoining, which he afterward sold to the original owner, John Springer, and later purchased fifty acres in Plato township, which he operated for a few years. On selling that place he bought one hundred and seventeen acres adjoining it on the east. This place, together with his first eighty-acre farm, he still owns, and he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1884, when he leased his land to his son-in-law and removed to Elgin, where he has since practically lived retired in the enjoyment of the accumulations of former years. In connection with general farming, he devoted a great deal of his time to stock raising and dairying, and his farm is now chiefly a dairy farm.

On the 6th of September, 1853, Mr. Burton was united in marriage with Miss Mary Poole, a native of England, and a daughter of Charles Poole. Nine children blessed this union, namely: Charles R., a resident of Kingston, Illinois; Adeline M., wife of George Wright, of Elgin; George F., a butter maker living in Mount Carroll, Illinois; Fenny, wife of Charles Ladd, living near Iowa Falls, Iowa; Olive; William L., who lives on his father's farm at Iowa Falls; Frank, a carpenter of Elgin; and Lottie and Minnie, who died in childhood.

In his political affiliations Mr. Burton is

a pronounced Republican, and he has most acceptably served in a number of township offices. He and his wife are both consistent members of the United Brethren church, and are held in high regard by all who know them on account of their sterling worth and many virtues.

FRED W. JENCKS, the present efficient alderman from the second ward, is one of the leading and most popular business men of Elgin, where he is interested in a number of different enterprises. Although a comparatively young man, he has done much to promote the commercial activity, advance the general welfare and secure the material development of the city.

A native of Kane county, Mr. Jencks was born in Dundee, July 6, 1861, and is a son of Dennison and Elizabeth (Hollister) Jencks, the former a native of North Adams, Massachusetts, the latter of Danbury, Connecticut. The father came to Illinois in 1841, is one of the oldest residents of the county, making his home in Dundee for many years. Since 1872, however, he has resided in Elgin, where for over twenty years he was successfully engaged in the insurance business, but is now living retired at the age of sixty. A public-spirited, enterprising citizen, he has always taken a commendable interest in public affairs; for three terms he served his fellow citizens as county supervisor, alderman of Elgin fourteen years, and postmaster at Dundee for eight years. Religiously Mrs. Jencks was identified with the Baptist church. She was called to her final rest January 18, 1897, at the age of fifty-six years.

Fred W. Jencks, the only child of this worthy couple, by adoption, has been a resident of Elgin since ten years of age, his

parents removing from Dundee to this city at that time, and in the academy he completed his literary education. In 1877 he became interested with his father in the insurance business, and now represents some of the most reliable firms in the United States, besides others of foreign countries. These include the Royal Fire, of England; the Girard, of Philadelphia; the Ætna, of Hartford, Connecticut; the Glens Falls, of New York; the Traders, of Chicago; the Imperial, of London, England; the St. Paul, of Minnesota; the American Central, of St. Louis; and the Scottish Union & National, of Scotland. He does the most extensive business of any firm of the kind in Elgin. He is also serving as a notary public, is a licensed city bill poster and distributor, is interested in the real-estate business, and for the past eleven years has been the efficient and popular manager of the Elgin Opera House, of Elgin, which has prospered under his charge.

On the 17th of June, 1883, Mr. Jencks was married to Miss Lizzie, daughter of Andrew Schaller, and they now have one child, Mabel V. Fraternally is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he is identified with the Republican party. In 1895 he was elected alderman from the second ward, receiving the largest majority of any candidate on the ticket, a fact which plainly indicates his popularity, and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He has been a member of some of the most important committees, and has been chairman of the fire and water committee during his entire incumbency. He has exerted his influence in behalf of the best interests of the city, and that his services are appre-



ciated is evinced by his continuous re-election. For the past five years he has been president of the Illinois State Bill Posters Association.

**H**ANS JOHNSON, a farmer residing in the village of Hampshire, is a native of Denmark, born in Husby, November 11, 1845. He there attended the Lutheran parochial school until the age of fourteen, when he commenced work on a farm, and later was employed as foreman of a large farm belonging to the minister of their church, which position he retained for three years. For three years he was in the Danish army, serving from 1868 to 1870, inclusive. He was a corporal in the artillery service. At the time of the Franco-Prussian war he was again called into active service, and assisted in guarding the frontier. In the fall of 1872 he came to America. He left Denmark September 27, for Hull, England, and encountered a severe storm on the North sea, being driven back to Scaggen on the Danish coast. He sailed from Liverpool, England, October 10, 1872, and landed at Quebec on the 22d of the same month. From Quebec he went to Luddington, Michigan, where he worked eight months, and then went to Grand Haven, in the same state, where he was employed two months. From Grand Haven he went to Chicago, and secured work on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad in Indiana. Receiving no money for his labor, he returned to Chicago and began work for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. Later he secured work in Plato township, Kane county, on the farm of Ira Russell, where he remained four and a half years, then rented a part of the Russell land. A sister came from Denmark to keep house

for him, and on her marriage some months later he sold the stock and farm implements and took charge of a farm for a widow lady east of Elgin. He ran that farm for two years, when on the 28th of March, 1883, he was united in marriage with Miss Reka Dahl, and to them have been born six children — Lizzie, Ella, Charles, Katherine, Grace and Florence.

After his marriage Mr. Johnson went to Pingree Grove, rented the farm of L. N. Kelly, comprising five hundred and twenty acres, for which he paid a cash rent of seven thousand, five hundred dollars for the five years. In the fall of 1890 he bought his present farm of one hundred and fifty acres, which lies partly in the village of Hampshire, and which is well improved, having on it a good frame house, a large basement barn 36 x 80 feet, with twenty-four-foot posts, a windmill eighty feet high, the place being well drained with three thousand feet of tiling. The farm is used for dairy purposes, and Mr. Johnson keeps from forty to fifty head of cows, the milk from which he ships to Chicago.

Hans Johnson, Sr., the father of our subject, married Kern Jansen, who was also a native of Denmark. He was a laborer in Denmark and came to America, but not being able to adapt himself to the customs of the country, became dissatisfied and returned to his native land, where his death occurred in 1881, when about sixty-eight years of age. Of his six children, all came to America and here made their homes.

In 1892 an exciting and almost fatal accident occurred to our subject. He was filling his barn with hay, when the fork descended unexpectedly, piercing through his clothing and grazing his flesh. It was a rather too close call for comfort. Relig-



iously, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are members of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hampshire. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason and a member of the Eastern Star, of which his wife is also a member; also a member of the Royal Neighbors, of the Knights of the Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America and Knights of the Globe. In politics he is a Republican.

---

FRED ROEHL, of Dundee, Illinois, has been a resident of Kane county since the spring of 1854. He is a native of Prussia, born August 14, 1832, and is the son of Charles and Louisa (Kroll) Roehl, also natives of that country. His father was a sailor, owner and captain of several vessels and followed the sea the greater part of his life. When Fred was but seven years of age his mother died, leaving three children. In his boyhood he had good common-school advantages, but learned the English language after coming to this country. While yet residing in his native land, he learned the stone and brick mason trade in a most thorough manner. In 1854 he came to United States, and for a few months worked on a farm near Dundee. In 1855, he formed a partnership with Mr. Parker, a mason, and engaged in contracting and building with him about seven years. There are in Dundee a large number of business and dwelling houses, which show the architectural skill and handiwork of Mr. Roehl.

In 1863 Mr. Roehl engaged in the saloon and hotel business on the east side in Dundee, in which he continued about three years, when he sold out and moved to West Dundee and there engaged in the grocery, butcher and saloon business for some seven

years, building up a large and profitable trade. He then sold out and returned to East Dundee, started a hardware store, and also again engaging in building and contracting, erecting four business houses. He likewise carried on a saloon and butcher shop, but after two years sold out the hardware store, but continued in the other lines of business three years longer. Selling out his saloon and butcher shop, he started a lumber yard and engaged in that business about five years. Selling the lumber business he opened a wood and coal yard in Elgin, which he continued some four or five years, since which time he has been dealing in milch cows and stock.

Mr. Roehl was married at Dundee, July 25, 1857, to Louisa Haasa, a daughter of Henry Haasa, and a native of Hanover, Germany, where she was reared and educated. She came to this country in 1854 with her parents, who first settled in Elmhurst, but later move to a farm near Barrington Centre. By this union nine children have been born, four of whom are living, the remainder dying in childhood. The living are Charles, now residing in Iowa; Carrie, wife of Joseph Johnson, a resident of Algonquin, Illinois; Louisa, wife of William Hagel, a business man of Chicago; and Frank, engaged in the butcher business, as junior partner of the firm of Smith & Roehl.

Politically, Mr. Roehl is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since becoming a naturalized citizen. He has held several local offices of honor and trust, serving first as constable for four years, and, though again elected, declined the office. He also served as trustee of the town on the west side and chairman of the board on the east side. In every position

he has discharged his duties faithfully and well. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church, one of its charter members in Dundee. In the erection of their house of worship, in Dundee, he contributed liberally of his time and money.

For forty-four years Mr. Roehl has been identified with the business interests of Dundee. He has built for himself in this time some fifteen business houses and residences in addition to those erected for other people. He has probably done as much as any one man toward improving and developing his adopted city. Numbered among the old settlers of the place, he enjoys the confidence and respect of all.

---

**W**ILLIAM MARSHALL, proprietor of the Railroad avenue farm, on section 19, St. Charles township, is admitted to be one of the best farmers in the township, and the man who is well regarded by the community in general. He was born in North Clifton, on the banks of the river Trent, Nottinghamshire, England, April 21, 1821. His father, William Marshall, Sr., was also a native of the same shire, where he married Mary Bingham, a native of Lincolnshire, England, by whom he had eleven children, five sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years, save one son.

William Marshall, our subject, was reared in Nottinghamshire, England, and in his boyhood received a very limited education. In his youth he was apprenticed for a term of seven years to learn the blacksmith trade, his only compensation being his board during that time. After completing his trade he worked as a journeyman in Nottinghamshire and Lancastershire, and had the repu-

tation of being one of the best mechanics in the vicinity. On the 25th of March, 1843, in Nottinghamshire, he married Miss Sarah Harpham, a native of Headon, near shire-town of Retford, Nottinghamshire, and three years later, with his wife, he set sail for America, taking ship at Liverpool, April 22, 1848, and landed in New York, May 24, 1848, being thirty-two days in making the trip, during which time they encountered some severe weather. From New York he went up the Hudson river to Albany, and by the Erie Canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago, where he worked for a few days for the McCormick company, and then came to St. Charles, started a shop, and worked at his trade for about four years.

Believing he could better himself, Mr. Marshall sold his shop and rented a farm for two years, and then purchased seventy-six acres of the farm on which he now resides. The farm was partially improved, having on it a log house with a stone chimney, and shake roof. He lived in that house until he had made considerable improvements in the place, when he erected a neat and substantial house, that was burned down May 21, 1894. He then built his present residence, which is a frame, with pressed brick veneer and stone. This is a fine residence, and one of the best in the township. Mr. Marshall has also upon the place five barns, and other outbuildings, of the most substantial character. From time to time he added to his additional purchase, until he had three hundred acres of as fine land as could be desired, but he has since sold one hundred and ten acres, leaving him one hundred and ninety acres in his present farm. In addition to this farm he owns a valuable four-acre tract and several lots in St. Charles, as well as a number of lots in



MR. AND MRS. WM. MARSHALL.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Chicago, Aurora, Evergreen Park and elsewhere.

Some five years after Mr. Marshall located in St. Charles township, he was joined by his father, and later his brothers and sisters came to this country. The parents and youngest son remained with our subject for about one year and then removed to DeKalb county, where they spent the remaining years of their life, the father dying at the age of about ninety, while the mother was ninety-four years old at the time of her death. Thomas Marshall, their youngest son, remained with them until their death, when he succeeded to the property which they had accumulated, and is now one of wealthy men of De Kalb county. All the brothers and sisters started in life without a dollar and now all are wealthy and influential. Three of the sisters married three brothers, Edward, John and William Lawrence, and became wealthy.

After a long and happy married life, Mr. Marshall was deprived of his wife, her death taking place February 14, 1895, leaving five children—Jane, wife of Richmond Cook, who was a farmer of Kane county, and is now deceased, by whom she had six children; Mary Ann, wife of Joseph Kirk, of St. Charles township, Kane county, by whom she has ten children; Elizabeth, wife of Charles T. Shaver, whose farm adjoins that of Mr. Marshall; they have one child; Addie Eliza, wife of Truman Albee, of Elgin, a machinist in the watch factory, by whom she had two children; and William Henry, a farmer of St. Charles township. Three children died in infancy and one at the age of three years.

On the 19th of May, 1897, Mr. Marshall was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary L. Templeton, of

Chicago, widow of Rev. John G. Templeton, who held a position with Marshall Field & Company, of Chicago. His brother, Thomas Templeton, is a partner in that firm. Mrs. Marshall was born in Collinsville, Marquette county, Michigan. Her father, Azel Lathrop, was a pioneer of that county, in which there is a town named for him. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have two children (twins), Marcus Fletcher and George Lathrop, born February 28, 1898. By her first husband, Mrs. Marshall has three children—Thomas Templeton, who holds a position with Orr & Lockett, Chicago; Robert Templeton, a student in the seminary at Evansville, Wisconsin; and Mary Templeton, a student in the home school.

Politically, Mr. Marshall was formerly a Republican, but for some years has been identified with the Prohibition party. He is a member of the Free Methodist church, with which he has been identified for thirty-eight years. He was one of the original members of the organization in his neighborhood. For fifty years he has been a resident of Kane county, and, although he came a poor man, by industry and economy he has accumulated a competency, and is enabled to take life easy. His friends are many throughout the county, and no man is held in higher esteem.

---

ABRAHAM LEATHERMAN, an honored veteran of the Civil war now living retired in the city of Elgin, is a native of Illinois, born in the town of Hanover, Cook county, December 21, 1840, and is a worthy representative of one of the highly respected pioneer families of this section of the state. His father, Abraham Leather-

man, Sr., was born in Kentucky, October 25, 1801, and was reared in Louisville. The paternal grandfather was only seventeen years old at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war, but he joined the Continental army and served all through that terrible struggle, returning home to find that the other members of the family had all been killed, probably by the Indians.

At the age of eighteen years Abraham Leatherman, Sr., left his native state and removed to Greencastle, Putnam county, Indiana, where he engaged in farming until taking up his residence in Hanover, Cook county, Illinois, on the 20th of October, 1835. Here he pre-empted four hundred acres of land which he later purchased when it came into market, and to the cultivation and improvement of the place he devoted his time and attention until 1865, when he sold it. This place was known as Leatherman's Hill, and the famous hostelry which he kept was known as Leatherman's Inn. Retiring from active business life in 1866, he purchased a small tract of land known as the John Hill farm and there made his home until coming to Elgin in 1885. Here he built a house adjoining that of our subject, where he died February 16, 1889. He was a large man, standing six feet in his stockings, was of a genial temperament and was devoted to his family. In political sentiment he was a Democrat, and in religious belief was a Baptist.

Abraham Leatherman, Sr., was married at the age of twenty-one years to Miss Mary Duese, who was born in Indiana January 18, 1803, a daughter of David Duese, and died February 18, 1889, being laid to rest by the side of her husband in the old cemetery at Elgin. She, too, was a faithful member of the Baptist church. Nine chil-

dren were born to this worthy couple: (1) William, born January 7, 1823, enlisted August 12, 1862, in Company I, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for service in the Civil war, and died of smallpox while at Camp Butler January 28, 1863. (2) David, born October 25, 1824, was a farmer by occupation, but is now living retired in Kansas. (3) Sarah, born October 26, 1826, married David Longley, and makes her home in Chickasaw county, Iowa. (4) Frederick, born November 5, 1828, was one of the "Forty-niners," and died in California, supposed to have been murdered for his money in 1852. (5) Jane, born November 23, 1830, is the wife of Seth Stowell, who lived for some years near Spring Brook, Illinois, but is now residing in Nebraska. (6) John, born January 7, 1833, was also one of the boys in blue during the Civil war, enlisting August 12, 1862, in Company F, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was taken prisoner in June, 1864, when in the campaign against Price, and was confined for nine months in Andersonville prison, being released after the surrender of General Lee. He is now a retired farmer, living in Watseka, Illinois, but also owns a place in Louisiana, where he spends the winter months. (7) Elizabeth, born July 9, 1835, is the wife of Joseph R. McChesney, of Glen Ellyn, DuPage county, Illinois. (8) Evan, born December 3, 1837, was also a Union soldier, having enlisted in the spring of 1865 in the One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Infantry, and is now a farmer living in Watseka, Iroquois county, Illinois. (9) Abraham, Jr., of this review, is the youngest of the family.

Reared in Hanover, Cook county, the subject of this sketch attended the common

schools during his boyhood and youth, and when not in the school room, assisted his father in the labors of the farm. Responding to his country's call for aid, he enlisted August 12, 1861, in Company F, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered in at Chicago. From there the regiment proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, and Mr. Leatherman took part in all the marches and battles in which it took part, including the Tallahassee expedition, the Vicksburg campaign and the Arkansas expedition. He was selected as one of the guard to the prisoners brought from Arkansas to Camp Butler, where he remained on duty for about a year, going to Memphis in the spring of 1863. He was then under General Sturges in the campaign against Price, and was next with his regiment detailed to guard the railroads around Memphis, being thus engaged when the war ended. He was mustered out at that place, and discharged at Chicago, June 29, 1865, being at that time a member of what was known as the Third Board of Trade Regiment of Chicago. After his return home, Mr. Leatherman successfully engaged in farming and dairying, purchasing one hundred and eighty acres of the old John Hill tract. There he carried on operations in a most profitable manner until 1883, when he came to Elgin and took up his residence at the corner of Porter avenue and Park street, in a house which he had erected for his home. He leases his farm, and is now enjoying that ease and retirement which should always follow a useful and honorable career.

On the 13th of June, 1867, Mr. Leatherman was united in marriage with Miss Josephine A. McChesney, born in Chicago, and a daughter of James H. and Mary Brown

(Hull) McChesney, who were born in New York City, and are now living in Adams county, Wisconsin. They have eight children living, namely: Josephine, Mary and James, deceased, Margaret, Jane, Samuel, Joseph, John, deceased, and James, Mark and Myrtle. To Mr. and Mrs. Leatherman have been born the following named children: William O., born April 15, 1868, died September 20, of that year; Jesse T., born July 8, 1872, died September 13, 1872; Foneta M. M., born June 10, 1875, is now the wife of Edward Hunt, of Hanover, Illinois; Ida D., born July 18, 1880, and May E., born May 12, 1888, are both at home. The parents are both consistent members of the Congregational church, and are widely and favorably known. Politically Mr. Leatherman is identified with the Republican party, and socially affiliates with Elgin post, No. 49, G. A. R. His efforts in life have been crowned with success, so that he now enjoys a handsome competence, and his career has ever been such as to win for him the respect and confidence of all who know him.

JOHN RADLOFF, of Dundee, is a native of Germany, born in Mechlenberg, August 25, 1839. He there grew to manhood and received a good education in the German language, attending school about seven years. He was reared on a farm and remained with his father until nineteen years of age, when he began life for himself, working at various occupations in his native country for about six years. He was united in marriage at Mechlenberg, in 1863, with Miss Mary Schroeder, a daughter of Frank Schroeder, also a native of Germany.

With that laudable desire to better himself, Mr. Radloff determined to emigrate to



the United States, and in 1865, accompanied by his young wife, he crossed the Atlantic, landing in New York city, from which place he came directly to Illinois, locating in Huntly, McHenry county, where he joined some of his relatives who had preceded him to the new world. He first worked on the railroad at that place, in and around the depot, and was content to do anything honorable which he could find to do. In 1868, he rented a farm near Huntly and engaged in farming and dairying. In 1877 he purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty-one acres near Barrington, Cook county, to which he removed, and on which he continued to reside for nineteen years. In 1896 he rented the farm, built a residence on First street, Dundee, into which he moved with his family and has since lived a retired life.

To Mr. and Mrs. Radloff seven children have been born: Sophia, wife of Charles Young, of McHenry county; Rachel, wife of Fred Rousch, of Starks Station, Illinois; Fred, a farmer residing on the old homestead; Caroline, wife of William Miller, of McHenry county; Mary, wife of Fred Miller, residing in Cook county; Bertha, wife of Burton Chapman, watch inspector in the Elgin factory; and Louis, who is assisting his brother on the farm.

Politically Mr. Radloff is a staunch Republican and believer in protection and reciprocity. His first presidential ballot was cast for U. S. Grant in 1872. For about fifteen years Mr. Radloff served as a member of the school board and as overseer of highways about seventeen years, making a faithful and efficient officer. For some years he was an official of the Farmers' Insurance Company of Barrington township, and was one of its appraisers for six years.

Religiously he is a member of the Lutheran church and is one of its active members, having served as deacon in the same for some years. His wife and children are also members of the same body, and all take an active interest in the work of the church.

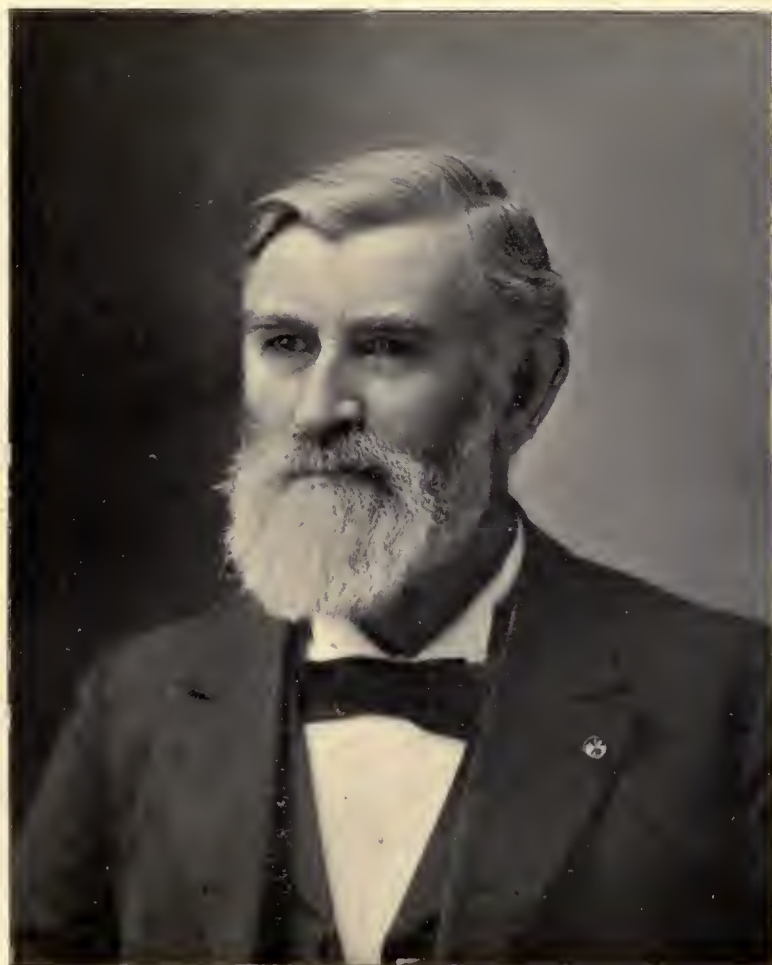
Mr. Radloff has been a resident of Illinois about thirty-three years. He came here a poor man, but by his industrious habits he has acquired a fair share of this world's goods, has seen his family well provided and is now enjoying a well earned rest.

GEN. JOHN SHULER WILCOX, of Elgin, is one of the best known men in Kane county, and one highly honored by all. He comes of a brave and patriotic family, whose deeds are a part of the great record of our country's history. His ancestry is traced back to William Wilcockson, who came to this country in 1635, as shown by the following taken from the New England Historic Genealogical Register, Vol. XIV., part 4, page 304:

"2d Aprilis, 1635. Theis underwritten names are to be transported to New England, imbarqued in the Planter, Nico Trarice, Master: William Wilcockson (lynen weaver), age 34; Margaret Wilcockson, age 24; Jo Wilcockson, age 2."

It will thus be seen that the name was originally Wilcockson. In due time it was changed to Wilcox. William Wilcockson settled first at Windsor and afterward removed to Stratford, Connecticut. His fourth child, Samuel, settled at Simsbury, Connecticut, where his first son, also named Samuel, was born April 15, 1666. The eighth child of the second Samuel was named Ephraim, and was born February 4, 1707. He married Hannah Hill, of Sims-





GEN. J. S. WILCOX.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

bury, Connecticut. They were the parents of Silvanus Wilcox, who was born at Simsbury, November 14, 1735, and married Christine Curtis, a daughter of Peter Curtis, of that place. A few years later he moved with his family to Nine Partners, Dutchess county, New York, where he remained some years, and then went to Alford, Massachusetts, where, in 1768, he purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits.

In the first town meeting held in Alford, in 1775, Silvanus Wilcox was elected constable and collector of taxes, and the same year was elected one of the selectmen of the town, which office he held five terms. The trouble with Great Britain had commenced, and Mr. Wilcox was appointed one of a committee of safety. A little later a company was raised for military service, and he was elected captain. In the campaign of 1775-76 it took an active part, and in September, 1777, the company joined the regiment of Col. John Asjley, and marched to Saratoga, where they participated in the capture of Burgoyne. After a long struggle the war for independence was brought to a successful termination, and Captain Wilcox retired to his farm to enjoy the blessings of peace and pursuits of agriculture. After residing on his farm in Alford for nearly thirty years, he sold it and removed to the Greenland tract, where he resided until his death.

Silvanus Wilcox, Jr., the son of the Revolutionary hero, was born in Alford, Massachusetts, May 26, 1762. He married, and in April, 1787, moved with his wife and daughter to Schoharie Creek, New York, where he and his wife are buried, their graves being enclosed with a stone wall, a plain marble slab marking their resting place, with his name inscribed "General

Silvanus Wilcox." He attained the rank of general in the New York State Militia. His son, Elijah Wilcox, was born in Montgomery county, New York, May 10, 1791. He there married Sally Shuler, also a native of New York, and was recognized as one of the leading citizens of Fultonville, that state, where he lived for many years. In the State Militia he rose to the rank of brigadier-general, and in the civil service of his town and county served in several local positions. In May, 1842, he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located on a farm two and a half miles northwest of Elgin, where his last days were passed. The farm, known as the Wilcox homestead, is now owned by Judge Silvanus Wilcox, the eldest son. To Elijah and Sally Wilcox ten children were born, as follows: Amelia A., who married John Hill; John S., who died at the age of sixteen years; Silvanus, who married Jane Mallory; Rensselaer, who died in infancy; Daniel S., who married Sarah Ballard; Calvin E., who married Emily Larkin; Edward Sanford, who married Sarah Clarke, and later Cordelia Peck Alston, sister of George M. Peck; Hannah M., wife of Charles R. Collin; John Shuler, our subject; William H., who wedded Mary A. Green, and after her death Mrs. Helen Green. Of these, four are living in Elgin: Silvanus, Mrs. Collin, John S. and William H.

Elijah Wilcox was in politics a Democrat, in religion a Universalist. In 1846 he was elected to the Illinois State senate and served four years, with credit to himself and constituents. When the Civil war commenced he warmly espoused the Union cause; and did much in the way of encouragement to the men who left for the front. He was foremost in educational and agricultural movements, and always labored for

the progress and advancement of the community and the state, and departed this life holding the esteem of all who knew him. He died December 11, 1862, while his good wife survived him many years, dying April 4, 1882. She was a devoted member of the Congregational church. With his three sons he received honorable mention in Moses' History of Illinois.

John Shuler Wilcox, ninth child of General Elijah and Sally (Shuler) Wilcox, was born March 18, 1833, at Fultonville, Montgomery county, New York, and with the family came to Elgin, Kane county, Illinois, in May, 1842, where they located on the old homestead now the property of his eldest brother, Judge Silvanus Wilcox. When he was a boy he drove the breaking team of seven yoke of oxen to a great plow turning with each furrow twenty-seven inches of wild prairie sod, clean cut and as straight as a ribbon. The log cabin with shake roof, puncheon floor, wooden latch and thong latch string were familiar realities. The lurid gleam of prairie fires against the dark horizon of night was a common sight, and the howl of prairie wolves at daybreak and evening was often heard. Wolves and deer were abundant, sand hill cranes, wild geese and ducks abounded. Prairie chickens and quails covered the prairies, and vast flocks of wild pigeons darkened the sky in their annual migrations. The songs of the brown thrush, robin, oriole, cat bird, lark, bobolink and other birds filled grove and prairie with music. Myriads of wild flowers bloomed from every spring until late autumn, and it was indeed a beautiful and fertile land. In the winter of 1842-3 the lands came into market and it was a busy and anxious time with the early settlers, adjusting their claim lines to the govern-

ment surveys, and securing title to their lands.

Mr. Wilcox's boyhood was spent on the farm, and in 1851 he was employed a few months in a store in Union, McHenry county, Illinois. Going to Galesburg in 1852, he attended school there for about a year and a half, at what is now Lombard University. Returning to Elgin he studied law in the office of his brother, Hon. S. Wilcox, and was admitted to the bar in 1855. That winter, as president of the Young Men's Association, he introduced to Elgin audiences such eminent men as Wendell Phillips, Elihu Burritt, John G. Saxe, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Bayard Taylor, etc., in a course of brilliant lectures rarely equaled. He was also a member of the Elgin Library Association.

On September 3, 1856, Mr. Wilcox married Miss Lois A. Conger, at Galesburg, and in 1858 they built their first house, now No. 456 Douglas avenue, Elgin, where they have since resided. It has ever been an ideal home to their family, and the center of a most generous and genial hospitality. Six children have been born to them, namely: Dwight Conger; John Hill; Gertrude; Marie, now Mrs. Robert Fuller Fitz, of Boston, Massachusetts; Frank Conger; and Marguerite. Frank C. and Gertrude died in infancy, and John H. in 1892.

About 1856 a military company was organized in Elgin, of which Mr. Wilcox was a lieutenant, and for two years the "Continental" under the drill and discipline of the lamented Col. E. E. Ellsworth, who was killed at Alexandria, Virginia, early in the war, was the crack military company of northern Illinois. In 1855 Mr. Wilcox opened an office in Elgin and soon acquired a good clientage, and a fair reputation as a



popular speaker and rising young lawyer. Upon the president's first call for troops he at once began arranging his business, preparatory to enlisting.

In August, 1861, Mr. Wilcox became a member of a military company and was chosen its captain. It became Company K, Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and upon the organization of the regiment he was chosen its lieutenant-colonel, was subsequently promoted to the colonelcy, and by the president was commissioned brevet brigadier general of volunteers. He served with his regiment in its campaigns, marches and battles until the spring of 1864 when he resigned. At request of the governor and adjutant-general of the state, he commanded the camp of organization of the One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and practically gave the summer and fall to the enlistment and organization of troops and the political campaign resulting in the second election of Mr. Lincoln to the presidency.

Mr. Wilcox then resumed his law practice with flattering success although greatly handicapped by an impaired hearing, resulting from injury received at the battle of Corinth, Mississippi. In 1865 he became one of the original incorporators of the First National Bank, serving over twelve years as a director, and for a time vice-president of the bank. In 1869, with others, he incorporated the Elgin City Banking Company, the first savings bank in Elgin, and served about ten years as one of its officers. In 1866 he was elected and served one term as mayor of the city. He served a number of years on the public library board, and while its president had the Elgin library designated by the congressman of this district to receive all public documents issued

by the government, including the unique and very costly war records of both the Federal and Confederate governments. He served several years as director and as president of the Elgin Agricultural Society. For over a quarter of a century he has been a member of the board of trustees of Elgin Academy, and several years its president. From 1843 to 1854 his father was a member of the same board.

Up to 1871 Elgin had but one railway, and the excessive charges for passengers and freight were exasperating. The charges on a box of tea or upon a piano were heavier from Chicago to Elgin than from New York to Chicago. Committees, of which General Wilcox was a member, were sent by meetings of citizens at various times to confer with the railway authorities, hoping for favorable concessions, but failing to obtain relief, the movement took form in the organization of the Chicago & Pacific Railway Company, in 1871, and he became a member of its board of directors and its general solicitor. They constructed its road to Byron, Illinois, on the west bank of the Rock river, where it succumbed to the combined opposition of the Illinois Central, the Chicago & Northwestern, and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroads, and failed, its property passing by lease to the last named road, which has since extended the line and completed the road, giving the people the benefit of frequent and convenient trains at liberal rates, with a prompt and generous service in all respects. Mr. Wilcox lost a comfortable fortune and over six years of hard service in this enterprise, but has had the satisfaction of knowing it has resulted in immeasurable good to his fellow townsmen and to a large section of the country along its line.

In 1877 Mr. Wilcox was appointed postmaster of Elgin, having by reason of his deafness abandoned his chosen profession. In 1882 he embarked in the fuel trade and warehouse business, and is now dealing in coal, wood, sewer pipe, etc. He was one of the incorporators of the Elgin Loan & Homestead Association, and was for five years on its board of directors. He outlined the organization of the Elgin Patriotic Memorial Association, and prepared its articles of incorporation. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, but under stipulation that his comrades shall not ask him to take any office, though he has served as representative to both state and national encampments a number of times; been on staff of the commander-in-chief; and is now representing the department of Illinois on the committee "in charge of patriotic exercises in public schools," by appointment of the commander-in-chief. On every "Memorial day he is called upon to address the people, and at the schools and at patriotic assemblages he is a frequent speaker. He is a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion, and of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

General Wilcox's views are broad and kindly; he loves every church and Christian work. He is a devoted Universalist, and has been an active member and officer of the parish since its organization. For twenty-five consecutive years he was superintendent of the Sunday-school. He has ever been a staunch friend of the Elgin Woman's Club, of which his estimable wife was one of its incorporators and its president during the first eight years of its work, which included the appropriation of over twenty-two hundred dollars in aid of the Elgin Academy and the erection of the Sherman hospital.

He transmitted the money contributed by the generous people to famine-stricken Ireland, and to the sufferers in Armenia. Indeed it would be difficult to recall any generous movement in aid of education, charity or patriotism, of which he has not been an active factor.

DR. JAMES McELROY, a well-known veterinary surgeon residing at the corner of Brook street and Jefferson avenue, Elgin, has made his home in Kane county for fifty-four years, arriving in pioneer days. Elgin, which is now a great manufacturing city and railroad center, was at that time only a small station on the stage line between Galena, Rockford, Hazel Green and Dubuque, and the greater part of the country round about was still in its primitive condition. The difference between the past and the present can scarcely be realized, even by those who were active participants in the development of the county. The present generation can have no conception of what was required by the early settlers in transforming the wilderness into a well settled and highly cultivated county.

Dr. McElroy was born in the eastern part of Ireland, December 3, 1814, a son of Tarama and Elizabeth (Cody) McElroy, and in his native land acquired his literary education and also studied pharmacy in Dublin, graduating in 1836. He has since successfully engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery. On coming to the new world in 1840, he first located in Albany, New York, from there removed to Schenectady, later to Syracuse, that state, and then was for three years with Mr. Howlet, coming with him to the west to buy horses. Since 1844 Elgin has been his home and post office address, although he has spent

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



JAMES McELROY.





MRS. JAMES McELROY.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

some time at other places, being in the employ of Frink & Walker, and Moore & Davis, in Milwaukee, for eight years.

In 1840 Dr. McElroy was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was born December 17, 1816, and departed this life January 27, 1894, at the age of seventy-eight years. Six children were born to them, five sons and one daughter, namely: Tarrence, who was married and died at the age of thirty-six years; John, who was married and died at the age of thirty-two; Edward, who for the past five years has been engaged in buying horses for the United States government; James, a conductor on the Iron Mountain railroad, at Texarkana, Texas; and Mary Elizabeth, who is now her father's companion and housekeeper.

Although eighty-four years of age Dr. McElroy appears much younger as he is still able to attend to his professional duties; his eyesight is undimmed, and his natural force of character unabated. Nature deals kindly with those who disobey not her laws, and the Doctor attributes his good health to the important fact that he has always been temperate in all things, dissipation of every kind having been studiously avoided. He possesses many of the admirable characteristics of the Irish race, being of a genial, jovial disposition, fond of wit and humor, and generous almost to a fault. Courteous and companionable, he has made many warm friends in his adopted country and has the respect of all who know him.

---

**B**ENJAMIN COX, now living a retired life at No. 418 Mountain street, Elgin, traces his ancestry back to John Cox, who came to America long prior to the Revolutionary war, accompanied by two brothers, Thomas

and William Cox, each of them locating in New York city or state. John Cox married Elizabeth Palmer, and they became the parents of the following named children: John, William, Jamieson, Thomas, George, Clark, Henry, Joseph and Stephen, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

David Cox, Sr., the paternal grandfather of our subject, was born in New York city, October 9, 1767. He married Judith Corning, of Beverly, Massachusetts, who was born October 2, 1767. In early life he followed the sea, but later located on a farm at Wilmot, New Hampshire, where his death occurred at an advanced age. In their family were three sons and three daughters—David, John, Benjamin, Judith, Betsy, who died in infancy, and Betsy the second.

David Cox, Jr., was born October 21, 1790, at Beverly, Massachusetts, and at Wilmot, New Hampshire, married Lydia Bean, by whom he had three children, two now living—Benjamin, our subject, and Lydia, now the wife of D. O. Carter, of Painesville, Ohio. Eliza, the deceased, was the wife of Horace French. Early in the present century he moved west, locating in Mantua, Portage county, Ohio, where he died in 1838, in the forty-eighth year of his age. His wife survived him until May 10, 1877, dying at the age of eighty-one years. They were both members of the old-school Baptist church. After the death of her husband Mrs. Cox married again, her second husband being Enoch Colby, of Concord, Ohio, where he died. During the war of 1812 David Cox, Jr., was called out as a soldier to help defend Portsmouth, New Hampshire, but as the British did not land, his regiment was disbanded.

The maternal grandfather of our subject,

Jeremiah Bean, was a native of Salisbury, New Hampshire, and by occupation was a farmer. He married Mehitable Garland, also of Salisbury, New Hampshire, by whom he had a large family. In the war of 1812 he served his country against the British, and was wounded in the ankle at the battle of Plattsburg. He died at an advanced age.

Benjamin Cox, of whom we now write, was born in Wilmot, New Hampshire, December 28, 1819, and is the son of David Cox, Jr., and Lydia (Bean) Cox. He was reared on his father's farm in New Hampshire until sixteen years old, assisting in the farm labor when old enough to work, and attending the district schools three months in winter and three in the summer each year. He then accompanied his parents to Ohio, where he continued to assist in farm work until the death of his father, when he learned the manufacture of women's shoes at Lynn, Massachusetts.

On the 19th of July, 1841, he married Miss Susan Bell, daughter of James and Betsey (Spangler) Bell. By this union were four children—Jennie C., Helen E., Jay M. and Charles B. Jennie C. married C. Morris Jennings, and they have one daughter and one son, Mildred and Benjamin. They reside in Union, Illinois. Helen E. married Samuel Monroe, by whom she has two children, Ella and Frank E. Her home is in Elgin. Jay M. died at the age of twenty-one. Charles B. lives in Juarez, Mexico, where he is trainmaster for the Mexican Central railway. He married at Turner Junction, now West Chicago, Illinois, Mary Alice Trull, and they have three children, Clara B., Helen E. and Benjamin Trull. Mrs. Susan Cox died July 8, 1884, aged sixty-one years and twenty-four days. She was a devout member of the Methodist

church, and died in the full assurance of faith.

For his second wife, in June, 1885, Mr. Cox married Mrs. Esther (Gardner) Marsh, widow of Mason M. Marsh, and daughter of Dwight and Cynthia (White) Gardner, natives of Massachusetts, who removed to New York in childhood and were there married. A brother of Mrs. Cox, Dwight Foster Gardner, now resides on the old homestead on which his father and grandfather lived and died. Her marriage with Mason M. Marsh was celebrated in Madison county, New York, in 1857. He came first to Elgin in 1850, where his death occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Cox now reside in a large and comfortable home, No. 418 Mountain street, which was erected by him in 1870. In his religious belief Mr. Cox is a Universalist.

In 1842 Mr. Cox left his Ohio home on a prospecting tour. Believing that in Illinois the opportunity for advancement was greater than in the place where he then resided, he came to this state, and being favorably impressed with Kane county, purchased a claim of one hundred and twenty-three acres from another party, and subsequently entered the same, paying the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. In the spring of 1843 he returned to Ohio, and in the fall of the same year came back with his wife and baby in a one-horse wagon. On that farm, which lies two miles west of Elgin, and to which he later added forty-three acres, he lived until his removal to the city, in 1870.

On his arrival in Kane county, Mr. Cox had but about ten dollars in cash, and for a while worked for other persons for fifty cents per day, husking corn, and taking his pay in corn. The horse with which he made the journey to Illinois he traded for a



yoke of oxen, with which he farmed until he could purchase a span of horses. As soon as he got his horses he commenced hauling his wheat and other grain to Chicago.

Farming in Illinois, in pioneer days, was not an easy job. It required hard work. Mr. Cox was not averse to work, and toiled early and late, sowing and reaping. Success crowned his efforts, and in 1870 he was enabled to retire from active labor and take life more easily. In the meantime, as stated, he had increased the size of his home farm, and had purchased a farm of ninety-three acres in Union township. In addition to these farms and his family residence, he owns the house in which his daughter lives in Elgin. For more than half a century Mr. Cox has been a resident of Kane county. His face is a familiar one in and around Elgin, and few men have more loyal and steadfast friends.

---

CHARLES E. LEWIS, the well-known superintendent of the Carpentersville branch of the New York Condensed Milk Company, has occupied that position since the plant was established at that place in 1888. He is a native of Sharon, Litchfield county, Connecticut, born September 3, 1847. His father, Hon. Miles B. Lewis, was also a native of Connecticut, born in Bridgeport in 1811. He there grew to manhood, and in 1832 moved to Sharon. His marriage with Miss Maria Kelsey was celebrated at Milford, Connecticut. She was a native of that state and was a woman of great refinement and lovable disposition. There they continued to reside and reared their family of nine sons and one daughter. Of their children William S., is a retired

business man of Chicago; M. K., is a merchant of Dutchess county, New York; Charles E., our subject; Eliza, who married Allan Brown, of Sharon, Connecticut, but who removed with her husband and family to Iowa in the spring of 1868, where both have since died.

The Lewises are of Welsh origin, three brothers coming from Wales at a very early day, one locating in New York, another in Pennsylvania, and the third in Connecticut. Miles B. Lewis is a direct descendant of the one who located in Connecticut. He was a man of more than ordinary ability and served two terms in the Connecticut legislature at the time P. T. Barnum was a member of that body. His death occurred in the spring of 1893. His good wife yet survives, and is now eighty-four years of age and a well preserved old lady.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until eighteen years of age and there received a good common-school education and learned the milk business, the family being intimate with the Bordens, pioneers in that business. In the Borden factory at Wassaic, New York, he received his first lessons in the milk industry. Leaving home he came to Kane county and began working on the farm of Cornell & Wilder near Elgin, with whom he remained about ten months, although he only intended working for them two weeks, that he might give them instructions in the care of milk. From Cornell & Wilders he drifted around for quite a while working at anything he could find to do that was honorable.

In the spring of 1869, Mr. Lewis was married at Elgin, Illinois, to Miss Marilla Reaser, a native of Kane county, and a daughter of Anthony Reaser, of one the pioneer settlers of Plato township. She re-

ceived a good education in the schools of Elgin, and for some time previous to her marriage engaged in teaching. By this union were three children, as follows: Susan, now the wife of R. W. Church, who is connected with the condensed milk factory at Carpentersville; Ella, who is engaged in the millinery business at Nunda, Illinois; and Frank H., who holds a position in the factory with his father.

Soon after marriage Mr. Lewis moved to Crystal Lake, McHenry county, and took charge of the farm of S. S. Gates, where he remained one season. He then determined to go where he could get a farm of his own without much expense. Accordingly, in 1870 he moved to Pottowatamie county, Kansas, and took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres and at once commenced its improvement. In due time he had as fine a farm as was in the neighborhood, but in 1876 he sold out and returned to New York, locating in Wassaic, Dutchess county, and engaged with Mr. Borden in the condensed milk business at that place. He remained there until 1882 when the company sent him to Elgin as an operator on the vacuum-pans. In that position he continued until the erection of the factory at Carpentersville, when he received the appointment as its superintendent, which position he still continues to hold to the entire satisfaction of the company and its many patrons. The capacity of the factory has been increased until it is now one of the best in the country, and to its work Mr. Lewis gives almost his entire time and attention.

Since taking the superintendency of the factory, Mr. Lewis has purchased residence property in Dundee, and has now one of the nicest homes in the place. Politically he is a Republican, with which party he has been

identified since casting his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant in 1868. While preferring to have others serve in official positions, Mr. Lewis served for three years as a member of the town board, with which he was connected on the institution of the water works. While on the board he was chairman of the finance committee and looked carefully after the finances of the city.

Fraternally Mr. Lewis is a Master Mason and also a charter member of Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, M. W. A. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Congregational church of Dundee and take a commendable interest in the work of the church and its various auxiliary societies.

For a third of a century Mr. Lewis has been identified more or less with the interests of Kane county, and has endeavored to contribute his share to its growth and development. He is well known throughout Kane and adjoining counties as a man of good business ability and exemplary habits, enjoying the confidence and respect of all, and it is with pleasure that he has given representation in the Biographical Record of Kane county.

---

CLINTON F. IRWIN, of the firm of Irwin & Egan, attorneys at law, Cook block, Elgin, enjoys an enviable reputation in the legal fraternity of Kane county, having the past eighteen years built up a practice that many older attorneys might earnestly desire. He was born in Franklin Grove, Lee county, Illinois, January 1, 1854, and is a son of Henry and Ann Eliza-neth (McNeal) Irwin, the former born in the north of Ireland, and the later in Pennsylvania. Of their three children, Clinton F. is the only one now living.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Henry, Irwin, was a native of County Antrim, Ireland. On coming to America he lived for a time in Canada, and in 1836 came to Illinois, settling in Franklin Grove, Lee county, where he improved a farm and there died in 1853, at the age of fifty-seven years. He was the father of three sons and nine daughters.

The maternal grandfather, Thomas McNeal, was a native of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, of Scotch-Irish descent. By occupation he was a farmer, following that calling during his entire life. He also moved to Illinois at an early day and settled near Dixon, where he died at an advanced age. In his family were three sons and one daughter. His youngest son entered the army in defense of the Union and was killed at the battle of Perryville.

Henry Irwin, Jr., was but a small child when he came with his parents to Canada. When twelve years of age he went to Lee county, Illinois, where he married Ann Elizabeth McNeal. In 1859 he came to Kane county and located at Maple Park, where he engaged in the hotel business and in running a meat market. He died in 1880, at the age of fifty-four years. His wife survived until February, 1894, dying at Elgin at the home of her son, at the age of sixty-one years. They were originally members of the Methodist Episcopal church. During the dark days of the Rebellion Henry Irwin enlisted as a member of Company C, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until early in 1865, when he was transferred to the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry—Grant's old regiment—which was sent to Texas. The war ending, he was discharged after serving two years and eight months.

Clinton Fillmore Irwin was six years of

age when his parents removed to Maple Park, Kane county. In the public schools of that village he received a common-school education, which was later supplemented by attendance at Wheaton College and the Valparaiso (Indiana) Normal. Before attaining his eighteenth year he commenced teaching in the public schools and continued to be thus successfully engaged until he was twenty-five years old. While yet teaching he commenced reading law in the office of W. H. H. Kennedy, of Maple Park, but the last three years studied alone. After passing a successful examination he was admitted to the bar in 1879, at Chicago, and at once commenced the practice of his profession at Maple Park. He there continued until 1883, when he removed to Elgin, and, forming a partnership with Robert S. Egan, they have since engaged in active practice with fine success.

Mr. Irwin was united in marriage November 3, 1880, with Miss Julia Helen Egan, daughter of William and Bridget (Sanders) Egan. By this union four children have been born: William Henry Harrison, Clayton Franklin, Mary Mildred and Clinton Francis. The second named died in early childhood on the 28th of June, 1890. Religiously Mrs. Irwin is a member of the Catholic church.

Mr. Irwin is a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Maccabees and United Workmen. Politically he is a Republican, the principles of which party were instilled into him from his birth, which was the year in which the Republican party came into existence. In 1896 he stumped a great portion of the states of Illinois and Indiana, spending about two months in that work. He delivered addresses at Sycamore, Batavia, Ge-



neva, Aurora, Wheaton, Hinsdale, Downer's Grove and various other places in Illinois. In Chicago he delivered four speeches, also at Geneva Lake, Wisconsin, La Porte, Indiana, and other points outside the state. While his professional duties have commanded much of his time, he has yet served his township and city, first as supervisor from Virgil in 1881-2, and was assistant supervisor of Elgin in 1885. He was corporation counsel for the city of Elgin from May, 1895, until May, 1897, and discharged the responsible duties of that position in a most creditable manner.

A resident of the county since 1858 and for eighteen years a member of the bar, Mr. Irwin has gone in and out among the people, making many friends and establishing a reputation as one of its leading attorneys. Genial and affable, possessed of a logical mind and of rare persuasive powers, he is enabled to appear well before a jury and to exert over it a wonderful influence. As a citizen he has at all times the good of the community at heart and all his abilities are exerted to make the city and county of his adoption rank among the brightest and best of all composing this great commonwealth.

**E**LON G. DOUGLASS, a prominent citizen of Elgin, now retired from active business cares, is one of the men who make old age seem the better portion of life. He is a very intelligent and well-informed man, and to those who have the pleasure of his acquaintance his well-stored mind and conversational powers are a source of perpetual pleasure.

Mr. Douglass was born near Gorham, Ontario county, New York, and is a worthy representative of an honored old family of

the east. His father, George Douglass, was a native of Connecticut, born in 1804, and was a son of Rev. Caleb Douglass, also a native of that state, whence he removed with his family to Ontario county, New York, settling near Whitesboro. He died at Gorham in 1835, at a very advanced age, being blind for the last seven years of his life. His father, a colonial soldier in the Revolutionary war, was one of three brothers who crossed the Atlantic from Scotland at a very early day, and who first located in Massachusetts, but afterward removed to Connecticut. One brother settled in New York, the other in Pennsylvania.

George Douglass, our subject's father, was unusually well educated for his time, and successfully engaged in teaching when a young man, after which he served as school inspector in New York for many years, while he followed the occupation of a farmer. In 1856 he became a resident of Kane county, Illinois, and here died ten years later. In early life he married Miss Eliza Metcalf, who was born in the town of Gorham, Ontario county, New York, about 1809, of English ancestry, and who was called to her final rest in 1894. Her father, Irwin Metcalf, who died in New York at about the age of eighty years, was three times married, his first wife being the mother of Mrs. Douglass.

The subject of this sketch is the second in order of birth in the family of four children, the others being as follows: Mary died in July, 1897; Ada, who was the wife of Ogden Seward, of Dutchess county, New York, died in May, 1893; Ora P. enlisted in September, 1861, in the Union army during the Civil war, was wounded at the siege of Vicksburg, and died at Jefferson Barracks in June, 1863. Going to see him,



our subject wished to bring him home, and it is probable that he might have lived if permitted to come.

Elon G. Douglass began his education in the public schools of his native county, subsequently attended the Canandaigua Academy, and after his removal to Rochester, New York, at the age of twenty years, he attended the Rochester University for four years. Having thus obtained an excellent education, he successfully engaged in teaching school for several years during early life. In April, 1856, he became a resident of Kane county, and has since been identified with its interests. By rail he and his father came to Chicago, thence proceeded to DuPage county, Illinois, Rock Island, and on to Iowa City, Iowa, looking for a suitable location, and finally decided to settle in Kane county, with which they were best pleased. Our subject remained in Elgin while the father returned for the family, which arrived in June, 1856. Upon section 22, Elgin township, the father bought one hundred seventy-two acres of prairie land, and also eleven acres of timber, and with him the son engaged in farming until the father's death. On first locating here Mr. Douglass gave his attention principally to the raising of cereals adapted to this climate—wheat, corn, oats, etc.—later engaged in stock raising, and finally devoted his energies to dairy farming, being thus employed from 1879 until 1895. Having met with a well-deserved success in his undertakings, he has now laid aside business cares, and is enjoying the fruits of his former toil at his pleasant home, at No. 636 Lillie street, Elgin, where he has resided since August, 1895.

In Rochester, New York, October 7, 1856, Mr. Douglass married Miss Angie

Bradbury, a native of Erie county, New York, and a daughter of William B. and Maria (Van Scoten) Bradbury. Her mother's people came to this country with the Van Rensselaers and other patrons from Holland. Her father, who was quite prominent in musical circles, was born in Bath, England, in 1787, a son of William B. Bradbury, Sr., and when three years of age he came to America. He was a farmer by occupation, and having accumulated a comfortable competence, he spent his last years in ease and retirement from active labor. At about the age of thirty-five he was married to Maria Van Scoten, by whom he had nine children, Mrs. Douglass being the fourth in order of birth. Only four are now living, the others being two older sisters and a younger brother. The father died at Caledonia, Livingston county, New York, at the age of ninety years, and Mrs. Douglass had an uncle who lived to the extreme old age of one hundred four.

Two children were born to our subject and wife—Ella and Irving—but both died when young. Mr. Douglass' nephew, Ora Seward, now makes his home with them. He is a graduate of the Elgin Academy and the Chicago University, completing both the literary and law courses in the latter institution, and for a time he engaged in the practice of his chosen profession in Nebraska. He also taught in Shurtliff College, Upper Alton, Illinois; Elgin Academy, and in the Lake Forest Seminary; and is now taking a post-graduate course in languages. He studied in Europe for fourteen months.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglass are devout and earnest Christians, are active and prominent members of the Baptist church of Elgin, and take considerable interest in all

kinds of church work. Mr. Douglass can well remember the exciting campaign of 1840, when the Whig cry was "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too." He now gives his unwavering support to the men and measures of the Republican party, but has never cared for political honors. He is, however, one of the representative and honored citizens of his community, having the respect and esteem of all who know him.

---

LYSANDER STOWELL, for many years one of the leading agriculturists of Elgin township, Kane county, and one of its honored pioneers as well as highly respected citizens, was born October 21, 1824, near Hartford, Connecticut. With his father, Seth Stowell, he came to Elgin when there was but one house standing in the prospective city, and with the growth and development of the county he was prominently identified until his death. The father, a cabinet maker by trade, manufactured the first organ built in St. Charles. He became quite well-to-do, owning a large tract of land three miles in extent in Elgin and St. Charles townships, and to each of his three sons, Lysander, Washington and Franklin, he gave a farm.

Reared to agricultural pursuits, Lysander Stowell adopted farming as a life work, and in his undertakings met with excellent success. He died upon his farm in Elgin township, May 18, 1889. He was a man of studious habits, always a great reader, and was well posted on the leading questions and issues of the day. He was a supporter of the Republican party, but never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office. As a citizen and neighbor he mer-

ited and received the high regard of the entire community.

In 1884 Mr. Stowell was united in marriage with Mrs. Martha Knettle, widow of George Knettle. She was born March 16, 1831, near Warm Springs and Randesburg, Pennsylvania, fifteen miles from Carlisle, and is the daughter of Jesse and Mary (Stone) Hipple, also a native of that state. Her maternal grandfather, Richard Stone, was a native of London, England, while her paternal grandfather, John Hipple, was one of five brothers who left their old home in Germany and together came to America prior to the Revolutionary war. He served as a farrier through a part of that struggle and shod a horse for General Washington. He was a well-to-do farmer, but on selling his farm received his pay in Continental money, which proved useless and he lost all. Jesse Hipple, Mrs. Stowell's father, was born October 11, 1800, and died in Geneva, Illinois, at the age of eighty-three or eighty-four years. By trade he was a tailor, but for some years prior to his death he lived retired. In his family of six children, Mrs. Stowell was the fourth in order of birth.

George Knettle, Mrs. Stowell's first husband, was born near Mifflintown, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, December 18, 1806, a son of Henry and Hannah (Walker) Knettle, who were born near the Delaware river in Bucks county, that state. His paternal ancestors were from Wurtemberg, Germany, while the Walkers were of Scotch descent. His grandfather was George Knettle, who married a Miss Sleuker. George Knettle, Jr., was twice married, his first wife being a Miss Steward, also a native of Pennsylvania, by whom he has four children—one son and three daughters. In Chicago he married Miss Martha Hipple, and to



LYSANDER STOWELL.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



them were born three children: One died in infancy, unnamed; Lacy, deceased; and Grace F. Mr. Knettle was a prosperous business man and accumulated considerable property. Going to Minneapolis in 1857 he purchased a large tract of timber land in "The Big Woods" west of that city, where he erected large sawmills and became extensively interested in the manufacture of lumber. He sustained heavy losses, however, through fire, and in 1868 came to Kane county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and established a cheese factory. Later he retired from active business and returned to Minnesota, where he died April 10, 1883, honored and respected by all who knew him. Mrs. Stowell now makes her home at No. 304 Walnut street, Elgin, and is surrounded by a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

---

**FRANK KRAMER.**—Much of the civilization of the world has come from the Teutonic race. Continually moving westward they have taken with them the enterprise and advancement of their eastern homes and have become valued and useful citizens of various localities. In this country especially have they demonstrated their power to adapt themselves to new circumstances, retaining at the same time their progressiveness and energy, and have become loyal and devoted citizens, true to the institutions of "the land of the free" and untiring in promotion of all that will prove of benefit to their adopted country. The German element in America forms an important part of American citizenship, and of this class Mr. Kramer is a worthy representative. He is now editor and proprietor

of the "Deutsche Zeitung," of Elgin, and has made his paper an important factor in the public welfare of the city.

Mr. Kramer was born in Bodenheim, Hessen Darmstadt, Germany, April 24, 1838, a son of John Kramer, also a native of that locality, who was a son of Bernhardt Kramer. The father of our subject was a farmer and grape cultivator, and spent his entire life in his native land, where he died in 1882. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Catherine Kirchner, was a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Koeglér) Kirchner, and her father was one of the soldiers who fought under the great Napoleon. She died in 1890. The parents of our subject had four children, of whom he is the second. The others are Henry, John and Elizabeth, who are still living in the Fatherland. The sister visited Mr. Kramer in Elgin during the summer of 1893, and also attended the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

Frank Kramer was educated in the schools of his native land and when nineteen years of age bade adieu to home and friends and sailed for America, landing in New York in 1857. He spent a short period in Elmira, New York, then went to Chicago, and at Elmhurst, Illinois, took up his residence. He worked there as a farm hand for a time and then went to the lumber woods of Wisconsin, after which he returned to Elgin and again secured work on a farm.

Later he located in the city of Elgin, where he learned the cooper's trade, which he followed five years in Elgin and Chicago. Returning to Elgin, he entered the employ of Dr. H. K. Whitford, with whom he remained six years, looking after the Doctor's collections and other business interests. He then engaged in the dray business on

his own account, and was thus engaged until 1880, when he established the Elgin "Deutsche Zeitung," which he has since published with good success. He has enlarged it from a six-column quarto to a six-column five-leaf paper, and now has a large circulation among the German population of this section of the state. Its political support has ever been given the Democratic party, and it strongly advocates the free silver and other planks of that platform. However, at local elections, where no national issue is involved, it upholds the best man regardless of party affiliations. Its circulation is now the largest of any German weekly paper in the county. The paper is a neat and attractive sheet, devoted to the best interests of the community, and to the advancement of the sons of the fatherland. Its editorials are interesting, just and progressive, and the "Zeitung" is a popular visitor in many homes.

Mr. Kramer has not always been a Democrat. In ante bellum days he was an abolitionist. He voted for Lincoln and in 1868 for Grant, but in 1872 supported Horace Greeley and has been a Democrat since that time. In 1878 he was elected as an independent candidate to the office of town collector and filled that position in a most creditable way. From 1888 to 1891 he represented the first ward of Elgin in the city council and was chairman of the finance committee. In 1897 he was appointed by Mayor Price, park commissioner for a term of three years and has ever proved a capable and faithful public officer. He owns considerable real estate, having made judicious investments in various parts of the city.

On the 26th of October, 1860, Mr. Kramer married Miss Carrie H., born in Chicago September 8, 1840, daughter of

Joseph and Mary (Atzel) Markel, natives of Alsace and Loraine, Germany, respectively. They died in Hanover township, Cook county, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Kramer are the parents of the following named children: John F., who is now in the express business and also deals in coal and wood; Henry J., a ranchman of Custer county, Montana; Katherine E., a graduate of the Elgin high school, who was for three terms deputy town collector and for seven years a deputy in the county treasurer's office during the busy season; Martha M., a graduate of the high school, who married Ed Dolph, of Chicago, and has one child, Alvin; Mamie A., a graduate of the high school and of a short hand and typewriting course, in Kimball's College, Chicago, who died February 9, 1896; Carolyn H., who attended the high school and Drews Business College; Rutherford B., a graduate of the Elgin Academy and now a student in the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; William M. and N. Elsie, who are now students in the public schools of Elgin.

Mr. Kramer is president of the Elgin German Benevolent Society, the oldest organization of the kind in the county, and at intervals has served as its president for twelve years. The family attend the First Baptist church. Mr. Kramer belongs to that class of men whom the world terms self-made, for coming to this country empty-handed, he has conquered all 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 is associated. He is a prominent figure in business, political and social circles and ranks among the leading citizens of Kane

county. Mr. Kramer has twice visited his old home in Germany, once in 1881 and again in 1891.

EDWARD S. ENO, superintendent of the Elgin branch of the New York Condensed Milk Company, Elgin, Illinois, is one of the best known and highly esteemed citizens of the place. He traces his ancestry back to James Eno, who was of French extraction, but who came to this country from England in 1648, locating in Windsor, Connecticut. A sword said to have been brought by him from England has passed from father to eldest son from that day to this, and is now in possession of John S. Eno, of Brewster, New York.

Samuel Eno, the great-great-grandfather of our subject, was the father of Daniel Eno, who married Chloe Mills, December 23, 1809, by whom he had six children—Charlotte, Esther, Erastus S., Emeline E., Daniel Mills and Aurelia E.

Daniel Mills Eno was born October 28, 1812, in Connecticut, where he grew to manhood, and was there married March 30, 1836, to Eunice C. Sage, a native of the same state, born in 1813. Later he moved to Wayne county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in farming until his death, which occurred December 25, 1891. He was a good man, a member and deacon in the Presbyterian church for many years, and from time to time held a number of minor official positions. His wife, who was also a member of the same religious body, is yet living, an honored resident of Seeleyville, Pennsylvania. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are yet living. In order of birth they are as follows: (1) John S., a resident of Brewster, New York,

married Susan Clark and had five children—Clark, Emma, Frank, Daniel (deceased) and Susan. (2) Eunice is the wife of John E. Woodward and is the mother of two children—Anna M. and Alfred. (3) Susan is the widow of John K. Jenkins and had nine children—Frederick W. (deceased), Mary, Benjamin, Laura, Martha, Susan, John K., Gail and Grace. (4) Laura is the wife of Eben H. Clark and has five children—Elizabeth, Herbert, Edward, Bertha and Daniel. (5) Edward S., our subject, is the next of the family. (6) George died in infancy. (7) Alfred W. married Rose Miller and has two children—Daniel and Helen. (8) Fred K. died in infancy. (9) Lillie G. is at home. (10) Charlotte E. is the wife of J. O. Southard, by whom she has one child, Eunice.

Edward S. Eno, our subject, was born in Seeleyville, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1848, and was reared on his father's farm in Wayne county, being educated in the public schools. After leaving school he clerked for about eighteen months in a hardware store in his native town, and in 1870 commenced work for the New York Condensed Milk Company at Brewster, New York. From that time to the present he has been connected with that company and has served in almost every capacity, commencing work in the least responsible position and working his way up to the superintendency of one of the most important branches of the business. They manufacture Gail Borden's condensed milk.

Mr. Eno was married in Wayne county, Pennsylvania, October 21, 1873, to Miss Helen A. Conyne, a native of that county, and a daughter of Alexander and Laura (Gregory) Conyne, the former a native of New York, the latter of Susquehanna coun-



ty, Pennsylvania, who removed to Wayne county in a very early day. Alexander Conyne was by occupation a stationary engineer, and followed that pursuit within a few years of his death, when he purchased a farm and engaged in agriculture. His death occurred April 1, 1876. His wife, who is a member of the Baptist church, is still living and makes her home with her children. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: George W., who married Charlotte Webster (now deceased) and resides in New Haven, Connecticut; Charles W., deceased; Frank F., a resident of Montana; Helen A., wife of our subject; Clara P., wife of Horace White, of White Valley, Pennsylvania; Charles G., who married Anna Hawkins and now resides in Mandan, North Dakota; Case V., who married Mary Pullis and lives in Bangor, South Dakota; Eva L., wife of Fred W. Chase, of Butte, Montana; Fannie I., also a resident of Butte; and Herbert A., of Anaconda, Montana.

To Mr. and Mrs. Eno four children have been born: Charles Edward, who died at the age of fifteen months; and Herbert S. Laura E. and Alfred W., all of whom are yet under the parental roof. The family reside in a neat and comfortable home on North Spring street, Elgin, where they delight to entertain their many friends. The parents are members of the Prospect Street Congregational church, in the work of which they are actively engaged. Fraternally, Mr. Eno is a member of Monitor lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M.; and Washington lodge, No. 13, A. O. U. W., of Elgin.

In politics Mr. Eno is a thorough Republican, and has been identified with that party since casting his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant. His business interests

have usually been such that he could not give much of his time to political affairs, more than to attend the conventions of his party, vote its ticket and in a quiet way advocate its principles. In the municipal affairs of his adopted city he has always manifested the greatest interest, and in the discharge of his duties as a citizen he has done his full share in its development. For two years he served as alderman from his ward, and his record as a member of the city council is a commendable one. While serving in that capacity he was chairman of the finance committee and of the special committee on water works. To him probably as much as any other man is due the present fine water works in Elgin, acknowledged to be among the very best in the entire country. To secure the admirable system he devoted much time and study. He also served three years as a member of the board of education.

For some eight or ten years Mr. Eno served in the fire department of the city, only resigning his position because he could not give it the time and attention necessary. The same energy shown in creating and making efficient the water works was displayed by him in the fire department.

It is, however, as superintendent of the Elgin Branch of the New York Condensed Milk Company that he is best known throughout Kane and adjoining counties. In 1870 he came to Elgin as a representative of that company, and in 1882 he was made superintendent, and has since occupied that position. In 1870 there was comparatively little doing in the milk business in Elgin, and what little milk found its way into this market was shipped to Chicago. With the establishment of the condensed milk factory the business began rapidly to grow until



to-day Elgin is recognized as the leading place in the United States for this industry. In addition to the large quantity used by the New York Condensed Milk Company, vast quantities of milk are used in the manufacture of butter and cheese. All conversant with the subject acknowledge that to Mr. Eno and his wise management of the affairs of the company much of this success is due. In all the thirty-three years in which the company have operated here there has never been a strike among its employees, and the best feeling is always maintained by all connected with it. The superintendent is honored and respected by the men and he honors and respects them. During the campaign of 1896 a lot of politicians were discussing the relation between employers and employees, one party endeavoring to show that they were antagonistic, one to the other. Reference was made in proof of this to several large institutions, when some one mentioned the Elgin branch of the New York Condensed Milk Company. The contending party at once objected to reference to that company, stating aside from the New York Condensed Milk Company his contention was true. "In that company," said he, "the superintendent and employees are too much like one family." A greater compliment could not have been bestowed upon Mr. Eno. All classes and all professions speak of him in the highest terms of praise.

---

**H**ENRY BLAZIER is a retired farmer residing in the village of Hampshire. His father, John Blazier, was born in the village of Diefenalern, Bavaria, May 28, 1819. In his native country he learned the trades of cooper and brewer, and, while yet

residing there, served three years in the Bavarian army. He remained in his native land until 1847, when he started for America with the design of enlisting in the Mexican war, but the war was closed before he reached the field. He sailed from Hamburg and landed in New York after a voyage of forty-nine days. He there secured work, and for a time was engaged in the tile factory across the river in New Jersey. Desiring to come west he ascended the Hudson, and by canal went to Buffalo, New York, and thence by lake to Chicago. Coming to Kane county, he settled in Hampshire township, but secured work for a time at the cooper's trade in Belvidere, Boone county, and then worked for various farmers in the neighborhood. During the war he bought land in Hampshire county, and, as wheat, during the latter part of the struggle, was two dollars per bushel, he was enabled to add to his original purchase, paying cash for the same. In the fall of 1881, he rented his farm and moved to the village of Hampshire, where he is living retired.

John Blazier is the son of Wolf Blazier, of French descent, who fought against Napoleon, and who served as a revenue officer in Germany. John Blazier first married in New York Barbara Ber, by whom he had seven children, five yet living, as follows: Henry, our subject; Carrie, who, on the 29th of March, 1880, married Albert Eichler, a native of Saxony, Germany, born March 15, 1853, and who died May 17, 1885. He came to this country with his parents, George and Sophia Eichler, and later purchased a farm in De Kalb county, Illinois, which is yet owned by his widow. They were the parents of two children, Albert and Ida, who now attend the public

schools of Hampshire; George is a farmer in Hampshire township; Mary married William Huber, by whom she has one son, Frank Blazier, and they reside in Kane county, Illinois; John is engaged in farming in the south end of Hampshire village.

Henry Blazier was born in Woodbridge, New Jersey, April 15, 1858, and came west with his parents at the age of two years. He first attended school in Reid's district, and later in the Bean district, until twenty years of age. He then hired to his father, and remained with him until 1887, when he purchased one hundred and sixty acres in section 16, and boarded with a family on an adjoining farm, and for eleven years was engaged in its cultivation with good success. In the spring of 1898 he rented the farm, and now makes his home with his sister, Mrs. Carrie Eichler, who has recently moved to the village of Hampshire. Mr. Blazier engaged principally in dairying while on the farm, usually having some twenty to thirty head of cows. His place was well improved, being tilled and ditched at a cost of one thousand dollars, and having a barn 36 x 68 feet, and a good dwelling house at a cost of eighteen hundred dollars. In politics he is a thorough Republican.

---

VINCENT S. LOVELL, deceased, through the years of his identification with Kane county, enjoyed the highest respect of his fellow townsmen by reason of his strict integrity, true manhood and intellectual attainments. He was a gentleman of refinement and culture, and his deportment was always courteous and kind. His devotion to the public welfare also made him a valued factor in public life, and by his death Elgin was deprived of one of her

best citizens. He was one of her native sons, of whom she had every reason to be justly proud. On the 2d of May, 1845, he began his earthly pilgrimage, which was ended December 7, 1892, covering a life-span of forty-seven years.

Vincent Smith Lovell was a son of Vincent Sellar and Lucy (Smith) Lovell, and in a private school conducted by his mother he acquired his elementary education, which was supplemented by a course in the Elgin Academy. At the age of fourteen he began learning the printing trade in an office in Chicago, and after learning that trade he secured a position under Pinder F. Ward in the abstract office of Geneva, Illinois. Later the mother removed with her two sons to Ann Arbor, Michigan, in order to give them the advantages of a college education, and in 1872 our subject was graduated in the State University. He then secured a place on the staff of the "Argus," a journal published in Albany, New York, with which he was connected for two years, when he again came to the west and became a member of the staff of the Chicago "Post and Mail," with which he was associated until entering into partnership with his brother, Judge Lovell, in the real-estate business and law practice. They thus carried on business until the death of our subject, and their judicious management, keen foresight and unflagging enterprise brought them a gratifying success.

Mr. Lovell was married at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, August 19, 1876, to Miss Eliza A. Hadwen. The lady was born near Halifax, Yorkshire, England, a daughter of Thomas Wilson Hadwen, who, like his father, John Hadwen, was a wealthy cotton and silk manufacturer. The last named married Margaret Lovell, a daugh-

ter of John J. Lovell, a gentleman farmer of England. The father of Mrs. Eliza Lovell had retired from business, and with his family was living abroad at the time of her marriage. Mr. Lovell continued in active business in his native city until called to the home beyond. Although not connected with any church, his life was permeated by true Christian principles. He was considerate of the welfare and rights of others, had great sympathy for his fellow men, was benevolent, and never spoke an uncharitable word. His ability was recognized by his fellow citizens, he serving as mayor of the city, discharging the duties of the office in a highly satisfactory manner until he resigned for the reason that he could not conscientiously perform the duties of his office. He also served for some years as director of the public library. He was, however, very retiring, and few knew the depths of his nature, but his intimate friends had an appreciation and respect for him which arises only from true worth.

---

SAMUEL C. ROWELL, deceased, was for many years one of the leading men of Hampshire township. He was born at East Plainfield, Sullivan county, New Hampshire, April 13, 1819, and was the son of Jacob and Mary (Currier) Rowell, the former being a farmer in New Hampshire, where he was born, and where his entire life was spent, dying after having passed his three score years and ten. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was Enoch Rowell, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Samuel C. Rowell was reared on a farm and attended the district schools until the age of fifteen, when he entered Kimball

Union Academy, at Meriden, New Hampshire, where he spent three years. He taught school winters and worked on farms other seasons for a time, and while working with a companion, laying stone wall one hot day, both resolved to leave the stony country and get a living more easily elsewhere. Accordingly, in 1840, he went to Kentucky, where Yankee teachers were in demand. He there engaged in teaching for about three years, and then came to Kane county, Illinois, riding on horseback some eight hundred miles. After examining considerable country, looking for a location, he finally decided to locate in Hampshire township, where he bought a farm of one hundred and eighty acres from the government, on which he erected a dwelling house and then returned south teaching school in Tennessee.

On his return north, Mr. Rowell stopped in Kentucky to marry the girl of his choice, who had been a pupil of his while teaching there. He was married May 13, 1844, in Fairview, Fleming county, Kentucky, to Miss Elizabeth Ball, a native of that place, born December 11, 1823, and a daughter of Silas and Tennie (Brown) Ball, the former born in Mason county, Kentucky, in March, 1800. He was the son of Benjamin Ball, a soldier of the war of 1812, who was born in Virginia, and who married Nancy Cook. Benjamin Ball was a farmer, a relative of Mary (Ball) Washington, the mother of George Washington. He died when about eighty years of age. Silas Ball followed agricultural pursuits all his life, dying in 1830. Elizabeth was first in the family of twelve children, born to Silas and Tennie Ball. To Mr. and Mrs. Rowell six children were born, of whom four survive, as follows: (1) Mary, wife of Corydon L. Dickson, of



Plato township, and the mother of two children—Luella, and Ethel. The former married Edward Walgren, by whom she has one child, Eugene. (2) Fremont, who is in partnership with his mother, in the mercantile business. He married Nellie Ketchum, born in Hampshire, and a daughter of Martin Van Buren and Sophronia (Buzzell) Ketchum, the former a native of New York, who died at Rouse's Point, on Lake Champlain, when Nellie was an infant. Her father was a son of Horace Ketchum, and her mother a daughter of Aaron Buzzell. To Fremont and Nellie Rowell have been born two children: Beulah and Leone. (3) Jessie C., who married Edward Buzzeil, of Leaf River, Illinois, by whom she has two children—Walter and Arthur, twins. (4) Olivia, who married George York, of Lyons, Iowa, and they have one child, Jessie.

After his marriage Mr. Rowell brought his bride to Hampshire township and engaged in farming, which occupation he continued until 1850, when he sold his farm and devoted his time to mercantile pursuits, having acquired an interest in a store at the old village of Hampshire, where he was in business until 1875, when he removed to the new village, soon after the completion of the railroad to that point. He erected one of the first business buildings in the village, and purchased the interest of his partner, and continued in the mercantile trade. Later he took into partnership his son, Fremont, and the business is still conducted under the firm name then adopted, Samuel C. Rowell & Son, Mrs. Rowell retaining a half interest.

Mr. Rowell was a very prominent man during life, his superior education giving him an advantage over others. He was

one of the incorporators of the new village of Hampshire, and was the first president of the village board. From 1858 to 1861 he served as supervisor of the township, and again from 1864 to 1867. For twenty years he was postmaster of the village, and during that time would open office any time, day or night, for the accommodation of patrons. During his incumbency the office was moved from the old village to the new. For forty years he served as justice of the peace, and his administration of that office was satisfactory in every respect. He also served as school inspector before the office of county superintendent of public schools was established.

Mr. Rowell was made a Mason at Marengo, Illinois, in 1850, and was one of the charter members of Hampshire lodge, serving as secretary of the lodge for over thirty years. Prior to the war he was a Democrat, but when the South rebelled he became a Republican, with which party he was identified until his death, which occurred November 24, 1892. He was a man of broad character and liberal views, universally respected, and was greatly missed from his accustomed place when called to rest.

---

COL. RICHARD PARRAM McGLINCY, eldest son of George D. and Rukamah McGlinCY, of English and Irish descent, was born in Shepardstown, Jefferson county, West Virginia, and at an early age entered the printing office of John H. Yittle, of the "Shepardstown Register," where he remained, except during the time of the Civil war, rising from the position of errand boy, at the age of eleven years, when not much taller than a common ink keg, to that of foreman of the office, which he occupied





COL. R. P. McGLINCY.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

from the close of the war. He was fully equipped for all newspaper work, for which he had a passionate love. Trusted and helpful to his employer, the latter said, "As Dick has always stood by me, through thick and thin, come weal or woe, I am loth to part with him," when he married Asenath R. Wells, a graduate of the Mount Morris, Rock River Seminary, and at the time of marriage assistant principal of the Martinsburg, West Virginia, public schools, and left for Chicago in 1868. He was there engaged in newspaper work on the "Inter Ocean," and other papers, until he came to Elgin, Illinois, in 1869, where he entered more fully into the editorial and printing work. He soon became dairy editor on the Elgin "Gazette," and also of a Minneapolis paper, taking an active part in the great dairy interests of Elgin and the Northwest, often serving as president of prominent societies, and acting as secretary of two or three at the same time, publishing their annual reports, board of trade reports, etc. During his last ten years in Elgin he was the honored and valued secretary of the Elgin Board of Trade. He was very prominent in all dairy circles, so that hardly any of their conventions were considered complete without an address from him, and he was called to many states and cities to organize boards of trade. He was therefore well and favorably known to most men in his line of work.

A typical Southerner, whole-souled and generous, he made friends wherever he went, prominent among them being ex-Gov. W. D. Hoard, of Wisconsin, who was one of his dairy co-laborers. Being an Odd Fellow of many years standing, he was very prominent in that order in Elgin, and on all public occasions was generally their repre-

sentative and spokesman. He held the position of deputy grand master for many years, and retained his membership in the Elgin encampment up to the time of his death. Col. McGlincy served with distinction all through the Civil war, and part of the time fought under Stonewall Jackson. His father, a very prominent, dyed-in-the-wool West Virginia Democratic politician, died at Shepardstown, that state, in 1885, leaving a wife and five children, all of whom are living with the exception of Richard P., in Washington, District of Columbia.

In the fall of 1887, Colonel McGlincy went to San Jose, California, where he became very highly esteemed and prominent in the state, on account of his interest in all that tended to its advancement, especially its horticultural and fruit interests. He was extensively engaged in the fruit raising and its shipping, and was given charge of the Santa Clara county fruit and wine exhibit at the Columbian World's Fair, at Chicago, in 1893, where many of his old friends were glad to see him.

On his return to California after the fair, Colonel McGlincy received much favorable newspaper mention as a representative to the state legislature. He became deputy internal revenue collector, and was holding the position at the time of his cruel murder, in May, 1897. In California, as always before, he was prominently active among, and helpful to the Odd Fellows, who honored and loved him in life, and now, as brothers, sincerely mourn his sad fate and untimely death. The hall of Morning Light lodge, which he had organized at his home town, is decorated with his portrait, and Odd Fellows souvenirs, which he had received from Illinois friends.

Mrs. Asenath Rhodina (Wells) McGlincy was born and spent the early years of her life at the foot of the Alleghany mountains, in West Virginia, on the banks of the Valley river, whose bed is almost one continuous heap of stones. No wonder she sees "books in running brooks," reads "sermons in stones," and having often picked chestnut burrs from the trees, while standing on the rocks, and there gathered mosses, wild spice, holly and wintergreen, and attended "sugaring off," in the maple woods, sees in the groves, "God's temples, the hills his dwelling place," and loves the rocks the more the higher they tower. Being the eldest daughter of David and Mary Ann Wells, of Scotch, German and English origin, she largely inherits Scotch characteristics and their love of the scriptures, the German literary taste, with love of flowers and home, and a puritanic reverence of much in our forefathers, which so conspired to make our loved America great as it is.

In her early life her parents came west, and with a family of eight children, settled near Galena. Having made good progress in her studies, at the age of twelve she was placed in the noted school of A. B. C. Campbell, in that hilly city, the early home of U. S. Grant, then all surrounded by rich lead mines. From Galena she became a neighbor and schoolmate of John A. Rawlins, first on General Grant's staff, and later, secretary of war in General Grant's cabinet. At this country school they sat together on backless benches, ran races, played ball and "spelled down"—the contest always hot between the two. From this country school both went to Rock River Seminary, at Mt. Morris, Illinois, then the most prominent Methodist educational in-

stitution in Illinois—to the state then, what Evanston is now. After years of hard study, alternated with teaching in Mt. Morris, and other places in the country, she completed her course of study in the seminary, and went again to Galena, and assisted her brother, James William Wells, who was principal of its public schools. From that position she went in charge of the Galena Academy, remaining until her brother decided to go to California, in 1850, when she left and took the principalship of the Shullsburg, Wisconsin, school, where she gave good satisfaction for years. Her next teaching was as assistant principal in the Dubuque, Iowa, schools, and from there in 1863, she took the principalship of the Des Moines, Iowa, schools, remaining until near the close of the late Civil war. In April, 1865, as she was boarding a train for a visit to her early West Virginia, home the news came of President Lincoln's assassination. While in this old mountain home, visiting and teaching, the last of which was as assistant principal in the Martinsburg, West Virginia, schools, she formed the acquaintance of Richard Parran McGlincy, to whom she was married in July, 1868. Coming immediately west, by way of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Niagara Falls to Chicago, they there resided until March, 1869, and then settled in Elgin, Illinois. After coming to Elgin she engaged in teaching in a select school for a number of years, having among her scholars many young men and women now prominently engaged in business in Elgin and elsewhere. She is a Chautauqua graduate, now holding her certificate as a graduate of the Chautauqua National Literary Circle. She now lives again on the banks of a river, in the lovely valley of the Fox, in her own



beautiful home, trying to make the most and best of life, for self and others, surrounded by and loving as ever, her flowers and books.

**D**R. BEEBE, a well-known insurance agent living at No. 411 Walnut avenue, Elgin, was born September 6, 1847, in Columbia county, New York, of which state his parents, Riley and Amelia (Bunker) Beebe, were also natives. The father, who was a cooper by trade, removed from New York to Kane county, Illinois, in 1852, locating in Geneva, where he engaged in farming and gardening for some years. Subsequently he came to Elgin, where he passed away in his eighty-eighth year, while his wife died in May, 1897, in her eighty-second year. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, while she was a Spiritualist in religious belief.

Born to this worthy couple were fourteen children, but only six are now living, three of whom are residents of Kane county, those beside our subject being Amos C., a blacksmith employed in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops at Aurora, and Mrs. Mary E. Olson, of Elgin. Four of the sons were numbered among the defenders of the Union during the Civil war. Thomas J., the oldest, who is now a resident of Anthony, Harper county, Kansas, enlisted August 7, 1861, in an independent company, known as the Kane County Cavalry, which afterward served as body guard to Generals Halleck, Curtis and Steele. He entered the service as a private, was made orderly, and on the 2d of October, 1863, was commissioned captain of his company, which was afterward consolidated by the War Department and made a part of the Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry. He

remained in the service three years, and was in many important battles. James E. was a member of the same company, but at the end of nineteen months of faithful service he was honorably discharged on account of physical disability. On regaining his health, he re-enlisted and served until the close of the war, being in Texas with the last remnant of the forces against Kirby Smith. He died October 8, 1895, at the age of fifty-four years. John W., who was born December 5, 1843, enlisted at the same time as his older brothers in the same company, in which he served as a private until mustered out at the expiration of his three years' term of enlistment. He died September 27, 1883.

Our subject, also one of the boys in blue, was reared and educated in Kane county, and when only sixteen years of age joined the Union army, enlisting November 18, 1863, in Company B, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry. He was engaged in the most dangerous kind of warfare, that of hunting bushwhackers, never being able to meet them in fair field. After the surrender of Lee the company of which Mr. Beebe was a member was ordered to the plains under command of General Dodge, and there took part in several engagements with the hostile Indians, being stationed on Big creek in western Kansas. There were no railroads or settlements in that region, but Mr. Beebe enjoyed the time spent there, as he had ample opportunity to engage in his favorite sport, that of hunting, killing many buffaloes and wolves. In December, 1865, he was honorably discharged, after having served two years and one month, and returned to his home.

On starting out in life for himself Mr. Beebe was employed as a blacksmith's

helper in the C., B. & Q. shops at Aurora. In 1872 he went to Guthrie county, Iowa, and for about four years was engaged in farming near Casey. He then removed to Marshalltown, Iowa, where he was employed in the railroad shops for six years. Later he worked in the Iowa Central railroad shops, where he learned railroad spring making, at which he worked for about three years, returning to Kane county at the end of that time, and was employed in the Elgin Watch Factory for about twelve years. Since the spring of 1893 he has successfully engaged in the insurance business in Elgin, representing the Mutual Benefit, of Newark, New Jersey, and the Atlas Accident Company, of Boston.

While in Iowa Mr. Beebe was married, October 7, 1874, to Miss Angeline C. Porter, who successfully engaged in teaching in that state for four years, conducting one village school and the others in the country. Her parents, James and Lucy (Carpenter) Porter, were natives of Ohio, born near Zanesville. Her father, who served as county superintendent of schools in Jasper county, Iowa, for six years, always took an active and prominent part in educational affairs. He also filled the office of justice of the peace. His death occurred in 1876, when he was fifty-eight years of age, but his widow is still living and now makes her home in Nebraska. Of their six children, five are also living. They are as follows: Lyman, an attorney of Loveland, Colorado; Angeline C., wife of our subject; Horace, a farmer of Cozad, Nebraska; Frank, a farmer of Casey, Iowa; George, also a farmer of Cozad, Nebraska; and Docia, who was the second in order of birth and died at the age of thirteen months. Mr. Porter's maternal grandfather served for seven long years

in the Colonial army during the Revolutionary war, and in the possession of the family is an old brass kettle which he captured full of butter from the Tories at the battle of Monmouth.

To Mr. and Mrs. Beebe were born four children, namely: Edgar D., who is now working in a shoe factory in Elgin; Edith, who died at the age of one year; Ethel May and Ruth, both at home. Mrs. Beebe holds membership in the Eastern Star and the Woman's Relief Corps, having served as president of the latter for three terms. Mr. Beebe is the present recording secretary of the Court Bluff City, No. 74, Independent Order of Foresters of Illinois, and for three years he has also served as commander of Veteran post, No. 49, G. A. R., of Elgin. He is very progressive in his views, believing in keeping abreast with the latter day nineteenth-century progress. In 1892 he was elected alderman of Elgin, and acceptably filled that position for two terms.

---

**WILLIS LYMAN BLACK.**—One of the prominent representatives of the journalist profession is the gentleman whose name heads this brief notice, junior member of the firm of Lowrie & Black, proprietors of the "Daily News" and "Weekly Advocate," of Elgin, Illinois. He is one of the leading and prominent business men of the city, being especially interested in its banking institutions.

Mr. Black was born in Elgin, where the Baptist church is now located, April 18, 1855, and is a son of Lyman and Harriet (Weston) Black. His paternal grandfather, James Black, spent his entire life in Massachusetts. The father, Lyman Black, was born in Granville, that state, October 26,

1815, and was the youngest in a family of eight children. In the spring of 1836 he came to Elgin, passing through Chicago, where he was offered the block on which the Palmer House now stands for a pair of boots he was carrying over his shoulder, but he declined the offer. On the present site of Elgin he engaged in farming for some time, but later in life devoted his time and attention to the banking business, being one of the organizers of the First National Bank, and also the Elgin City Banking Company, more familiarly known as the Savings Bank, and in both of these institutions he was a director and vice-president. He continued his connection with them until his death, which occurred May 15, 1889. He was a man of medium size, was quite domestic in his tastes, was pleasant and genial in his disposition, and was gifted with a fine memory, which was of great benefit not only to himself but to others who desired information concerning current matters. His wife was born in Utica, New York, December 16, 1823, and was the daughter of James and Margaret Weston, who, in 1846, came to Elgin, where Mr. and Mrs. Black were married June 27, 1847. She was a devoted member of the Baptist church, and died in that faith November 26, 1891. Of their five children three died in infancy, and Weston died at the age of eighteen years from the effects of a kick from a horse.

Our subject, the only one of the family now living, acquired his primary education in the public schools of Kane county, later graduated at the Elgin Academy, and in 1874 entered the Chicago University, where he was graduated with the class of 1878. For a year after leaving college he was employed in Chamberlain's clothing house, and then entered the office of the "Advocate"

to learn the business. In 1886 he purchased a half interest in that journal and the "Daily News," the former of which was founded in 1848, the latter in 1873. The "Advocate," now the oldest paper in the county, is a seven-column quarto, and enjoys the largest circulation of any paper in the district. It is published on Saturdays. The "News" is the same size, and is also the oldest daily in the county. The office of these journals is equipped with modern machinery, including type-setting machines and Webb press, and in connection with the printing department there is also a bindery. Both papers are unwavering in their support of the Republican party and its principles, and are devoted to the interests of Elgin and Kane county. Mr. Black is a heavy stockholder in both the First National Bank and the City Savings Bank, in which he is a director and vice-president.

On the 4th of September, 1884, Mr. Black was united in marriage with Miss Etta D. Roe, who was born in Rolling Prairie, Indiana, May 4, 1864, a daughter of George W. and Marietta (Drummond) Roe, of Chicago. She is the second in order of birth in their family of four children, the others being Alta May; James, who was drowned at Rolling Prairie, Indiana, in 1883; and Clifford G. Mr. and Mrs. Black have two children: Lyman Foster, born March 16, 1887; and Mareta Vergine, born August 31, 1892. The family have a beautiful home at No. 237 Villa street, Elgin, which was erected by Mr. Black, and also have a cottage at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, where they spend the summer months.

Politically, Mr. Black is a Republican, and socially is an honored member of the Century Club, while his wife is an active and prominent member of the Coffee Club



and the Every Wednesday Literary Club. Of high social qualities, they are very popular, having a most extensive circle of friends and acquaintances, and their home is the abode of hospitality and good cheer.

CHARLES P. DEANE, a well-known retired business man living in Elgin, was born in Worcester county, Massachusetts, April 4, 1813, a son of Cyrus and Nancy (Howe) Dean, also natives of that state, where they spent their entire lives, the father dying at the age of eighty-seven in the house where he learned his trade, and the mother at the age of eighty-five. Throughout life he worked on watches and clocks at the goldsmith's trade, and gave his entire time to his business affairs, taking no active part in public life. Both he and his wife were faithful members of the Congregational church, and were held in high esteem by all who knew them. Of their seven children only two are now living: Charles P.; and Nancy, wife of Charles Lyon, of Oak Park, Chicago.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools of Massachusetts, and when his school days were over he went to New York, where he was employed at various occupations for a few years. For four years he engaged in the planing-mill business in Lewiston, Maine, and then returned to Massachusetts, assisting his brother George in the manufacturing business at Malden for two years. Coming west in 1857, Mr. Deane located in Elgin and opened up and developed a good farm two miles northwest of the city, but now within the corporate limits. To agricultural pursuits he devoted his energies for six years, and then erected a store on Grove avenue,

Elgin, purchased a stock of goods, and began business as a merchant, being thus engaged until 1880, when he sold out, and has since lived retired.

On the 3d of July, 1841, Mr. Deane was united in marriage with Miss Mary P. Baldridge, who died April 21, 1851, aged twenty-seven years. To them were born three children, namely: Cyrus F., born November 13, 1842, was a member of the Army of the Southwest during the Civil war, and was mortally wounded at the battle of Stone River in 1862, dying at Nashville, January 15, 1863; Maria N. married Daniel W. Brown, also a Union soldier, who died in Elgin, and to them were born three children—Edna, Charles and Cyrus; she resides in Elgin. Charles H., the youngest of the family, died February 25, 1850, at the age of six years.

Mr. Deane was again married, March 24, 1853, his second union being with Miss Abbie M. Haskell, by whom he had four children: Mary A. is now a successful kindergarten teacher in Elgin; Ella J. is the wife of Joseph Mitchell, of Elgin, and has three children, Howard, Deane and Ethelyn; Lizzie A. died March 7, 1859, when only six months old; and Julia F. is a stenographer and type writer employed in an office in Chicago.

Politically Mr. Deane was originally a Whig, but since the dissolution of that party he has been a stanch Republican. For many years he was one of the active and progressive business men of the 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 Kane county he is widely and favorably known.



DAVID HILL, proprietor of the nursery near Dundee, has been a resident of Kane county since 1872. He was born in Hartfordshire, about thirty miles from London, England, January 17, 1849, and is the son of Henry and Martha (Grayes) Hill, both of whom were natives of the same shire. In his native land he grew to manhood, and had fair educational advantages. He commenced nursery work in Bedford, England, in early life, and worked there for some years. In 1871 he came to the United States, forming one of a party of three young men. Going to Boston he made application for work at the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, and on the advice of the secretary went to Woodstock, Windham county, Connecticut, where he secured work in the Spaulding's nursery and fruit farm, where he remained about one year. In 1872 he came west to Dundee, and went to work on a farm near that place for one winter. The next season he commenced work in the nursery then owned by William Hill, and continued with him until his death. He then succeeded to the business through his wife, who was a niece of William Hill, and came with him from Scotland when a child. At that time the place consisted of six acres, with but two in nursery stock. An incumbrance was on the place of two thousand dollars. Our subject went to work and put out more stock, and buying land from time to time is now the owner of one hundred and six acres, all of which is near, but not contiguous, to the old place. He has put out nursery stock until he has in all some eighty-five acres. He grows for the wholesale trade as well as retail. His specialties are hardy evergreens, shade, ornamental and forest trees, although he grows and deals in fruit trees and small

fruit. His trade is mostly in the western states, and he has built up an extensive business, employing from seventy-five to one hundred men in packing and shipping in the busy season.

In June, 1878, Mr. Hill was united in marriage at Dundee, Illinois, with Miss Maggie Grant, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, and a niece of William Hill, who came with him to the United States when a miss of twelve years. Her education, began in her native country, was completed in the schools of Kane county. By this union there are six living children—George W., Arthur H., Waudie, Mabel, Vernon and Florence. They lost one daughter, Marguerite, who died at the age of six months.

Politically Mr. Hill is a staunch Republican, his first Presidential vote being cast for James A. Garfield. Since becoming a resident of this country he has always manifested a commendable interest in its political affairs, though not in a strictly partisan sense. A friend of education and the public schools, he has given of his time to advance their interests as a member of the school board. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic fraternity, the blue lodge at Dundee, and the chapter at Elgin. With his estimable wife he holds membership in the Baptist church.

Mr. Hill has now been a resident of Illinois for twenty-nine years. His life affords an example to the young in that he commenced his life here without money or friends, but having a determination to succeed he industriously applied himself until he has acquired a good property and a large and fairly prosperous business. He is well known throughout Illinois and other western states for his sterling character and worth.

MERRITT HARGER, an honored and highly respected citizen of Elgin, is now retired from the active labors of life and occupies a comfortable home on Hendee avenue, overlooking the Fox river. He was born July 31, 1819, in Lewis county, New York, a son of Noah N. and Lucy (Gillette) Harger, who were both born and reared in Connecticut. The father was a carpenter and joiner, and also followed the occupation of farming. In 1855 he came with our subject to Kane county, Illinois, where he died April 11, 1863, his wife having previously passed away at their old home in New York, on the 20th of May, 1850. Both were consistent members of the Presbyterian church, and in politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. Their children were Morgan and Mrs. Maria Arthur, both deceased; Madison, who died in Ohio; Mary, now the widow of Henry Ragan, and a resident of Syracuse, New York; Milton, deceased; Merritt, the subject of this sketch; and Lydia and Martha, both deceased.

In the county of his nativity, Merritt Harger grew to manhood, obtaining his education in the district schools, and early becoming familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. There he continued to follow farming until 1855 when he came to Kane county, Illinois, and bought a small farm in Plato township, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his energies for ten years. Selling that place, he purchased four hundred and ten acres of slightly improved land in the southern part of the same township, which he placed under a high state of cultivation. He erected thereon good and substantial buildings and made many other useful improvements, which added to its value

and attractive appearance, making it one of the best farms in the county. He was one of the first men in the community to engage in sheep raising to any great extent, but when wool became so cheap that it proved unprofitable he discontinued the business. He then directed his attention to dairying, and was one of the first to engage in the manufacture of cheese, which was then in demand. At one time he sold his cheese by the ton at twenty cents per pound. After residing upon his second farm for twenty-nine years, he decided to retire from active work, and removed to Elgin, where he has since made his home, enjoying the fruits of former toil.

In Lewis county, New York, Mr. Harger was married October 17, 1843, to Miss Mary E., daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Herin) Rogers, natives of the Empire state. Her paternal grandfather was born in Connecticut, and was one of the first settlers of Lewis county, New York. Soon after our subject came west, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers also came to Kane county and located in Elgin township, where he purchased and operated a large tract of land. Besides Mrs. Harger, their other children were Betsy Ann, Grange L. and Henry C., all deceased; and Nelson, John H. and Jane, still residents of Illinois. Mrs. Harger departed this life September 2, 1895. By her marriage to our subject she became the mother of one child, Lucy Maria, who was born December 21, 1864, and married James M. Buzzell, now deceased. She died September 22, 1884, leaving no children. Mr. Harger was again married, November 26, 1896, his second union being with Adella Kenyon, a daughter of Lafayette and Mary (Winsor) Kenyon.

Mr. Harger cast his first presidential



MERRITT HARGER.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



vote for William Henry Harrison in 1840, during one of the most exciting campaigns ever held in this country. His support is now given to the men and measures of the Republican party. He has sold his farm and has invested in real estate in Elgin, which is proving quite profitable. Mr. Harger is widely and favorably known throughout Kane county, and it is safe to say that no man in Elgin county has more or warmer friends.

**H**OWARD L. PRATT, M. D.—Among the well-known representatives of the medical profession in Elgin, whose reputation is not confined alone to the city in which he makes his home, but who is favorably known in several counties and in at least two states of the union, is the subject of this sketch. Born at Unionville, Lake county, Ohio, February 27, 1850, he is the son of George and Adaline S. (Torrey) Pratt, the former a native of Ohio, the latter of New York. They were the parents of five children, of whom three are now living: Howard Lewis, our subject; Mary E., wife of F. E. Miller, of Chicago; and Edith, wife of Frank McAllister, of Chicago.

George Pratt, the father, grew to manhood in his native state, and in youth learned the trade of a blacksmith, which trade he followed until his removal to Illinois in 1855. While yet residing in Ohio he married Adaline S. Torrey, a daughter of Ira Allen Torrey, a native of Vermont, and a hotel keeper for many years, who later emigrated to Neenah, Wisconsin, where his death occurred at the age of sixty-nine years. His wife traced her ancestry back to Tabitha Goodenough, her great-grandmother. Mrs. Torrey's father, who bore the name of Wallis, was a soldier of the war of 1812,

and died while held a prisoner by the British in Canada.

On coming to Illinois with his family, in 1855, George Pratt located at Woodstock, McHenry county, where he followed his trade and engaged in farming for some years, besides being interested in the lumber business. He later removed to Chicago, where his wife died in January, 1895. She was a conscientious Christian woman, a member of the Baptist church for many years, and died in the faith of a resurrection beyond the grave and a re-union of loved ones. After her death her husband returned to Woodstock, where he is now working at his trade, although seventy-five years of age. He is yet hale and hearty.

Lewis Pratt, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Vermont, and was numbered among the pioneers of the "Western Reserve," settling in Ashtabula county, Ohio. His death occurred after a short illness while he was on a business trip to western Ohio, before he was forty years of age. His brother, Charles, built by contract the first government harbor at Ashtabula. His family consisted of three sons and four daughters who grew to mature years. By occupation he was a farmer, following that vocation during his entire life. His father, the great-grandfather of Dr. Pratt, was a Baptist minister in Vermont, and lived to the age of ninety-nine years and six months. He was a man of remarkable mental and physical activity. At the age of ninety he invited his grandson, Charles, Jr., who was visiting him, to go with him to the barn to see a favorite colt. On reaching the farmyard gate he placed his hands on the top bar and cleared it with a leap, saying, "Charles, you can't do that."

Howard Lewis Pratt was but five years old when he was brought by his parents to Illinois. His literary education was obtained in the public schools of Woodstock, McHenry county, and in Todd's Academy, now conducted as a seminary at that place. In 1874 he commenced reading medicine and the following year entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, an institution noted for the better class of its graduates, from which he received a diploma in 1878. Returning to Woodstock, he at once commenced practice with his preceptor in the city in which he was reared and where his manner of life was well known. Kansas, the great Sunflower state, was now having a boom and a large number of people were attracted there. Dr. Pratt was among the number, and in April, 1879, he took up his residence in Wellington, that state, where he resumed practice.

While in Wellington, on the 21st of October, 1880, Dr. Pratt married Miss Edith A. Smith, a daughter of Joel and Emaline L. (Brown) Smith, of Marengo, Illinois, the latter a native of Cortland, New York, and one of the early teachers in the public schools of Dundee, Illinois, and the former of Rutland, Vermont. Her father was a pioneer of DuPage county, Illinois, where he located in 1857. To Dr. and Mrs. Pratt two children were born—Ada A. and Alice M., who yet remain at home.

In October, 1883, Dr. Pratt removed with his family to Elgin and in the fifteen years that have since passed he has built up an extensive practice. His office is in his own home at No. 266 Chicago street. He is engaged in general practice. He was elected in 1897 president of the Fox River Valley Medical Association.

Dr. and Mrs. Pratt are members of the

First Baptist church of Elgin. In the work of the church they both take a lively interest. Politically he is a Republican. Socially the family move in the best circles and are universally esteemed for their many excellent qualities of head and heart.

---

JOHN A. RUSSELL, a representative of the legal fraternity, with office in Cook block, Elgin, is a native of Kane county, Illinois, born in St. Charles, October 4, 1854. He is the son of John and Jeanette (Beith) Russell, natives of Scotland, and the parents of three children, the others being Wm. B., of Newhall, Iowa, and Hannah M., of Elgin. John Russell, the father, was a stone mason by trade, and on coming to America located at St. Charles, where he died in 1857, while still a young man. His wife died the previous year. Both were members of the Congregational church.

Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of our subject were of Scotch birth. The former, the father of four sons, died in his native land at an advanced age. The latter, Robert Beith, came to America with his wife, Barbara, in company with Mr. and Mrs. Russell, and also located at St. Charles, where he died at the age of about seventy years. His wife lived to be ninety. Robert Beith was in comfortable circumstances financially and lived a retired life in St. Charles.

John A. Russell was but two years of age when his mother died, and only three years old when his father passed away, so that he never knew the great love of father or mother. When five years old he was taken from his native town and for five or six years was in Minnesota and Iowa. Return-

ing to Kane county, he attended Elgin Academy for a time, and then read law in the office of Botsford & Barry. After completing his studies he passed a successful examination at Springfield and was admitted to the bar January 3, 1879. Opening an office in Elgin he has since continued to practice there with good success.

Mr. Russell was married December 24, 1888, to Miss Clara Mair, of Batavia, Illinois, daughter of James Mair, a well-known resident of that place. Two children have come to bless this union: Marion and Marjorie. In her religious views Mrs. Russell is a Methodist, holding membership in the church of that denomination in Elgin.

Fraternally Mr. Russell is a member of Monitor lodge, No. 522 A. F. & A. M.; Loyal L. Munn chapter, No. 96, R. A. M.; Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T., all of Elgin, and Medina Temple of the Scottish Rite, Chicago. Politically he is an enthusiastic Republican, and in the welfare of his party takes great interest. He has been a member of the county central committee four years; chairman of the senatorial committee of the fourteenth senatorial district two years; and was also secretary of the State League of Republican clubs two years, preceding the campaign of 1896. For some years he has done more or less campaign work, taking the stump in Kane and adjoining counties. A fluent speaker, he has done much to keep his native county in line with the Republican party.

It is as an attorney, however, that Mr. Russell is best known, the one profession in which he takes great delight. His ability in this calling is unquestioned and success has crowned his efforts. In addition to his private practice he served three years as city attorney of Elgin, and four years as

state's attorney of Kane county. Law breakers had reason to fear him as a prosecutor.

While confining himself principally to his legal business Mr. Russell has always felt an interest in the manufacturing institutions and other industries of the county. He is now serving as secretary of the W. H. Howell Company, of Geneva, that manufactures six tons of sad irons per day in connection with a machine shop where many other articles of usefulness are manufactured.

An almost life-long resident of the county, Mr. Russell has an extended acquaintance in all parts, and this acquaintance is not confined to Kane county, but extends throughout the state, his position as secretary of the Republican League bringing him in contact with many of the oldest and best men in the state. His pleasant manners and good conversational powers make him friends wherever he goes.

---

WILLIAM HENRY GOETTING, proprietor of the Elgin Steam Laundry at 115-117 Division street, has for fifteen years been a resident of Elgin. 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.

Mr. Goetting was born in Schaumburg, Cook county, Illinois, October 9, 1859, and is a son of Charles and Dorothea (Kraegel) Goetting, in whose family were five children, but only two are now living, the other being Matilda, widow of Jacob Theobold. The father, who was a brick and stone



mason and a plasterer by trade, came to America from Germany in 1863 and first located in Addison township, Du Page county, Illinois, but later took up his residence in Cook county, where he died in 1888, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife had passed away some years previous, dying in 1873, at the age of fifty. Both held membership in the Lutheran Church, and were widely and favorably known. The paternal grandfather of our subject was a laboring man and while serving in the German army was killed by a French soldier. He had only one son. Dietrich Kraegel, the maternal grandfather, also served for some time in the German army, but later came to America, and his death occurred in Du Page county, Illinois, when in his eightieth year. By trade he was a tailor. In his family were six children.

The subject of this sketch was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys and in the public schools of Cook county obtained his education. During his youth he first worked on a farm, then he learned the carpenter's trade and also learned to operate a stationary engine. On coming to Elgin in 1882 he worked at his trade of carpenter for three years, and for the same length of time was employed in the Elgin Steam Laundry. At the end of that time he purchased the plant and business, which he has since successfully conducted. He gives employment to from twenty to twenty-five persons, and the work turned out is exceptionally fine.

On the 26th of June, 1886, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Goetting and Miss Mary Borchert, a daughter of Gottlieb and Elizabeth (Springer) Borchert. Three children were born to them—Charles G., Bertha A., and Ida E., but the first two

named are now deceased. The parents are prominent members of the St. Paul's Evangelical Church, and Mr. Goetting is now serving as church treasurer. He belongs to St. Paul's Benefit Society, and the Columbian Knights, and politically is identified with the Republican party. He resides at 216 Dexter avenue, where he has a pleasant home, and there the many friends of the family are always sure of a hearty welcome. As a business man he is enterprising and progressive, and as a citizen he meets every requirement.

JACOB PHILIP LONG, deceased, was born in Hamburg, Germany, in the valley of the Rhine, March 6, 1825, and died at his home in Elgin, on the 20th of September, 1896. His life span therefore covered the Psalmist's span of three score years and ten, and the record which he made during that period was one characterized by business ability and well-merited successes, by honorable dealing and by the regard which is ever accorded genuine worth.

Mr. Long was a son of Jacob and Katharine (Younge) Lange, also natives of Germany, and it is only by the American representatives of the family that the name is spelled "Long." The father of our subject was a wagon-maker and spent his entire life in the country of his nativity. His wife was a daughter of a wealthy distiller of the province of Hessen, who was the owner of a large farm and much real estate, and who was also a soldier under Napoleon.

Mr. Long, of this review, learned the trade of wagon making under the direction of his father, and that of distilling with his maternal grandfather. After his mother's



death he entered the German army in which he served for four years. Upon his return home he found that his father had married again and being much displeased with this state of affairs he resolved to come to America. Accordingly he made all preparations to leave his native land and sailed from Havre to New York, whence he made his way to Chicago and then to Elgin. Here he worked at the wagonmaker's trade as a journeyman for a time, and then embarked in business on his own account. His first factory, established on Milwaukee and River streets, was destroyed by fire, and he then removed to a temporary shop on River street, in which he carried on business until the completion of a fine two-story brick shop and factory, which was erected at No. 112 Division street, in 1879. There he carried on business until his death. He did a large repairing trade and built up an extensive business in the manufacture of all kinds of vehicles, which on account of the excellence of the workmanship found a ready sale on the market. The enterprise which he conducted therefore proved a profitable one and enabled him to surround his family not only with the necessities, but also many of the luxuries, of life.

Mr. Long was married in Cook county, Illinois, about ten miles east of Elgin, to Miss Caroline Wilhausen, who was born in Kur Hessen, Germany, and came to America when fourteen years of age with her parents, Frederick and Caroline Wilhausen. Her father owned a small farm in Kur Hessen, but disposed of that property in 1847, and with his family sailed from Bremen to New York. He then made his way to Chicago, where he resided for two months, while seeking a desirable farm. Finally he purchased land near Schaumburg, Cook coun-

ty, where he continued to make his home until his death, about 1853. To Mr. and Mrs. Long were born six children, but three died in infancy. Those still living are Julia, wife of August Schwemin, a machinist of Chicago; Anna, who is residing with her mother; and Herman Frederick, who carries on the business left by his father. He learned the blacksmith's trade in his father's shop, also wagon making and carriage painting, and now displays marked ability in his conduct of the industry. He was born in Elgin, May 16, 1872, was educated in the public schools and Drew's Business College, and when twenty years of age put aside his text books to take up the practical duties of business life. Like his father, he is a Democrat, and is a progressive, wide-awake young business man, and a popular citizen.

Jacob P. Long was a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and a consistent member of St. John's Evangelical church. He found his greatest enjoyment in his home amid his family, but was not without a large circle of warm friends. He was large-hearted, generous and kindly, possessed a jovial disposition, was true to every trust reposed in him, and possessed such sterling characteristics that the highest regard was ever his.

---

EDGAR E. HOXIE, a locomotive engineer on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, now residing at No. 320 Center street, Elgin, is one of the valued citizens of that place, and is a representative of one of the old and respected families of Kane county. He was born in Dundee, October 18, 1845, a son of George W. and Fidelia (Aldrich) Hoxie, who were natives of Massachusetts, and were married just across the line

in Pownall, Vermont. The father, who was a farmer by occupation, came to Illinois in 1836 and purchased land in Kane county, after which he returned to the east and was married in that year or the year following. He then brought his bride to his new home in the wilderness, erecting a log house, in which they began their domestic life. The farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres of wild land, purchased of Mr. Dewesse, was soon placed under a high state of cultivation, but in the meantime the family endured all the hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier. At that time Chicago was a mere hamlet, and the land on which the court house is now located could be bought for ten shillings per acre. The father took no active part in public affairs aside from serving as school director in his district, which office was very important in those pioneer days. He died in 1889 at the age of seventy-six years, his wife a year later at the age of eighty-one. Both were earnest members of the Baptist church, with which he was officially connected. Reared to habits of industry and economy, they were always hard working people, and were thus well equipped for frontier life.

In the family of this worthy couple were five children, namely: Emily, who died of cerebro-spinal meningitis when past the age of thirty years; Homer, a resident of Dundee, and foreman of the condensing factory in Carpentersville; Jane, wife of Jerome Irick, of Dundee; Edgar E., of this sketch; and Charles A., station agent at Dundee for the Chicago & Northwestern railroad.

Upon the home farm at Dundee Edward E. Hoxie was reared until fifteen years of age, and then learned the trade of sash and

blind making, which he followed at that place, in Elgin and in Chicago for sixteen years. He then entered the service of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad as fireman, and after being thus employed for four years, he was promoted engineer in 1881, completing his seventeenth year in that capacity in July, 1898. During the twenty-one years he has been with the company, he has never been reprimanded or had any unpleasant relations with them, which fact speaks volumes as to the faithful manner in which he has labored for their interests. He has never met with any serious accident, never had but one collision, which was not his fault, but the fault of the pay car, which ran into him; twice his engine has left the tracks, but no serious accident has happened to himself.

During the early part of the Civil war Mr. Hoxie enlisted for three months, in a call to guard prisoners from Fort Donelson and Shiloh, and after serving for four months, he returned home. In 1863 he enlisted in Company B, Sixty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, as corporal, and afterward re-enlisted in Company I, Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He participated in the Atlanta campaign, when the Union troops were almost constantly under fire for ninety days, and he was with Sherman on his celebrated march to the sea, walking the entire distance. He was under the command of General Corse, who, after General Sherman signaled him to hold the fort at Altoona Pass, sent back the reply: "I am short a cheek bone and an ear, but able to whip the Rebs and all hell yet." It will be remembered that Altoona Pass is in the vicinity of the town of Altoona, in northwestern Georgia. Here, on the 5th of October, 1864, occurred the battle made

memorable by the gallant defense of Altoona by General John M. Corse, of the Federal army. General Sherman was occupying Atlanta, having garrisoned Altoona as his second base; this point the Confederates determined to capture, and General S. G. French, under General Hood, was commissioned to accomplish the work. Sherman being informed of these designs, signaled from Kenesaw Mountain to General Corse, stationed at Rome, to move with the utmost speed to Altoona and "hold the fort" against all opposition until he himself could arrive with aid. Here General Corse, with scarcely two thousand men, maintained the defense from nine in the morning until three in the afternoon against a large force of Confederate soldiers. At three General French sounded a retreat, and Altoona was saved. The proudest day of Mr. Hoxie's life was when he participated in the grand review at Washington, District of Columbia, at the close of the war. Fortunately, during the entire service he was never wounded or taken prisoner, and when the war was over he was honorably discharged in Chicago, in July, 1865.

On the 3d of February, 1869, Mr. Hoxie was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Lown, daughter of George and Fanny Lown, who were from Dutchess county, New York, her father's farm bordering on the Hudson river in the town of Rhinebeck. Two children blessed this union: Maud, who was born December 18, 1870, and died March 20, 1883; and Mabel, who is attending school in Elgin.

Fraternally, Mr. Hoxie is an honored member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Masonic order, and the Grand Army of the Republic. His political support is always given the men and meas-

ures of the Republican party, and he takes quite an active interest in local affairs. As a citizen he commands the respect and esteem of all who know him, and has a host of friends throughout his native county.

JOHN A. LOGAN, whose name is inseparably connected with the political history of Elgin, served his fellow citizens as United States deputy marshal for four years and as alderman from the seventh ward of Elgin. He was born in that city August 9, 1861, a son of John and Julia (Murphy) Logan, who were born, reared and married in County Cork, Ireland. On coming to the United States during the '50s they located in Elgin, Illinois, where the father died about the close of the Civil war. On his emigration to America he was accompanied by his father, Owen Logan, who, with his family settled in Elgin. In politics the father of our subject was a Democrat, and in religious belief was a Catholic, to which church his wife also belonged. She is now deceased. Their children were Mary, Nellie, Julia, Margaret, Thomas, John A. (1st), John A. (our subject), and Margaret (2d), all deceased with the exception of Thomas, a resident of Elgin, and our subject.

Reared in Elgin, John A. Logan, of this review, acquired his education in the public schools. On starting out in life for himself he first worked in a brickyard, later was employed in a butter factory for two years, and in a cheese box factory for about four years. He then entered the service of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, remaining with that company for about ten years, or until 1889, when he established a saloon in Elgin and successfully conducted the same



for two years. In 1888 he was appointed deputy sheriff of Kane county under William H. Reed, and served in that capacity for four years. Since 1894 he served as United States deputy marshal, and most ably and satisfactorily discharged the duties of that office.

Mr. Logan was married in 1881, to Miss Mary A. Althen, a native of Sycamore, DeKalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Casper and Louise (Miller) Althen, natives of Germany. Two children bless this union, namely: Margaret and John.

The Democratic party has always found in Mr. Logan a staunch supporter of its principles, and he is a recognized leader in local political affairs, being the present chairman of the Democratic committee of Elgin and a member of the senatorial committee. He has also been a delegate to many county, senatorial, congressional and state conventions, and is active and influential in the councils of his party. In 1886 he was first elected alderman from his ward for the short term, and at the two succeeding elections was re-elected, serving continuously until 1891. In 1894 was again elected to the same position, and two years later was re-elected, being the present incumbent, chairman of the railroad committee, and a member of the street lighting, fire and health committees. Socially he is a member of Lochiel lodge, K. P., of Elgin, and is also a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of Elgin, and the Medina Temple and Oriental Consistory of Chicago.

---

**JOHN B. MOORE.**—Among the many who came to the grand prairie state in pioneer days, and who have been instrumental in making it take the highest rank

among its sister states of the Union, is the man whose name heads this sketch, who dates his residence in Illinois since September 27, 1844. A native of New York, he was born at College Hill, Oneida county, July 26, 1815, and is the son of Shubel and Betsy (Watson) Moore, natives of New England, but who were among the pioneers of Oneida county, New York. The Moores are of Scottish descent. The family on leaving that country located for a time in Ireland and then came to the United States, first settling in Connecticut. Thomas Moore was a drover and furnished beef to the army during the Revolutionary war.

Shubel Moore grew to manhood in Connecticut, and was twice married, having five children by his first union. His second wife was Betsy Watson, the mother of our subject. She was born in Massachusetts, and was the daughter of Alexander Watson, a native of Middlesex county, that state, and a soldier of the Revolutionary war, who entered the service in July, 1776, when a lad of sixteen years. He participated in many important engagements during the struggle for independence. In 1793, he removed with his family to Herkimer county, New York, cleared off the timber, opened up a farm, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying April 6, 1840. His wife, Persis Watson, survived him some months, dying June 2, 1841.

Shubel Moore moved to Oneida county, New York, at a very early day, locating on College Hill, where he purchased a partially improved place, which he converted into one of the best farms in that locality. He there died in 1820, when but forty-nine years old. His widow survived him many years, dying on the old homestead December 18, 1859. After her husband's death,



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



JOHN B. MOORE.



MRS. J. B. MOORE,

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



she managed the farm and reared her family, doing by them as well as her means and opportunities afforded. She was a woman of good business ability, and it can be said of her as of one of old "she did what she could." On the death of her husband, there was quite an indebtedness on the place, which, with the aid of her sons, she in due time paid off, and later built a good, substantial residence. By his first wife Shubel Moore had four sons, Hiram, Miles, Ira and Frederick, and one daughter, Matilda. By his second wife he had ten children: Persis, Caroline, Keziah, Maria, Thomas, John B., Bright Alexander, Shubel, and two, Cornelia and Eliza, who died in infancy. Of this number, John B. and Shubel are the only survivors; Shubel residing in Utica, New York.

John B. Moore was but five years of age when his father died. He remained under the parental roof until attaining his seventeenth year, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. He then commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed for a number of years. While yet residing in New York, on the 12th of March, 1839, he was united in marriage with Miss Sophia Todd, born at College Hill, May 6, 1819. By this union were one son, and one daughter. Albert B., the son enlisted in 1862 in the Ninety-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was taken prisoner by the raider, Morgan, and was afterwards exchanged. He is now a farmer, residing in Jackson county, Kansas. The daughter, Adelaide, is now the wife of Andrew Schofield, of Los Angeles, California.

In 1844, Mr. Moore came to Illinois, by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo, and by the great lakes to Chicago. Moving on

west, he settled in Grundy county and there entered one hundred and forty acres of land, which he commenced to improve. Being without capital, for a time he engaged in contracting and building to pay for the land, and make other necessary improvements. He continued to do more or less contracting and building for several years. As his means increased he bought more land, and at one time owned one thousand acres, comprising the farm on which he lived. In the early days he hauled his wheat and other grain to Chicago, the trip requiring two days each way. At night he slept under the wagon when the weather was not too severe. His wheat brought at different times from forty-eight cents to ninety-five cents per bushel. His trips to Chicago were with a wagon and two yoke of oxen, and he usually hauled fifty-two bushels at a time.

While residing in Grundy county, Mrs. Sophia Moore died November 25, 1851. She had been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church since reaching the age of thirteen years. On the 25th of April, 1852, Mr. Moore was united in marriage with Miss Lucy Sterling, a native of Michigan, born May 31, 1831. She is the daughter of Samuel and Cornelia (Lathrop) Sterling, natives of Connecticut, but who were married in New York, removed from thence to Michigan, and in 1834, to Kane county, Illinois. They located at Geneva, where Mr. Sterling bought a farm, and built the first hotel in the place. He also built the first dam and erected the first mill in Geneva. Mrs. Sterling was the first teacher in the place. After residing in the village for some years, Mr. Sterling removed to his farm, which is now owned and occupied by our subject, and there built a substantial stone residence.

The last years of his life were spent on that farm, although his death occurred in Grundy county, at the residence of Mr. Moore, August 30, 1871, at the age of seventy-nine years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore, nine children have been born, as follows: Sterling, who died in infancy; George, who died at the age of twelve years; Shubel, a stockman, married, and residing in Jackson county, Kansas; Arabella, wife of Heiko Felkamp, of Great Bend, Kansas; Frederick, a farmer residing near Great Bend, Kansas; Mrs. Maria Fellows, residing in Jackson county, Kansas; Della, wife of John Strader, a druggist of Geneva, Illinois; Emery T., a farmer of St. Charles township; and John, who resides on the old homestead.

After the death of Mr. Sterling, his homestead was put up at auction, and was purchased by Mr. Moore. It then comprised one hundred and eighty-seven acres, to which Mr. Moore subsequently added three adjoining farms, making one of about seven hundred acres. For some years he engaged in its active management, but is now practically retired. He was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the factory at Geneva, and also the one at St. Charles. He later purchased the Geneva factory, but soon made it co-operative. It is now controlled by a stock company. In every enterprise calculated to advance the material interest of his adopted city and county, Mr. Moore has ever done his part.

Politically, Mr. Moore is a life-long Democrat, being reared in the faith. He cast his first presidential ballot for Martin Van Buren, and has never since missed a presidential election and has always voted for the Democratic nominee. While residing in Grundy county he served for a time

as chairman of the Democratic central committee. By his fellow citizens he was there elected to various local offices, including that of county commissioner. Since coming to Kane county he has steadily refused official position, preferring to give his undivided time and attention to his extensive business interests. While not a member, he and his wife attend the Baptist church and contribute to its support. Mr. Moore is well-known throughout Kane and adjoining counties, and by all who know him he is held in the highest esteem.

---

HENRY G. SAWYER, of Carpentersville, Illinois, is one of the active and enterprising business men and manufacturers of Kane county. He has been connected with the Star Company since its organization in 1873, and to him much of the credit is due for its prosperous condition. He was born in Elgin, Kane county, March 21, 1844, and is the son of George E. Sawyer, a native of Vermont, born at Bradford, October 17, 1815. John W. Sawyer, the grandfather, was also a native of Vermont, the family locating in that state at an early day. They are of English descent.

George E. Sawyer grew to manhood in Vermont, and there married, January 5, 1837, Abigail P. Blake, a native of New Hampshire, of which state her father, Hezekiah Blake, was a native. By trade Mr. Sawyer was a carpenter, which occupation he followed in early life. In April, 1837, with a one-horse wagon, he started from his Vermont home to Illinois, arriving in Elgin in October of the same year. In his wagon were his entire earthly possessions, but he came here with an earnest desire to

better himself in life. At Elgin his wife had some friends, including a sister, Mrs. David Corliss, who located here the previous year. Commencing work at his trade, he continued at that but a short time and then took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Elgin township, which he later entered and subsequently sold and then purchased a farm in Dundee township, near the present village of Carpentersville, to which he removed and on which he resided for about thirty years. Leaving the farm, he removed to Carpentersville, where he died May 22, 1894, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife passed away August 31, 1891. Their remains were laid to rest in the Dundee cemetery. They were the parents of two children—William G., of Elgin, and our subject.

Henry G. Sawyer grew to manhood in Kane county, received his primary education in its district schools and for a time attended the Elgin Academy. He remained at home assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm until twenty-two years of age, when in company with his brother he purchased the mercantile business of J. A. Carpenter, at Carpentersville, in which he continued for eight years. He then engaged in settling up the business and was employed as a commercial salesman. He was one of the charter members and stockholders of the Star Manufacturing Company, of which he was the first secretary and treasurer. That position he continued to occupy until 1896, when he was elected president of the company. This is one of the extensive enterprises in Kane county, its products being sent all over the northwest, including Indiana, Ohio and Pacific coast. The institution was started in a small way on small capital, but under the wise man-

agement of Mr. Sawyer it has grown from year to year.

On the 7th of November, 1867, at Carpentersville, Illinois, Mr. Sawyer was united in marriage with Miss Ella A. Brown, daughter of True and Lucinda Brown, the father being an old settler and substantial farmer of Kane county. She was born in New Hampshire, but came to this county with her parents in early childhood. Her death occurred in November, 1868, and Mr. Sawyer was again married March 23, 1871, to Miss Mary Kingsley, a native of Illinois, born in Cook county, and the daughter of S. W. Kingsley, a native of Massachusetts, and came west by way of the New York and Erie canal and the great lakes. Settling in Barrington township in 1840, he entered about four hundred acres of land, which he improved and on which he resided for many years, but is now living a retired life in Dundee. By this union were five children: Lora, now the wife of Charles H. Harvey, of Carpentersville; Bertha E., who married Robert Nightingale, Barrington, Cook county, but is now deceased; Clara, now a student of Dickson College; George K. and Addie K., twins. The latter died in infancy. The former is a student of the Illinois State University. The mother of these children died March 25, 1879, and Mr. Sawyer, December 25, 1880, married Lillian M. Burkitt, who was born and reared in Cook county, and a daughter of William Burkitt. By this marriage were three children—Clarence E., Ethel M. and Howard C., all attending the home school.

Politically Mr. Sawyer is a Republican and a strong believer in the principles of that party. While taking an active interest in political affairs, especially local politics,



his business interests have been such as to preclude his holding public office. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, the Maccabees, and the Knights of the Globe, while Mrs. Sawyer is a member of the Daughters of the Globe.

A lifelong resident of Kane county, Mr. Sawyer has gone in and out among its people, attending strictly to business, and is regarded as one of its valued citizens. Few men are better known throughout Kane and adjoining counties and he is held in the highest esteem by all.

---

EZRA M. STARR, who is spending his declining years in ease and retirement at his pleasant home, No. 539 Ryerson avenue, Elgin, was born June 23, 1836, in Cattaraugus county, New York, of which state his parents, William B. and Sallie M. (Bailey) Starr, were also natives. There the father continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until 1860, when he emigrated to Kane county, Illinois, purchasing a farm in the town of Campton, where he made his home until called to his final rest in 1892, at the age of eighty-two years. He held membership in the Universalist church, and was widely and favorably known throughout Kane county, having lived in several different localities.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Samuel Starr, was born August 4, 1780, and died February 23, 1856. He served for three months in the war of 1812, being discharged at Sackett's Harbor, November 12, 1814, and for his services he received a land warrant. He was in every way a most reliable and excellent man and most capably filled the offices of township clerk and justice of the peace. Religiously he was a con-

sistent member of the Presbyterian church. He married Miss Catherine Wright, who was born May 10, 1783, and died April 7, 1848. They reared a large family of children, but Mrs. Shaw, of Toledo, is the only one now living. Her husband was a pioneer of Lucas county, Ohio, and served as its first sheriff.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest of five children, the others being as follows: William A., one of the early settlers of Labette county, Kansas, died there at the age of thirty-five years, at which time he was serving as county auditor. He was also a successful teacher of that state, was quite an influential man, and was a most intimate friend of Senator Plum, of Kansas. Millard F. is a resident of Rutland, Kane county, and has served as assessor and in other county offices. Lydia C. is the wife of Frank P. Shepard, of South Elgin. Arthur died in infancy.

In the public schools of New York state, Ezra M. Starr acquired his education and upon the home farm early became familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He first came west in 1854, but later returned to New York. In 1857, however, he located in Ripon, Fond du Lac county, Wisconsin, where he worked at brick making for fifteen dollars per month and board, remaining there two years. He then came to Hanover, Cook county, Illinois, where he worked by the month for two seasons, and in 1863 purchased two hundred acres of land in Elgin township, Kane county, of Virgil B. Bogue, Mrs. Starr's father, who was one of the early settlers of the county. Our subject successfully engaged in the operation of this farm until laying aside business cares after a long and useful career.



On the 7th of January, 1863, Mr. Starr was married to Miss Jane Clarissa Bogue, who was born on the farm in Kane county which her husband purchased of her father. Four children graced this union, namely: Gertrude M., wife of E. D. Wheeler, a traveling salesman residing in Elgin; Chester, a cattle dealer of Kane county; and Catherine and William Virgil, who are attending school. Catherine gives lessons on the violin at the College of Music, Elgin, and well understands the art of bringing forth sweet strains from that favorite instrument.

Mr. Starr is a progressive and enterprising citizen, is broad and liberal in his views, and keeps well abreast with the times. He is quite domestic in his tastes, his greatest enjoyment being found in his home, and through his own efforts, he acquired a competence which now enables him to lay aside business cares and enjoy his quiet home life. Politically he is a stanch Republican, and he has served his fellow citizens as supervisor of his township two years and school director twenty years.

**L**·EVI S. STOWE.—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 the impress of the historical annals of Kane county from early pioneer days, and for many years he has actively and prominently identified with the commercial and business interests of Elgin, in which city he is now living retired.

Mr. Stowe was born June 24, 1826, in Granville, Washington county, New York, and is a son of Asahel and Lydia (Davenport) Stowe. The father was born April 24, 1795, and was the son of Cyrus Stowe,

who was born July 16, 1769, a descendant of Lord John Stowe, who on account of religious persecution was driven out of England and came to America, settling in either Massachusetts or Vermont. At an early day members of the family removed to New York. The Davenports were also early settlers of that state; but little is known of their history.

Leaving New York, Asahel Stowe, with his family, journeyed westward by team, and on the 28th of September, 1843, arrived in Elgin, Illinois, where his brother, Cyrus Stowe, had located three years previously. Besides these two brothers, the other children were Polly E., Samuel, Hannah, Edwin C., William C., Parley W. and Wealthy B. Cyrus C. Stowe was an active and prominent member of the Congregational church, of Elgin, in which he served as one of the first deacons. The children born to Asahel and Lydia (Davenport) Stowe were as follows: William H.; Louise J., wife of Jesse Rose; Marilla, wife of Theodore Cowen; Levi S.; Rebecca L., wife of Monroe Hammon; Electa and Eveline, who both died in childhood; Albert, deceased; Edwin, deceased; Martha, widow of William Battles. Of these, only five are now living: Levi S.; Henry; and Louise, of Martin county, Minnesota; Rebecca, of Michigan; and Martha, of Marseilles, Illinois. The mother of these children died in Conewango, Cattaraugus county, New York, in 1841, the father in Sycamore, Illinois, in June, 1859. In religious belief he was a Congregationalist, and in politics a Whig, until 1856, when he became a Republican.

On coming west with the family, Levi S. Stowe found employment in Elgin at chopping wood for twenty-five cents per cord, and subsequently he went to De Kalb

county, where he engaged in farming for about three years. The following three years were spent in farming and lumbering in Wisconsin, and on his return to Illinois he located in Sycamore, where he remained for one year. After passing a year at St. Charles, he came to Elgin, where he first conducted a restaurant, and then opened a general store on Chicago street in the building now occupied by the Barclay hardware firm, carrying on general merchandise very successfully there for almost a quarter of a century. Since selling out his store in 1881, he has practically lived retired. Besides his own pleasant home at No. 56 Villa street, he owns considerable real estate, including residence property in the city which he rents.

Mr. Stowe was married October 26, 1852, to Miss Jane E. Holgate, of Elgin, Kane county, who was born in Franklin county, New York, April 27, 1833, a daughter of Rev. Ozem and Angeline (Safford) Holgate. She died in Elgin on the 6th of July, 1855, a worthy member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which her father was a minister. On October 3, 1857, Mr. Stowe was again married, his second union being with Miss Betsy Lessenden, who was born in 1835, a daughter of Ephraim and Caroline (Anderson) Lessenden, natives of Sheerness, Kent county, England. In 1849 they became residents of Kane county, Illinois, where the father engaged in farming many years, and both died in Elgin in 1895. They were earnest and faithful members of the Methodist church. Of their five children, John is now a resident of Osawatomie county, Kansas; Sarah, born in 1832, married Edwin Stowe, and both died, leaving two sons, Sherman and Warren, residents of Elgin; Mrs. Betsy Stowe is next in order

of birth; George is a resident of Osawatomie, Kansas; and Jane is the wife of Milton Townsend.

In his political views Mr. Stowe is a Republican, and has ever taken a deep and commendable interest in public affairs, giving his support to all measures which he believes calculated to prove of public benefit. He is one of the few early merchants of Elgin now living, and with the growth and upbuilding of the place he has been prominently identified. His wife holds membership in the Congregational church, and they have the respect and esteem of all who know them.

HENRY J. GAHAGAN, M. D., is a skilled physician and surgeon of Elgin, 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. A native of Grafton, Illinois, born December 27, 1866, he is of Irish lineage. His paternal grandfather, a native of the Emerald Isle, having emigrated to America, died in New York at the age of one hundred and four years. His wife passed away in Ireland at the age of seventy.

The Doctor's father, Bernard Gahagan, was born in County Sligo, Ireland, and on coming to America located near Lake Champlain, New York, whence he afterward removed to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Later he floated down the Mississippi river on a raft and became one of the pioneer settlers of Jersey county, Illinois, locating at Grafton, where he lived for many years. He was a contractor and builder by occupation. He married Ellen Armstrong, also a native of County Sligo, Ireland, as was her father,

who crossed the Atlantic to America in an early day, and spent the remainder of his life in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Gahagan became the parents of seven children, four sons and three daughters, four of whom are now living: Michael, of Tuscan, Arizona; Bernard, who is living in New York city; Henry J.; and Kate, wife of Simon Conroy, of Grafton, Illinois. The father of this family passed away in 1881 at the age of fifty-four years, and the mother's death occurred several years before. Both were members of the Roman Catholic church.

The Doctor was reared in his native town, was graduated in the high school there, and later attended a private school in Chicago. He also pursued a private course in medicine for two years, and in 1890 matriculated in the Rush Medical College of that city, in which institution he was graduated in 1893. During that time he had charge of the surgical instruments department of the Cook county hospital.

On leaving Chicago Dr. Gahagan accepted the position of assistant physician in the Eastern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, at Kankakee, and a few months later, at his own request, was transferred to the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, at Elgin, having charge of the annex building until April 1, 1897. He then opened an office in Elgin for private practice and has already succeeded in establishing a good business. On the 20th of May, 1897, he was appointed city physician. He is already popular with Elgin's citizens as an able physician and his practice is constantly increasing in volume and importance. As he is yet a young man and possesses enterprise and laudable ambition, a successful future is undoubtedly before him.

The Doctor was married August 12, 1893, to Miss Della Cullen, daughter of William and Ellen (Connors) Cullen. They have one child, Edna. The parents are members of the Roman Catholic church, and the Doctor is a valued member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity of Elgin, in which he is now serving as chancellor commander. He is a medical examiner of the male and female Catholic Order of Foresters, Elgin court No. 137, St. Regina court No. 92, and of courts located at Elburn, Batavia, St. Charles, Huntley and Rutland, and belongs to Silver Leaf camp, Modern Woodmen of America; the Columbus Club, of Chicago; the Fox River Valley Medical Association, being chairman of its executive committee; the Illinois Medical Society and a charter member of the Association of Assistant Physicians of Hospitals for the Insane. In his political predilections he is a Democrat, but has never sought official preferment, desiring rather to give his entire time and attention to his profession, in which he is winning a desirable reputation.

---

JUDGE JOHN W. RANSTEAD, who has attained distinctive prestige at the bar of Kane county, was born in Udina, Kane county, Illinois, June 14, 1843, and is a representative of one of the most prominent and honored old families in this section of the state. His great-grandfather was one of the heroes of the Revolution and fell at the battle of Bennington, giving his life for the cause of his country. The grandfather of the Judge was John Ranstead, a native of New Hampshire, and his son John was also born in the Granite state. The latter married Mercy West, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Albert West, whose birth also



occurred there. He studied for the medical profession but died in early life. In 1837, John Ranstead, father of the Judge, came with his family to Kane county, Illinois, locating in Udina, where he carried on agricultural pursuits. His ability for leadership made him one of the prominent citizens of the community and he was honored by an election to the state legislature, serving in the years 1852 and 1853. He died in 1868 at the age of sixty-five years, and his wife, who was a member of the Methodist church, passed away in 1895, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. Their family numbered one son and two daughters, the latter being Julia W., now deceased, and Sarah, wife of G. H. Britton, of Udina.

Judge Ranstead was reared on his father's farm in Kane county, and in early life attended an old-time subscription school. He afterward pursued his studies in the public schools and Elgin Academy, leaving the last named institution in 1858 to enter Lombard University at Galesburg, Illinois, where he continued his studies until 1863. Having determined to enter the legal profession he matriculated in the law department of Michigan University and was graduated in the class of 1866.

In 1868 Mr. Ranstead came to Elgin, where he opened a law office. His success at the bar was marked and immediate, and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-townsmen was indicated in 1873 by his election to the office of county judge, in which capacity he served for nine consecutive years, discharging his duties with marked fairness and displaying in his decisions a comprehensive knowledge of the science of jurisprudence. Since his retirement from the bench he has engaged in private practice and has an extensive clientage which has

connected him with much of the important litigation of the district during his affiliation with the Elgin bar. He is also a director in the Home Savings Bank and is the president of the Home National Bank.

On the 2nd of April, 1867, the Judge wedded Miss Eugenia A. Fuller, a daughter of Rev. J. P. and Adeline (Cady) Fuller, of Galesburg, Illinois, both natives of Connecticut. One child graces this union—Janet M. The Judge and his wife attend the Universalist church, and in his social relations he is a Master Mason and a member of the Elgin Waltonian Club and the Black Hawk Club. His political support has always been given the Democracy, and of the principles of the party he is a stanch advocate. His entire life has been passed in Kane county, and his useful and honorable career commends him to the confidence of all. In his profession he has won the success which only close application and earnest purpose can bring, and in private life he has gained the respect which is ever accorded genuine worth.

ANTON F. SCHADER.—Germany has furnished to the New World many of her best and most useful citizens. It has furnished not only needed workmen, skilled and unskilled, but enterprising merchants, manufacturers, artists and apt dealers upon our marts of trade. It has also naturally embraced the various professions, where these German-Americans prove themselves useful, talented and influential. Among Elgin's leading citizens is Anton F. Schader, native of the Fatherland, who is now the well-known and popular editor of the "Weekly Herald," and the "Germania."

He was born April 24, 1868, in Mayence,





A. F. SCHADER.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany, of which place his parents, Frank and Anna (Haas) Schader, are still residents. The father was born in Worms, Germany, in 1844, a son of Frank Schader, Sr., while the mother was born in Bodenheim, Germany, in 1846, a daughter of Anton Haas, a school teacher, whose father, who was also a school teacher, bore the same name. The father of our subject is a well educated man, of scholarly tastes, who has for many years been professor of mathematics in the schools of Mayence. Anton F. is the oldest of his four children, the others being Frank, who is with his brother and is now serving as assistant editor; Lina, wife of Jacob Wollweber, of Mayence, Germany, and Elizabeth, who is still with her parents.

Anton F. Schader began his education in a private school, later attended the gymnasium at Mayence, and also took up the study of languages. After leaving college he studied pharmacy and chemistry at a pharmaceutical institution, and then went to Darmstadt with the view of preparing for that profession, but was obliged to give up his plans on account of ill health. In 1887 he entered the German army after having passed an examination which required of him to serve only one year. He entered the artillery service as a private, but at the end of six months was promoted to assistant corporal, and before the end of his year was made a non-commissioned officer. He successfully passed an examination for the rank of lieutenant, but at the end of his time, resigned his position in the army.

In the fall of 1888 Mr. Schader began traveling over Europe for pleasure and instruction, and in April, 1889, sailed for the United States, arriving in New York on the 24th of that month. He remained in that

city until May, 1891, and then came to Elgin, Illinois, accepting the position of editor of the Elgin "Deutsche Zeitung." About two months after his arrival the proprietor, Mr. Kramer, went to Europe, leaving him in charge. Upon his return Mr. Schader, in connection with Otto May, started a paper of his own—"The Herold"—which he has successfully published since 1891. They began in a small way, at first having the paper printed in Chicago, but meeting with success they enlarged the business, and in 1895 Mr. Schader purchased his partner's interest, being now sole proprietor. "The Herold" is now home-printed, and is a seven-column quarto published every Saturday, while the "Germania" is issued on Wednesday. Both papers have a very good circulation, and are proving quite profitable. They have a better advertising patronage than any weekly in the county. In connection with the regular plant Mr. Schader has a job printing office, where first-class work is done in both German and English. There are now seven employees in the office.

On the 29th of September, 1892, in Elgin, Mr. Schader was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Muetterries, a native of Westphalia, Germany, who, when a little child, was brought to the United States by her parents, Conrad and Catherine Muetterries. Two children grace this union, namely, Anna and May.

In his political views Mr. Schader is a Republican, and gives his personal influence and support of his papers to the financial policy of that party. Being a young man of excellent education, he is well fitted for the profession he now follows, and is most ably conducting his journals. He is also serving as notary public. Socially he is a

member of the Royal Arcanum, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Foresters, and the Order of Mutual Protection, being president of the last named. In 1897 he returned to Germany, visiting his old home, relatives and friends.

**A** MASA WIGHTMAN LOOMIS, residing on section 29, Elgin township, was born in the town of Sangerfield, Oneida county, New York, May 12, 1818, and is the son of Alvin and Wealthy (Wightman) Loomis, the former a native of Wethersfield, Connecticut, and the latter of the town of New Berlin, Otsego county, New York. Alvin Loomis was born in August, 1781, and lived in Connecticut until the age of twenty-five years, when he emigrated to the wilds of central New York, locating in Oneida county. In his youth he served as a sailor for a time and was once taken prisoner by the French, then fighting under the great Napoleon. In Oneida county he purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits, dying there in 1856, at the age of seventy-six years.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Stephen Loomis, served through the Revolutionary war as teamster. He furnished his own teams and hauled provisions to the various camps of American soldiers. During the winter, when nothing could be done, he returned to his home in Connecticut, and in the early spring again engaged in transporting provisions. At the close of the war he was paid in continental money, which depreciated until it became utterly worthless. He died at an advanced age. The Loomis family were among the first to settle in Connecticut.

The subject of this sketch remained

upon the home farm until the age of eighteen years, assisting in its cultivation, and as the opportunity was afforded him attended the Waterville Academy. On leaving home he worked by the month on farms in New York, until coming west in 1846. Previous to this time his brothers, Hemen and Amenzo, came west, the former locating in Burlington, Wisconsin, and the latter at Half Bay, Lake county, Illinois. In 1842 Amenzo took up a claim of one hundred and twenty acres for our subject near Half Bay, and land was inspected by him in the fall of 1844, when he came west and remained one month. In 1846 he located upon his farm at Half Bay where he resided until 1850, when he went to California, taking passage on the steamer Illinois at New York city, for Aspinwall. At Panama he found all passage by steamer engaged many months ahead. Securing passage in a schooner he sailed for San Francisco, but the vessel was driven far out of its course and very nearly wrecked on a sharp needle of rock, rising from the ocean. He reached San Francisco July 1, being nearly two months in making the voyage. During the first year of his stay in California, he prospected with varying success. In 1851 he did much better, and continued to do fairly well until 1853, when he returned home with some "dust," though not a fortune.

In 1854 Mr. Loomis sold the Half Bay farm and purchased two hundred and forty-seven acres of G. W. Raymond, in Hanover township, Cook county. In 1864, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in Plato township, near Plato Centre, which he sold in 1882, and bought his present farm of one hundred and ninety acres in sections 29, 32 and 33, Elgin township. The farm is de-



voted to grain and dairying purposes, on which he raises about two thousand bushels of corn each year. He usually keeps about thirty-three head of milk cows. Fire destroyed all his farm buildings, November 5, 1893, since which time he has erected all the buildings on the place, which, though not large, are well adapted to the purposes for which they are used.

Mr. Loomis was married, October 18, 1859, to Mrs. Julia A. Jones, widow of William Jones, whom she married in 1845, and who died in 1856, leaving four children, only one of whom is now living, Franklin Jones, superintendent of the Terminal Railroad in Missouri. Mrs. Loomis was born October 2, 1824, and is the daughter of Judge Joshua Carmen and Almeda (Moore) Morgan, natives of Connecticut.

Judge Morgan was the son of Isaac Morgan, a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and a pensioner of that war, and who died at the age of seventy-four years. Isaac Morgan married Margaret Carmen, a daughter of Rev. Joshua Carmen, a pioneer Baptist preacher. The Morgans are of Welsh descent. In early life Judge Morgan moved to Ohio, and, later, to Sangamon county, Illinois, where he served as county judge. He also held that position until his death, after removal to Tremont, Tazewell county. He served in the Black Hawk war, and at Starved Rock found a tomahawk, which was probably left by one of the Illini Indians starved there. The relic was preserved in the family for many years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Loomis six children were born, as follows: Elizabeth, who died at the age of two years; Elmer Ellsworth, who died aged one year; Grant, who died

when three months old; Amasa Sherman, who died at the age of six years; Alvin, who married Rose Emory, of St. Louis, by whom he has two children, Edna Belle and Lilian Jennett; and Benjamin Franklin, who married Ellen Suttle, of Evansville, Indiana, by whom he has one child, Mabel Julia.

Mr. and Mrs. Loomis are members of the Congregational church, in the work of which they are much interested. Politically, he is a Republican, with which party he has been connected ever since its organization. While taking an interest in political affairs it has never run in the direction of office seeking, and he has held but one local office, that of school director. A man of the strictest honor and integrity, he is esteemed for his many excellent traits of character.

---

CHARLES A. GRONBERG, of Aurora, Illinois, is a representative of the Swedish-Americans of Kane county, which has been his home since 1854. He is a native of Sweden, born May 23, 1837, and is the son of Charles P. and Johanna (Hemming) Gronberg, both of whom were also natives of Sweden, and who emigrated to this country in 1853, locating first in Chicago. The father was a machinist by trade, and in 1854 moved to Geneva, and found employment in the reaper factory, at that place. Three years later he moved to Aurora, started a factory, and engaged in the manufacture of reapers. He carried on business in Aurora, until 1872, when he moved to Elgin, and there engaged in the same business. His death occurred in Elgin about 1881, his good wife dying some twenty years previously. Of their family

of five sons and one daughter, John was a soldier in the Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and now resides in Evanston, Illinois; Otto was a member of the Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and after the war served for years as chief engineer at the asylum at Elgin, but is now deceased; Christine, wife of Charles Barlow, a merchant tailor of Aurora; Oscar, an employee of the Elgin Watch Factory; and Gustave, also in the watch factory at Elgin.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in his native land, and when about sixteen years old, he came with his parents to America. In the old country he had good educational advantages in his own language, and also in the German tongue. On coming to this country, he attended school at Geneva and Montgomery, that he might acquire the English language. With his father he learned the trade, and also drawing, becoming a superior draughtsman. He worked in the factory with his father, and also in the shops in Aurora with him, and later in the car shops at Aurora. In 1886 he went to Pullman, Illinois, as foreman in the machine shops at that place, continuing there until 1893, since which time he has lived retired. While in Pullman he still maintained his residence in Aurora.

Mr. Gronberg was married in Rockford, Illinois, in 1862, to Miss Charlotte Linguist, a native of Sweden, where she was reared and educated. By this union were two daughters, Alma and Esther Iliana. The former holds a position with the Prang Educational Company, of Chicago. The latter also holds a position in a business house in Chicago. Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Gronberg located in

Aurora, and two years later he built a residence on River street, where they resided about eighteen years. He then erected his present residence on 233 West Park avenue, and since 1882 it has been their home.

Politically Mr. Gronberg is a steadfast Republican, with which party he has been identified since casting his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln, in 1860. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church, of which body his wife is also a member. Fraternally he is a Master Mason. As a citizen he has ever been willing to do his part, to advance the material interests of his adopted city and county. For forty-four years he has gone in and out among the people of Kane county, with whom he is held in the highest respect.

---

FRED R. BRILL, the efficient postmaster of Hampshire, Kane county, Illinois, was born in Shaumburg, Cook county, Illinois, January 5, 1870, and with his parents came to Hampshire in 1876. Here he attended the village school until the age of fourteen, then worked in a grist-mill for his father for three years, and then he entered the office of the Hampshire "Register," under the control of G. E. Sisley, and after thoroughly mastering the trade and having also considerable experience in editorial work, in 1889, in partnership with C. H. Backus, they purchased the plant and continued the publication of the paper, with our subject as editor until 1892, when he purchased Mr. Backus' interest and alone continued its publication. Having received the appointment as postmaster of Hampshire, on July 1, 1897, he took his brother, William C. Brill, into partnership, and the duties of editor and

manager devolved upon the junior member. One year later the plant was leased to William C. Brill, who is now in full control of the paper.

Mr. Brill was married in Hampshire, to Miss Nellie M. Backus, a native of Chaplain, Connecticut, and a daughter of Jirah L. Backus, of which further mention is made in the sketch of C. H. Backus, found elsewhere in this work. Although deprived of as extensive schooling as he desired, Mr. Brill through the educational advantages of his profession, made up that deficiency, and ambitious of learning, has completed the Chautauqua course and pursued independent study, until he is possessed of a liberal education, which is above the average. He is fond of good books and knows how to use them.

In politics Mr. Brill is a stanch Republican and is a local leader in politics. He has attended various county, district, state and national conventions of his party, and in the great convention at St. Louis in 1896, in which William McKinley was nominated for President, he served as assistant sergeant-at-arms. For six years prior to his appointment as postmaster he served as clerk of the village and township. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of the Globe, Modern Woodmen of America and Royal Neighbors. In each of these orders he has filled nearly all the official chairs.

John Brill, the father of our subject, was born in the village of Abterote, Hessen Cassel, Germany, April 27, 1831. He is the son of Martin Brill, also a native of Germany, who followed farming and lime burning in the old country, where his entire life was spent, he dying in 1849, at the age of about fifty years. John Brill attended

the common and Latin schools in Germany, until the age of fourteen. For some years he lived in Albungen, where he married Martha Seppel, a native of that city, and in 1851 they emigrated to America, sailing March 1 from Bremen, on the sailing vessel Victoria, and after a voyage of six weeks landed at Baltimore. From that city he came west to Chicago, where he lived one month, and then located at Hoosier Grove, Cook county, where he followed his trade of shoemaking six years. In 1875, he moved to Hampshire, followed his trade a short time, and then engaged in other lines of business for six years. In 1883 he bought the mill at Hampshire, and ran the same until 1896, when he sold out and retired, and is now living in a comfortable home in the northern part of the village.

William C. Brill, the brother and partner of our subject in 1897-8, was born in Hampshire, April 24, 1875, and received his education in the village schools, graduating from the high school at the age of seventeen. Since boyhood he worked in his father's mill during vacation, and when out of school. He became an expert engineer, and passed the state examination for an engineer's certificate, before attaining the age required for such certificate. Having also spent much spare time in his brother's printing office, he learned type-setting and press work, so when his father sold his mill in 1895, William C. entered the printing office, and, as before stated, became a partner in the publication of the paper in 1897.

In addition to the work in the office of the "Register," he had some experience in editorial work elsewhere. While Mr. G. E. Sisley, of the "Genoa Issue," was absent, attending to his duties as clerk of the state senate, he did editorial work on his paper.



He was also employed three or four months on the "Harvard Herald." A ready and fluent writer, he is making of the "Register" a No. 1 home paper. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of the Globe, and politically he is a Republican.

**S**IMON P. BROWN, M. D., is recognized as one of the leading physicians of Kane county. His office is room 18, Spurling Block, Elgin, and he has been a resident of the city since 1874, during which time he has built up an extensive practice. He is a native of New Hampshire, born in Concord, June 11, 1832, and is a son of Manley H. and Hannah (Martin) Brown, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of New Hampshire.

The Browns are of English descent, the first representative of the family coming to this country early in the seventeenth century, locating in Providence, Rhode Island. Rudolphus Brown, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Orange county, Vermont, and died at the place where he was born and reared. By occupation he was a farmer. Of his family of fifteen children, Manly H., our subject's father, was the youngest. Jacob Martin, the maternal grandfather, was a native of Scotland. On coming to this country he located in New Hampshire, and on the farm selected on his arrival lived, and died at the age of about seventy-six years.

Manley H. Brown grew to manhood in his native state, and there learned the tanner and currier trade. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and while living in the east served as captain of a company in the state militia, and also served as justice of the peace. His marriage with

Hannah Martin was celebrated while living in New Hampshire in 1831. With a laudable desire to better himself and give his children better opportunities to advance in this world, he came west with his family in 1843, and located on a farm in Du Page county. His ability was soon recognized by his neighbors, and in 1846 he was elected a member of the legislature from Du Page county, but died the same year before taking his seat, while in his thirty-seventh year. His wife died in 1840. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, of whom our subject is the oldest.

Simon Preston Brown was eleven years of age when he accompanied his parents west. While in his native state he attended the public schools, and on coming to Illinois he attended first the Warrenville Academy and later entered Wheaton College, where he pursued his studies about two years. In 1856 he began studying medicine at Danby, Illinois, with Drs. Newton and Potter, and in 1860 entered Rush Medical College, Chicago, graduating from that institution in the spring of 1868.

On receiving his diploma Dr. Brown went to Arlington Heights, Illinois, where he opened an office and commenced the practice of his profession. He continued there with good success for eight years, and then went to Polatine where he remained two years. Desiring a more extended field he came to Elgin, where he has now been some twenty-four years. While engaged in general practice, he has made a specialty of diseases of women, and on that subject is an acknowledged authority. His practice has been for years a large and extensive one, and his success has been such as to warrant it.

On the 15th of October, 1863, Dr.



Brown was united in marriage with Miss Mary Hitchcock, of DuPage county, daughter of Earl and Mary (Miller) Hitchcock. By this union seven children have been born, namely: Frank died June 3, 1892; Kate died November 15, 1894; Harriet Ann is now the wife of George E. Haskell, of Grand Junction, Colorado; William is at home; Georgie and Mary Jeannette both died in infancy; and Cora J. is at home.

The Doctor and his wife are members of the Universalist church, of Elgin, and fraternally he is a member of Palatine lodge, F. & A. M.; Palatine chapter, R. A. M.; and Chicago consistory. Politically he is a Democrat, and while he takes that interest in political affairs that all patriotic American citizens should take, he has never sought official position, preferring to give his time to his professional duties. Professionally he is a member of the Fox River Medical Association, and in its work has taken an active interest.

The Doctor resides with his family in a comfortable home at No. 402 North Spring street, Elgin. He has been prospered in a financial way, and in addition to his city residence has a fine farm of two hundred and thirty-four acres five miles south of Elgin, and one near Palatine, Cook county, of two hundred and twenty acres. A resident of the state a period of fifty-five long years, and a practitioner of thirty years, he has been brought in contact with the best people of Cook, DuPage and Kane counties, and his friends are numerous in each. By all who know him he is held in the highest esteem.

---

**S**AMUEL SWITZER, section 15, St. Charles township, is actively engaged in farming and in dairying, two and a half

miles north of the city of St. Charles. He is numbered among the settlers of 1849, and is a native of Canada, born near Toronto, May 8, 1829. He is the son of Joseph Switzer, a native of Ireland, who went to Canada a young man, with his father, Samuel Switzer, who settled near Toronto. He there married Selina Switzer, a native of New Jersey, but reared in Canada. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom grew to mature years, save one. In order of birth they are as follows: Samuel, of this review; Martin, a farmer residing in St. Charles township; Charles, of St. Charles; Sarah, wife of E. W. Blackman, of Elgin; Mary Ann, wife of I. C. Towner, of Elgin; Elizabeth, who married Stephen Gates, is now deceased; Russell, who resides with our subject; William H., a farmer residing in California; and Jabez, who resides in Pingree Grove, Illinois.

In 1849, Joseph Switzer came to Illinois, and located in St. Charles township, Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm of over four hundred acres, and here died in 1853. His wife died in Canada, just previous to his removal to the States. Samuel Switzer, our subject, was twenty years old when he came with the family to Kane county. In his native country, he received a fairly good education in the Churchville Academy. He remained on the farm with his father, until the latter's death. On the sixteenth of June, 1853, in Kane county, he married Harriet Louisa Towner, a native of Lower Canada, born near Montreal, where she remained until sixteen years of age, when she came to Kane county, her father, William A. Towner, and family coming several years after her arrival. His last days were spent at the residence of his son in Elgin. By this union are six

living children as follows: Philene M., wife of M. W. Stanhope, of Elgin; Joseph E., married and is a contractor residing in St. Charles; Florilla, wife of Walter Hare, of St. Charles, Illinois; Mary S., wife of Donald McDonald, of Brookwaller, Pawnee county, Nebraska; Hattie M., wife of C. Arthur Purcell, of New Haven, Connecticut; and Nellie M., wife of George Simmons, who is assisting in managing the home farm. They have lost three sons and two daughters—Henry C., who grew to the age of twenty-two years; I. C., who died at the age of eighteen; Grant, who died in childhood; Kate C., who died at the age of fourteen years; and Alice Belle, who died in childhood. They are also the grandparents of ten children.

Soon after marriage, Mr. Switzer located on a part of the old homestead, having succeeded to one hundred acres. After remaining upon that place three years, he sold out and moved to Palatine, Cook county, Illinois, where he purchased a farm and there remained twelve years. About 1867, he came back to Kane county, and purchased the farm where he now resides, which since coming into his possession has been greatly improved. Since residing here he has built a large residence, three good barns, erected a pump and wind mill for grinding feed, and otherwise improved the place, making it one of the best farms on Fox River, on which it is located. For some years he has been principally engaged in dairying and has kept on an average about thirty cows.

Since 1856, when he gave his support to John C. Fremont, he has voted the Republican ticket at every presidential election. While always interested in political affairs, he has never held office. For forty-eight long years he has been a resident of Kane coun-

ty, and in that time he has done much towards its growth and development. On the 21st of March, 1889, he lost his residence and household effects by fire, which was a very severe loss. With characteristic energy, he rebuilt better than ever. Mr. Switzer is well known in Kane county, and he and his estimable wife are honored and respected by all who know them.

---

PERSONS C. GILBERT, deceased, was for many years one of the leading agriculturists and representative citizens of Elgin township, Kane county, but spent his last years in retirement in the city of Elgin, where he was also numbered among the valued and highly respected citizens. He was born in Cassanovia, New York, October 23, 1812, a son of Benjamin and Sarah (Wells) Gilbert. The father, born August 29, 1789, died in 1816, and the mother, born March 25, 1790, departed this life in 1889, when in her one hundredth year. At the age of eighty-four she came from the east all alone to visit friends in Elgin. She was a cultured and refined lady of pleasing presence and was always very active. Our subject was the second in order of birth in the family of three children, the others being George, a farmer, who died in New York state; and Mary Ann, who married Gardner Wescote and both are now deceased.

Being only four years old at the time of his father's death, Persons C. Gilbert was reared by his grandparents, Theodore and Lydia (Albard) Gilbert, of Cassanovia, New York, remaining with them until he attained his fifteenth year, and acquiring his education in the public schools. Twice he un-

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



PERSONS C. GILBERT.





MRS. P. C. GILBERT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

dertook to learn a trade, but was obliged to give it up owing to ill health.

In his native state Mr. Gilbert worked at farm labor until twenty-three years of age, when, in 1835, he came to Illinois with two aunts—Fannie, wife of Dr. Nathan Collins, who settled at St. Charles; and Emeline, wife of Dr. Joseph Tefft, who located in Elgin. The journey was made in two wagons, each drawn by three horses, one wagon containing Dr. Collins' family, and also Dr. Tefft's. They were accompanied by Jonathan Tefft and family in the other wagon. These physicians were important factors in the new settlement, where fever and ague held sway, and at an early day their practice extended over a wide territory. Dr. Tefft was the first physician to locate in Elgin, and for many years was its most prominent one. Later he was elected president of the Elgin Academy and served in that capacity until his death. He was widely and favorably known both as a physician and educator, was president of the Scientific Society, and was the first mayor of Elgin, serving as such two terms. He was born August 29, 1812, and died in 1888, being buried on the seventy-sixth anniversary of his birth. His first wife, Mrs. Emeline (Gilbert) Tefft, died August 18, 1844, and the two children born to them are also deceased. For his second wife Dr. Tefft married Mrs. Lavina Ormsby, who died in July, 1897, when over eighty years of age, and to them was born a son, Dr. L. E. Tefft. The mother had a daughter by her first marriage, Cornelia Ormsby, now Mrs. Strothers, of Texas.

After coming to Kane county, Mr. Gilbert took up a tract of government land and subsequently purchased a claim, the first tract being the present site of the shoe fac-

tory in Elgin. He was a very successful farmer, owning at one time several fine farms, including the old homestead, which originally contained two hundred and twelve acres, and after selling a right of way to a railroad company still comprised one hundred and sixty acres. He continued to reside upon that place until 1843, when they removed to the farm of one hundred and seventy-six acres on the St. Charles road, adjoining the city limits of Elgin, where they resided until their removal to the city of Elgin in 1869, locating on the lot where his widow still lives. His fellow-citizens recognizing his worth and ability, offered him the nomination of mayor of the city, but he refused all public positions, only serving as a member of the school board, as he always took a deep interest in educational affairs. Politically he was first a Whig and later a Republican. He was a man of excellent business qualifications, was enterprising and industrious, and was justly regarded as one of the valued and useful citizens of his community. Wherever he went he commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. He died April 22, 1895.

On the 30th of September, 1840, Mr. Gilbert was united in marriage to Miss Louisa Tefft, who was born in New York, a daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Collins) Tefft, the former a native of Rhode Island, the latter of Poughkeepsie, New York. Her paternal grandparents were Jeremiah and Rhoda (Hoxie) Tefft, also natives of Rhode Island, and they died in 1823 and 1832, respectively. The maternal grandparents were Solomon and Sarah (Perry) Collins, the latter a cousin of Commodore Perry. Mrs. Gilbert still lives at the old home in Elgin, where she is surrounded by

many warm friends and acquaintances who appreciate her sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert were as follows: (1) George P., born August 20, 1841, began his education in a private school and later became one of the first students in the Elgin Academy. He was a bright young man and was his father's able assistant on the farm until July, 1861, when he responded to President Lincoln's first call for three hundred thousand volunteers, being one of the first of the town to enlist. As a member of Company A, Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, he went to the front and assisted in the destruction of a railroad. While thus employed he was drenched by a cold rain, from the effects of which he took a violent cold which settled on his lungs, causing his death. He died on his way back to Cairo, Illinois, February 4, 1862, and while on this journey his regiment took part in their first battle, that of Fort Henry, Tennessee. (2) Melissa, born August 1, 1843, died August 25, 1844. (3) Mary G. is now the widow of A. D. Martin, of Elgin, by whom she had two children: Percy G. and Alla May. Percy married Leah McComb and has two children, Earl G. and Harry P. (4) Ada H. Baird, an adopted daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, always found a happy home with them. She is now the wife of George W. Hinsdale, of Elgin, and has two children, Lillian and Ray W.

**J**AMES WALKER, ex-mayor of Aurora, and for forty-one years foreman of the blacksmith department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad at Aurora, was born in Wilmington, Delaware, Novem-

ber 20, 1834, and is the son of William and Demaris (Patchet) Walker. Early in 1841 the family emigrated from Delaware to Detroit, Michigan, and while en route, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, they received the news of the sudden death of President Harrison. Soon after their arrival in Detroit the father was taken down with typhoid fever, from which he never recovered. The mother long survived him, dying at the age of eighty-four years. They were both members of the Baptist church, and lived and died in the faith. Of their family of seven children our subject was second in order of birth, and of the number six are still living, and all save our subject reside in Michigan.

James Walker was but seven years old when his parents settled at Detroit, Michigan. He there grew to manhood, and in his youth began to learn the blacksmith and machinist trade, which he has followed throughout life. After obtaining a thorough knowledge of his trade, when but nineteen years of age, he was chosen to take charge of the blacksmithing department of the Chicago Steam Engine Works, in Chicago. This responsible position he held until chosen to hold a position with what is now the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company. On the 1st of June, 1857, he accepted a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company as foreman of their blacksmith shop at Aurora, with which corporation he has since been connected, a term of service which is without a parallel in the state for long, efficient and satisfactory service. He has from sixty to one hundred men under his supervision.

Mr. Walker was married in 1856 to Miss Jane Ann Atkinson, of Chicago, daughter of



William and Hannah Atkinson, the latter still residing in Chicago, at the age of eighty-six years, with mind as clear as ever. By this union there has been one child, Alice, now the wife of C. C. Nichols, of Aurora. Mrs. Walker is an active and honored member of the Eastern Star, and is a past grand matron of the state of Illinois. She is a lady of culture and refinement, and in every way worthy to fill the high position in the state to which she has been chosen. At present she is president of the board of trustees of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home of Illinois, located at Macon. Her daughter, Mrs. Nichols, is a co-worker with her in the order, while Mr. Nichols takes high rank with the brethren, at present holding the position of grand lecturer of Royal Arch Masonry of Illinois.

In politics Mr. Walker is a Republican and has been honored by the citizens of Aurora with the highest office in their gift, being unanimously elected as mayor in 1870, and serving one term with credit to all concerned. While serving as mayor, great improvement was made in the streets by graveling. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, having obtained the thirty-second degree. He is deeply interested yet, as he always has been, in public affairs and the good of the community where he has so long resided. He is genial, courteous, enterprising and progressive, of commendable public spirit, and the highest integrity, and reflects credit on the community which has honored him in the highest office. His practical knowledge of all the details of his business, as well as his acquaintance with men, renders him a most valuable employee, as is evinced by his long continuance in so important a position in one of the leading railroad companies of the

Union. When the dark cloud of war arose, Mr. Walker rendered a very valuable service in raising means for the support of the soldiers at the front, and their families at home. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are highly respected citizens, and are justly entitled to the high social position they now occupy.

**JUDGE HENRY B. WILLIS.**—Illinois has always been distinguished for the high rank of her bench and bar. None of the western states can justly boast of abler jurists or attorneys. Many of them have been men of national fame, and among those whose lives have been passed on a quieter plane there is scarcely a town or village in the state but can boast of one or more lawyers capable of crossing swords in forensic combat with any of the distinguished legal lights in the United States. In Judge Willis we find united many of the rare qualities which go to make up the successful lawyer and jurist. His home is at No. 503 Prospect street, Elgin, and he is now serving his second term as judge of the sixteenth judicial circuit.

The Judge was born in Bennington, Vermont, May 8, 1849, and is a son of David W. and Laura (Haliday) Willis, also natives of the Green Mountain state. Four children were born to them, but two died in infancy. The only brother of our subject, Seneca Willis, is now a farmer of Sycamore, Illinois. The father, who was an agriculturalist, came to Illinois in 1852 and located in Genoa, where he purchased a farm and reared his family. In 1877 he removed to Sycamore, where he died September 23, 1896, when past the age of seventy-nine years, and his wife passed away in March, 1897, aged seventy-two. She was a faith-

ful member of the Methodist church. Her father, Joseph Haliday, also a native of Vermont, and a farmer by occupation, came to this state in 1855 and located in Genoa, where he died at about the age of seventy-four. In his family were six children who reached years of maturity.

Judge Willis was reared like most farmer boys upon the home farm in Genoa township, De Kalb county, and in the district schools of the locality he began his education. Later he attended Clark Seminary at Aurora, Illinois, and Hillsdale College at Hillsdale, Michigan. In 1869 he entered the Albany Law School of Albany, New York, and after completing the prescribed course, he was admitted to the bar in that state in 1870. The following year he was granted a license to practice in the courts of Illinois, and in 1872 opened an office in Elgin, where he has since made his home.

In October, 1874, Judge Willis was united in marriage to Miss Lucy, daughter of John and Betsy (Hammond) Wait, and they have become the parents of two children—Oliver P. and Meribah T. The Judge is a prominent member of a number of civic societies, including Monitor lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M.; Loyal L. Munn chapter, No. 96, R. A. M.; Everet commandery, K. T.; and Medinah Temple. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Arcanum, and is one of the oldest members of the Ancient Order of United Workmen in Elgin. His political support is given the Republican party.

After four years of successful practice in Elgin, Judge Willis was elected state's attorney of Kane county, serving in that position from 1876 until 1880. He also filled the office of mayor of Elgin for one term and during that time was instrumental in

securing the city water works. In June, 1891, he was first selected judge of the circuit court, and in June, 1897, was re-elected to that position which he had so capably and satisfactorily filled. 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 a 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 of the state.

**HARRISON H. REAMS.**—The Reams family originally was from Alsace or Loraine in the valley of the Rhine. The earliest ancestor of whom anything definite is known is Henry Reams, a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania. His son, Benjamin, born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, moved to Union county in the same state, where Levi, the father of our subject was born. Benjamin Reams was born August 8, 1797, and died in June, 1847. He married Susanna Aurand, a native of Union county, Pennsylvania, and a descendant of General Aurand, who was an officer during the Revolutionary war and who came from England prior to that conflict.

Levi Reams was born in Buffalo Valley, Union county, Pennsylvania, June 11, 1826, and with his parents moved to Ohio in 1832. In 1846 they came further west to Kane county, Levi having preceded the family two years. Levi worked three years for an uncle, Henry Decker, then married and began life for himself. Having learned the carpenter's trade, he secured remunerative employment, saved his money and purchased land. He bought and sold several

tracts, each time bettering himself. During the war for the Union he enlisted, and after serving his term returned and purchased one hundred acres of land in Hampshire township, near Harmony, McHenry county, which he cultivated ten years, sold and bought one hundred and twenty-four acres two miles from Harmony, which he owned until 1884, when he sold and moved to Chicago, lived there six months, then came to the village of Hampshire, built his present house and has lived there since.

Levi Reams has a creditable record in the army. He enlisted February 1, 1864, and served faithfully until July 6, 1865. He was sent first to Pulaski, Tennessee, thence to Atlanta, his first battle being at Dallas, which was followed by Resaca, Buzzard's Roost, and ten other battles of the campaign around Atlanta. He was on the famous march to the sea. He received his first mail for many weeks at Cape Fear River. At Rossville, North Carolina, he first heard of Lee's surrender. With his regiment he later participated in the grand review at Washington. He returned through Wheeling, West Virginia, and Louisville, Kentucky, to Chicago, where he was finally discharged. Of his father's family, he and his brother Thomas alone survive. His eldest brother, John, died in service during the Mexican war. His brother Samuel, who recently died in Hampshire, also served with credit through the Civil war.

Levi Reams first married Magdalena Schoemaker, a native of Alsace, born in 1827, and who came to America in 1829, with her father, Peter Schoemaker, who was by occupation a farmer. She died June 6, 1884. By this marriage there were nine children, as follows: Louise, wife of Charles Wiedmeyer, of Jacksonville, Illinois; George,

who lives in Hageman, New Mexico; Israel, in business in the village of Hampshire; Lydia, who married Frank Nichols, of Chicago; Matilda, who married Ernest Wiedmeyer, of Virginia City, Illinois; Harrison H., our subject; Jane, who married William Daum, a farmer in Hampshire township; William, a minister of the Congregational church, at Cumberland, Wisconsin; and Emma, at present making her home with her brother George, in New Mexico.

Harrison H. Reams was born in Hampshire township, July 26, 1860, and attended the district schools until the age of twenty, in the meantime assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. At the age of twenty-one, in partnership with his brother, he bought one hundred and twenty-four acres of land in Hampshire township, farmed seven years, sold out and moved to the village of Hampshire, in 1888, where he began the livery and transfer business, in which he is meeting with good success. He is also engaged in feeding and dealing in thoroughbred horses, French Coach and Percheron. He married Lydia Detmer, of Kane county, and a daughter of A. H. Detmer. In politics Mr. Reams is a Republican, and for nine years served as highway commissioner, was six years a member of the village board of trustees, and is at present deputy sheriff of Kane county. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Maccabees, and of lodge No. 730, I. O. O. F., at Hampshire, Illinois.

---

DANIEL B. WATERMAN, of Aurora, Illinois, is numbered among the pioneers of 1843, and in the fifty-five years of his residence here has been a most important factor in the development and improve-



ment of the place. Not alone in Aurora has his influence for good been felt, but throughout all northern Illinois. He was born in Rochester, Monroe county, New York, and traces his ancestry back to Richard Waterman, who emigrated from England with Roger Williams in the ship *Lion*, and who married his daughter, Mary Williams. They first settled in Boston, Massachusetts, from which they were driven out on account of their being of the Quaker faith. Resolved Waterman, the son of Richard and Mary (Williams) Waterman, was born in Rhode Island, and his son, John Waterman, born in Rhode Island in 1730, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, holding a colonel's commission. His son, Benjamin Waterman, was the father of Daniel Waterman, also a native of Rhode Island, born July 15, 1789.

Daniel Waterman grew to manhood in Rhode Island, and engaged extensively in the manufacture of cotton goods, having three large mills. Soon after the close of the war of 1812 he moved with his family to Rochester, New York, where he established himself in business, and a little later read medicine, and engaged in practice until his death. He married in Rhode Island, Sabra Pierce, a native of Coventry, Rhode Island, born September 7, 1785, and a daughter of Wheeler Pierce, a native of Massachusetts, who spent the last years of his life in Rochester, New York, dying in January, 1858. His wife died many years previously, passing away in 1833. To Daniel and Sabra Waterman six children were born, who grew to mature years, of whom our subject is the oldest. Hiram M., next in order of birth, is a farmer and printer residing in Orleans county, Nebraska; Mrs. Dr. A. K. Smith resides in Chicago; George

G., for many years a prominent man and merchant of Aurora, is now deceased; Ann Eliza, located in Waterloo, New York, but died at the residence of her sister at Bridgeport, Connecticut; and Sabra Caroline, now deceased, married D. S. Thorpe, and located at Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Daniel B. Waterman was born April 21, 1821, and spent his boyhood and youth in Rochester, New York, and was educated in its common schools and Yates County Academy. In 1842, after reaching his majority, he came west to Indiana, and spent one season, earning sufficient to purchase eighty acres of timber land, in Whiteley county. He returned to Rochester, and in the spring of 1843 came to Aurora, where he joined his brother, George G. Waterman, who had located here in 1837, and was engaged in the hardware trade on the east side. He commenced clerking for his brother, and a little later purchased an interest in the establishment. In the fall of 1849, he started in business alone, on the west side in a very small way, putting in a stock of sheet iron, stoves, etc., to which was added hardware the following year. As his trade increased he added to his stock from year to year, building up a very extensive business, which he continued until about 1866, when he sold out to engage in railroading. Through his personal influence, there was raised about eight hundred thousand dollars, with which to build the Chicago & Iowa railroad. By the governor he was appointed a director to represent the cities and townships that had subscribed to the capital stock. The city of Aurora subscribed one hundred thousand dollars to the stock of the road, issuing bonds for the same bearing ten per cent interest, taking certified stock for the amount. Mr. Waterman continued to serve as a



member of the board of directors until 1877. In 1870 the people of Clinton, DeKalb county, along the line of said road, named the station Waterman in recognition of his service in the completion of the road, at which time, owing to the mismanagement of its president, it was placed in the hands of a receiver. Previous to this a line of road had been completed from Rochelle to Rockford, of which Mr. Waterman was made president, and it was later leased to the Chicago & Iowa railroad as a feeder to that road. In 1870 he was appointed by Governor Palmer to represent the stock subscribed by cities, towns and counties under the law existing at that time, and subsequently Mr. Waterman was elected by the directors president of the Chicago & Iowa railroad, in which capacity he continued to serve for six or seven years. While connected with the road, it was decided by the people of Aurora to dispose of the stock it held at public sale. Through the influence of Mr. Waterman it was sold for one hundred and thirty thousand two hundred dollars. With the proceeds of this sale, the public roads of Aurora were graveled, and bridges constructed over Fox river. Mr. Waterman has also been connected with other important railroad enterprises in Illinois and Minnesota, including the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. He was with the Northwestern while it was being built through Minnesota and Dakota, and for it purchased the land, secured the right of way and located the stations.

Mr. Waterman was married in Aurora, February 17, 1852, to Miss Ann White, a native of Jefferson county, New York, and the daughter of Harry White, one of the first settlers of Blackberry township, where

he opened up a farm of four hundred and twenty acres. By this union there was one daughter, Emma Sabra, who grew to mature years and died February 4, 1875, when in her twenty-second year.

Politically Mr. Waterman was originally a Whig, and being a strong anti-slavery man, he later identified himself with the Free-soil party, and was a delegate to the convention that nominated James H. Woodruff, of Chicago, to congress, to which office he was elected. On the organization of the Republican party, he became identified with it, and has since been a staunch advocate of its principles. He has served as delegate to various state and county conventions, as a Whig and Republican, and early in the fifties was a Whig candidate for the legislature. For ten years he served as alderman and one term as mayor of the city. Fraternally he is a Mason, and member of the blue lodge and chapter of Aurora. As a citizen none stands higher in the estimation of his fellow-men, and no man has done more for the material interests of Aurora, than has the subject of this sketch.

---

DANIEL M. MCKINDLEY, who owns and operates a valuable and well-improved farm of two hundred and twelve acres, a mile and a half east of the city of St. Charles, and which is known as the Glenmona farm, dates his residence in Illinois since August, 1872, and in Kane county since 1894. He was born in the city of Belfast, Ireland, February 2, 1850, where he remained until thirteen years of age. His father, Hugh McKindley, died in Belfast, and, being thrown on his own resources, Daniel determined to come to America that he might better himself in

life. He was a young man of seventeen years, and, with the buoyancy of youth, determined to succeed in life. Landing in New York city, he remained there about one year and then went to Canada, and there worked for a farmer for a short time, near Montreal. In August, 1872, he came west to Chicago, and run on the lakes for one season. He then attended the Bryant & Stratton Commercial College, and received a fair business education. For a few years following he worked in a grocery store, and then engaged in the coal business, which he operated with success for some years. In 1894 he came to Kane county and bought the farm where he has since resided. He is now regarded as one of the active and enterprising farmers of the county, and is also engaged in the dairy business. Since coming here he has made some substantial improvements on the farm, erecting a large barn, 54x116 feet, with a basement, a large carriage house and horse barn, put in a wind pump and water works, both for his residence and barn, and it is now one of the most valuable places in the township.

Mr. McKindley married, in the city of Chicago, December 29, 1886, Miss Hannah Carbine, a lady of fine education, and a graduate of the old Chicago Normal, in the class of '76. Later she was one of the successful teachers in the Chicago schools, where she was engaged for a period of ten years. She was born and reared in Chicago, and is the daughter of James Carbine, now deceased. She was elected a member of the board of directors of District No. 6, St. Charles township, the first lady elected to that position, and being a practical teacher, she was enabled to discharge her duties of the office in a most satisfactory

manner. She later resigned. To Mr. and Mrs. McKindley six children have been born, as follows: Daniel, Hugh, Innoc, Virginia, Leo and Adelaide.

Mr. and Mrs. McKindley and their family are members of the Catholic church of St. Charles. Politically he is an independent, voting for men, not party. Although they have resided here but a few years, they have made many friends in that time, and are held in high esteem because of their many excellent traits of character.

WILLIAM E. MARSHALL, one of the substantial and wide-awake farmers of Plato township, residing on section 25, is the son of George P. and Mary (Burton) Marshall, the former a native of Yorkshire, England, born May 9, 1817, and the latter near Montreal, Canada, in the town of Sharrington, August 14, 1825.

The boyhood and youth of George P. Marshall were spent in his native land and he there learned the carpenter's trade, which occupation he followed for some years. In 1842 he crossed the Atlantic, locating near Montreal, Canada, where his marriage occurred. In 1844 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and rented a farm in Plato township for two years, then purchased seventy-seven acres in sections 27 and 28, where he continued to farm until his death, which occurred October 3, 1881. While residing in England he was a member of the Odd Fellows, but did not affiliate with the order after coming to America. A man of unblemished character, he commanded the highest respect of all who knew him. He was a man of his word and upright in his dealings with his fellowmen.

The paternal grandfather of our subject,

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



WILLIAM E. MARSHALL.





MRS. W. E. MARSHALL.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

James Marshall, married Ann Parker, and lived and died in Yorkshire, England. The maternal grandfather, John Burton, was born at North Burton, Yorkshire, England, a town named for one of his ancestors. He was a son of Richard and Mary Burton. While yet residing in England he married Jane Stringer, born in Hull, Yorkshire, England, in 1794, and daughter of Richard and Hannah (Garbutt) Stringer, both of Yorkshire, England. Her death occurred at the age of sixty-seven years. In 1818 John Burton emigrated to Canada and was killed in battle during the Canadian rebellion, while in the service of the crown.

William E. Marshall was born in Elgin township, December 25, 1847. He attended the district school until about eighteen years of age, and remained at home until thirty years old, working for and with his father. In 1878 he was united in marriage with Miss Agnes McKinnell, daughter of Peter and Jessie (McDowell) McKinnell. She was the second in a family of seven children born to her parents. Her father was born in the parish of Kirk Kinner, Wigtonshire, Scotland, June 26, 1825. He was the son of James McKinnell, of the same parish, who married Janet Hawthorn, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Cleave) Hawthorn. Jessie McDowell was born in the parish of Kirk Kinner, February 2, 1834, and her marriage with Peter McKinnell occurred in that parish April 20, 1854. In the winter of 1854-5 they came to America. She was the daughter of Charles McDowell, who married Ellen Patterson, of the same parish, and a daughter of James and Janet (McHarg) Patterson. To our subject and his wife six children have been born—Charles H., Jessie May, Lucy, Mary, Hattie and Willie.

Soon after his marriage, Mr. Marshall rented eighty acres in Elgin township, for two years, then rented the Sargent farm two years, in Plato township, and the Roseborough farm, near Udina, one year. He then went to DuPage county, and lived upon a rented farm, near Wayne, one year, when he returned to Elgin township and rented the George Stringer farm, upon which he resided seven years. In 1890 he purchased his present farm of two hundred and thirty acres, upon which he has since continued to reside, and for some years has engaged in dairying, usually keeping about sixty head of cows, and shipping the product to Chicago. For some time he engaged in raising driving horses, principally the Hambletonian stock. His farm is in a good state of cultivation, having on it a good dwelling house, a large barn and various outbuildings. Fraternally Mr. Marshall is a member of Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, M. W. A. Politically he is a Republican, and has acceptably filled several minor official positions in his township. He is a man well esteemed throughout the community and has many warm friends.

---

GEORGE S. CHISHOLM, of Elgin, residing at No. 306 Spring street, was born in La Fayette county, Wisconsin, February 13, 1845, a son of Robert S. and Sarah (Van Vaulkenburgh) Chisholm, in whose family were the following named children: One daughter, Frances, died at the age of nine years. William W. is a resident of Salt Lake City, Utah, and is president of the Bank of Commerce there. O. P. was formerly an attorney of Elgin and represented this district in the Illinois legislature, but is now a resident of Boze-

man, Montana. George S. is next in order of birth. Robert B., Jr., lives in Manhattan, Montana. Mary Emma is the wife of George Bennett, of Geneva, Illinois.

The father was a man of marked business ability, was the discoverer of the Emma mine, named in honor of his daughter, and was eminently successful in his mining operations, that mine alone yielding from five to six hundred thousand dollars, principally in gold and silver. It is located twenty-seven miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah, in the Little Cottonwood district in the Wausatch range of mountains. At an early day he became interested in lead mining at a place called Benton, twelve miles east of Galena, Illinois, and here also met with success. In 1851 with an ox team he crossed the plains to California and Nevada, where he engaged in mining with Captain Day, of Galena, Illinois, who died in Galena in 1895. The original owners of the Emma mine were Robert B. Chisholm, Captain Day, Captain James Smith, of Chicago, and J. F. Woodman, now the president of the Centennial Eureka mine, located at Eureka, Utah, eighty miles south of Salt Lake City. With the exception of Captain Smith, the others were associated in the mining business from boyhood. The father of our subject died in Oakland, California, June 30, 1893, at the age of seventy-eight years, and his remains were brought back to Elgin for interment. He was a Knight Templar Mason, and was honored and respected by all who knew him. His wife died in 1882 aged fifty-two years.

George S. Chisholm was reared principally in Elgin, and in the Elgin Academy completed his literary education. For some years he successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Du Page county, Illinois, where

he owned a fine farm of four hundred acres, which he sold about ten years ago. In connection with general farming he was also extensively engaged in the raising of fine stock, making a specialty of Norman horses, shorthorn and Durham cattle and Poland China hogs, getting his stock from Ohio; but in 1887 he disposed of that business and has since devoted his time and attention to his mining and real-estate interests. The shares of the Eureka mine, above referred to, are owned by Mr. Woodman, George S. Chisholm, his brothers, William W., O. P., Robert B., and their sister, Mrs. Bennett, William W. being the secretary and treasurer of the company. The mine has now been in successful operation for twenty years, and up to April 15, 1897, had paid in the way of dividends two million and ten thousand dollars. The company is now testing a new process of treating ores from this property, which, if successful, a plant will be erected abundantly large enough to care for all the ores taken from the mine. Both gold and silver are here mined and also a certain per cent of copper.

In 1872, Mr. Chisholm, the subject of this sketch, was married to Miss Angeline Hatch, a daughter of James C. Hatch, who is now ninety-four years of age, and is still well preserved both physically and mentally. Her mother died in 1877, at the age of sixty-five years. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Chisholm are: Cora May, Marie Louise, Archie S., James Harold, William Wallace, Olive Edith, and George Edward, who are all living, except Cora May, who died October 15, 1878, and Olive Edith, who died on the 1st day of August, 1896, at the age of four years.

Mr. Chisholm takes some interest in political affairs, but votes rather for the man



than for the party which he represents. Socially, he is a prominent Mason, belonging to Monitor lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M., and the consistory and Medinah Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Chicago. He also belongs to the Uniformed Rank, Knights of Pythias. He takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the public welfare of his adopted city, and withholds his support from no enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit. His wife is a member of the Congregational church, also a member of the Elgin Woman's Club and the Elgin Philharmonic Society, and in the social circles of Elgin they occupy an enviable position.

**H**ON. SILVANUS WILCOX, ex-judge of the twenty-seventh judicial circuit of Illinois, now residing on the corner of Bridge and West Chicago streets, Elgin, is one of the best-known and most distinguished citizens of Kane county. He was born in Charleston, Montgomery county, New York, September 30, 1818, and is a son of Elijah and Sally (Shuler) Wilcox, both of whom were natives of New York, the former born in Charles, and the latter in the town of Florida, Montgomery county. Of their ten children, eight grew to manhood and womanhood, and five are yet living—Silvanus, our subject; Hannah Maria, wife of Charles R. Collins, of Elgin; Edward Sanford, of Cloud Chief, Oklahoma; John S., of Elgin; and Captain William H., also of Elgin.

Elijah Wilcox was a man of marked ability, and in his native state was duly honored by his fellowmen. For some years he served as county commissioner of Montgomery county, was collector of toll on the

Erie canal, and held various town offices. He also served as general in the state militia. By occupation he was a farmer. In 1842 he came to Illinois, bringing his family with him, and located on a farm of three hundred acres two and a half miles west of Elgin. Three years later he was elected a member of the state senate, the duties of which office he discharged in a most satisfactory manner. The farm on which he settled was in an almost primitive condition, and he at once began its improvement. His death occurred there in 1862 at the age of seventy-two years. His wife survived him some years, dying at the age of eighty-five. In early life she was a Presbyterian, but later in life became a Universalist, accepting the faith of her husband, who was steadfast in that belief.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Silvanus Wilcox, was a native of Dutchess county, New York, of Welsh origin. He was a Revolutionary soldier, and was one of the guard at Tarrytown when Major Andre was captured, and was present at the execution. His death occurred at Fultonville, Montgomery county, New York, when he was eighty-seven years old.

The maternal grandfather, John Shuler, was also a native of New York, born near Catskill, of German parents. For years he served as justice of the peace and held other minor offices in the town of Florida, Montgomery county. He was a very able man and one of strong intellect. He was eighty-six years old at the time of his death.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and received his primary education in the common schools of the town in which the family resided. Later he attended the academy at Amsterdam, and in July, 1836, was appointed a cadet at

West Point, his examination giving him fifth place in a class of fifty. On account of failing health he resigned August 15, 1839. His room mates were H. W. Halleck, R. Q. Butler, Stewart Van Vliet and Schuyler Hamilton, all of whom are dead except Van Vliet. In 1861, at the Planters House in St. Louis, he met Hamilton going up the stairs and accompanied him to Halleck's room. He was a great friend of these gentlemen, and on meeting them Halleck exclaimed "Wilcox, I thought you were dead." He corresponded with them all through the war. Besides those mentioned, William T. Sherman and George H. Thomas, both famous generals of the Civil war, were his classmates. The following is a letter to Mr. Wilcox from the superintendent of the military academy at West Point:

MILITARY ACADEMY,  
WEST POINT, December 4, 1839. }

*Mr. S. Wilcox:*

SIR: Your friend, Cadet Van Vliet, has requested me in your behalf for such a statement of standing and merit in your studies and character relative to conduct, as the records of this institution will enable me to give.

It appears that you joined the Academy as a cadet in July, 1836, and that, at the last examination at which you were present, the Academic staff pronounced you the fourth in order of merit in mathematics, the ninth in French, and the thirteenth in drawing; which, when compared with the rest of your class, then consisting of fifty members, secured you the fifth place in general merit. It also appears from the records of the Institution that you left here in bad health, and that, after a protracted illness of more than a year, you tendered your resignation,

which was accepted by the secretary of war, to take effect the 15th of August, 1839.

It gives me much pleasure to have it in my power to put you in possession of such highly favorable testimonials of your conduct and talents when a member of this Institution.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD DELAFIELD.

Major of Engineers, Superintendent of Military Academy.

For over two years after his resignation from West Point Mr. Wilcox was an invalid, but in 1840 he came west to Elgin, and located some land in that vicinity. Returning to New York for a time, he acted as agent for his father for a line of boats running from New York City to Utica.

On the 27th of August, 1840, Mr. Wilcox was united in marriage with Miss Jane Mallory, daughter of Henry and Polly Bent Mallory, of Yankee Hill, town of Florida, Montgomery county, New York. One son was born to this union, Silvanus Marcus, who died at the age of thirty-two years. Mrs. Wilcox died in Elgin April 24, 1884. Religiously she was a Universalist, as is also the Judge. She was a woman of domestic tastes and habits, one who tried to make a happy home, and in this she succeeded admirably.

In May, 1844, Mr. Wilcox came with his family to Elgin, and here has since made his home. Since 1845 he has lived upon the site of his present home, except five years, when he resided upon his farm near Elgin. About the time he came here he commenced the study of law, and in 1846 was admitted to the bar, and at once commenced an active practice. His success was assured from the very start, and it was not long before he secured recognition as

one of the most active practitioners in his circuit. His standing among the legal fraternity was such that in 1867 he was nominated and elected circuit judge, and served the full term of six years. In the spring of 1873 he was re-elected for another term, but in the fall of 1874 he was compelled to resign on account of ill health. The impartiality displayed as a judge, and the justness of his decisions, is well known and duly acknowledged by all his circuit.

For some two or three years after his resignation from the bench, Judge Wilcox devoted his time principally to regaining his health and looking after his private business interests. In 1891 he platted a part of a farm, and for a time was engaged in the disposal of town lots, with which he combined other real estate business, greatly to his profit. In addition to his other private business, he was a stockholder in the Elgin Condensed Milk Company, and was its president for three years. In every enterprise in which he engaged he brought to bear a well-trained and well-balanced mind, and was therefore greatly relied on by his business associates.

The Judge has traveled extensively for business and pleasure, and has visited every state and territory in the United States. In 1891 he went to the Pacific coast, and on this trip visited Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and Yellowstone Park. His next trip was from Portland, Oregon, thence to Tacoma, then to Sitka, Alaska. His third long trip was to Mexico, at which time he visited nearly every city of any note in that country.

Politically the Judge is a gold Democrat, from the fact that in order to have genuine prosperity in the country its currency must have stability and be accepted at

its face in any country in the civilized world. He has never cared for political office, and has held but few. In 1844 he was appointed and served as postmaster of Elgin until 1849. As a citizen he is honored and esteemed by all. The Judge, B. F. Lawrence, Walter Pease and Henry Sherman were instrumental in locating the Elgin watch factory in this city; was also identified in locating the Elgin Packing Company.

---

JOHN GUSTAVUS LINDGREN, a retired mechanic, who for thirty-five years was a trusted employe of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops at Aurora, dates his residence in Kane county from 1854. He is a native of Sweden, born March 18, 1826, and in his native country grew to manhood, and received a common-school education. His knowledge of the English language was obtained after coming to this country. In Sweden he learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner, serving a regular apprenticeship. The chance for advancement in the countries of the old world are very limited, and the aspiring young man usually thinks very seriously of emigrating to the United States, where golden opportunities are offered to every one. Our subject had heard much of this country and here determined to make his home. Accordingly in June, 1854, he took a sailing vessel at Guttenberg, for Boston, and was six weeks on the Atlantic, making landing July 24, and coming direct to Chicago, and thence to Geneva, where friends had previously settled. He immediately began work at his trade, and soon engaged in contracting and building.

On the 6th of May, 1855, Mr. Lindgren



was united in marriage with Miss Mary Olson, a Swedish lady, born in 1822, in the same neighborhood as her husband, and who came with him on the same vessel to the new world. By this union there are three children—Charles John, married and residing in Aurora, and employed as foreman in the foundry of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; Christine, wife of Edward Lundgren, a machinist residing in Aurora; and F. W., married, and who is also a machinist in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad.

In 1860 Mr. Lindgren began work at the reaper shops in Geneva, and in December of that year moved to Aurora, and commenced work in the railroad shops, doing the wood work for the locomotives. He remained in the employ of the company for thirty-five years, a length of time which tested his ability, and showed the estimation in which he was held by the Company. Soon after coming to Aurora, Mr. Lindgren erected a neat residence and is now the owner of another which he rents. Both himself and wife are members of the Swedish Lutheran church. Politically he is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since becoming a naturalized citizen. While Swedish born, he is a thorough American, and has great love for the country of his adoption. A man of exemplary habits, and upright character, he has many friends in Aurora and Kane county.

has built up a reputation and established a character which will be as enduring as time. He is a native of the grand old Empire state, born in Preble, Cortland county, July 23, 1823, and is a son of Ryer and Mary (Spence) Van Patten, natives of Schenectady county, New York, and County Down, near Belfast, Ireland, respectively.

The Van Pattens are of Holland descent, the grandfather of our subject being a native of that country, from which he emigrated at a very early day. A year or two prior to the opening of the present century he located in Schenectady county, New York, and was one of its pioneers. Ryer Van Patten, his son, and the father of our subject, was born in Schenectady county, in 1789, but in 1809 removed to Cortland county, where he opened up a farm, married Mary Spencer, who was born near Belfast, County Down, Ireland, of Scotch parents, and reared his family of two sons and seven daughters. His death occurred there in 1874 at the age of eighty-five years. John R. Van Patten, his son, yet occupies the old homestead, which comprises about three hundred and fifty acres, but he owns adjoining lands sufficient to make in all twelve hundred acres, and which is a most valuable property.

On the home farm in Cortland county, New York, our subject spent his boyhood and youth. His education, begun in the common schools, was completed in Cortland Academy. Like the average farmer boy, he did his share in the work of cultivating the soil, but his tastes were not in that direction. At the age of nineteen he commenced teaching and for three winter terms was in charge of the same school. However, he commenced farming on his own account in his native county, and continued in

---

**MAJOR J. S. VAN PATTEN** is a well-known business man and the present efficient postmaster of St. Charles. He has been a resident of the city since 1854, a period of forty-four years, and in that time



that line until his removal west to Kane county, Illinois, in 1854.

In December, 1847, Mr. Van Patten was married in Cortland county, New York, to Louisa R. Bacon, who died six years later in 1853, leaving one son, Dr. Louis Van Patten, one of the leading physicians of St. Charles. The following year Mr. Van Patten took up his residence in St. Charles, purchasing the drug business which was established in 1842 by Elisha Freeman, and which was then enjoying a good patronage. This business he yet continues, and it is one of the oldest establishments in the city.

After residing in St. Charles about two years, Mr. Van Patten was again married, his second union being with Miss Jane A. Clark, a native of Green Oak, Michigan, where she was reared and educated. She removed with her parents to Chicago, where she was married December 18, 1856. By this union two daughters were born: Eveline, now the wife of Lorenzo Van Patten, of Cortland county, New York; and Mabel, wife of Frank Rockwell, assistant postmaster of St. Charles, by whom she has three sons.

The first seven years of Mr. Van Patten's stay in St. Charles covered a very trying period in the history of the country. In that time occurred the financial panic of 1857, which destroyed many valuable business concerns in all parts of the country, but which was particularly severe upon the west, which was flooded with worthless Nebraska currency. This panic he passed through safely with well-established credit.

But a more trying period was close at hand. The war cloud which commenced forming about this time continued to grow in size, and notwithstanding the heroic efforts of the lamented Stephen A. Douglas

and others to prevent the calamity, it broke upon the country in 1861, upon the inauguration of President Lincoln. The southern states, restive for some years, committed the overt act, firing upon Fort Sumter in April of that year. A call was immediately made by the president for troops to put down the rebellion. The first call was followed by others until soon the armies ranged upon either side were greater than those in any modern war.

Through the stirring scenes of those first days of the war our subject was not an unconcerned witness. As soon as possible he offered his services to his country and was commissioned quartermaster of the first battalion of the Eighth Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, with rank of first lieutenant. In February, 1862, he was promoted regimental quartermaster and served in that capacity until November, 1862, when he resigned. He was at once, however, commissioned first lieutenant of Company M, and was detailed April, 1863, as acting commissary of subsistence of the cavalry division, Army of the Potomac, Major-General A. Pleasanton commanding, when he returned home.

Nine months later, Mr. Van Patten again re-enlisted in the Eighth Cavalry, and in February, 1864, was appointed quartermaster in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. In May, 1864, he was commissioned captain and assistant quartermaster United States Volunteers, and was assigned to Vicksburg, where he remained as post quartermaster until November 3, 1865, when he resigned and again returned home in March, 1866, when he was breveted major by President Johnson, and as such was mustered out of service.

On his return to St. Charles, Major Van

Patten again resumed the drug business, and in 1872 was elected cashier of the Kane County National Bank and served in that capacity for six years. During all the time, either in the military service or in the bank, he retained his interest in the drug store, and when released from the latter duties again took his place in the store. He has always enjoyed a good trade.

Politically Major Van Patten has always been a Democrat, having an abiding faith in the principles of that party as best calculated to subserve the best interests of the people. In 1894 he was commissioned postmaster of St. Charles, and yet fills that position acceptably to the people. In the great campaign of 1896 he espoused the gold wing side of his party. Fraternally he is a Master Mason. As a citizen he is greatly esteemed and his friends are numerous throughout the entire county.

**P**HILIP FREILER, the leading wholesale liquor dealer of Elgin, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, April 3, 1860, his parents being Joseph and Mary (Bachrach) Freiler. His father was a native of Austria, born near Prague in 1833. He came to the United States about 1850, locating in Hartford, where he engaged in the wholesale meat business. About 1863 he removed to New York city, where he conducted a hotel until 1867, when he went to Chicago. He engaged in the wholesale liquor business in that city until 1878, when he removed to Elgin, carrying on business along the same line and at the same time retaining his business interests in Chicago. In 1883, owing to failing health, he sold out to his son Philip and went abroad, remaining in Europe for about six months, after which

he returned to this country. He died on the 6th of August, 1884. He was a man five feet, eight inches in height, solidly built, and of genial temperament. In his political views he was a Democrat. His wife was a daughter of Jacob Bachrach, who was born near Frankfort-on-the-Rhine. Crossing the Atlantic, he located at Hartford in 1860, having a daughter living in that city. Later he took up his residence in Chicago, where he died in 1884, at the age of ninety-seven years.

Joseph and Mary Freiler had a family of seven children, namely: Emma, wife of Adolph Stein, of Chicago; Philip; Frances, wife of Lewis Kuhn, now deceased; Moses J., a resident of Chicago; Benjamin, deceased; and Julia, wife of Bernard Stein; and Harriet, wife of Nathan Herzog, of Chicago. The mother is still living and makes her home with her daughter Frances.

Philip Freiler spent the first five years of his life at Hartford and afterward attended school during a three-years residence in New York. He then removed with his parents to Chicago, where he continued his studies in the German high school, later pursuing a course in the Dryenfurth Educational and Business College. He entered upon his business career in connection with his father and his brother-in-law, Adolph Stein, who were at that time in partnership. Later Mr. Stein purchased his partner's interest and our subject continued with his brother-in-law until 1883, when he came to Elgin. Here he began business on his own account as a wholesale liquor dealer on River street, near his present location and from the beginning he prospered in his undertakings, his trade constantly extending until it covers the territory embraced within the Dakotas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Wis-



PHILIP FREILER.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



consin, Iowa, Indiana and Missouri. He has the largest jobbing trade of any dealer in the west outside of Chicago, and his extensive patronage has brought to him a handsome competence. As his financial resources have increased he has made judicious investments in real estate and is also a stockholder in banking institutions and in city railway lines.

Mr. Freiler was married July 8, 1883, in Elgin, to Miss Lizzie Ehrlich, daughter of Joseph and Kate (Smith) Ehrlich, the former a native of Austria and the latter of Frankfort, Germany. Mr. Ehrlich is now deceased, but the mother is still living. Mrs. Freiler is a native of New York city, and by her marriage she has become the mother of four children; Florence, who is attending school; Helen, deceased; Hilda, who is also in school; and Ruth.

In his political affiliations Mr. Freiler is a Democrat. He held the office of treasurer of the Insane Hospital for four years under Governor Altgeld, but has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with signal success. He is a prominent Mason, holding membership in the blue lodge of Chicago, the chapter of Elgin, and the consistory and mystic shrine of Chicago. He is also connected through membership with the Knights of Pythias, Korassin, Foresters, Red Men and the Free Sons of Israel of Chicago. He is a man of sound judgment in business affairs, reliable and trustworthy, and is very popular with all who know him.

---

CAPTAIN A. C. GRAVES, a veteran of the war of the Union, and a pioneer of the state of 1834, but now living a retired

life in the city of Aurora, is well known throughout Kane, Du Page and adjoining counties. He was born in Cortland county, New York, February 15, 1825, and is the son of Phineas and Anna (Kendall) Graves, the former a native of Cortland county, New York, and the latter of Vermont. Phineas Graves grew to manhood in his native state, where his marriage with Ann Kendall occurred. By occupation he was a farmer, and with that laudable desire to better himself he determined to come west. Accordingly on the 10th of February, 1834, with his family, accompanied by his brothers, Amos and Jesse, he left his old home and drove through with teams, being thirty-one days on the road. He first located in Will county, three miles from the present village of Lockport, where he bought a claim, on which was a log house, and which had eight or ten acres broken. This was known as canal land. Three years later he sold out and moved to Du Page county, located near Warrensville, taking up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres, which he improved and made one of the finest farms in the county. He later sold that farm and purchased another in the same township, where he resided a number of years and reared his family. He subsequently sold the farm, and moved to Aurora, where he died December 24, 1889, in his ninetieth year. His wife passed away February 8, 1887, and they were laid to rest side by side in the west side cemetery, where a substantial monument marks their last resting place.

Captain Graves is the oldest son and second in order of birth of the family of eleven children born to Phineas and Anna Graves. The others are Lucy Ann, wife of Samuel Bartholomew, who resides near Turner Junction, Du Page county; Capt.

A. C.; Mary, widow of Lucius Bartholomew, residing in Batavia, Illinois; Juliet, widow of Richard S. Reynolds, residing in Iowa; Betsy, widow of Orlando Stolp, residing in Missouri; Ellen S., wife of James Vallett, of Naperville; Martha, now deceased, was the wife of Norman T. Gazette, of Chicago; Emma, wife of Samuel Wright, of Denver, Colorado; Addison B., of Lamont, Will county, Illinois; James D., of Chicago; and A. Judson, of Calhoun county, Iowa.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his parents, a lad of nine years, and was twelve years old when the family moved to Du Page county. He there assisted his father in opening up, and carrying on the home farm. His educational advantages were very limited, and were confined to the country district schools. After arriving at mature years, he settled on a farm of sixty acres adjoining that of his father, which he operated for some years, then sold out and moved to Naperville.

Mr. Graves was married in Du Page county, December 3, 1847, to Mary A. Buck, a native of Erie county, New York, and a daughter of Stephen Buck, who was one of the pioneers of Du Page county. She was reared and educated in her native state, and previous to her marriage was a teacher in the public schools of Du Page county. By this union are four daughters: Julia E., wife of Judge Gary, of Wheaton, Illinois; Anna P., wife of William Judd, of Aurora; Eva Viola, wife of Oscar Hamilton, of Aurora; and Bertha, wife of Lemuel Northam, of Joliet, Illinois.

In 1862, Mr. Graves raised a company, and was commissioned captain of Company D, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and with his regi-

ment went immediately to the front. He served on detached duty, and was in charge of a company of mounted scouts, having under him when he first started about seventy-three men when considered necessary. After serving through the winter of 1862-3, he was compelled to abandon active duty on account of ill health, having been taken down with typhoid fever. After he had somewhat recovered, he was placed on duty in the spring of 1863, on the staff of General Granger at Nashville. Previous to his being assigned to the staff of General Granger he had been home on sick furlough, and returned to the front, accompanying Col. Hammond, of the One Hundredth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with a large body of recruits. Joining his own command, he was in various engagements, including Dalton, Burnt Hickory, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope Church, Big Shanty, Peach Tree Creek, and a number of lesser fights and engagements. After the Atlanta campaign, he was ordered back to Lookout Mountain, and reporting to the medical board, was sent to the hospital. Feeling that he could no longer remain in the service on account of his health, his resignation was accepted, March 8, 1865.

Returning home, he again commenced farming, at which he continued two years, when he moved to Aurora, and has since been a resident of this city. He lately sold his original farm but still has other farms and some Iowa land. He has always been quite active in political affairs, and since the organization of the party has been quite active in political affairs, and since the organization of the party, has been a staunch Republican. While yet residing in Du Page county, he was honored by his fellow citizens, with various official positions. For

three years he served as collector of his township, and in 1855, was elected sheriff of the county, and moved to Naperville. After filling out his official term, he engaged in merchandising in Naperville and served as deputy sheriff two years. He was then re-elected sheriff and served another term. He also served his township as a member of the board of supervisors several terms; since coming to Aurora he served as city marshal four terms in succession. In whatever position held, he discharged its duties faithfully and well.

Captain Graves and his wife are members of the Aurora Baptist church. For some years he was a member of the Masonic lodge at Naperville, but is now a dimitted member. For sixty-four years he has been a resident of the Prairie state. On his arrival here, Chicago was an insignificant village, which he has lived to see become the second city in the union. Northern Illinois was then a vast wilderness, while to-day it is acknowledged to be the garden spot of the Northwest. In its transformation Captain Graves has borne no inconsiderable part.

---

**A**BRAMHAM P. SHERWOOD, who for many years was actively identified with the agricultural interests of Kane county, but is now living retired at No. 226 Hamilton avenue, Elgin, was born in the town of Sweden, Erie county, New York, July 5, 1827. His father, John Sherwood, was a native of the same state, born April 6, 1790, and was a son of Hezekiah Sherwood. In 1836 John Sherwood, who was a carpenter by trade left New York and removed to Canada, but ten years later came to Kane county, Illinois, making the journey by boat from Chatham, Canada, to Detroit, and

thence overland to Chicago and Kane county, being twenty-two days en route. On his arrival his cash capital consisted of about ten dollars, but he rented a farm in Plato and Campton townships, and began life in earnest on the western frontier. A year later he purchased eighty acres of land on section 19, Plato township, and to the cultivation and improvement of his place he devoted his energies until called to his final rest on the 20th of May, 1879. He was a soldier of the war of 1812, and at the battle of King's Mountains was taken prisoner, but was soon paroled and sent home. In early life he was a Democrat, but being a strong Union man he joined the Republican party about the time of its organization, and continued one of its staunch supporters. In religious belief he was a Methodist.

John Sherwood was twice married, his first union being with Sybil Jeffords, by whom he had three children. For his second wife he married Sarah Pease, a daughter of Abraham and Sarah (Dunham) Pease, and to them were born six children, namely: Seth, who was for many years a partner of our subject in business; Abraham P., of this sketch; Melton, a resident of California; Martha, wife of Charles Harvey, of the same state; John, a resident of Nebraska; and Mary, deceased.

Mr. Sherwood, of this review, began his education in the public schools of New York, later attended the subscription schools of Canada, but as his father was in rather limited circumstances his school privileges were meager, and he is almost wholly self-educated. At the age of nineteen years he accompanied the family on their emigration to Kane county, and he and his oldest brother assisted the father in paying for his



eighty-acre farm. Later the sons embarked in business on their own account, at first renting a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, which they successfully operated. Meeting with success in this undertaking, they purchased land, and being thrifty, energetic and of good business ability, they were soon able to add to their original purchase, increasing the boundaries of their land from time to time until they had nearly two thousand acres at the time of the division of the property. Their success was marvelous when compared with the careers of others who began life with them under far more advantageous conditions. Besides general farming, Abraham P. Sherwood was interested in dairying, and also in buying, feeding and shipping cattle. He continued to engage in active business until 1891, when, having secured a comfortable competence, he laid aside business cares, leasing some of his land, while other tracts he gave to his sons. Since then he has lived retired at his pleasant home at No. 226 Hamilton avenue, Elgin.

On November 11, 1852, Mr. Sherwood was married in Plato township, to Miss Phoebe Ann Wright, a native of New York state; and a daughter of E. Baldwin and Eliza (Foster) Wright. Her father, who was a soldier of the war of 1812, was a son of Solomon and Zelpha Wright. Her maternal grandparents were James and Phoebe Foster. To Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood were born six children, as follows: George W. married Lillie Warner and is engaged in farming on section 30, Plato township; John B., who is also engaged in farming on the same section, married Jennie McKellar and has two children—John Leroy and Harry; Margaret is the wife of A. M. Chapman, of Elgin; Lewis H. married Etta Haygreen

and lives in Elgin; Benjamin A., a farmer on section 25, Burlington township, married Etta Cripps and has two children—Dewitt and Gracie; and Elizabeth Ann died at the age of two years.

Although an ardent Republican in politics, Mr. Sherwood has always refused to accept office of any kind, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his extensive business interests. His life 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. Upright and honorable in all the relations of life, he merits and receives the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. Mrs. Sherwood is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

---

**ERASTUS W. BLACKMAN.**—Canada has furnished to the United States many bright, enterprising young men who have left the Dominion to enter the business circles of this country with its more progressive methods, livelier competition and advancement more quickly secured. Among this number is Mr. Blackman, who was for many years successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits in Kane county, but is now living retired at No. 610 West Chicago street, Elgin.

He was born in Toronto, Canada, June 18, 1825, a son of Zenas and Elvira (Mitchell) Blackman, the former a native of Vermont, the latter of Canada. In early life the father emigrated to Lower Canada, and from there to Upper Canada, where he opened up a farm. He was born in 1795, and, although quite young, he participated



in the latter part of the war of 1812, receiving for his service a land warrant, which he traded for land in Canada without seeing the tract. In 1848 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and first located at St. Charles, but removed to Wheeling, Cook county, in 1868. He died in 1878, and his wife in 1896, at the age of eighty-one years. Both were devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church and took an active part in its work.

Our subject is the oldest of their ten children, of whom eight are still living. Three of the sons were soldiers of the Civil war. At President Lincoln's first call for two hundred thousand volunteers, Ephraim enlisted in Dodson's Cavalry and served three years in the Western army, during which time he was never wounded or taken prisoner. He is married and resides in Arkansas. George enlisted in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was also assigned to the Western army, and he participated in many important battles. His arduous service broke down his health, and he died at his home in Kansas, leaving a widow and one child. As soon as old enough Emerson A. enlisted in the artillery service as a private, and with the Army of the Potomac took part in some hotly contested engagements, including the battle of Gettysburg, where he was the last one to leave a gun which was captured by the Rebels. He was never wounded. Our subject's sisters are Matilda, wife of William Comfort, a farmer of Independence, Iowa; Eliza J., widow of Lucian Scott, of Elburn, Kane county; Adaline, deceased wife of Walter Sutherland, a farmer of Kansas; Adalaide, wife of Nelson Sales, of Nebraska; and Laura, wife of Herbert Johnson, a farmer of Kansas.

In the schools of Canada Erastus W. Blackman obtained his education. Throughout his business career he successfully engaged in farming, and on coming from Canada to Illinois, in 1848, he purchased one hundred acres of land in Wheeling township, Cook county, twenty-two miles northwest of Chicago, between Arlington Heights and Palatine. Subsequently he traded that place for two hundred acres in Kane county, five miles northwest of St. Charles, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his time and attention for twenty years. On selling out to his son, he bought his present comfortable home in Elgin, where he now enjoys a well-earned rest.

Mr. Blackman was married May 2, 1852, to Miss Sarah Jane Switzer, a daughter of Joseph and Salina Switzer, natives of Canada, where Mrs. Blackman was also born. Her mother died in that country at the age of forty-three years, and the father afterward married Catherine Robinson, by whom he had one daughter, Amelia, who is now the wife of Jacob Miller, of St. Paul, Minnesota, by whom she had seven children. He came with his family to Illinois in 1849. Both the mother and daughter are still living but Mr. Switzer died in 1855, aged fifty-three years. By his first marriage he had ten children, eight of whom still survive, namely: Samuel; Martin; Charles; Mrs. Blackman; Lizzie, who married Stephen Gates and died about 1857, at the age of twenty-two years; Mary A., wife of I. C. Towner, of Elgin; Joseph Russell, a resident of St. Charles, Kane county; William Henry, of California; Jabez, a farmer of Kane county; Emma, who died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackman have seven chil-

dren: Salina is the wife of L. A. Hovey, a railroad man residing in Elgin, and they have three children—Lucia, Julia and Vine; Frank M., who has been a policeman in Aurora for many years, wedded Mary Fish and has two children—Claud M. and May; Emma M. is the wife of Bela Ward, a farmer of Campton township, Kane county, and has two children—Pearl and Ruby; Mary E. is the wife of Charles Searles, of Freeport, Illinois, and has three children—Earl, Paul and Charles Raphael; Ray Allen, of St. Charles, married Ella Shaw and has one child, Myrl; Amelia is the wife of Arthur Bullock, who is employed in the watch factory at Elgin; and Philo M. is a machinist, residing with his parents.

In the Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. and Mrs. Blackman and several of their children hold membership, while he has served as steward and filled other offices in the same. For thirty-eight years he has been a teacher in the Sunday-school, and for many years was superintendent, always taking an active and prominent part in all church work. He is a grand, good man, upright and honorable in all his dealings, and commands the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact. For many years he served as school director in his township.

**H**ERMAN F. DEMMER, chief of police of Aurora, was born in Germany, and with his parents started for America, when about two months of age. Soon after their arrival, the mother died in St. Louis, with cholera during the great epidemic of that disease in that city. The father died about one year later in Buffalo, Iowa. In their family were four children, Herman F., our

subject; Lena, now the wife of B. F. Stevens, of Orion, Henry county, Illinois; Anna, widow of Andrew Bolden, now residing in Chicago; and Ida, wife of George E. Hampson, a retired farmer of Millford, Illinois.

After the father's death, Herman was bound out to a Mr. Dodge, in Buffalo, Iowa, with whom he remained a number of years. He was educated in Moline, Illinois, where he resided after leaving Iowa. In 1861 he came to Aurora, which has since been his home with the exception of about six years. During the late war he enlisted and served about five months and on his return went to railroading for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, until 1868, when he left the service of that company and was engaged with the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad Company. At Davenport, Iowa, January 5, 1870, he enlisted in the regular army, and was sent to Fort Leavenworth, where he remained a month. He was then sent west and served on the plains for two and a half years. He was then sent to Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, thence to Little Rock, Arkansas, from which place he was again sent west to engaged in the Modoc war, but order countermanded before they got to Council Bluffs. He was next stationed at Fort D. A. Russell, and later at Fort Laramie. He was discharged at the latter place, having served five years, lacking five days. His record was an excellent one.

Returning to Aurora, Mr. Demmer again began railroading, first as brakeman, and then conductor. After about four years spent in that service, he again left the road, and for a time engaged in business. He was then appointed on the police service, and served as patrolman two years,

when he received the appointment of chief of police, which position he yet holds, making eleven years continuous service, which is the longest continuous service of any chief ever having been employed in this city. At present he is president of the Chief of Police Union of the state of Illinois, which position he has held for five years. This is certainly an acknowledgment of his ability, by the chiefs throughout the state.

On the 15th of January, 1881, Mr. Demmer was united in marriage with Miss Alma Steele, of Aurora, and a daughter of Catherine Steele, who is the mother of four children—Dyer, a railway brakeman, residing in Aurora; Mary A., who married S. M. Farwell, and died in Aurora, at the age of forty-four years; Nelson, deceased; and Alma. To Mr. and Mrs. Demmer seven children have been born, five of whom are living—Daisy, Mabel, Nellie, Anna, and Lily. Those deceased are Frank and George.

In politics Mr. Demmer is an ardent Republican, who takes pleasure in upholding the platform and measures of his party on all occasions. He is one of the reliable men of Aurora, and his many admirable qualities have tended to make him popular with all classes with whom he comes in contact. As a public officer he has given the fullest satisfaction through his constituency. Socially he is a courteous gentleman, and is a man whom misfortunes have not disheartened, nor has disaster had an appalling effect. He was nominated by the Republican party for sheriff in 1898.

---

MANLEY P. TREADWELL, residing on section 10, Elgin township, was born on the farm where he now resides.

His father, William Treadwell, was born July 22, 1823, in Almyr, Ontario, Canada, and came west in 1840, and later purchased a farm on section 10, Elgin township, where he resided for many years. He was the son of Anson and Nancy (Somers) Treadwell, natives of Canada and New York, respectively. Martha A. Adams was the daughter of Edward and Abigail (Padelford) Adams. To William M. and Martha A. Treadwell three children were born, as follows: William E., a physician and surgeon at Maple Park; one who died in infancy; and Manley P., our subject.

The boyhood and youth of Manley P. Treadwell were spent upon the home farm, and his education was obtained in the district schools and Elgin Academy. At the age of eighteen years he went to Chicago, and was there engaged in the milk business one year. He then returned and farmed with his father one year, after which he moved to Elgin, and for one year was engaged in teaming, and in the watch factory for seven years. In 1886 he again returned to the farm, which consists of one hundred and sixty acres of fine arable land, and where he has since continued to reside. He usually keeps about fifty head of cows, the milk from which he sells to the condensing factory at Elgin, and ships to Chicago.

On the 16th of February, 1882, Mr. Treadwell was married in St. Charles, Illinois, to Miss Kate Vanderwalker, born in Chester, Warren county, New York, and eighth in a family of nine children born to William and Sophia (Churchill) Vanderwalker, the latter a daughter of Otis Churchill. Her father did good service in the war of 1812. By this union one child has been born—Alice M., who yet resides under the parental roof.



Mr. Treadwell in politics is thoroughly independent, voting for such men as he thinks best qualified for the office. For many years he served as clerk of the board of school directors of his district and was annually re-elected, until he refused longer to serve. He is a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife is also a member, and was one of the main promoters of the chapel built near his residence in 1896. Fraternally he is a member of Monitor lodge, No. 522, A. F. & A. M., and of Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, M. W. A.

For some years the family has been accustomed to taking long trips overland, for health and pleasure. A number of seasons they drove through to St. Paul and back, returning on the west side of the river, and camping by the way. They have also traveled east, visiting many of the large cities of New England and the central states. As a farmer, Mr. Treadwell ranks among the best, his farm being well supplied with substantial buildings, and it is well watered by a large stream which flows through it. The farm lies very near the corporate limits of Elgin.

---

**G**EORGE W. L. BROWN, a well-known real-estate dealer of Elgin, living at 158 North Liberty street, is proud to claim Illinois as his native state, his birth having occurred in Cook county, April 19, 1848. He is a representative of one of its old and highly respected pioneer families, his parents being Schuyler and Mary Ann (Youngs) Brown, the former a native of New York and the latter of Canada. Of their seven children, only two are now living—Charles and George W. L. The father, a farmer by occupation, came to Illinois as early as 1833, with a Mr.

Scuttler and located at old Fort Dearborn, now Chicago. He carried on farming seven miles west of Blue Island, in Cook county, and there reared his family, but in 1856 he removed to Humbolt county, Iowa, where he engaged in his chosen calling until 1887, when he returned to Genoa, Illinois, to live with our subject. His wife, who was a consistent member of the Methodist church, had died in 1869, at the age of fifty years, and his death occurred in Genoa, in 1892, when in his eighty-eighth year. During his early manhood he was a member of the New York State Militia, and originally he was a Democrat in politics, but, after voting for Lincoln in 1860, he continued to support the Republican party. Wherever known he was held in high regard, having the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact.

Hugh Brown, our subject's paternal grandfather, was born in New York state, of English ancestry, and throughout life principally engaged in farming. He reared a family of eleven children, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and was over seventy years of age at the time of his death. The maternal grandfather, Jerry Youngs, was a native of Canada and died at an advanced age.

Upon his father's farm, Mr. Brown, of this review, spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in the district schools of Cook county he acquired his education. At the early age of fifteen, however, he laid aside his text books to aid his country in the struggle to preserve the Union, enlisting in Company G, Thirty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, "Yates' Phalanx." He served a little less than two years and during that time participated in the battle of the Wilderness, the siege of Washington, the battles of Hatchie's Run, Petersburg and many



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



G. W. L. BROWN.



MRS. G. W. L. BROWN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



skirmishes. He had entered the service as a private, but was promoted corporal on the day he was shot, but did not hear the order of promotion. It was on the 2nd of April, 1865, at the battle of Petersburg, that he was wounded, and, being sent to the hospital at Fortress Monroe, he remained there from the 4th of that month until July 19, when he was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Cook county.

Soon after the war Mr. Brown removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he made his home for three years, and then went to Humbolt county, Iowa, engaging in farming there until his return to De Kalb county, in 1872. On the 1st of March, 1893, he came to Elgin and has since successfully engaged in the real estate business in this city. Being an honorable, upright business man, he has met with a well deserved success in his undertakings, and is to-day numbered among the leading and valued citizens of the place.

On the 14th of October, 1869, Mr. Brown married Miss Margaret J. Vote, a daughter of John and Anna Maria (Karn) Vote. The children born to them are as follows: Charles Elmer, who died in infancy; Clara Belle, who is now the wife of G. H. Brown, of Genoa, Illinois, and has three children, Hazel May, Clayton George and Floyd Harvey; Maggie May, who is the wife of J. B. Brown, a brother of George H., and has one child, Raymond Claire; George W. L., Jr., a graduate of Callow's Business College; and Charles F. and Alta Adell, both at home.

Socially, Mr. Brown is a member of the Masonic order, the Modern Woodmen of America, and Genoa post, G. A. R.; while politically he has always been an uncompromising Republican, doing all in his power to advance the interests and insure the suc-

cess of his party. For about thirteen years he served as school director in New Lebanon, Illinois, and was commissioner of highways for the same length of time. He is a man of recognized ability and, with his amiable wife, stands high in the communities where they have made their home. Those who know them best are numbered among their warmest friends, and no citizens in Kane county are more honored or highly respected.

---

AUGUST JAPP, a retired farmer living in the village of Hampshire, is a representative of the German-American citizens, who by their industry and thrift, have done much in making Kane county occupy its proud position among the counties of the great state of Illinois. He was born in the village of Hanshagen, province of Mecklenberg Schwerin, Germany, October 5, 1847, and is the son of August Japp, Sr., and Dorothy (Bottcher) Japp, the former a native of Jesse, Mecklenberg Schwerin, Germany, born in 1813, and is yet living at the advanced age of eighty-one years. His father was Hans Japp, a native of the same country. Dorothy Bottcher was a daughter of Hans Bottcher, who lived and died in Germany.

The subject of this sketch attended the parochial schools in his native country until the age of fourteen, when he engaged in farm work, which he continued until his removal to America in 1865. He was then but eighteen years of age and left just before he would have been called into the service of his country in the German army. The family sailed from Hamburg, October 27, 1865, on the steamer Saxonia, and after being twenty-two days upon the water

landed at New York. They came at once to Cook county, Illinois, and located at Shaumburg. For two years our subject worked as a day laborer at anything he could find to do. His father then rented a farm and for the four succeeding years he worked with him, giving him his time until twenty-five years of age. He then formed a partnership with his father, which was maintained for four years.

On the 21st of September, 1872, Mr. Japp was united in marriage with Miss Wilhelmina Bredemeyer, who was born in the village of Katherinshagen, Hesse, Germany, in 1852, and who came with her parents to America in 1853. By this union eight children have been born, Mina, 1st, deceased; Lena, who married Henry Koerner, of Genoa township, DeKalb county, Illinois; Mina, who married John Bottcher, and lives in Genoa township, De Kalb county; Louisa, deceased; August, John, William, and Henry at home.

Immediately after his marriage, Mr. Japp moved with his young bride to Hampshire township, and a few years later bought one hundred and forty acres in sections 18 and 19, and two hundred and fifty acres across the line in De Kalb county, making him a fine farm of three hundred and ninety acres. He there carried on mixed farming, giving special attention to stock and grain and making many improvements upon the place. He was a good farmer, industrious as the day was long, and success crowned his efforts in a remarkable degree, enabling him to rent the place and in the spring of 1898 move to the village of Hampshire, where he is now living a retired life. Politically Mr. Japp is a Republican and for sixteen years was school director of his district, and served as road commissioner for

two terms. He is a member of the Lutheran church, of which body his wife is also a member, and was the first to suggest the organization of a church of that denomination in Hampshire township in 1876. Both are held in the highest esteem in Hampshire township and wherever known.

OTIS N. SHEDD, now living a retired life in the city of Aurora, but who for years was one of the active, enterprising and representative business men of the city, is numbered among the settlers of 1856. He is a native of Maine, born in Oxford county, July 10, 1831, and is the son of Silas Shedd, a native of Massachusetts, born October 2, 1794. His father, the grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Massachusetts. Otis N. Shedd is the seventh generation from Daniel Shedd, a native of England, who settled in Bramtree, Massachusetts, in 1644.

Silas Shedd, the father of our subject, grew to manhood in his native state, and served in the war of 1812, for which he drew a pension until his death at the advanced age of ninety-one years. He married Miss Clarissa Noyes, a native of New England, born in 1800, and a daughter of Captain Ward Noyes, who for many years was a captain in the militia of his native state. Silas Shedd was a cooper by trade, and also engaged in agricultural pursuits. His wife preceded him to the land beyond, dying in 1880. They were the parents of four children, of whom our subject was third in order of birth. Of the others, Calvin married and settled on the old homestead, where his death occurred; Alice N. married Robert Frost, and they reside in Norway, Maine; and Caroline, who married Benjamin Henry

Noble, and after making their home in Maine for a few years, removed to California, where they now reside.

In his native county and state, Otis N. Shedd spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, and during the winter months attended the public schools, and later a private school taught by Samuel Cobb, a brother of Sylvanus Cobb, a noted educator and divine. Before attaining his majority he taught in his home district, and was quite successful. A young man, he removed to Lawrence, Massachusetts, and there engaged in a woolen mill, now known as the Washington Mill. Later he went to work in a soap factory, where he continued three years, and learned the business of soap making. While residing in Lawrence he was married August 28, 1853, to Miss T. F. Hawkins, a native of Vermont, reared and educated in Brunswick, that state, and a daughter of W. W. and Susannah (Wait) Hawkins, of Brunswick, Vermont. By this union are five children, one of whom died in infancy, and Otis N., who died in his sixth year. The living are Clara A., wife of Dr. S. S. Delancy, of Williamsport, Indiana, and they have two children, Helen Delancy and Julius; Isabella F. widow of Professor Stein, of Aurora, by whom she had two children, Alma F., and Edwin Arthur; and Alma E., who married Mr. Merrill, moved to Tacoma, Washington, and there died leaving one daughter, Elizabeth.

In 1855, Mr. Shedd moved west to Chicago, and there resided one winter. In the spring of 1856, in company with Mr. Beach, a former employer, he came to Aurora, and bought a farm of one hundred acres, which now lies within the city limits. On that farm he located, and began its improvement, and also started a soap factory and

engaged in the manufacture of candles. In the same spring he laid out Beach & Shedd's addition to the city of Aurora. He later bought thirty-seven acres more, which he platted as Shedd's subdivision. In addition to this, he purchased another tract which was laid out as Shedd & Nobble's subdivision. He also had charge of the old fair grounds, and with Mr. Dickinson had a portion of it surveyed and platted, and it is now known as Dickinson & Shedd's addition. Since its organization, he has been a stock holder in the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, and was a director in it for a number of years. He also owns stock in the building and loan association and in the German National Bank.

Politically Mr. Shedd is a Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for John C. Fremont, and from that time to the present, he has never faltered in the support of the men and measures of that party. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and has served four years as alderman, three years as commissioner of highways, and as supervisor of the town two years and has been a delegate to various county and congressional conventions. He is a man of good business ability, and in whatever position he has been tested, has proven his true worth.

---

CYRUS H. LARKIN, a farmer and dairyman residing on Larkin avenue, Elgin, Illinois, has made his home in Kane county for over sixty years, and his name is inseparably connected with its agricultural and business interests. His thoroughly American spirit and his great energy have enabled him to mount from a lowly position to one of affluence. One of his lead-



ing 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 an undertaking is never an assured fact.

Mr. Larkin was born in Waterville, Vermont, May 20, 1830, and is a son of Cyrus and Sarah A. (Horner) Larkin, also natives of that state. In their family were only two children, and Emily W. is now deceased. The father was a woolen manufacturer in early life and later a farmer. On coming to Illinois, in 1837, he secured a farm in Dundee township, Kane county, five miles from Elgin, and four years later he removed to that city. As he was in poor health our subject took charge of the farm at the age of nineteen, and in 1865 he built his present commodious residence, his parents living with him until called to the world beyond. The father died June 17, 1885, aged eighty-five years, and the mother November 11, 1887, at the age of eighty-two years and three months. In early life they were members of the Congregational church, but later joined the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in that faith. The father never sought office, but was frequently called upon to fill some local positions, the duties of which he faithfully and capably discharged. His first purchase in Kane county consisted of one hundred and sixty acres of land, but this he sold, and purchased one hundred and twenty acres, which are still owned by our subject.

Joseph Larkin, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a son of Edward Larkin, in whose family were several sons, Joshua and Lorin being among the number. Joseph was a lumber manufacturer and was killed in the mill yard. He had aided the colonies in achieving their independence during

the Revolutionary war. In Brandon, Vermont, March 24, 1785, he married Miss Hannah Winslow, and at that place all of their children were born. She was a lineal descent of Edward Winslow, who lived in England in 1560. Among his sons was Kenelm, and in the next generation two Kenelms. Kenelm Winslow, of this third generation, came to America with his brother Josiah on the Mayflower in 1629, but previous to this time Edward Winslow, the second, came over in the same vessel, accompanied by his brother Gilbert, they being among the first detachment of Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock, May 20, 1620. Gilbert afterward returned to England where he died, but Edward was the leader of the colony from the beginning, was afterward chosen governor of the same, and possessed considerable ability as a statesman. Jedediah Winslow, the father of Hannah, was born March 26, 1727, in Rochester, Massachusetts, and died in Brandon, Vermont, April 5, 1794, while his wife, Elizabeth (Goodspeed) Winslow, was born in Barnstable, Massachusetts, in March, 1750. They had a family of ten children.

Cyrus H. Larkin was but seven years old when he came with his parents to Kane county, where he has since made his home. His early education was received under the instruction of his father, but he afterward attended school in Elgin, and later was a student in the college at Beloit, Wisconsin. For five years he successfully engaged in teaching, but since that time has devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits and his other business interests. He is now the owner of four hundred acres of valuable farming land adjoining the city of Elgin, is a stockholder in the First National Bank of that place, and is interested in a large mer-



cantile establishment in Texas and also in the cattle business in that state.

On the 24th of August, 1854, Mr. Larkin married Miss Jane E. Johnson, a daughter of Ashbel Johnson, and to them were born two children. (1) May, who is now the wife of D. B. Hoornbeek, of Alpine, Texas, and has two children—Brewster and Etta May; (2) Fred A., M. D., a physician of Englewood, Illinois. The mother of these children, who was a consistent member of the Methodist church, died May 2, 1874. Mr. Larkin was again married December 27, 1888, his second union being with Mrs. Jeannette Crane, widow of Franklin Crane.

Politically Mr. Larkin is a staunch Republican, and has served as supervisor several terms and also town treasurer. He is justly regarded as one of the most progressive and reliable business men of Elgin, and in all life's relations merits the confidence so freely accorded him. His residence in Kane county covers a period of sixty years, during which he has ever borne his part in the work of development and progress, and is therefore deserving of honorable mention among the pioneers.

---

WILLIAM E. CONSTANT, M. D., a successful and popular physician and surgeon of St. Charles, is a native son of Illinois, his birth having occurred in Sangamon county, February 28, 1854. The Constant family is of French origin and was early founded in Kentucky, where Isaac Constant, our subject's grandfather, was born. The Doctor's father, Dr. Jacob Constant, was also a native of Kentucky, born near Winchester, in 1826, but when only a year old was brought to Sangamon

county, Illinois, by his father, being numbered among the pioneers of the state. The latter pre-empted land in Sangamon county, near Springfield, and from the wild tract developed a good farm, upon which he reared his family.

At an early age Dr. Jacob Constant took up the study of medicine, becoming a student of the great Hahnemann, and later engaged in the practice of his chosen profession, while he also owned and operated a farm. In Sangamon county he married Miss Lillian Wilson, a native of Scotland, and a daughter of James Wilson, also an early settler of Sangamon county. Mrs. Constant was reared and educated in Edinburgh, Scotland.

In the county of his nativity, Dr. William E. Constant grew to manhood, and in its public and high schools obtained a good practical education. Under the direction of Dr. Morgan, a leading physician of Springfield, he commenced the study of medicine, and in 1881 entered Hahnemann Medical College, of Chicago, where he graduated with the class of 1883. He began the practice of his profession in Decatur, Illinois, later was located for about twenty months in Arcola, Douglas county, and for the following five years successfully engaged in practice in Rochelle. On selling out there, he came to St. Charles, where he soon succeeded in building up a large and remunerative practice. He keeps abreast with the latest discoveries and theories in the science by his perusal of medical journals, and his skill and ability is attested by the liberal patronage he enjoys.

In Rochelle, on the 28th of November, 1888, Dr. Constant was united in marriage to Miss Belle Ogden, a native of Ogle county, Illinois, who completed her education in

the high school of Rochelle, and is a daughter of John Ogden, a substantial farmer of Ogle county. Politically the Doctor is a staunch Republican, but has never aspired to office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his professional duties. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic lodge of Rochelle, and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias. He has made many warm friends since coming to St. Charles, and in social as well as professional circles occupies a prominent position.

---

CHARLES MELMS, SR., after years of honest toil, is now living a retired life in the village of Hampshire. He was born in the village of Rostow, Pomerania, Prussia, January 15, 1838, and is the son of John and Christina (Heckstadt) Melms, both of whom are natives of the same country, the latter dying when our subject was only three years of age, and the former when he was nineteen years old. After the death of his mother, he lived with an uncle until fourteen years old, and then with a sister until he attained his majority. From the time he was seven years old, until the age of fourteen, he attended the public schools of his native land. In his youth he worked on the farm and spent one year at the wagonmaker's trade. In October, 1862, he sailed from Hamburg, in the two masted sail vessel, *Helena*, and after a voyage of eight weeks and two days, landed at New York. He came west, working two years at Waukesha, Wisconsin, after which he spent some four or five years in different states, going as far south as Helena, Arkansas, and points in Mississippi, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin as far north as Lake Superior, working at what-

ever he could find to do. He then went to Chicago, and on the 13th of May, 1867, married Christina Richter, who was born in Tridelfitz, the province of Pomerania, Prussia, and the daughter of George and Hannah (Krumhorn) Richter, whose lives were spent in Germany. She came to America in 1858 at the age of twenty-three years. By this union five children were born, as follows: Charles, Jr., and Henry, of whom further mention is made in this sketch; William, in the milk business in Chicago; Bertha, wife of Frank Channing, a conductor on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, running between Hampshire and Chicago, and Mary, wife of John F. Janeck, Jr., a prominent young business man of Hampshire, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

After his marriage Mr. Melms settled down to business and for a time was employed in a lumber yard and on vessels. He then ran a fruit and vegetable wagon two years in the city, saved his money and went into the wood and coal business, in which he was engaged seven years. In the meantime he invested in real estate in Chicago, which he traded for land in Hampshire township, on closing out his coal business, and here moved with his family and engaged in farming. He secured a hundred and fifty acres and later bought a farm adjoining consisting of one hundred and three acres. Subsequently he bought another farm of one hundred and sixty acres and a ten-acre timber tract, in all four hundred and twenty-three acres. He continued to actively engage in farming until March 1, 1891, when he leased the farms to his sons, Henry and Charles, removed to the village of Hampshire, built a handsome modern house and is living in ease and comfort.

CHARLES MELMS, JR., the son of Charles Melms, Sr., and Christina (Richter) Melms, was born in Chicago, April 28, 1868, and came to Kane county, in 1876, and grew to manhood on his father's farm on section 14. He attended school in the Bean district until eighteen years of age, and from the time he was old enough to hold a plow assisted in the cultivation of the farm. He remained under the parental roof until February 24, 1891, when he was united in marriage at Huntley, Illinois, with Miss Emma Schrader, who was born in Huntley, and a daughter of Henry and Dora (Duesesing) Schrader, the former a native of Hanover, Germany, and now residing in Huntley, at the age of sixty-seven years. By this union are two sons—Glen, born January 23, 1892, and Harry, born September 1, 1894. In March, following his marriage, he began farming for himself, renting the farm of his father on section 14, for two years. He then came to his present farm, which is a well-improved dairy farm of one hundred and fifty acres, on which he keeps thirty-five head of cows, and is meeting with good success. In politics he is independent, and fraternally a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

HENRY MELMS was born in Chicago, December 10, 1869, and came to Kane county, Illinois, in 1876, with his parents, Charles Melms, Sr., and Christina (Richter) Melms. He attended school in the Bean district during the winter months until fourteen years of age, and remained at home assisting his father until twenty-one years of age. On the 12th of April, 1891, he married Lena Reinking, who was born in Ontarioville, Illinois, July 5, 1870, and is a daughter of Deitrich and Dora (Fisher) Reinking, and to them have been born four children—Elma,

Myrtle, Frank and an infant. The first named died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Melms are members of the Lutheran church and in politics he is a Republican.

ROMEO W. MARSHALL, who is living retired in the city of Aurora, and who came west in 1868, was born in Trenton Falls, Oneida county, New York, January 12, 1824. His father, Romeo W. Marshall, Sr., born in 1787, and his grandfather, John Marshall, were natives of Connecticut. The latter served as a teamster in the Revolutionary war. The Marshalls are of Scotch descent, but came to this country from England. There were two brothers, one locating in Rhode Island, from which branch of the family our subject was descended, while the other located in North Carolina, and was an ancestor of Chief Justice Marshall.

When a young man, R. W. Marshall, Sr., moved from Connecticut to New York with his father, first locating in Herkimer county, where the father died when ninety-eight years old. In that county R. W. Marshall, Sr., married Harriet Van Antwert, a daughter of Lewis Van Antwert, a native of Holland. Soon after their marriage they moved to Oneida county, New York, where they resided for some years, and then removed to Jefferson county, on the St. Lawrence river. In the vast wilderness he opened up a farm of two hundred acres, and there spent the last years of his life, dying in 1874. His wife passed away three years previous. In the war of 1812 he served for a short time, and for a number of years served as postmaster in both Oneida and Jefferson counties. Of their nine children four are yet living.

The subject of this sketch was reared in



Jefferson county, New York, where he helped to open up and develop the farm. His educational advantages were very limited, but he made the best use of them, and in after years by reading and observation he has become a well informed man. He remained on the home farm until twenty-six years of age, and on the 13th of March, 1850, married Mary A. Jewett, of Windsor, Vermont, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Rev. Jewett, who died when she was a mere child. He was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church. For some years previous to her marriage she was a teacher in the public schools. By this union there were three children: Phila, who resides at home; C. N., married and engaged in merchandising in Aurora; and Josephine, wife of John W. Miller, a business man of Aurora, by whom she had one child—Marshall J.

Soon after their marriage Mr. Marshall bought a farm in Jefferson county, near that of his father, and engaged in farming and butter-making for some years. Selling out the farm he engaged in the hotel business at Redwood, Jefferson county, New York, which he continued for five years, and in the fall of 1868 came to Aurora, and located in the suburbs of the city. In 1875 he engaged in the hotel business, and for thirteen years was proprietor of the city hotel, where he did a large and profitable business, having a feed barn in connection, and catering to the country trade. On the organization of the Merchants' National Bank he purchased some stock, and is now one of the directors of that financial institution. He is now residing in a neat and attractive home on South Lake street, where he delights to entertain his many friends.

Politically Mr. Marshall is a stanch Re-

publican, with which party he has been identified since its organization, having voted for its first presidential nominee, General John C. Fremont. He has voted for every presidential candidate of that party up to the present time, with one exception. He never wanted or would accept official position, giving his time and attention to his business interests. While not connected with any church organization, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall attended the People's church. He is a man of exemplary habits, upright character, and is classed among the representative business men of Aurora.

---

**WILLIAM McCREDIE.**—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 Mr. McCredie, a leading business man of Elgin, whose home is at No. 138 North Gifford street. His wonderful success is due to his own energy and the high ideal which his lofty and laudable ambition placed before him. Success in any walk of life is an indication of earnest endeavor and persevering effort—characteristics that he possesses in an eminent degree.

Born in Scotland, February 10, 1848, Mr. McCredie is a son of William and Margaret (Limmond) McCredie, also natives of that country. The father was born in Wigtonshire, and was the only son of Peter and Margaret (Fraser) McCredie, farming people, who spent their entire lives in Scotland, the former dying at the age of sixty-two years, the latter at a much more advanced age. They had one daughter, Elizabeth, who married George Jamieson and both are





WM. McCREDIE.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

now deceased. The mother of our subject was one of a large family of children whose parents were Quintin and Margaret (McAdam) Limmond, natives of Ayrshire, Scotland.

William McCredie, Sr., who, born in 1806, was a farmer by occupation, emigrated to Canada in 1872, but after residing there for seven years, he returned to his native land in 1879, on a visit, and died there. While on this side of the Atlantic he visited Illinois. He died in 1880, aged seventy-five years, a faithful member of the Presbyterian church and a most excellent man. His widow, who is also a member of that church, now lives with her daughter, Jane, in Elgin. The subject of this sketch is the oldest of their nine children, and, like all his brothers, is engaged in the creamery business. Quintin, who was engaged in business in Huntley, Illinois, died in McHenry county, in 1888, aged thirty-eight years. Margaret Ann is the wife of James Campbell, who is also engaged in the creamery business in Jefferson, Wisconsin. Elizabeth is the widow of Robert Marshall, a Scotch-Canadian, and is a resident of Marshall, Wisconsin. Jane lives with her mother in Elgin. Thomas Limmond is a resident of Ohio, Illinois. James makes his home in Earlville, this state. Robert Cumming lives in Mt. Morris, Ogle county, and Edward Limmond, in Ohio, Bureau county, this state. Our subject had two half brothers. The older, Captain Patrick McCredie, was a sea captain, and was in several ship wrecks. While commanding the *Greta*, he saved the crew of the ship *Great Britain*, which was destroyed during a gale on the British Channel, March 11, 1876, and for his bravery displayed by this act he received a written communication from the

committee of "Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society" commending his gallant service. John McCredie, the other half brother, was also a sailor for twenty years, but when the family came to America he accompanied them, and now lives with his widowed sister, Mrs. Marshall, in Wisconsin.

Reared on a farm, William McCredie continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until twenty-seven years of age, when he became interested in the creamery business, working for the firm of Braman, Horr & Warner, at Elyria, Lorain county, Ohio, for three years. He then came to Algonquin, Illinois, and near that place engaged in the same business with Robert McAdam until 1881, when he purchased his partner's interest after being together for three years. Since then he has carried on operations at different places, including Barrington Station, Barrington Center, and Elgin, where he still resides in active business. He owns one creamery in Lee county which is under the management of his brother James, and is also interested in many others. For twenty years he has successfully engaged in this business, and the prosperity that has crowned his efforts is certainly well deserved for in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity and industry that never flags.

On the 23d of January, 1884, in Halton county, Ontario, Mr. McCredie was united in marriage with Miss Mary Jane Marshall, a native of Canada and daughter of John and Margaret (Archibald) Marshall, who emigrated from Scotland to that country at an early day. Her parents celebrated their golden wedding in 1892, at which time all of their large family of children were present as well as many other guests.

Since then the father has passed away, dying in 1896, but the mother is still living on the old home farm in Canada. With one exception her children are also living. Mr. and Mrs. McCredie have three children, namely: Maggie Jane, William, and Marian Elizabeth.

Politically Mr. McCredie is independent, generally voting for the man rather than the party, though he is rather inclined toward Democracy. He is a prominent Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of Barrington, Illinois; L. L. Munn chapter; Bethel commandery, Elgin; and Medinah Temple, Knights of the Mystic Shrine, of Chicago. With the First Congregational church of Elgin he and his wife hold membership and by all who know them they are held in high regard. He has several times visited his native land, but has no desire to return there to live. As a representative business man and highly respected citizen of Elgin none are more deserving of honorable mention in a work of this character than William McCredie.

---

**W**ILLIAM BURTON has been identified with Kane county for more than half a century, and has contributed his share to its material progress and prosperity, but has now laid aside all business cares and is enjoying a well-earned rest at his pleasant home in Elgin. He was born November 26, 1821, in Sherrington, Province of Quebec, about twenty-seven miles from Montreal, and is a son of John and Jane (Stringer) Burton.

The father was born in North Burton, Yorkshire, England, in 1791, and in 1819 emigrated to Canada, locating in Sherrington, where he engaged in farming. He had

three brothers, namely: William, Richard and Francis. He was short of stature, of light complexion, of positive character, but of gentle disposition. In religious belief he was an Episcopalian, as was also his wife. In manner she was rather firm, and was charitable to an eminent degree. She was born January 31, 1796, in Hunenby, Yorkshire, England, of which her parents, Richard and Hannah (Wallace) Stringer, were also natives. They removed to Canada in 1818, and in that country her father died; but her mother spent her last days in Kane county. Besides Mrs. Burton, they had three sons and one daughter, namely: Mark, George, John and Alice, wife of Arthur Allison, all now deceased, with the exception of Robert, who makes his home in Elgin. The father of our subject continued to reside in Sherrington, Canada, until killed at the battle of Odeltown, November 9, 1838. The mother died in Elgin township, Kane county, April 9, 1864.

In the family of this worthy couple were nine children, of whom William is the oldest; Richard, born September 13, 1823, died in August, 1897; Mary, born August 14, 1825, married George Marshall; John, born September 19, 1827, died in Elgin, in 1870; Francis, born December 14, 1829, of whom see sketch elsewhere in this volume; George B., born February 9, 1831, died December 12, 1838; Alice, born December 7, 1833, married George Church, and died in Dayton, Washington, November 19, 1886; Mark, born September 6, 1835, died July 27, 1883, in Helena, Montana; and Annie, born July 4, 1838, married George Cookman, and died April 11, 1891, at Mason, Iowa.

Upon the home farm in Canada, William Burton was reared, and in the schools of



the neighborhood acquired his education. On leaving the parental roof at the age of sixteen, he went to Albany, New York, to learn the blacksmith's trade, but not liking that occupation, he obtained work on a farm in Cherry Valley, New York, where he remained for two years. After his father's death he returned home to look after the family, remaining in Canada until 1844, when he left for the far west, accompanied by his uncle Robert, uncle Mark and brother Richard. They made the journey by way of the lakes to Chicago, and from there on foot to Kane county.

In 1845 William Burton purchased a tract of two hundred and forty acres in Plato township, to the cultivation and improvement of which he devoted his time and attention for sixteen years. Having secured a comfortable competence, he then retired from the arduous duties of farm life and removed to Elgin, where he erected a pleasant residence on Walnut avenue. Five years ago he sold his farm, which was one of the best in Kane county. While engaged in agricultural pursuits, he and his brother Richard built a cheese factory in Genoa, De Kalb county, Illinois, which they operated for five years. There they also bought a tract of two hundred and ninety acres of land, which they converted into a dairy farm, keeping thereon fifty head of cattle. When they finally divided the property, the brother took the farm and our subject the factory, which he later sold. He also built the first factory in Plato township, Kane county, in partnership with John McDonald, but later sold his interest. Upon his farm in that township he kept forty head of cows for dairy purposes.

In St. Charles, Kane county, Mr. Burton was married January 1, 1855, to Miss

Sarah Poole, a daughter of Charles Poole and wife, natives of England, now deceased. Her father lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and nine years. The children born of this union were as follows: Clara, born December 24, 1855, married Samuel Buckley, a farmer of Marshall county, Kansas, and died July 10, 1874; Georgiana May, born May 6, 1857, is the wife of George Burton, of Genoa, De Kalb county; Alice Maud Mary, born May 13, 1859, is the wife of Peter Young, a resident of Pottawatomie county, Kansas; Ernest W., born December 9, 1860, is a carpenter living in Elgin; and John Francis, born February 21, 1863, is a farmer of Marshall county, Kansas. The mother of these children, who was a consistent member of the United Brethren church, died March 27, 1863.

Mr. Burton was again married, July 18, 1863, his second union being with Miss Jane Cookman, a native of Yorkshire, England, as were her parents, Francis and Maria (Dibbs) Cookman. She was a Methodist in religious belief, and died in that faith, June 16, 1892, being laid to rest at Udina, Kane county, where Mr. Burton's mother, his children and grandchild have all been buried. By his second marriage he had four children, namely: Margaret, born June 3, 1865, is the wife of Nelson Their and lives in Missouri; William C., born July 23, 1867, died August 30, 1880; Sarah Ann, born June 28, 1870, keeps house for her father; and Mary, born February 26, 1872, died August 20, 1880.

At local elections, where no issue is involved, Mr. Burton votes independent of party ties, but at other times never fails to support the Republican ticket. While living on his farm he efficiently served as school director most of the time. Prior to

coming to Elgin he held membership in the United Brethren church, but as there was no church of that denomination in this city, he united with the Methodist congregation. During the long years he has been a resident of Kane 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. After a useful and honorable career he can well afford to lay aside all business cares and live in ease and retirement. His daughter presides over his home, which, in its appointments, evinces the refinement and culture of the inmates.

---

JAMES SHAW, city librarian and clerk of the city court, Aurora, Illinois, was born in Lancashire, England, July 9, 1840, and is the son of James and Anna (Gould) Shaw, both of whom are natives of England. The parents came to America during the infancy of our subject and settled in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where James was reared and educated in the common schools and graduated from the high school. After leaving school he entered the office of the daily "Chronicle," at Portsmouth, to learn the printer's trade and was there nearly five years.

In the summer of 1862, Mr. Shaw enlisted as a private in Company K, Sixteenth Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, with which he was sent to the southeast, the regiment being assigned to the Nineteenth Army Corps, under command of General Banks. It was engaged in the Port Hudson campaign. His term of enlistment expiring, he returned home in the

fall of 1863. After spending a year as clerk in the navy yard at Portsmouth, he came west to Chicago, and engaged in the printing business. In the following winter, however, he went south to Mobile, Alabama, being one of the army of "carpetbaggers" and was there some six years, engaged in newspaper publishing, and assisted in reconstruction generally. In 1873 he came north and in 1874 joined Pierce Burton in the publication of the Aurora "Herald." He remained with that paper six years, when the partnership with Mr. Burton was dissolved. He was soon afterward elected clerk of the city court, to fill a vacancy, and by re-election has held the office until the present time. In 1884 he was appointed librarian, which position he has also held until the present time. In 1888 he was appointed by recommendation of the whole bar, official reporter of the circuit court of Kane county, which position he held for three years. He ran the Aurora Centre for the University Extension Course of Lectures for popular instruction, Mrs. Pierce Burton being the first secretary, and our subject the second one, which office he has since continued to fill.

On the 30th of June, 1885, Mr. Shaw was united in marriage with Miss Ella D. Lowd, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to which place he returned for that purpose. Her parents were William D. and Rebecca Lowd, on the mother's side being a direct descendent of the martyr, John Rogers, who was burned at the stake during the reign of Bloody Queen Mary. The great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Lowd was for many years a minister, at the little stone church on one of the Isles of Shoals, on the coast of New Hampshire, and now a famous watering place or summer resort. To Mr.

and Mrs. Shaw two children have been born—Alice Ada, attending the schools of Aurora, and Marian H., who died at the age of seven years.

Mrs. Shaw is a consistent member of the Episcopal church. Fraternally Mr. Shaw is a member of the Masonic order, and also of the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in his party. He is a man of studious habits, of positive convictions and indomitable energy, and for what he believes to be right, will stand against all odds.

**S**AMUEL L. ADAMS, who is now efficiently serving as justice of the peace in St. Charles, was for many years one of the active, enterprising and representative business men and farmers of Kane county, dating his residence here from the spring of 1860. He was born in Cavendish, Windsor county, Vermont, June 16, 1820, and is a worthy representative of a very old and prominent family of New England, belonging to the "presidential branch" of the Adams family. Benjamin Adams, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts, and was one of the minute men of the Revolutionary war, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Samuel Adams, Sr., our subject's father, was born in Vermont about 1790, and manifested his patriotism by serving as a soldier in the war of 1812. He married Miss Calista French, also a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Josiah French, who also belonged to an honored family of Massachusetts. Samuel Adams, Sr., was a tanner and currier by trade, but in early life followed farming. He was one of the most prominent and influential men of his

town and county, served as justice of the peace for nearly half a century, and also filled the offices of selectman, town clerk and other positions of honor and trust. He died in Vermont in 1875, and his wife passed away the year previous.

Mr. Adams, of this review, is the oldest in their family of seven children, two sons and five daughters, who reached mature years, the others being Josiah Quincy, who still resides at the old homestead in Cavendish, Vermont; Marietta, who is now the widow of Friend Weeks, of Rutland county, Vermont, and is now a resident of Cavendish; and Marcella, a resident of Chester, Vermont, and the widow of Ira H. Adams, who died in 1896. Jane, Ellen and Betsy are deceased.

In his birthplace Samuel L. Adams spent the days of his boyhood and youth, and in the schools of that place obtained a fair education, which enabled him to engage in teaching for three years in Vermont. He also learned the tanner's and currier's trade which he followed for a number of years before coming to Kane county, Illinois in 1860. Landing here in March of that year, he located on a farm in St. Charles township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1876, and also followed school teaching during three winter terms. On selling his farm, which adjoined the corporation limits of St. Charles, he located in the village where he has engaged in merchandising at three different times, some seven or eight years in all, the first three years being devoted to the grocery trade.

On the 2d of July, 1848, in the town of Cavendish, Windsor county, Vermont, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Adams and Miss Betsey M. Parker, also a native of that



state, and a daughter of Dr. Isaiah Parker, who belonged to a Massachusetts family, and lived to the advanced age of ninety-six years. During her girlhood Mrs. Adams obtained an excellent education and successfully engaged in teaching both in Vermont and after coming to Illinois. She died January 26, 1882, leaving a sorrowing husband and many friends to mourn her loss. Having no children of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Adams adopted Ella D. Howard at the age of four years. She was reared and educated by them, and is now the wife of A. D. Bell, of St. Charles.

Although not old enough to vote at the Presidential election of 1840, he carried a banner in the processions during the campaign of that year, his interests being with "Tippecanoe and Tyler, too," and on becoming a voter he supported the Whig party until the organization of the Republican party, voting for John C. Fremont in 1856. He has served as a delegate to many of the county conventions of his party, and has been called upon to fill the offices of supervisor seven years, township trustee, and commissioner of highways twelve years. He was one of a committee of three who built the present bridge across Fox river at St. Charles, and was also secretary of the building committee of supervisors when the present fine court house and jail of Kane county were erected. He has been a member of the old town council, was president of the board of trustees, and has now acceptably served as justice of the peace for five years. In all of these various positions he has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity, proving a most capable and popular official. Socially he is a prominent member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is past grand of his lodge, has served

as secretary of his lodge and also the encampment in the grand lodge several terms, has been chief patriot and filled all the chairs in the encampment. For thirty years he has been identified with the interests of Kane county and has become widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state.

---

CHARLES OSCAR CUMMINGS, deceased, was born in New Albany, Indiana, June 6, 1845, died at his residence in New Orleans, Louisiana, August 16, 1882. About 1850, his father moved to New Orleans, which continued to be the family residence. He attended private schools in that city, and later Professor Soule's Business College. His father having died in 1855, he early became the mainstay of the family and contributed to the support of his mother and sisters from the age of fifteen. He secured a place as clerk in a store, and while thus engaged, attended business college. Having saved from his earnings, he later in partnership with his brother-in-law, went into the commission business, in which he prospered through strict integrity and honest dealing, accumulated a comfortable competence. Owing to ill-health, he traveled in the north every summer, sometimes on the Atlantic coast, and again in the lake regions of Wisconsin and in Maine. In July, 1882, he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Kane county, near his wife's birthplace, in order that he might have a home of his own to go in summer when he so desired. But he never had the pleasure of spending his time on the place, his death occurring but a month later. He was an affectionate husband and father, honored and respected by a wide circle of



friends. In politics he was a Democrat and a Confederate during the war. He was reared a Methodist but when married he united with the Episcopal church.

Charles O. Cummings was the son of Thomas Cummings, who was born in Baltimore, November 25, 1816, and at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, October 10, 1838, married Mary Jane McConnell, a daughter of Hugh McConnell and Mary (Perrine) McConnell. She was born in New York, November 24, 1822, and is yet living in New Orleans. The mother of Thomas Cummings died when he was quite young. His father marrying again, he left home and soon lost track of his family and therefore knew little of his ancestors. He learned ship carpentering in his youth and held a position for many years on boats running north from New Orleans. While repairing a wheel of his boat he got wet, took cold, and after a short illness died November 15, 1855.

The subject of this sketch married in New Orleans, January 1, 1872, Miss Susan Jane Babcock, who was there on a visit to her half-brother, Professor George Soule, who was a Confederate colonel in the Rebellion, was taken prisoner at Shiloh and taken to Johnson's Island for five months, in whose business college Mr. Cummings had received his business education. She was born in Barrington, Yates county, New York, April 6, 1844, and is a daughter of William H. and Cornelia E. (Hogeboom) Babcock. The latter was born in Green county, New York, November 8, 1814, and died September 11, 1893. She was the daughter of Andrew and Julia (Distant) Hogeboom, the father being a farmer by occupation. His wife attained the age of ninety years. Cornelia E. Hogeboom first married Ebon Soule, a Frenchman, by whom she had three sons,

Andrew, George and Stephen. George is a professor in a business college in New Orleans, while the other two live in California.

William H. Babcock, the father of Mrs. Cummings, was born in New York, October 10, 1816, and died in Kane county, Illinois, September 12, 1884. By occupation he was a farmer after coming west in 1854. By trade he was a mason, and an excellent workman. On coming to Kane county, he settled on section 30, Hampshire township, where he purchased forty acres of land adjoining a forty-acre tract his wife received from her father. He was the son of Abiram Babcock and Susan (Lee) Babcock, the latter being a cousin of Robert E. Lee. To William H. Babcock and wife nine children were born as follows: Sallie, who died at the age of six months; Mary, who married David Davis, and lives in Beloit, Wisconsin; Julia, who married Hiram S. De Witt, and is living in Hampshire, Illinois; Abiram Lee, who resides in California; Susan J., widow of our subject; Lucy, who married James F. Bell, and is living on section 30, Hampshire township; Charlotte, wife of John Oesterman, residing on the old home farm on section 30; and Phebe E., who married Edward Everitt Crawford, a merchant of Genoa, Illinois. One son was a member of the Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry in the war for the Union.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cummings four children were born in New Orleans—Mary Cornelia, Charlotte E., William Arthur and George Bidwell. The daughters are teachers of recognized ability in Kane county. Mrs. Cummings resides on the farm, to which she gives her personal attention. She also owns a house and lots in Hampshire and several fine building lots in Elgin, in a select quarter of the city.

GEORGE P. MARSHALL, deceased, was one of the honored pioneers and highly respected citizens of Kane county, with whose agricultural interests he was prominently identified for many years. He was born May 9, 1817, in Ryther, Yorkshire, England, a son of James and Ann (Parker) Marshall, also natives of that place. In that country they spent their entire lives, the father dying in 1883, at the advanced age of ninety-five years; the mother August 22, 1872, at the age of eighty-five.

In 1842, at the age of twenty-five years, George P. Marshall crossed the broad Atlantic and first located in Canada, where he spent two years. In his native land he had learned the carpenter's trade, but after coming to the United States he devoted his energies exclusively to farming. It was in 1844 that he became a resident of Kane county, at which time most of the land was still in its primitive condition, and he and his young wife were forced to endure all of the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life. After renting a farm for two years near Plato, he purchased seventy-seven acres on section 29, Elgin township, and thereon erected the first frame house in the township. He also employed the first teacher in his district, the pupils being two of his own children and one of the teacher's. Upon the farm which he first bought, he continued to reside until called to his final rest October 3, 1881. In England he had joined the Odd Fellows Society, but in this country held membership in no secret organization. He was always loyal to his adopted country and her institutions, and most acceptably served his fellow citizens as school trustee, road commissioner and thistle commissioner.

Mr. Marshall was married in Canada, in

1842, to Miss Mary Burton, who was born in Sharington, near Montreal, August 14, 1825, a daughter of John and Jane (Stringer) Burton, and granddaughter of Richard and Hannah (Garbutt) Stringer. Her father was born in North Burton, Yorkshire, England, in 1792, and was a son of Richard and Mary Burton. In 1818 he emigrated to Canada, and was killed November 9, 1838, at the age of forty-six years, while serving in the militia during the rebellion in that country. Mrs. Marshall's mother was a native of Hull, England, born in 1794, and died at the age of sixty-seven years.

The children born to our subject and his wife were as follows: Ann Jane married Hosea E. Perkins, who was born in Jefferson county, New York, November 8, 1819, but when seven years old went to Ohio, and in the fall of 1841 came to Illinois; Levina is now Mrs. Padelford; William is engaged in farming at East Plato, Kane county; Charles H. is a mason and builder living at Chico, California; George F. follows farming near Wasco Station, Campton township, Kane county; Caroline L. is the wife of Hiram Brown, of Port Waltham, Virginia; Ellen L. is the wife of Millard Starr, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits near Pingree station; Richard S. is a merchant of South Elgin; Frederick J. is engaged in farming near Plato Center; and Henry L. is living with his mother in South Elgin.

Mrs. Marshall well remembers the region around her birthplace, which was in the midst of a deep forest, and among the primitive scenes of frontier life she was reared to womanhood. Her father had to clear away the trees in order to secure space for his home, and the family were obliged to carry their butter and other produce to



GEORGE P. MARSHALL.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



market, walking the entire distance of eighteen miles. Thus inured to such a life she was well fitted to endure the hardships which surrounded her early residence in Kane county. In coming to this state she and her husband came by way of the Welland canal and great lakes from Buffalo to Chicago, and thence by wagon to Kane county. Game was still quite plentiful in this region, furnishing the early settlers with most of their meat, and most of the land was still wild prairie and timber. She has watched with interest the wonderful changes that have since taken place.

---

**R**ICHARD S. MARSHALL, son of George P. Marshall, is one of the representative and prominent business men of South Elgin. He is a native of Kane county, born on his father's farm, on section 29, Elgin township, May 16, 1856, and there remained until sixteen years of age, aiding in the work and attending the district schools of the neighborhood. At that age he began to work for others as a farm hand and was thus employed until he attained his majority.

On the 22d of February, 1877, at the age of twenty years, Mr. Marshall was united in marriage with Miss Clara Campbell, a native of Vermont, who when a child of eleven years came to Illinois with her parents, Emmett and Marian Campbell, the former of Scotch descent. To Mr. and Mrs. Marshall have been born three children, namely: Bertha, Albert and Frank.

After his marriage Mr. Marshall rented a farm of one hundred and eighty-three acres, which he operated for three years, and for the same length of time engaged in agricultural pursuits upon a farm in Hamp-

shire township belonging to M. C. Getzelman. He then rented the old homestead for two years, and at the end of that time removed to South Elgin, where he was first engaged in buying and selling stock for six years, meeting with success in his new undertaking. This naturally led to his entering the meat business, and to his market he subsequently added a stock of groceries. On the 8th of January, 1897, his store was destroyed by fire, probably the work of incendiaries, but the same spring he rebuilt on the new trolley line west of the Fox river and has built up a good trade for a small village—a trade that is constantly increasing. He is an enterprising, progressive business man of known reliability, and his genial, pleasant manner has made him quite popular in both business and social circles.

---

**I**SAAC T. BEVIER, who for many years was one of the leading merchants of Aurora, was born at Leurenkill, Ulster county, New York, March 13, 1818. His parents, Johannis and Elizabeth (Teachout) Bevier, were both natives of New York state. The name was originally spelled Bovier, and is of French origin. The Boviers were of the Huguenot faith and fled from France to Holland, during the time of those religious persecutions and found refuge with friends in the Palatinate. Louis Bovier, or Bevier, emigrated from Frenken, on or about March 5, 1675, and on arriving in America, they stopped temporarily at New Amsterdam, afterwards at New Paltz, and were among the original twelve patentees of that place. They had a family of eight children—Marie, Jean, Abraham, Samuel, Andrius, Louis, Esther and Solomon. Abraham Bevier married Rachel Quernory, and they settled

at Warwarsing, New York. Their children were Louis, Annie, Cornelius, Samuel, Jacobus, Abraham, Maria, Johannis, Benjamin and Daniel. Johannis, the father of our subject, married Elizabeth Teachout, and their children were Mary Ann, Cornelius H., Esther B., Simon J., Isaac T., Cornelius A., Sarah E., Rachel M., Antoinette, Sarah J., William E. and Harriet E., all, excepting Sarah E., living to the age of maturity.

Isaac T. Bevier obtained his education in the public schools at Leurenkill, residing in boyhood upon his father's farm. In boyhood he learned the tailor's trade at Elmira, New York, to which place the family had removed. After learning his trade he worked at Elmira as a journeyman for several years. In the meantime he married, March 11, 1841, Miss Sarah Bradner, daughter of William and Frances Emily (Wood) Bradner, of Goshen, New York. In 1844 he came to Aurora, and deciding to make this city his future home, returned to Elmira for his family. In 1848 he commenced the tailoring business here in partnership with the late William McMichen, each conducting an establishment, one on each side of the river, but in partnership. After a year or so, Mr. Bevier retired from business on account of failing eyesight, after which he served as constable and collector for several years. In 1858 he went into the drug business on Broadway with J. D. Moore, but soon afterwards purchased his partner's interest and continued the business alone up to the time of his death, which occurred January 3, 1884. He was subject to heart trouble, and died suddenly in Florida, where he had gone to gain health and strength. His remains were brought back to Aurora and buried in

Spring Lake cemetery, escorted to the grave by the Knight Templars and Odd Fellows, of which in the former body he had been prelate, and had filled all the offices in the Odd Fellows society. Mr. and Mrs. Bevier had a family of four children as follows: Cornelia F., who resides with her mother. William B., who married November 25, 1898, Emma S. Borwell, of Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, by whom he has two children, George, S., born August 20, 1872, and Benjamin B., born April 9, 1880; John E., who was married October 26, 1868, to Mary J. Seymour, by whom he has one child, Frank H., born June 23, 1874; Frank H., who died April 8, 1873. John E. Bevier died in Aurora, August 20, 1875.

Mr. Bevier was a public-spirited man and in addition to those already mentioned; he held the position of street commissioner several years and highway commissioner for nine years. With his wife he was an attendant of the Congregational church. As a citizen he was well known and universally esteemed. His death was a sincere loss to the community in which he had so long resided. Mrs. Bevier still resides in Aurora in a pleasant home at No. 285 Main street, and is also held in the highest esteem.

---

MORRIS CLINTON TOWN, now deceased, was for many years one of the best known business men of Elgin. He was of English and French extraction, his ancestors settling in America prior to the Revolutionary war. His father, Bester Town, was born in New York August 20, 1794. He was reared in his native state, and September 22, 1816, married Betsy M. Martin, a native of Vermont, born in 1795. For

some years after marriage he followed farming in Washington county, New York. In 1824 he removed with his family to Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in hotel keeping and farming, but later commenced the manufacture of hats, and embarked in the mercantile trade. His death occurred in Erie county, Pennsylvania, December 2, 1870, and he was followed to the grave by his loving wife, January 22, 1872. During the war of 1812 he served his country as one of its soldiers.

Morris C. Town was born at Granville, Washington county, New York, February 7, 1818, and was eldest in a family of eight children. His boyhood and youth were spent at home with his parents and he learned the hatter's trade in his father's manufactory, receiving at the same time a common-school education. At the age of twenty-two he began life for himself as a merchant, at North East, Erie county, Pennsylvania, and was quite successful. But life in the east was not suited to his temperament. He wished to broaden out, and so resolved to come west. Accordingly in the spring of 1846 he came to Chicago and commenced in mercantile business, which he continued until the fall of 1847, when he came to Elgin and for three years was one of its most prosperous merchants. He then opened a banking office, and in 1851 secured a charter from the state. In 1858 he sold his banking business and removed to Chicago, where he remained until 1860, when he again came to Elgin and for the second time engaged in merchandising. In 1862 the banking house of Lawrence Pease & Town was established and Mr. Town assumed the general management of the same. In the summer of 1865 the First National Bank of Elgin was organized and

he was elected cashier, a position he held for a number of years, and was then elected president, serving as such until his death.

Mr. Town was twice married. His first wife, whom he married August 27, 1839, was Miss Hannah S. Oviatt, born at Hudson, Ohio, July 27, 1819, and by her he had one child, Helen S., who became the wife of William O. De Long, and who is now living at Titusville, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Town passed to her reward in 1843, and Mr. Town married Miss Maria Selkregg, November 12, 1844, at North East, Pennsylvania. She was a native of that state, born at Colt's Station, Erie county, December 19, 1821, and a daughter of Osee and Harriet (Robinson) Selkregg, natives of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, respectively. Six children were born of this union, as follows: Ella L., born September 30, 1845, is now Mrs. L. B. Hamlin, of Elgin; Morris Clarence, born July 4, 1847, died January 8, 1850; Frank, born April 27, 1849, died June 5, 1881; Harriet E., born March 27, 1851, married John H. Volk, and is now living at Mont Clare, Illinois; Carrie M., born May 27, 1855, is the wife of W. W. Sherwin, of Elgin; and Morris Clinton died in infancy. Mrs. Town died January 26, 1897. She was a member of the Congregational church, a true Christian woman, one who was greatly esteemed by all.

After a residence in Elgin of forty-five years, save for a short time spent in Chicago, already mentioned, Mr. Town passed from this life, his death taking place July 31, 1892, at the age of seventy-four years and five months. He was a man of more than ordinary ability, and did much to make Elgin the thriving city it now is. Few enterprises of a public nature but what



secured from him financial as well as moral support. He added much to the city by the erection of a fine business block which bears his name. A friend of education, he was one of the founders of the Elgin Academy, and served as one of its directors until his death. In 1878 he was elected a local director in the Elgin National Watch Company, a position which he held until his death. Fraternally he was an Odd Fellow, and was one of the charter members of Kane lodge, at Elgin.

MRS. D. P. GRAY, of Aurora, Illinois, was born in Covington, Tioga county, Pennsylvania, April 7, 1817. Her father, Thomas Putnam, was a native of Massachusetts, and the son of Elijah Putnam, a cousin of Israel Putnam, of Revolutionary fame. Thomas Putnam married Hannah Huntington, a native of Massachusetts, where he then resided. Soon after his marriage he moved to Pennsylvania, and settled in Tioga county, when he followed his trade of saddle-tree maker for several years, and there reared a family. His wife died in Pennsylvania, and he later married again. He was a very prominent man, serving for some years as postmaster of Covington, and also justice of the peace. For some years he was a general in the state militia.

Our subject was reared in her native town, where she received a fairly good education, and on March 3, 1833, a young lady of sixteen years, gave her hand in marriage to L. W. Gray, a native of Ohio, born July 11, 1812, but who was reared in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, where he received a good education in the common schools, and in Wellsborough College. After their

marriage they began their domestic life in Covington, Pennsylvania, where he worked at his trade of tanner and currier, and carried on that business for six years. In 1838, they moved west, first locating in Oquawka, Henderson county, Illinois, and six months later moving to Henderson, where he was elected constable and served until 1843.

In that year they moved to Kane county, where Mr. Gray bought land near Aurora, which he farmed some four or five years. He then sold the farm and moved into Aurora, purchasing some land, which now lies within the city limits. He laid out an addition to the city, on the west side, known as Gray's addition to Aurora. He served as one of the first aldermen of the city, and was continued in that office until his death, October 10, 1881, at the age of seventy years.

Politically Mr. Gray was identified with the Democratic party, and was a firm believer and a staunch advocate of its principles. A friend of education, he served for some years as a member of the school board, and did much to advance the educational interests of his adopted city. Progressive in all things, he encouraged every enterprise that he considered would have a tendency to advance the material interests of Aurora. In his death the city lost one of its best men.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray were the parents of seven children, of whom four survive. John married Lucretia Smith, of Henry county, Iowa, where he is engaged in business. He was a member of the Forty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and during the last two years of his service was on the staff of General McKean. Thomas P. was also a



soldier in the late war, serving in the Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry; and was wounded near Pittsburg Landing. For some years he has been employed in the pension office at Washington. He married Hetty Headley, and they made their home in Washington. Ann married Salmon Denison, of Aurora, who served during the late war, as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He died in Aurora, in January, 1891. Wright married Rosella Miles, and resides in Windsor, Colorado. Warren died in infancy. Grant died in early childhood. Wells grew to mature years, and died when about thirty-five years of age. Mrs. Gray has twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. She is a member of the Peoples church of Aurora, and is a woman who is held in the highest esteem by all who know her.

---

**EDWARD BAKER**, a leading merchant of St. Charles, is an important factor in business circles, and his popularity is well deserved, as in him are embraced the characteristics of an unbending integrity, unabated energy and industry that never flags. As a public-spirited citizen he is thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of the community.

Mr. Baker was born in Canandaigua county, New York, September 13, 1828, a son of Chauncey and Rhoda (Webster) Baker. The birth of the father occurred in 1800, in Vermont, but he was reared in New York, of which state his wife was a native. In 1835 he removed with his family to Medina county, Ohio, where he worked at his trade of blacksmithing and also oper-

ated a farm, which he purchased when only partially improved. He was highly respected and was called upon to serve in a number of local offices of honor and trust. He died in Medina county, Ohio, in 1852, and his wife departed this life in 1872. In their family were five children, two sons and three daughters. William Baker, the brother of our subject, died in Ohio, at the age of thirty-five, leaving a family. The three sisters were all married and are living at this date (1898).

Upon the home farm in Medina county Edward Baker grew to manhood and during his youth was provided with good school privileges, attending both the common and high schools of that locality. For some years he successfully engaged in teaching in Ohio during the winter months, while the summers were devoted to farm work. On coming to Illinois in 1853, he purchased a farm near Aurora, in Kane county, but after operating it for one season, he sold and bought another place in St. Charles township, two miles west of the village of that name. This farm was partially improved, and to its further development and cultivation he devoted his time and attention for about twenty years, during which time he built an addition to his house, erected a barn and made many other improvements which added greatly to its value and attractive appearance. Subsequently he sold his farm, and removing to St. Charles, he formed a business partnership and engaged in merchandising, being at the present time the oldest merchant in the village.

In Summit county, Ohio, Mr. Baker was married in 1850, the lady of his choice being Miss Martha E. Phelps, a native of New York state, and a daughter of John Phelps, who at an early day removed from New

York to Ohio. Mrs. Baker was reared and educated in Summit county. The children born to our subject and his wife are as follows: Charles, who died at the age of thirteen years; Delora, wife of J. W. Gates, of Chicago, who is president of the Illinois Steel Company and is largely interested in mines in the west; Vernie, wife of R. F. Angel, of St. Charles; and Edward J., a grain inspector of Chicago, who is married and lives in Chicago.

Politically, Mr. Baker is a life-long Republican, an advocate of protection and sound money, and has served as alderman in St. Charles. He has ever taken an active interest in educational affairs, has been a leading member of the school board for almost a quarter of a century, and his labors have been very effective in raising the standard of schools in St. Charles. Religiously he and his wife are active and prominent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, while he has been a member of its board for thirty-five years. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has been treasurer of the lodge for the long period of twenty years. Over his life record there falls no shadow of wrong, and in many respects his life is well worthy of emulation, for he is an honorable, upright business man, and has ever been found true and faithful to every trust reposed in him.

---

**W**ILLIAM PFRANGLE, city clerk, and also town clerk of Aurora, was born in this city March 7, 1860, and is the son of Sebastian and Lena (Heimelsbach) Pfrangle, both of whom are natives of Germany, and were there married. In 1853, the family came to America, first stopping in New York for a short time, then coming west to

Chicago, where they remained about two years, moving from there to Wheaton, Illinois, Mr. Prangle being elected professor of German and music in the college at that place. He was a highly educated man and was engaged in teaching before coming to America. From Wheaton they came to Aurora in 1858, and he engaged in teaching in the old Clark seminary. He died in 1859, before the completion of the school building, when about forty-three years of age. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1886, at the age of seventy-one years.

Our subject is the youngest of twelve children, born to Professor and Mrs. Pfrangle. Of the twelve, four sisters and three brothers are still living, while three died in early childhood, and two in mature years. The living are Amelia, wife of Conrad Hoffman, residing in Aurora; Emma, wife of John Lackner, of Aurora; Charles J., who married Laura Wagner, is a sign writer in Aurora; Pauline, wife of Zopher Ketchum, of Aurora; Albert, janitor of the east side high school, Aurora; Jenny, wife of Benjamin B. Hayford, chief engineer of the Columbus Memorial Building, Chicago; and William of this review.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the Aurora public schools, and at the age of sixteen secured a position as clerk in the postoffice, and for nineteen years was connected with the postal service, and for fifteen years was assistant postmaster, terminating his career there May 6, 1895, when he resigned, having been elected city clerk, which office he still holds and is now serving his second term. He was also elected town clerk in April, 1895, and is serving his third term in that office.

On the 3rd of May, 1882, Mr. Pfrangle was united in marriage with Miss Sadie

Cross, daughter of Prof. J. G. Cross, and author of the eclectic shorthand system. He is a teacher of wide experience, and for a time was connected with the college at Naperville, the seminary at Aurora, and the State Normal School, at Normal, Illinois. He is now conducting a school in Los Angeles, California. He is also a minister in the Methodist Episcopal church, and filled pulpits in the Rock River conference before taking up college work. To Mr. and Mrs. Pfrangle five children have been born—Jessie, Bessie, George, Charles and Mabel, the latter two being twins. They were born February 13, 1893, and Mabel died July 4, 1894.

Mrs. Pfrangle is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is active in all church and benevolent work. Mr. Pfrangle is a member of the Uniform Rank of Knights of Pythias, and affiliates with the Republican party, in state and national campaigns. He is a good and accommodating officer, and a most worthy citizen, such as give character to a community. His official career speaks of the right man in the right place, and duty well done, and duty appreciated.

**G**EORGE S. HALEY, the present efficient police magistrate of Batavia, has been a resident of Kane county since 1854. He was born in the town of Guilford, Windham county, Vermont, July 14, 1827. He traces his ancestry to Belcher Haley, a native of Ireland, who came to this country at a very early day, and located in Windham county, Vermont, where his son Nathan T. Haley, the father of our subject, was born in 1800. In his native county, Nathan T. Haley, grew to manhood, and there mar-

ried Harriet Holton, also a native of Windham county, Vermont. He was by occupation a farmer and upon his farm in that county reared his family and spent his entire life, dying in 1867. His wife survived him a number of years, dying about 1885.

George S. Haley spent his boyhood upon his father's farm, and until the age of sixteen attended the public schools as the opportunity was afforded him, usually three months during the winter, in the meantime working on the farm. He then went to Greenfield, Massachusetts, to learn the cutter's trade, serving an apprenticeship of six years, and then worked as a journeyman, from 1845 to 1854. With that laudable desire to better himself, he came west, locating at Geneva, Illinois, and there went to work as a machinist. For ten years he was thus employed, and in 1864, came to Batavia and entered the machine shop, and has since been a resident of the city. For twenty-five years he was foreman in the foundry of the United States Wind and Pump Company, and was one its oldest employees.

In 1847, at Brattleboro, Vermont, Mr. Haley was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Nash, a daughter of Lewis Nash, by whom he has nine children, as follows: Charles H., a foreman for the Challenge Engine and Feed Mill Company, who is married and has a family; Rev. Fred H., married and now resides in Kansas City; Edward, married, and is a machinist, residing in Batavia; Clarence H., married, and is also a machinist, residing in Batavia; Hattie M., wife of Merritt McMaster, a blacksmith of Batavia; Dexter Garrett, a cabinet maker, who is married and resides in Batavia; and Frank E., at home. Two died in early childhood.

Politically Mr. Haley was a Republican



for years, and cast his vote for John C. Fremont, the presidential candidate of that party. He was originally a Whig and cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor. Of late he has been identified with the Democratic party. By his fellow citizens, he has been honored with several positions of honor and trust. He served as village trustee and one term as president of the board. He is now police magistrate, which position he has held for twelve years, with credit to himself and constituents. In political affairs he has always manifested great interest, and has often served as a delegate to the various conventions of his party. Fraternally he is a member of the Masons and has served in every position in the blue lodge except Master, and in some of the offices of the Chapter.

In July, 1894, Mrs. Lucinda Haley departed this life, and on the 24th of November, 1897, Mr. Haley married Mrs. Caroline Patterson, *née* Carter, of Chicago, but a native of Ohio. She is a member of the Episcopal church, in which she takes a commendable interest. A resident of Kane county for forty-four years, Mr. Haley is well known as a man of exemplary habits, true to his friends and one who is willing to do his duty in all things.

---

**T**HOMAS F. RICH, a veteran of the war for the union, and for many years a substantial farmer in Kane county, is now living a retired life in the village of Hampshire. He was born in the town of Benson, Rutland county, Vermont, where he attended country schools until the age of twelve years. In 1836 the family came west, leaving Whitehall, Vermont, May 16, going by canal to Buffalo, New York, and

thence by lake to Chicago. On account of severe storms, they were required to lay by for three days at Manitou Islands. Arriving at Chicago, they at once went to Naperville, Illinois, where they resided until the following October, when they moved to Deerfield precinct, now Rutland township, Kane county, where the father took up three hundred acres in the southwest corner of the township.

Elijah Rich, the father, was one of the first settlers of Rutland township. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, June 10, 1795, and with his parents removed to the town of Benson, Rutland county, Vermont, in 1810. His father, Elijah Rich, Sr., was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. Elijah Rich married Tryphosa Fowler, a native of Vermont and a daughter of Thomas and Betsy Fowler. By this union there were four children, of whom our subject was second in order of birth. In 1835 the father came west, riding all the way from his Vermont home to Kane county, Illinois, on horseback. Being favorably impressed with the country he returned home and, as already stated, brought out his family in 1836. Here his last days were spent, and he died full of years, while honored and respected by all.

The subject of this sketch remained at home until nineteen years of age, when he ran away and lived with the Indians for a time. He then went to Chicago, where he worked one year, going from thence to Galena, Illinois, where for three years he found employment in the lead mines. Attracted by the glitter of a traveling circus, he joined it, and remained with it for six months. The life was a hard one and he was well pleased to break his connection with it. For two summers he was on the Mississippi





THOMAS F. RICH.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

river, running on the steamer, Amaranth, plying between St. Peters, Minnesota, and St. Louis. The greater part of the time, however, the boat ran no farther north than Galena.

Having enough of a roving life, he returned to Kane county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres in section 20, Rutland township, which had been partially improved, having on it a log house and log stable. He at once went to work and in due time had one of the most productive farms in the township, and all improvements were in keeping with the time. He there remained until 1891, when he sold the place and removed to the village of Hampshire, where he owns a good dwelling and also a store building on Main street. Mr. Rich has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Priscilla Noakes, who was born April 14, 1823, on the ocean, while her parents were emigrating to America from England. She was a daughter of Thomas and Mary Noakes. This wedding ceremony was celebrated in Rutland township in 1850, and by this union were four children as follows: Albert, who lives in Dundee; Anise, who married Henry Stevens, and now lives at Molino, Florida; Mary, who died at the age of four years; and Alan-son, who lives in Nebraska. Mrs. Priscilla Rich dying December 3, 1876, Mr. Rich was again married, March 3, 1880, his second union being with Miss Mary Welsh, born in Lewisburg, Virginia, and a daughter of William and Catherine (Schaver) Welsh. By this second union, one daughter was born, Ada, who resides at home.

When the South rebelled, and endeavored by force of arms to dismember the union, Mr. Rich showed his patriotism by enlisting in the Eighth Illinois Calvary,

serving from September 18, 1861, until September, 1864, when he was honorably discharged. He was in the first battle of Bull Run, was at Seven Pines, Whitehouse Landing, Mechanicsville, and in all sixty regular battles. His interest in war matters has been maintained and he is now a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, while his wife is a member of the Relief Corps. In politics he is a Republican.

CYRUS H. WOODRUFF is one of the old and honored citizens of Elgin, his home being at No. 306 Chicago street. A native of Massachusetts, he was born February 15, 1819, in the town of West Stockbridge, Berkshire county, and is a son of Henry and Belinda (Benedict) Woodruff, also natives of that state. His paternal grandfather, Asaph Woodruff, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, serving under Captain Reddington, of Richmond, and Colonel Williams and Benedict Arnold. In November, 1775, he went with his regiment to Canada, under command of General Montgomery, and after the capture of St. Johns and Montcalm, they joined Arnold's forces at Quebec. The siege at that place lasted until December 31, during which Montgomery was killed. The troops then fell back, spending a miserable winter in fortifications of snow, where they were without food for three days, and at any time the soldiers could be tracked by bloody footprints. Mr. Woodruff re-enlisted July 17, 1777, but the same month was discharged and transferred to another company. He never received a pension, as when the army was finally discharged and paid off, he and some of his comrades were taking home some sick soldiers. He died in 1833, at

about the age of ninety years, and his last wife, Ruth (Stone) Woodruff, died a few years later at a ripe old age.

Henry Woodruff, our subject's father, was born in 1794, and was a soldier of the war of 1812, being a member of an artillery company stationed at Boston. He died before pensions were issued for that war. He was a practical surveyor, and also engaged in farming and the manufacture of lime and brick. One night while sawing marble in a mill, he became entangled in the gearing about nine p. m., and being all alone he was unable to make any one hear his cries for help, no one coming to his relief until about six o'clock the next morning. After twenty-four hours of terrible suffering, he passed away, in 1826. He was one of a large family of children, of whom Gilbert Woodruff is still living at the age of eighty-eight years, being the oldest man in the section of North Carolina where he makes his home. For the past twenty years he has been the only survivor of the family. The mother of our subject, who was a daughter of John and Betsy Benedict, died in 1832, in the faith of the Presbyterian Church, of which she was a consistent member. Cyrus H. is the oldest of the four children and is the only one now living. John B., an attorney, died at the age of twenty-six years; Harriet B. died in 1831, at the age of eleven; and Lewis T. died at the age of twenty-three. All were residents of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. John B. was a graduate of Union College, New York.

Mr. Woodruff, of this review, began his education in the schools of West Stockbridge, and later attended an academy at Canaan, New York. He was reared on a farm, and before attaining his majority he

engaged in teaching for three winters. He then embarked in the hardware business in Stockbridge, meeting with fair success in this undertaking. A few years later he became a partner in a blast furnace at West Stockbridge, with which he was connected until coming west in 1856. In partnership with another gentleman, he engaged in the hardware business in Lena, Illinois, until 1862, when he removed to Dundee, Kane county, organizing the Illinois Iron & Bolt Company, of which he was secretary and treasurer for three years. Since 1868 he has made his home in Elgin, where he was engaged in the foundry business for six years, being forced to retire at the end of that time on account of rheumatism. Since then he has engaged in no active business.

On the 19th of March, 1840, Mr. Woodruff was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Sprague, of Austerlitz, New York, a daughter of Heman and Anna Sprague. Of their five children, Mary Ann died at the age of nine years, Harriet B., at the age of five years, and Emma Isabel, at the age of ten months. Ida Louise is the wife of W. Eugene Bosworth, a merchant of Elgin, and they have five children—Cyrus I., who graduates from Yale College with the class of 1898; Charles E., who died in 1885, at the age of nine years; Ralph Roy, Ethel M. and Walter Henry. Charles Henry, the youngest child of our subject, married Marian Eaton and has two children—Wilda E. and Rosella.

Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, their son, daughter and son-in-law are all members of the Baptist church, in which the last named is serving as deacon. Since attaining his majority in 1840, Mr. Woodruff has been identified with the Democratic party, and since 1856 he has affiliated with the Mason-



ic order. While a resident of Massachusetts, he took quite an active and prominent part in political affairs, and in 1849 and 1853 was elected to the state legislature, serving for two terms with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. Among his colleagues were several noted men, including George S. Boutwell, Gen. N. P. Banks, Benjamin Butler, Amasa Walker and H. L. Dawes. After coming west his business interests occupied his entire attention, leaving no time to devote to political affairs. He never acts except from honest motives and in all his varied relations in business affairs and in social life, he has 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.

**J**OHAN McKELLAR, who resides on a farm on section 20, Plato township, was born at Plato Corners January 11, 1857. His grandfather, Archibald McKellar, was a native of Argyleshire, Scotland, born January 12, 1777, and there died February 25, 1864, at the age of eighty-six years. He was by occupation a farmer and fisherman, and married Mary McGregor, a descendant of Rob Roy, the Scottish chieftain.

Daniel McKellar, the father of our subject, was born in a fishing boat in Argyleshire, forty miles from Glasgow, June 12, 1813, and died March 16, 1889. He lived on the farm and followed fishing with his father. Their old stone house on the Clyde is yet visible from passing boats. When a young man he and his brother Duncan opened a store on one of the islands, and there secured a good trade. His brother had served with the Scotch Greys in the

British army. During a short visit to his home on the mainland his brother died, and the widow in a very short time disposed of everything and sailed for America.

In 1836 Daniel McKellar, in company with his cousin, Colin McKellar, came to America, sailing from Greenock, Scotland. He lived ten years at Dryden Corners, Tompkins county, New York, where he rented land and engaged in farming. In 1837 his parents also came to this country, and later his brother, Hugh McKellar, came. In 1846 the family came to Kane county, Illinois, lived one year in Elgin township, and then Daniel and his father bought one hundred and sixty acres of land west of Plato Corners, to which he subsequently added twenty-five acres more. Daniel McKellar lived at Plato Corners from 1853 until his death in 1889.

On the 4th of July, 1850, Daniel McKellar married Miss Emily Sovereign, born at Simcoe, Canada, August 3, 1827. She lived at Simcoe and in New York state until she came west, in October, 1845. She is the daughter of Richard Sovereign, a native of New Jersey, who died about 1866, at the age of seventy-three years. He was a carpenter and builder by trade, but purchased eighty acres in Plato township, and there engaged in farming. His father, Henry Sovereign, also a native of New Jersey, died at Ludlow, New York. Richard Sovereign married Elizabeth Plummer, daughter of George and Hannah (Murtrie) Plummer. To Daniel and Emily McKellar eleven children were born, as follows: Richard, who died at the age of twelve years; Jennie, wife of John Sherwood; Archibald, who died at the age of thirty-seven; John, our subject; Mary, who married Thomas Dadswell; Anabelle, who married Robert Shedden; Ruby,

wife of Arthur Durrant; Richard married Lydia Wright, and lives in Elgin; Daniel, who died at the age of fifteen months; James Gregor lives at home with his mother; and Benjamin, who died in infancy.

John McKellar, our subject, remained at home with his father until his marriage, when he began farming for himself. He was married in Plato township February 12, 1884, to Miss Minnie Sherwood, a daughter of Seth Sherwood, a native of New York, who came west in 1846 with his father's family. Seth Sherwood was the son of John and Sarah (Pease) Sherwood, the former a native of Virginia, who lived some years in New York, served in the war of 1812, and later emigrated to Kane county, where he died at the age of seventy-four years. Of the eight children born to Seth Sherwood and wife, Mrs. McKellar is the youngest.

Mr. McKellar owns a fine farm of one hundred and forty acres, while Mrs. McKellar is the owner of one hundred and sixty acres in several tracts, but all lying in Plato township. Mr. McKellar devotes his time to general farming, making a specialty of raising and fattening cattle for the market. In politics he is an uncompromising Republican, taking great interest in political affairs, and has served as a member of the county executive committee of his party. He has been honored by his friends and neighbors with a number of local township offices.

---

CHARLES W. SUHR, who is operating a fine farm on section 7, Hampshire township, was born in Belvidere, Illinois, November 26, 1867. His father, Joseph C. Suhr, was born in the village of Lang-

felden, Pomerania, Germany, August 30, 1837, and was the son of Joseph Suhr, also a native of the same country. The father was reared to farm life, and received a good education in his native land. In 1867 he sailed from Hamburg on the sailing vessel *Liverance*, and after a voyage of seven weeks and three days landed at New York, November 12, 1867. From there he came direct to Belvidere, Illinois, where he lived for nine years, working at odd jobs, but the greater part of the time on farms. In 1876 he came to Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois, rented a farm, and in eight years saved enough to make his first purchase of land, which is comprised in the farm now occupied by our subject. He was married in Pensingen, Pomerania, in October, 1866, to Lena Grawe, born in Sophienhove, Pomerania, November 1, 1840, and the daughter of Johakeim and Lena Grawe. Johakeim Grawe was the son of John Grawe, and all passed their days in Pomerania. By this union were four children, as follows: Carrie, who married Charles Terwillinger, of Hampshire township, and now resides in California; William, a plasterer by trade, living in Chicago; Charles W., our subject; and Bertha, wife of Robert Leitner, a prosperous business man of Elgin. Religiously Joseph C. Suhr was a member of the Lutheran church, and fraternally a member of the Odd Fellows. His death occurred August 23, 1894, on his farm on section 7, Hampshire township.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the district schools, beginning in Belvidere and ending in Hampshire township. He attended school during the winter season until eighteen years of age. He remained at home assisting his father until the latter's death, when he took charge of

the farm for his mother, and in 1896 rented the place. In 1896 he married Miss Carrie Leitner, a sister of Robert Leitner, and a daughter of John George Leitner, a successful farmer residing in Hampshire township, but who was born in Katolzburg, Bavaria, March 15, 1834, and who learned the trade of a weaver from his father, who lived on a small farm. Mr. Leitner came to America in June, 1852, sailing from Bremen on the Swedish sailing vessel Richard Anderson, which had three hundred and ten passengers and were fifty-four days in making the voyage. Landing at New York, Mr. Leitner there worked some two years, then came west to Kane county, Illinois, and worked for thirteen dollars a month at farm labor for several years. He bought his first eighty acres of land in 1861, to which he has since added sixty acres, making one hundred and forty acres in all. His father, Leonard Leitner, was a weaver by trade, and died in Germany at the age of seventy-seven years. His mother, Sophia (Rupp) Leitner, also died in Germany; which was her native country. John G. Leitner married Sophia Wiedmeyer, born in Marck, Groningen, Germany, September 20, 1842, and they at once came to America. They were the parents of fifteen children, of whom Caroline, wife of our subject, is eighth in order of birth. To our subject and wife one son has been born, Edwin.

The farm on which our subject resides consists of one hundred and seventy acres of fine prairie land, large dwelling house and barns, built by his father. Here he carries on general and dairy farming; usually milking about twenty-five head of cows, the products of which he ships to Chicago. In politics Mr. Suhr is an independent Democrat, and religiously he and his wife are

members of the Evangelical church. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, and Court of Honor. He is a progressive young farmer, genial and popular with all his acquaintances.

---

CAPTAIN JOHN F. ELLIOTT, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who has for over forty years been prominently identified with the interests of St. Charles, was born September 9, 1834, near Meadville, Crawford county, Pennsylvania. His father, Thomas Elliott, was a native of Ireland, born in 1811, and when a lad of fourteen years accompanied his brother on his emigration to the new world, first locating in the city of New York, where he was mostly educated. For some years he engaged in merchandising there and for two years he was interested in a manufacturing enterprise in Buffalo, New York. Subsequently he bought a farm in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, which he operated for some years, and then removed to Erie county, New York, residing there until 1852, when he came to Illinois, spending the last years of his life in St. Charles, an honored and highly respected citizen.

In New York city, Thomas Elliott wedded Mary Farrell, who died in March, 1893, having survived him several years, his death having occurred in 1881. While living in Crawford county, Pennsylvania, he had served as deputy sheriff for some time. In the family of this worthy couple were five sons and two daughters who reached years of maturity. Mary A., the eldest, died in childhood; John F. is next in order of birth; Charles is engaged in business in Chicago; George C. is a farmer residing at



Seattle, Washington; Theressa and James K. both died unmarried; Henry C. married and settled at Blue Island, Cook county, Illinois, but died at St. Charles, and Lucy died at the age of seventeen years.

John F. Elliott spent his boyhood and youth in Pennsylvania and New York, and received very limited school privileges, being almost wholly self-educated. On the fifth of December, 1855, he became a resident of St. Charles, and having previously learned the mason's trade, he worked at that occupation in both Aurora and Chicago for about twenty years, being employed on many of the early buildings and bridges in this section of the state.

Feeling that his country needed his services during the dark days of the Rebellion, Mr. Elliott enlisted August 12, 1861, in Company K, Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry—the Fox River Regiment—which was raised at Wayne, Illinois, and he was soon afterward appointed first sergeant, serving as such fourteen months. For faithful service on the field and on the march after the battle of Corinth, he was promoted first lieutenant, and was subsequently commissioned captain. He participated in the engagement at Pea Ridge, Arkansas, the siege of Corinth, and the battles of Perryville, Kentucky, and Stone River, Tennessee. At the last named he was taken prisoner with forty-two others of his regiment, including seven officers, and was sent to Atlanta, where the officers were confined until February 26, 1863, when they were ordered to march to Libby prison, Richmond. While en route Mr. Elliott made his escape from the train at Conyers, Georgia, and after traveling a distance of five hundred miles through the rebel country, reached the Union lines, joining the troops

at Corinth, Mississippi, March 26, 1863. Later he rejoined his own regiment at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. On the 18th of May following, through the kindness of General Phil Sheridan, he was detailed for recruiting service in Illinois, and returned to Springfield, where he received his orders. He then opened a recruiting office in St. Charles, but was afterward ordered to report at Springfield, and in September, 1863, was placed in charge of Camp Yates, where he remained from the 14th of that month until March 28, 1864, during which time nineteen thousand, eight hundred recruits were received and transferred to their regiments. He had received only one order for correction from the auditing department at Washington. After making his final report, he was placed in charge of the camp of veteran corps, remaining there until he resigned the commission, on June 4, 1864.

For a few years after his return home, Captain Elliott worked at his trade in Chicago and Kane county. At St. Charles he was married September 6, 1860, to Miss Sarah Clark, a native of Birmingham, England, who came to the United States when a child of eight years, and was reared and educated in St. Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have three sons living, namely: Charles E., now a carpenter and joiner of San Francisco, California; Ulysses S., also a carpenter and joiner, who is married and resides in St. Charles; and John J., at home with his parents. They have also lost three children: May and Nellie, who both died at the age of fourteen months; and Nettie, who was a successful teacher in St. Charles, and died in early womanhood.

The parents are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mr. Elliott is now a trustee, and has been



a member of the official board for some years. He is a prominent member of the Elon J. Farnsworth post, No. 456, G. A. R., was its first commander and served in that capacity two or three terms. He is now officer of the day. Politically he is a life-long Republican, casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856, and four years later supported Abraham Lincoln. He has always taken an active and prominent part in local affairs, was alderman of St. Charles for ten years, and for the long period of twenty-one years was a most efficient and faithful member of the school board. In 1876 he was elected justice of the peace, and with the exception of two years has since served in that capacity, being at the present time the oldest justice of the peace in point of service in Kane county. He is also filling the office of police magistrate, and is recognized as one of the most valued and useful citizens of St. Charles. He is a man of sterling worth in all the relations of life, and his name is honorably and inseparably connected with the history of his adopted city.

---

CHARLES A. STONE is a representative one of the earliest pioneers of Kane county. His father, Isaac Stone, was born in Orford, Grafton county, New Hampshire, January 1, 1811, where he lived until attaining his majority. In 1833, he moved to White Pigeon, Michigan, and in the spring of 1834, came to Kane county, when there was but one house in Elgin, that of James T. Gifford, and it was not finished. He hewed and hauled logs to build the first log house on the west side for Jonathan Kimball, which served as residence, hotel and justice's office. In that

house Mr. Stone and Mr. Kimball kept "bach" until the arrival of Mrs. Phinneas Kimball. In the summer of 1835, Mr. Stone made claim to two hundred and forty-six acres which now comprises the farm of our subject. He married Abigail Knapp, born at Homer, New York, about 1820. She is the daughter of James Knapp, of Homer, New York, who died when about eighty years of age. He married Abigail May, born in Hartford, Connecticut, and daughter of Eleazer May. She died at the age of fifty-two years. The grandfather of Mrs. Isaac Stone fought through the Revolutionary war, and while on the way home was killed by the Indians within sight of his house. Isaac and Abigail Stone had four children, two of whom are living—Elvena, now Mrs. S. W. Chapman and Charles A., our subject. The mother is yet living and makes her home with Mr. Chapman in Elgin.

Charles A. Stone, our subject, was born on the farm where he now resides, April 4, 1856. He attended the public schools of Elgin township, and completed his education in the Elgin Academy. He remained at home, assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm until the latter's death, which occurred January 14, 1881, since which time he has been in charge of the place. For years he has made a specialty of stock raising, principally horses, and has charge of many driving horses through the winter, caring for them until spring. The farm is well-improved and in front of his residence is a fine lawn shaded by oak trees of unusual size.

Mr. Stone was married in Clinton, Iowa, December 28, 1880, to Miss Emma E. Fletcher, born in Plato township, and daughter of Lewis and Lydia (Grist) Fletcher, the former a native of England

and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were the parents of three children—Emma E., now Mrs. Stone; Albert and Henry, who reside in Elgin. To Mr. and Mrs. Stone five children have been born: Fred, born October 22, 1881; Leon, December 19, 1882; Ray, August 18, 1883; Isla, November 20, 1888; and Vernetta, November 25, 1890.

In politics Mr. Stone is a Democrat and a firm believer in free silver. The only office that he has held has been that of school director. As a farmer he ranks among the best in Elgin township, and as a citizen he is held in the highest esteem.

ASA ROSENCRANS, deceased, was one of the representative and honored pioneers of Kane county, with whose early development and prosperity he and his family were prominently identified. The family is of Danish extraction, being founded in this country by two brothers who came from Amsterdam, and the name was formerly spelled Rosenkrans. Representatives of the family have figured largely in American history, one of whom was General Rosencrans, of the Civil war.

Col. John Rosencrans, our subject's grandfather, was a famous Indian fighter, and commanded a regiment during the French and Indian war from 1755 until 1762. In 1777 he was made a colonel in the war of the Revolution. Filled with the spirit of adventure, he did much toward opening up new country to civilization. He was born in 1724 and was married in 1751 to Miss Margaret De Witt. Their second oldest child, John Rosencrans, was a native of New Jersey, and was a farmer by occupation. The first of the family, who also

bore the name of John, died in infancy. These were followed by Jacob; Arrantie, who died in infancy; Arrantie, married Abraham Van Coopen; Alexander, born in 1759, married Mary Mortman; Catherine, born in 1761, who first married a Mr. Woodard, and, after his death, wedded John Pelton; Charrick De Witt, born in 1764, who married Sarah Pelton; Dr. Elijah, born in 1766, who married Cornelia Suffern; Levi, born in 1770, who married Polly Hankinson; Benjamin, who was a twin brother of Levi, and married Margaret Schoonover; Simon, who died in infancy; Dr. Simon, who married Sarah Schoonover; and Polly, who was born in 1777 and died unmarried.

Of this family John Rosencrans was the father of our subject. He married Elizabeth Van Nest, and they made their home upon a farm in New Jersey, which was afterward purchased by their son Asa, with whom they lived until called to their final rest. In order of birth their children were as follows: Isaac, Asa, Elijah, Dr. Charrick; Lucy, who married John Dennis, and during her widowhood came from New York to Elgin, Illinois, where she died during the '50s; Catherine, who died unmarried, in 1827; and Garret, a farmer by occupation, who removed from New Jersey to Wisconsin, where his death occurred. All are now deceased.

Asa Rosencrans was born in Sussex county, New Jersey, in 1785, and on reaching manhood he married Miss Jane Cole, also a native of that county, born December 1, 1789, where their children were all born excepting the youngest—Mrs. J. R. Hawes—whose birth occurred in New York. On leaving his native state, Mr. Rosencrans removed to Steuben county, New York, and



GARRETT ROSENCRANS.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



in the autumn of 1836 sent his two oldest sons, Horace and Frazier, to Illinois to purchase a farm. They were very fortunate in their selection of land, choosing a tract about two and one-half miles from the present public square in Elgin. The following year the family located here, and with the interests of Kane county some of its members have since been identified. In this state Mr. Rosencrans followed farming, but in New Jersey he had worked at the carpenter trade. He was very handy with tools, did considerable cabinet work, and some of the bureaus and other articles of furniture which he manufactured are still in possession of the family, prized as precious heirlooms. He died October 30, 1884, and his wife passed away January 18, 1877. For thirty years her health was very poor, but her mind was very active, and she was very devoted to her family. She and her husband were among the first members of the Congregational church of Elgin, always took an active and prominent part in its work, and will long be remembered for their countless acts of kindness and hospitality, so characteristic of the pioneer settlers. She was a woman of deep piety and great strength of character.

In the family of this worthy couple were the following named children: (1) Horace, born in New Jersey November 15, 1810, married Maria Ingersol, and had nine children, of whom four died in infancy. The others are Horace Edgar, a resident of Marengo, Illinois; Louisa, wife of D. Henderson, a carpenter; Mrs. Sarah Ann Eggleston, of Iowa; and Mrs. Deborah Woodward. The father of these children died in 1893, aged eighty-three years. (2) Frazier, born in 1813, came with his brother Horace to Illinois in 1836. Two years later, with

his brothers, he was bathing in the Fox river above where the shoe factory is now located, and one of the younger brothers went beyond his depth. Being unable to swim, Frazier went to his assistance and succeeded in rescuing him, but was himself taken with a cramp and sank to rise no more. His untimely death, by such a heroic deed, cast a pall of gloom not only over the happy family, but over the entire neighborhood, for he was a great favorite among the early settlers, and made friends of all with whom he came in contact. (3) Maria, who was born December 26, 1815, died in the early '50s. She first married James H. Scott, and after his death wedded Jerome B. Smith, by whom she had three children—Helen, Arthur and Alfred—all now deceased. By her first marriage she also had three children—Harriet, Fannie and John Frazier Scott. The last named is the only one now living, his home being in Pittsfield, Illinois. He married Mary Pike and has three children: John, an attorney of Chicago; Daniel, a dentist of that city; and Fannie E., who now makes her home with Mrs. Hawes in Elgin. (4) Dr. Halsey Rosencrans was educated for the medical profession in Chicago under Dr. Brainard, first practiced in Lake Zurich, Wisconsin, for a short time, and then went to Port Lavaca, Texas. His first wife was Anna Eliza Hale, daughter of Dr. Hale, of Dundee. By this union there were three children: Fannie, Lizzie and Cora. For his second wife he married Miss Cynthia E. Bowen September 11, 1873. (5) Garrett, mentioned below. (6) Elizabeth, born in December, 1823, was her mother's constant companion for many years. She died in 1892. (7) Catherine, born November 19, 1826, died at the age of twenty-one years. (8) Hiram, born April 29, 1828, is living

near Mount Carmel in Southern Utah. (9) Jennie, widow of Moses W. Hawes.

Garrett Rosencrans, fifth in order of birth, was born in New Jersey April 1, 1821, where his boyhood was passed. In the primitive schools of that period he received his elementary education, and at the age of sixteen accompanied his parents on their removal to Illinois, where they settled in Kane county. Here he assisted in the work of the farm until his removal to Elgin. Politically an ardent Republican, he could never be prevailed upon to accept office, with the exception of that of assessor, which he filled with credit for many years. He was also engaged in surveying. He died in Elgin September 10, 1891. Garrett Rosencrans was one of the well known citizens of Elgin, and was actively identified with every enterprise calculated to develop and foster the growth of his adopted city. By his upright and honorable career he won the respect of all.

**WILLIAM W. SHERWIN.**—There are few men in Elgin in the past quarter of a century who have done more for its commercial interests and its growth and development than the man whose name heads this review. Without vain display he has moved on the even tenor of his way, and yet left his mark on almost everything that has served to make the city of his adoption take front rank among its sister cities of northern Illinois.

Albert Sherwin, father of our subject, who is now a leading business man of Leadville, Colorado, is a native of Vermont, born February 23, 1828, and is a son of Timothy Sherwin, also a native of Vermont. He married Louise Davis, born in Vermont, and

a daughter of John and Susan (Billings) Davis, both of the same state. By this union were four children, as follows: William W. and Carrie, twins, the latter dying in childhood; Albert E., who is with his father in Leadville, and Susan B., also at Leadville.

In 1852 Albert Sherwin came west, first locating in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was engaged in railroad building. From there he moved to Madison, in the same state, where he lived several years. Mrs. Sherwin departed this life in 1865, and he later married Miss Frances M. Lang, by whom he had one son, Fred L., now with his parents in Leadville. In 1868, Mr. Sherwin came with his family to Elgin, and engaged in the manufacture of butter and cheese, which business he carried on for ten years, when he sold out and transferred his business operations to Leadville, Colorado, where he has devoted his energies to mining, smelting and banking, in which he has been successful. He is a man of fine character and sound business principles. In politics he is a Republican.

The subject of this sketch spent a part of his boyhood days in Madison, Wisconsin, and was about thirteen years of age when his parents settled in Elgin. After attending the district schools for a short time he was sent to the Academy. In 1871 he entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, but did not complete the course of study. In 1875, when in the senior class, he gave up his studies and returned home to enter upon a business career.

Forming a partnership with D. E. Wood in 1880, under the firm name of Wood & Sherwin, he commenced the manufacture of butter and cheese. This continued until 1890, when he purchased his partner's in-

terest, and has since conducted the business alone. In 1887 he was one of the organizers of the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company, of which he has since been secretary, and also one of its directors.

Mr. Sherwin is a member of the Board of Trade of Elgin, and has been its treasurer for a number of years. In 1887 he organized the Elgin Milking Company, which is also incorporated, and of which he is president. This product will in due time add to the reputation of Elgin, and will be one of the most popular articles for the table. Aside from all these interests, he is the holder of considerable realty in his adopted city.

On the 28th of April, 1880, Mr. Sherwin was united in marriage with Miss Carrie M. Town, who was born in Elgin, a daughter of Morris Clinton Town, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. They reside in a beautiful home, No. 80 South State street, Elgin, the abode of hospitality. Politically, Mr. Sherwin is a Republican. Fraternally he is a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of Monitor lodge, No. 522, F. & A. M.; Loyal L. Munn chapter, No. 96, R. A. M.; Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T., all of Elgin, and the Consistory of Chicago. Socially he takes an active interest in, and is a member of, the Century Club of Elgin, the Lake Side Park Club, of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; the Chicago Athletic Club and the University Club of Chicago. With his wife he attends the Congregational Church of Elgin.

---

**THERON J. POTTER**, of Aurora, Illinois, is a native of the great Empire state, which has sent many of its best citizens to Illinois, and who have done their

full share in making it occupy its present proud position as the third state of the Union. The family are of English descent, some of the ancestors of our subject locating in New England at a very early day, the grandfather, Silas Potter, moving to Dutchess county, where his son, James Potter, was born in 1798. In his native county James Potter married Margaret Thorne, also a native of that county. By occupation he was a farmer, in which he continued during his entire life. In 1853 he came to Illinois, settled first in Kane county, where he resided a few years and then moved to DeKalb county, where he spent the last years of his life, dying in 1862. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in 1880. They were the parents of five sons and one daughter, who grew to mature years. The oldest, Silas, married, moved west, spent his last years in Aurora, living a retired life, and where his death occurred; Fannie, who is the widow of Lucian Burr, resides in DeKalb county; William first settled in Kane county and later moved to DeKalb county, where his death occurred; Theron J., of this review; Isaac, a business man of Waterman, Illinois; and Seneca, who is living retired in DeKalb, Illinois.

Theron J. Potter was born in Dutchess county, New York, April 3, 1829. Upon the home farm in his native state he grew to manhood, and as the opportunity was afforded him attended the common schools during the winter months. On attaining his majority he left the parental roof, came west and joined his brother, Silas, in Kane county. Here he was married, September 11, 1851, to Miss Ellen Graves, a daughter of D. T. Graves, a minister of the Baptist church, who was a native of Vermont, but in New York married Electa Babcock, a



daughter of Samuel Babcock, who was a colonel in the Revolutionary war. With his family Rev. Graves came west in 1838, settling in Warrensville, Du Page county, Illinois, from which place he moved to Aurora in the fall of 1845. He was an earnest and active minister of the Gospel, and continued in the ministry until his death in 1851. His wife survived him many years, passing away in 1893, at the age of eighty-six years. They were laid to rest in the West side cemetery. Mrs. Potter is one of their family of four daughters. Iwanona J., widow of Richard Breese, resides in Aurora; Ellen, wife of our subject; Mrs. Eliza Freeman, a widow, of Aurora; and Emma, wife of Theodore Howard, of Aurora.

On coming to Aurora, Rev. Graves purchased a farm of one hundred acres lying near the city. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Potter began their domestic life on that farm, where they resided some three or four years. They then moved to De Kalb county, where Mr. Potter purchased a farm which he operated two years, when he sold out and returned to the old Graves homestead, having purchased the interests of the heirs. He at once began its improvement, and in due time built a large, neat residence, barn and other out-buildings, making of it one of the most desirable farms in the township. He continued to work the farm until 1883, when he removed to Aurora, but soon after purchased a farm lying partly in Kendall county, and partly in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, which he operated some three or four years. In 1889 he purchased residence property in Aurora, and has since been living a retired life. Mr. and Mrs. Potter have reared three children, of whom Fannie is the wife of Lewis Paull, a

stockdealer of Aurora; Arthur J., married and in business in Aurora; and Minnie E., wife of Arthur Winteringham, representing the Covenant Mutual Insurance Company, of Galesburg, Illinois.

In his political views, Mr. Potter is a staunch advocate of the principles of the Republican party. Voting first for John C. Fremont in 1856, he has continued to vote for the nominees of that party from that time to the present. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the New England Congregational church of Aurora. For forty-eight years he has resided in Kane and DeKalb counties, while his wife has been a resident sixty years. In the development of Kane county he has borne his part well, and no family in Kane county is held in higher esteem. Honest and upright in character, he has made many friends throughout Kane and De Kalb counties.

---

SAMUEL J. GIFT, a farmer residing on section 15, Hampshire township, traces his ancestry back to Colonial times, his grandfather, Jeremiah Gift, who was of German parentage, being born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, where he died at a ripe old age. His son, Daniel Gift, the father of our subject, was born in Union county, now Snyder county, Pennsylvania, July 18, 1811, and there died June 6, 1879. He married Sophia Hassinger, who died at the age of sixty years. She was the daughter of Jacob Hassinger, who was also of German descent. To Daniel and Sophia Gift, ten children were born, eight of whom are yet living. In order of birth they were—Samuel J., our subject; Mary, who married Simon Wetzell, and lives in Kansas; Roswell, who served in the war for the union,



and who died in Ohio after its close; Margaret, wife of George Dibler, a retired farmer of Hampshire; Barbara, who married Philip Gilman, and lives at Milton, Pennsylvania; Jonathan, who also served in the Union army, died in Kentucky during the war; Emeline married Mr. Gilman, of Shamokin, Pennsylvania; Sarah, who married Reuben Bauersox, of Paxton, Pennsylvania; Austin, who lives at Paxton, Pennsylvania; and Addie, who married Mr. Horner, of the same place.

The subject of this sketch was born near Middleburg, Union county, Pennsylvania, May 22, 1832, prior to the time that county was cut off from Snyder county. His education was obtained in the subscription schools of his native county, before the public school system was adopted. The school facilities were very poor, the terms of school being short and indifferent teachers employed. Until eighteen years of age he worked on the farm and then learned the bricklaying trade at which he continued for five years. He also learned the tanner's trade, and was also engaged at that business for about five years. In 1866 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and rented land for five years, raising a crop of tobacco. In the fall of 1862 he came to his present place, comprising one hundred and twenty acres which he rented for five years and then purchased. It is fine rolling land, well drained with one and a half miles of tiling, and has on it a good, substantial dwelling, good barns and other outbuildings. Here he has resided for thirty-six years, engaged in general dairy farming. He now keeps about twenty head of cows, the product of which he sells at the creamery in Hampshire.

Mr. Gift has been married three times,

his first wife being Catherine Aured, who was born in Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1832, and was the daughter of John Aured, who married a Miss Reams. By this union were six children, as follows: James W., who married Kate Madre, by whom he has two children, Maggie and Arthur, and they reside in Kansas; Edgar and Agnes, who died in childhood; John D., who lives in Iowa; Charles E., who is assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm; and one who died in infancy. For his second wife, Mr. Gift married Barbara Frederick, a native of Kane county, Illinois, and a daughter of Mathias Frederick. By this marriage are two children, Emma J., who married James Kemmerling, and they have one child, Hilda May; Dora A., who married Reuben Wright. The third wife of Mr. Gift was Lusetta Klick, born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of John and Katherine (Decker) Klick. Her father was the son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Decker) Klick, while her mother was a daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (Brandt) Decker. By the third marriage is one son, Edwin Henry, who is farming with his father.

Mr. Gift is a member of the United Evangelical church. In politics he is a Republican, and has served his township as school director, road commissioner and various other official positions. A good neighbor and citizen, he is respected by all who know him.

---

ALBAN L. MANN, M. D., who is successfully engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Elgin, with office in the Spurling block, was born in that city on the 22d of September, 1859, and is a

son of Michael and Margaret (O'Connor) Mann, natives of Westmeath and Queens counties, Ireland, respectively. The paternal grandfather spent his entire life in that country, where he died at the age of seventy-two years. In his family were four sons and four daughters. Michael O'Connor, the maternal grandfather, came to America in 1852 and lived for a time near Syracuse, New York. From that place he came to Elgin, where he conducted a blacksmith shop for many years. He died here in 1893 at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. He had a family of two sons and three daughters.

In 1852 the Doctor's parents also crossed the Atlantic and at once became residents of Elgin, where the father was a harness-maker for some years. During the Civil war, he served as a telegraph operator at the West Elgin depot, and subsequently followed carpentering for a number of years, but for the last ten or twelve years of his life he was engaged in commercial pursuits. By reason of his business acumen and the exercise of thrift and frugality, he accumulated considerable property, being in comfortable circumstances at the time of his death, which occurred in October, 1895, at the age of sixty-three years, resulting from an accident sustained by being thrown from a cart while breaking a colt. His widow still survives him and lives at the old homestead with her daughters. In the family are eight children, four sons and four daughters, namely: Alban L.; Blanche; Godfrey; Agnes, wife of Frank Hurlburt; John; Maggie; James and Mary.

Dr. Mann acquired his literary education in the schools of Elgin, and at the age of seventeen entered the drug store of Kel-

ley & Hart for the purpose of acquainting himself with medicine preparatory to entering a medical college. After five years in their employ he matriculated at Bennett Medical College of Chicago, where he graduated in March, 1883. For about a year he practiced his profession at Silver Reef Mining Camp, Utah, and then returned to Elgin, where he has since continuously engaged in practice.

On the 7th of January, 1887, Dr. Mann married Miss Bertha S. Kohn, a daughter of Charles and Dorothea (Andorff) Kohn. They now have two children—Alban W. and Marguerite—and the family have a pleasant home at No. 392 Chicago street.

Socially the Doctor belongs to the Masonic fraternity, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Ancient Order of United Workmen, the Royal Arcanum, and the Knights of the Maccabees, and he is also a member of the Illinois State Eclectic Medical Society, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, belonging to the last named by reason of having served for five years as surgeon, with the rank of major, in the Third Infantry, Illinois National Guard. Politically the Doctor is independent, but usually votes with the Republican party, and for three years he served as city physician.

---

PETER McKINNELL, a farmer residing near Udina, in Elgin township, was born June 26, 1825, in Kirkcinner parish, Wigtonshire, Scotland, where his early life was passed. In his native land he engaged in farming, and continued in that occupation until his emigration to America. Early in December, 1854, he sailed from

Liverpool, on "The Driver," but his vessel was wrecked on the Irish coast, where he was detained two weeks. He re-embarked at Liverpool on the vessel "Constellation" Sunday, December 31, 1854, and after a voyage of four weeks reached New York Saturday, January 27, 1855, and landed Monday, the 29th. By rail he came direct to Chicago, but owing to heavy snowstorms they were a week on the way. From Chicago he came by rail to Elgin, where he arrived February 4, five weeks from time of sailing. After a short time spent in Elgin he moved to the northeast corner of Plato township, near where McQueen's station is now located, where he lived one year. At the suggestion of a cousin in business there, he removed to Peoria and worked for him one year. He then moved to the farm of his cousin near El Paso, Woodford county, which he cultivated five years.

In the spring of 1862 Mr. McKinnell returned to Elgin, and for two and a half years worked out on farms to get money on which to again start for himself. For one year he had charge of the dairy farm of Martin McNeal, and for one year the farm of Paul B. Ring. He then rented the D. C. Schofield farm two years, and then the large farm of George Stringer, now deceased, on which he worked fifteen years. Although they had no written contract, and only a verbal agreement, during the fifteen years of his tenancy no disagreement ever arose between him and Mr. Stringer. In the spring of 1883 he purchased his present farm of eighty-six acres. This he has since continued to work, together with twenty-five acres that he leased. The farm is used for grain and dairy purposes.

Peter McKinnell is the son of James McKinnell, a native of the same parish in

which he was born, and who was a farmer who lived and died in his native land about 1862, at the age of seventy-seven years. James McKinnell married Janet Hawthorn, born in the parish of Newton Stewart, and daughter of John and Elizabeth (Cleaves) Hawthorn, of the same parish. They were the parents of eight children, of whom our subject was the second in order of birth, and the only one to come to the United States. One brother went to Tasmania, and one to Buenos Ayres, South America.

Our subject was married in the parish of Kirkcinner, April 20, 1854, to Miss Jessie McDowell, of the same parish, daughter of Charles McDowell, a farmer and large stock dealer, who died when Jessie was two years old. He married Miss Ellen Patterson, daughter of James and Janet (McHarg) Patterson. Mrs. McKinnell, who was born February 2, 1834, was sixth in a family of seven children, two of whom came to America—John McDowell, deceased; and Mary, wife of William Kirkpatrick, of East Plato.

To our subject and wife nine children have been born: Ellen Jessie, born March 26, 1855, is now the wife of Dr. William Bishop, of St. Charles; Agnes, born August 3, 1856, is the wife of William E. Marshall, of East Plato; Eliza Jane, born March 20, 1858, died November 26, 1862; Mary, born August 24, 1860, is the wife of Fred J. Marshall, of Plato township; Anna, born January 31, 1863; James, born March 18, 1866; one who died in infancy; George, born July 13, 1875; and Hattie, born February 14, 1880, died December 16, 1885.

Mr. and Mrs. McKinnell were reared in the Presbyterian faith, but are now members of the Congregational church at Udina, in which he for a time was a deacon. In



politics he is a Republican, but would never accept office, save that of school trustee, which position he filled for some years.

---

SMITH YOUNGES, an energetic and thriving farmer residing on section 33, Elgin township, was born in the village of Amsterdam, Schoharie county, New York, October 17, 1852. His father, Charles Younges, was also a native of Schoharie county, where he married Miss Magdeline Lingenfelter, a native of Amsterdam, New York. They were the parents of six children, as follows: William, living on the old homestead, near Plato; Peter, residing in Bigelow, Kansas; James, deceased; Elizabeth, wife of W. W. McDonald, of East Plato; Mary, wife of Dell McCarthy, of Watseka, Illinois; and Smith, our subject.

Charles Younges was a farmer and stock trader during his entire life. He was a hustling, energetic man, who did all it was possible for any one man to do. He came to Kane county in 1860, but did not remove his family here until 1861. He first purchased the Duncan Frazer farm in St. Charles township, but seeing a more desirable piece of land in Plato township, forfeited what had been paid on the Frazer farm and bought two hundred and ten acres near East Plato, where he spent the remainder of his life. He also bought the Sovereign farm in Plato township, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, and also the Payton farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, in Elgin township. He was politically, a Republican and served as school director many terms and also supervisor of his township. His death occurred January 3, 1867, at age of forty-eight years.

Smith Younges was eleven years of age when he came with his parents to Kane county. His education began in the common schools of Amsterdam, New York, and completed in the public schools of Kane county. At the age of nineteen he began life for himself, and worked by the month on farms for three years. He then rented one hundred acres from his mother which he cultivated three years, at the expiration of which time he rented the farm that he now owns for three years. Having been quite successful he purchased the place, which consists of two hundred acres of finely improved land. He rebuilt the dwelling house and also the barn, making the latter thirty-six by eighty feet and also built a stable twenty-six by thirty feet. When the railroad cut through his farm, he bought seventeen acres where his present residence now stands, which with that part of his former farm north of the railroad track, makes one farm, while the south part on which is the old residence, makes a good tenant farm. Two additions have since been built to his residence, and he has also erected a new horse barn thirty by thirty-four feet, wagon-house, twenty by twenty-four, cattle sheds, sixteen by twenty, and cattle barn, thirty-eight by eighty-two feet. Youngdale Station, on the Illinois Central railroad, is located on his farm, and there is also a postoffice at the station.

Mr. Younges was married in St. Charles township, December 25, 1874, to Miss Carrie Ferson, born in that township, and the daughter of Parker and Aurilia (Clark) Ferson, natives of Vermont and New York respectively. By this union four children have been born: Clyde, who is assisting his father in the handling of stock; Nellie, Maude and Libbie; Maude is attending the



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



SMITH YOUNGES.



MRS. SMITH YOUNGES.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Elgin Academy; and Libbie, who is attending the district school in Elgin.

Politically Mr. Younges is a Republican, and has served as school director. Fraternally he is a member of Elgin lodge, No. 117, A. F. & A. M. He is a good business man and is dealing very extensively in stock, buying and shipping from the west more milch cows for the home and Chicago markets than any dealer in this county. He is a good judge of stock and a careful buyer, and he is meeting with deserved success.

**J**OSEPH VOLLOR, an honored veteran of the Civil war, and one of the most highly respected citizens of Elgin, was for many years actively identified with the business interests of the city, but is now living retired at his pleasant home 169 South Channing street.

He is a native of Canada, born in Toronto, October 12, 1836, and is a son of Joseph and Ellen (Donahue) Vollor, the former a native of Portsmouth, England, and the latter of Belfast, Ireland. For about twenty years the father owned and commanded a vessel on Lake Ontario, and for several years carried passengers and the mail between Toronto and Rochester, New York. During the "McKenzie Rebellion", as he was about to leave Toronto, one of his passengers (a friend of McKenzie) was arrested and his baggage taken to the Mayor's office. Capt. Vollor followed and while addressing the mayor was requested by his honor to take off his hat; he refused, and informed the mayor that he bought the hat, paid for it, and would wear it; for that offence he was committed to jail for 24 hours. Capt. Vollor took the first vessel through the Welland Canal, also landed at Grand

Haven, Mich., the machinery for the first saw-mill erected in that section. His wife died in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1847 and he in 1851, at Batavia, Illinois.

The first ten years of his life Joseph Vollor spent in Toronto, where he attended school to a limited extent and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. After eighteen months in that city the family, father and three children, moved to Chicago and six months later to Batavia, Illinois. Upon the death of his father Joseph Vollor was taken by Spencer Johnson, a farmer, to keep until he became of age, the understanding being that he would attend school three months each winter, and when twenty-one would receive one hundred dollars and two suits of clothes. The last winter he attended school but four weeks, as he had been notified that he would have to "speak a piece" before the school on Friday afternoon. He concluded that he was not cut out for an orator, and when Friday noon came around he gathered up his books, went home and cut stove wood the balance of the winter.

In 1859 he was taken with the Pike's Peak fever, and with his hard earned savings invested in teams, provisions and outfit necessary for gold mining, full of hope and with big letters, "Pike's Peak or Bust," on his wagon cover, he started. Did not get half way before thousands were met coming back, hungry and foot sore, and he and his companion had to join the procession and return. When the outfit was disposed of he had but little left of his seven years hard earnings, and felt that he was "busted." In 1860 he worked a farm on shares, and crops being extra good he cleared about \$400, which he took with him to Chicago in September and went through a course in

Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College. He deposited his money in a bank and lost something over \$200 by failure.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Mr. Vollor was residing at Batavia and enlisted under first call for troops, but company was not accepted; enlisted twice afterwards and was finally, on the 1st day of August, 1861, mustered in as fourth corporal Company I, Forty-Second Illinois Infantry. In September the regiment proceeded to St. Louis, Missouri, and for a time was quartered in Benton Barracks, where daily drills were had, and arms were furnished. From Benton Barracks took boat for Jefferson City, where the regiment received twenty-four six-muled teams—two for each company and four for headquarters, including hospital. After receiving transportation and equipment regiment was started on a tramp for Springfield, Missouri, after rebel army, under Price. From Springfield tramped back to Smithton, which was headquarters for the regiment. Mr. Vollor's company (I) was stationed at Farmers' City, about two miles farther west, and patrolled the railroad between there and Sedalia. Col. Webb and many of the larger and apparently strongest men of the regiment died during the winter. Company I being alone, some of the members would go out nights and confiscate bee-hives, geese, chickens and other good things. In February, 1862, started on march to St. Louis, and there took boats for Cairo and crossed the river from there to Fort Holt, Kentucky. Fort Donelson prisoners had just arrived at Cairo when Forty-second reached there. In a short time were ordered to Columbus, Kentucky, and were the first infantry to enter the place.

After remaining at Columbus a short

time accompanied the gunboat fleet down the river to Island No. 10, where mortar boats amused the Johnnies for several weeks by throwing fifteen-inch shells over the island every fifteen minutes—only damage to the enemy being the breaking of one leg of a mule. The gunboats did a great deal of firing at a battery in bend of river on the Tennessee shore, but did little damage. Colonel G. W. Roberts, of the Forty-second Illinois, became restive at waste of time and ammunition, and offered to take fifty men of his regiment—if boats would be furnished him—and go down and spike the battery. Boats were furnished, and he went down on the night of April 1, 1862, during a terrible wind and rain storm, and spiked the battery—he being the first man ashore and driving the first spike. A few nights after a gunboat ran by the island, later others followed, and on April 7th the Rebels surrendered about sixty-five hundred prisoners, seven thousand small arms and one hundred pieces of artillery.

After surrender of Island No. 10, regiment proceeded to Fort Pillow, remained a short time, and then took boats for Hamburg Landing, Mississippi, to take part in siege of Corinth. During siege, engaged in battle of Farmington, where the regiment made the Johnnies a present of all knapsacks and contents. Mr. Vollor had in his quite a sized book, in which he had been keeping a record of daily experiences. Thinks if he had the book now he would keep it under lock, as there were things recorded that might not read well at the present time.

Flag of Forty-second Illinois was first to float over Corinth after the Rebels left. Followed Rebels to Rienzi and in few days returned to Camp Blue Springs near Cor-

inth. While there, were furnished with "*pup Tents*" in exchange for Sibley's; ten companies were also furnished with Austrian rifles and saber bayonets in exchange for the almost worthless Springfield muskets, received at St. Louis. From Blue Springs regiment with two pieces of artillery was ordered to Cortland, Alabama, and remained there from July 25th until September 3d, 1862, when were started on forced march for Nashville, Tennessee, and on the way took part in a skirmish with Rebel cavalry at Columbia, losing one man killed while Rebels lost eight killed and forty-five wounded. The march to Nashville was a hard one, the weather being very hot, and the broken stone roads caused many blistered feet. Mr. Vollor had, on one day, three blisters on bottom of one foot and two on other. He was the only non-commissioned officer (except the orderly) of Company I to get into camp with the colors. A sergeant was called for for picket and there being none in camp Mr. Vollor (a corporal) had to go. He considered that he was punished for keeping up on the march.

The Forty-second occupied Nashville during the race between Buell and Bragg's armies through Kentucky. Being cut off from base of supplies army rations were short, but by foraging, a good supply of sweet potatoes and sometimes fresh pork was procured. After the return of the army, then under command of Gen. Rosecrans, Col. Roberts, who was very ambitious and opposed to doing garrison duty, requested that his regiment (the Forty-second Illinois) be allowed to join the army then preparing to move on Murfreesboro. His wish was granted and he was assigned to the command of a brigade, composed of the Twenty-second, Twenty-seventh, Forty-second and

Fifty-first Illinois regiments, in Sheridan's division of the Twentieth Corps, commanded by Alex. McDowell McCook.

On December 26, 1862, the army under Rosecrans started on a winter campaign toward Murfreesboro. The rain came down in torrents all day and a bitter cold wind blew from the northeast. The condition and feelings of the men when night came can be imagined better than described. There were no tents for shelter that night, and no fires could be built to make coffee. With plenty of hot coffee the boys could endure almost any exposure—without it life was hardly worth living. Mr. Vollor says he will never forget that night. Sitting on the wet ground, at the roots of a large tree, with cape of overcoat over his head, he would doze for a short time and would awake so cold that he had to get up and walk around. That was kept up during the night. On December 30th arrived within two and a half miles of Murfreesboro and had skirmish with the enemy in which quite a number of the Forty-second were killed and wounded. Rebel cavalry had captured and destroyed a large number of wagons loaded with rations, and the morning of the 31st found the men with empty haversacks, preparing for one of the bloodiest battles of the war. A little corn meal had been secured the day before and some mush had been made by some of the Forty-second. As the men of Sheridan's Division stood under arms at 3 o'clock that winter morning and listened to the reading of orders from General Rosecrans little did they realize what they would pass through before night. The Forty-second Illinois took a conspicuous part in the battle, and while regiment was falling back to escape capture—the Rebels coming in on their flank—Mr. Vollor



was hit on foot by a spent ball, also on right elbow, his gun dropping from his hands. Although the Rebels were close on to him he stopped and picked his gun up and by doing so came near being captured. He was unable to use his arm for a week or more but kept his position with his company. Three balls passed through his clothing during the battle. His name is on Roll of Honor of Army of the Cumberland for meritorious service, was also promoted from Fourth Corporal of Company I, to quartermaster sergeant of the regiment.

During a foraging expedition near Murfreesboro, a company of Rebels attacked the foraging party, but were dispersed, some of the enemy being discovered in the woods for the purpose of picking off Union gunners. Mr. Vollor and three men went out—got in their rear and brought two of them in, and for this action received commendation. When the army moved out from Murfreesboro, the objective point being Chattanooga, Mr. Vollor, as quartermaster-sergeant, was in charge of his regimental train. The crossing of Raccoon and Lookout mountains was difficult and dangerous. While ascending Lookout, after dark, a six-mule team, a short distance ahead of Mr. Vollor's wagon—became frightened at some object and unmanageable and went off the side of the mountain, which was very steep. Mules were killed and kindling wood made of wagon. After reaching top of mountain Mr. Vollor discovered a sutler's wagon a few wagons ahead of his, and during the darkness he succeeded in *borrowing* a number of boxes of sardines, cans of fruit and other eatables. On 19th and 20th of September, occurred battle of Chickamauga, where Forty-second Illinois lost in killed, twenty-eight; wounded, one hundred and

twenty-eight; prisoners, thirty-six, out of a total of less than four hundred and fifty. The greater part of loss occurred inside of thirty minutes. After Chickamauga the Army of the Cumberland was shut up around Chattanooga—on short rations—and in danger of starvation. Ten thousand horses and mules starved to death, and according to General Grant's report there were not horses enough in the Army of the Cumberland to haul a single piece of artillery. General Grant telegraphed Thomas: "Hold Chattanooga at all hazards." He replied, "We will hold it till we starve." Mr. Vollor says he felt as if a person standing in front of him could see his backbone. He saw men pick kernels of corn out of mud and manure, and parch it to eat. The arrival of Eleventh and Twelfth Corps saved the army from starvation.

On November 25th, the battle of Mission Ridge was fought, and resulted in a glorious victory. General Grant says in his memoirs, to Sheridan's prompt movement the Army of the Cumberland and the nation are indebted for the bulk of the capture of prisoners, artillery and small arms that day. Mr. Vollor followed the troops in the charge and helped take care of wounded, although his position did not require him to be there. Shortly after the Fourth Corps was sent to Knoxville to the relief of Burnside, and Mr. Vollor was detailed to take charge of tools of his brigade. Remained in East Tennessee during the winter without tents, but little clothing and short rations. Bran bread was a luxury. On the memorable cold January 1, 1864, while bivouacked in the woods—with two inches of snow, and mercury three degrees below zero, a majority of the Forty-second re-enlisted for another three years, and Mr.



Vollor again put his name down as a private of Company I.

On the way to Knoxville, the home of a Rebel colonel was passed. In a storeroom a barrel of sorghum syrup was found, and soon a line of blue coats with tin cups were going in the back door, dipping the cups in the barrel and rushing out through the front parlor with syrup dripping all over the carpet. It was the first house Mr. Vollor had entered to take anything. He had sympathy for the female Rebel who was calling his comrades all sorts of names. Mr. Vollor, before reaching Knoxville, picked up a very fine pair of mules, which had been used for a carriage team. He was offered four hundred dollars for them by a sutler, but refused, and put them in one of his teams.

In February the regiment started for Chattanooga on their way home on a thirty-days' furlough. Next morning, after reaching Chattanooga, the fine mules were missing, and Mr. Vollor had to pick up a pair that had been turned out to die, in order to to have the right number to turn over to the post quartermaster. He regretted that he did not take the four hundred dollars. The regiment took the furlough, and returned to Chattanooga the latter part of April, and became a part of Sherman's army for the Atlanta campaign. Mr. Vollor was again appointed quartermaster-sergeant, and acted as quartermaster during the campaign, the quartermaster being sick at Chattanooga. The Forty-second Illinois took part in the following engagements during the Atlanta campaign—Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Siege of Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station. After the capture of Atlanta, and

before Sherman started on his march to the sea, the Fourth Corps was sent back to Chattanooga, and the Forty-second was stationed for a while at Bridgeport, and from there went to Pulaski, Tennessee; remained there until Hood started in on his invasion of Tennessee, and fell back with the rest of the army toward Nashville. The Forty-second received a number of new recruits at Spring Hill, several of whom were killed during some severe fighting at points, the enemy having made attempt to capture trains that were packed by the roadside. Trains were on the move all night toward Franklin, and many times during the night were fired on by Rebel cavalry. The next day (30th) some Rebel cavalry with blue overcoats came in from a crossroad and commenced firing, killing a number of mules and burning wagons. Some of the drivers became demoralized and jumped from their mules and sought shelter. One driver was stopped by Mr. Vollor threatening to shoot him. The driver thanked him afterward for keeping him from being a coward.

November 3, 1864, was fought the battle of Franklin—for the number of men engaged and the time it lasted, the hardest fought battle of the war. Rebel loss, one thousand, seven hundred and fifty killed, three thousand, eight hundred wounded, among them six generals killed and six wounded. Union loss was light, comparatively. During the night fell back to Nashville and remained until December 15 and 16, when battle of Nashville was fought. While there the colonel of the Forty-second sent to the governor for a commission as first lieutenant for Mr. Vollor, but it was not granted. During battle of Nashville, while riding through a cornfield, Mr. Vollor was fired at, ball

cutting off corn stalk near his horse's head. From Nashville regiment pursued the enemy about eighty miles to Lexington, and then marched to Decatur, Alabama, leaving there April 1, 1865, for East Tennessee, it being thought that Lee's army might undertake to come through. Heard of Lee's surrender and Lincoln's assassination while there. The Forty-second returned to Nashville, remained until June, and then, with balance of Fourth Corps, embarked for New Orleans, en route to Texas, it being thought at the time that there might be some trouble with Maximilian. Mr. Vollor was left to follow with transportation and camp equipage, and when he reached Cairo he invested fifty dollars in condensed milk at one dollar per can and a lot of soft bread, and for a few days he and the men who were with him lived high. Arrived at Vicksburg afternoon of July 4, remaining until next day. In evening attended a negro dance. It was terribly hot, and concluded it was pleasanter in open air. Reached New Orleans about 10th and found regiment on bank of river below the city. A short time after, embarked for Port Lavaca, Texas, where remained a short time and afterward went into camp some distance out on prairie, and were finally mustered out on December 15, 1865, and started for home. Total enrollment of Forty-second Illinois was one thousand, six hundred and twenty-two, of whom one hundred and eighty-one were killed, four hundred and seventy-three wounded, two hundred and six died of disease and accident and thirty-three in Rebel prisons. The Forty-second is numbered as one of Colonel Fox's three hundred fighting regiments. While in Texas Mr. Vollor received commission as first lieutenant and quartermaster. Were in New Orleans on Christmas eve and needed mosquito netting

to protect us from the pests. Were paid off at Springfield on January 10, 1866, nearly four and one-half years after first muster. Mr. Vollor is proud to say that he has no hospital record, being one of those who escaped being shot and had little sickness. Although has at times been laid up for several weeks by rheumatism and having heart trouble, has not drawn a pension.

After the war Mr. Vollor returned to Batavia for a time, and then was employed as bookkeeper in a wholesale house in Chicago. Later went into wholesale woodenware, cordage and notion business, and was cleaned out by the big fire of 1871. In 1872 went to Portland, Maine, and for two and one-half years had charge of the business of Curtis & Son, and then returned to Elgin and for many years did an extensive business as a manufacturer of chewing gum. Mr. Vollor is one of those who believes "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and always paid nearly double the wages that any other manufacturers of chewing gum did.

In 1868 Mr. Vollor married Miss Martha C. Waldron, a daughter of Andrew J. and Calista S. (Smith) Waldron, and to them have been born three children: Joseph Truman died in Portland, Dunbar W. married Grace Bristol, of Galesburg, Illinois, and has one daughter, Madelin. He is now employed in the Home National Bank of Elgin. Helen is with her parents. Mrs. Vollor is a member of the Universalist church, and a most estimable lady.

Since casting his first vote for John C. Fremont—first candidate of the Republican party for the presidency—Mr. Vollor has been unwavering in his support of the G. O. P. He is one of the most prominent members of Veteran post 49, G. A. R., of Elgin; served four years as its quartermaster,

two years a junior vice-commander and three years as commander. He is also a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, and at the present time is president of the Veteran Republican Club, which is composed of old soldiers, also president of Forty-second Illinois Veteran Association. He served on staff of Commander-in-chief Adams, and on the staff of three different department commanders. His loyalty as a citizen and his devotion to the interests of his adopted country have been among his most prominent characteristics. He is more thoroughly American than many who are native born. The community is fortunate that numbers him among its citizens.

---

JABEZ SWITZER, now living a retired life in Plato township, traces his descent back to one of three brothers of Swiss origin, who were residing in France and were compelled, on account of religious persecutions, to flee the country during the time of Louis XIV. They enlisted under the banner of William, Prince of Orange, were officers, and participated in the battles of Boyne, and were allotted portions of the territory for their services. From one of these brothers descended John Switzer, who settled in Tipperary. His son, Martin, was the first of the family to come to America. In 1803, Martin Switzer married Mary Maurice, and in July, 1804, came to America, settling at Elizabeth, New Jersey, where he lived until after the war of 1812. He then moved to New York, and later, in 1820, to Canada, where he secured one hundred acres of land and engaged in farming. Martin Switzer was the father of Samuel, whose third son, Samuel, was the father of Jabez Switzer, of this sketch.

One of the ancestors of Mary Maurice was among the supporters of Cromwell in 1640.

Jabez Switzer was born near Streetsville, Ontario, Canada, August 7, 1848, and was ninth in a family of ten children. One year later his parents came to Kane county, locating three miles from St. Charles. On his father's farm he grew to manhood, and received his education in the country schools, supplemented by an attendance in the St. Charles High School. His mother died in Canada while he was an infant, and his father in 1853, when he was but five years old. His brother was appointed his guardian, and with him he remained until he was eighteen years of age, when he married and rented a farm near Chebanse, Iroquois county, Illinois, one year, and one year near Kankakee. He then returned to Kane county, and for a short time worked for his brother, when, in 1867, he came to his present farm on section 11, Plato township, which he rented one year on shares, and three years for cash. In 1871 he bought the farm, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, and for some years engaged in raising grain principally, but for the past few years has devoted himself to dairying. On the first of March, 1898, he retired from active farming, leasing his farm to his son, Ira J., who is now in control of the place.

Jabez Switzer was married, February 14, 1866, in St. Charles, Kane county, to Miss Elizabeth Banks, a native of England, who came to America at the age of ten years, lived in Canada four years, and then came to St. Charles, Kane county. She is the daughter of Robert and Hannah (Butler) Banks, the latter being a daughter of John Butler, who died when she was quite young, so she knew but little of his ancestry. Hannah Banks dying, her husband married



Rachel Swales, daughter of William and Elinor Swales, by whom Hannah was reared. A drinking glass that belonged to them is treasured by Mrs. Switzer for its age and associations.

Robert Banks was born at Water, Yorkshire, England, in 1814, and died July 11, 1877. He was a man of fine education, a writer of no little literary ability, and a teacher for some years. In England he was a mill-owner and lived at Brampton, near Scarborough. In emigrating to America, he sailed from Liverpool, on the 21st of March, 1849, and was six weeks in making the voyage, which was a stormy one, the captain declaring it the worst that he had experienced in twenty years. At one time the ship was on fire, and the passengers were greatly alarmed. They landed at New York and in a few days went to Toronto, Canada, and later to Simcoe county, where he settled, and bought two hundred acres of land. After residing there three years, he sold out and came to Illinois, and rented a farm near Fayville. He also taught school near Huntley. Later he removed to St. Charles, and worked at milling until he retired from active life. Of the ten children born to Robert Banks and wife, all attained maturity and six of these still survive.

To Jabez and Elizabeth Switzer, thirteen children were born, nine of whom are yet living: (1) Ray, deceased. (2) Hortense, who married E. D. Pease, of Elgin, by whom she has five children: Helen J., Minnie L., Elizabeth E., Clarence D. and Glenn I. (3) Joseph Robert, who married Emma Robinson, by whom he has one son, Robert J., and they now reside in Chicago. (4) Ira J. married Mamie Brady, born in North Plato, and daughter of Henry

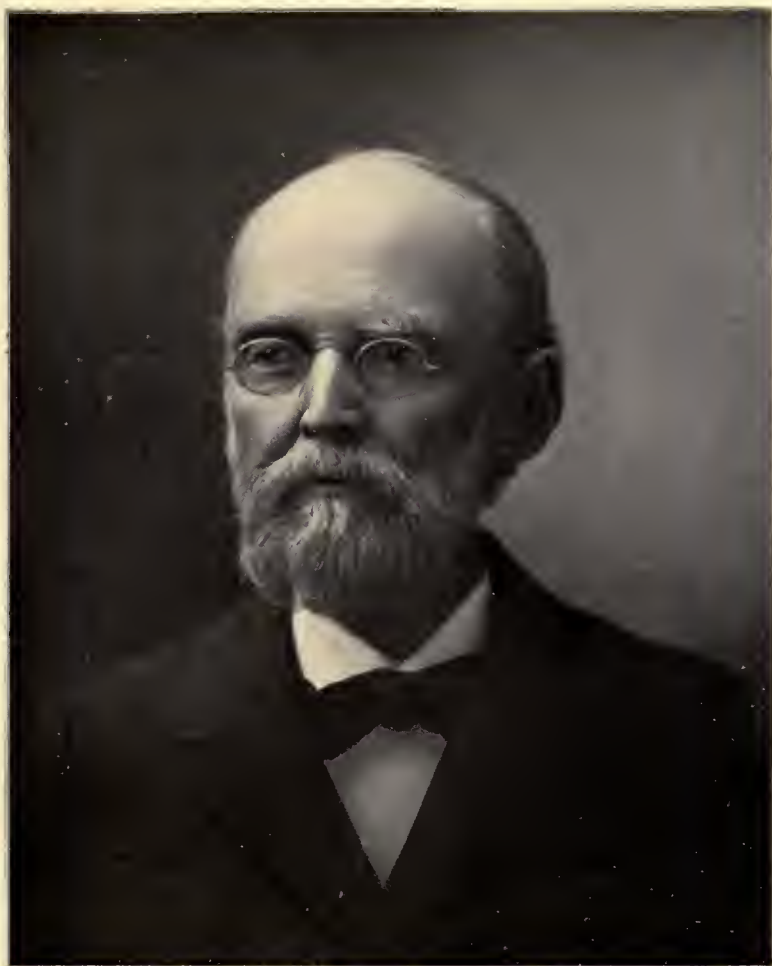
and Lily (Collins) Brady, and they have one son, Arthur Walter, born June 20, 1895. Ira J. Switzer attended the Pingree Grove School, Elgin Academy and Drew's Business College. Fraternally he is a member of Pingree Grove Camp, No. 655, M. W. A. (5) Salina E., who married Charles Campbell, by whom she had one son, Lawrence C. Her husband is now deceased. (6) Grace A., deceased. (7) Blanche. (8) Mabel, deceased. (10) Eva May. (11) Minnie, deceased. (12) Alice I. (13) Boyd.

Mr. Switzer is a member of Oak Leaf Tent, No. 22,508, K. O. T. M. of Pingree Grove. Politically he is a Democrat and served some years as school director. As a citizen he has done his full share in developing the material interests of Kane county.

EDWARD S. SMITH, who is engaged in the real estate, insurance and loan business, at Batavia, has been a resident of Kane county for a period of forty-five years. He is a native of New York, born in Essex county, on the borders of Lake Champlain, March 20, 1832, and is the son of Elias Smith, born in Washington county, New York, of which his father was an early settler. Elias Smith, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, for which service he received a land warrant, grew to manhood in his native county and there married Miss Zeruiah Reed, also a native of Washington county, New York. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Moriah, Essex county, near Lake Champlain, where the remainder of their lives were spent, and where they reared their family, and where they both died, the father at the age of eighty-three years, the mother at the age of forty-one years.

Until the age of fifteen years, our sub-





E. S. SMITH.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ject remained under the parental roof, and received his education in the public schools and the academy. He then went to Saratoga, and spent one year, then accepted a position in the mercantile establishment of J. & J. H. Peck & Company, of Burlington, Vermont, where he received his business education, remaining with them five years. In 1853, a young man who had just passed his majority, he came to Batavia, Illinois, and for the first year was in the grain business, as the junior member of the firm of Rogers & Smith. He was then associated with Mr. Harris Hoyt, in the manufacture of barrels by machinery for about two years, the business proving financially disastrous. For a time he was connected with various enterprises and for many years agent of the American Express Company. In 1861, he was appointed by Montgomery Blair, postmaster-general under President Lincoln, as postmaster of Batavia, and by successive reappointments served a period of twenty-five years, under seven different presidents. That he made a satisfactory officer is attested by his long continued service.

Mr. Smith was united in marriage, in Batavia, Illinois, April 15, 1861, to Jane M. Mallory, a native of Penn Yan, Yates county, New York, who came to Batavia, Illinois, when fifteen years of age, and was educated in the schools of Batavia and Evanston, Illinois; her father, Smith L. Mallory, was a prominent railroad contractor. By this union are five children, as follows: Elinor Louise, now the wife of Rev. P. C. Walcott, of Highland Park, Lake county, Illinois; Mary W., wife of Fred H. Burke, a resident of Batavia; Edward M., who is associated with his father in the insurance and real estate business. Frank P., who resides at home; and Jessie

M., who is now one of the teachers of the West Batavia public schools.

Mr. Smith first began the insurance business in 1859, but abandoned it after receiving his appointment as postmaster. When he retired from that office, he again resumed the insurance business, in which he has continued to the present time. In July, 1890, he was appointed to a position in the sub-treasury, by Colonel Dustin, and served during Harrison's administration. He has been identified with the Republican party since its organization, and has never missed casting his vote for the presidential nominee of that party, up to the present time. In addition to the offices already mentioned as held by him, he has served as town clerk, village trustee and other minor positions. In the various conventions of his party he has frequently served as a delegate, and in them has wielded considerable influence. Religiously, he is liberal in his views but attends the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is a member, while some of the family are Protestant Episcopal. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason and for many years served as secretary of the lodge. As a citizen he is held in the highest esteem and is popular with all classes in the community.

---

JACOB R. GORHAM.—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 cannot only endure so rough a test, but gain new strength through the discipline. The following history sets forth briefly the steps which our subject, now one

of the substantial citizens of St. Charles, overcame the disadvantages of his early life. Coming to this section of the state November 18, 1852, he was for many years actively identified with the farming and stock raising interests of Du Page and Kane counties, but having secured an ample fortune, he has now laid aside all business cares.

Mr. Gorham was born September 26, 1830, in Dutchess county, New York, a son of William Gorham, whose birth occurred in Stratford, Connecticut, about 1780. His grandfather, Stephen Gorham, was a native of France, and came to the new world with General LaFayette to aid the colonies in their struggle for independence during the Revolutionary war. Subsequently he located in Stratford, Connecticut, and for the remainder of his life was a pilot, holding a government license, which allowed him to conduct vessels through Hell Gate. In his family were five sons who were reared in Connecticut. Two of them located in Great Barrington, Massachusetts; Louis, a farmer by occupation; and Le Grand, a miller and hotel keeper; Kirk was a tailor by trade; Benjamin went to the West Indies. Two of these never married.

William Gorham, our subject's father, completes the family. At an early day he removed to Pawling, Dutchess county, New York, where he established two tan yards, being a tanner and currier by trade, and also engaged in farming and merchandizing with good success, accumulating a nice estate. He married Sarah Holloway, a native of Pawling, and a daughter of Justin Holloway, who was also born in Dutchess county. Our subject's great-grandfather Parks, on the maternal side, was a Revolutionary soldier, and lived to the advanced age of ninety years. Mr. and Mrs. Gor-

ham came to Illinois and spent their last years in Will county, the father dying during the Civil war. The mother survived him a few years, passing away at the age of eighty-four years.

In their family were the following children: Hannah Etta married a Mr. Dodge, and first located in Dutchess county, New York, but later came to Will county, Illinois, where she died; Mary Ann is the widow of R. H. Leake, and is a resident of St. Charles; Akin H. died at his home in Will county; Emma E. married a Mr. Caldwell, of Dutchess county, New York, and both are now deceased; Jacob R., of this sketch, is the next of the family; Elijah is engaged in the grain business in Russell county, Kansas; and William was killed by lightning at his home in Du Page county, Illinois.

Reared in Dutchess county, New York, Jacob R. Gorham obtained a good common-school education, and assisted his father in the work of the farm and tan yard until twenty-one years of age. Determined to try his fortune in the west, he came alone to Du Page county, Illinois, and at first worked on a farm in Wayne township. With a partner, he afterward engaged in farming, and in 1853 successfully operated a farm on the shares. Borrowing one hundred dollars, he began buying and selling cattle, and in this business cleared about eight hundred dollars. The following fall he returned to New York, but after visiting his parents and friends for three months, he again came to Wayne township, Du Page county, where he purchased a farm, though he went in debt for it. In connection with farming, he continued to engage in stock dealing, and after operating that place until 1860, he sold and bought a larger farm in



the same neighborhood, residing there for five years.

In Du Page county, Mr. Gorham was married in 1855 to Miss Adelia Read, a native of that county, and the only daughter of Horace Read, one of the earliest settlers of that county, having located there in 1836. He was a native of Cambridge, Vermont, was a soldier of the war of 1812, and died in this state in 1867. After his death, Mr. Gorham sold his place in Wayne township and removed to the Read farm, which he operated for a number of years and still owns. He was one of the most successful stock dealers in this section of the state, and through his own unaided efforts and excellent management, he has acquired a handsome property, including a farm of three hundred and thirty-seven acres in Wayne township, Du Page county; another of one hundred and forty acres in Campton township, four miles west of St. Charles, and three hundred and twenty acres of land in Kansas, besides his pleasant home in St. Charles. He removed to that city in 1884, and has since lived retired, enjoying the fruits of his former toil. During his residence here, however, he has stimulated industries in Kane and Du Page counties, by loaning money.

Mr. and Mrs. Gorham have four daughters, namely: Mira, now the wife of F.W. Leake, a merchant of St. Charles; Augusta, wife of C. S. Green, of Kane county; Edith L., wife of Merritt Green, now of Dutchess county, New York; and Mamie, who is a graduate of the St. Charles high school, and resides with her parents. Since retiring from active business, Mr. and Mrs. Gorham have traveled quite extensively over the south and west, and also frequently visited his old home in Dutchess county, New York.

Politically he has always been a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, but has never had any aspiration for office, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. In the Methodist Episcopal church, of St. Charles, he and his family hold membership, and in the social circles of the community they occupy an enviable position. A man of strict integrity and sterling worth, Mr. Gorham commands the respect of all with whom he comes in contact, and the success that he has achieved in life is certainly well deserved. For forty-five years he has been identified with the interests of this section of the state and his circle of friends is extensive.

---

HARMAN Y. LONGACRE, M. D., is an enterprising and representative business man of St. Charles, where he has successfully conducted a drug-store since August, 1883, and has also engaged in the practice of his profession to a limited extent. He was born December 31, 1853, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a son of David and Hannah B. (Reinhart) Longacre, also natives of the Keystone state. The paternal grandfather was born in Saxony, Germany, and was an early settler of Pennsylvania. For many years the Doctor's father engaged in the drug business near Philadelphia, but is now spending his declining years upon a farm. The mother died in 1870. In the family were two sons and two daughters who reached years of maturity, the brother of our subject being Milton P., who married and engaged in the manufacture of lumber in Indiana, where his death occurred.

In Pennsylvania Dr. Longacre grew to manhood, completing his literary education in the State Normal School at Millersville,

and subsequently he successfully engaged in teaching school for about two years. In his father's store he became thoroughly familiar with the drug business, which has principally claimed his attention throughout his business career. Entering the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, in 1874, he attended medical lectures there for two years, graduating with a class of sixty in the spring of 1876. He then located in Titusville, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in the practice of medicine for two years, and for the same length of time practiced in Olney, Illinois. At the end of that time he went to Chicago and took charge of a drug-store, which he conducted for two years. In August, 1883, we find him in St. Charles, where he has since made his home, while he has been actively and prominently identified with the business interests of the place. Purchasing a drug-store, he successfully carried on the same until April, 1885, when his stock of goods and building were destroyed by fire. With characteristic energy, however, he had opened another store in the Hunt block at the end of three months, and is now doing an excellent business. He also gives some attention to the practice of medicine, though principally confined to an office practice.

In St. Charles, Dr. Longacre was married in 1884, to Miss Nettie B. Norton, who was born, reared and educated in Kane county, and they now have one son, Frank H. Since attaining his majority the Doctor has been a stanch supporter of the Republican party, but has never cared for official honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his business interests. Fraternally he is a Royal Arch Mason, having joined the blue lodge in Pennsylvania, and also united with the Odd Fellows Society

in that state in 1876. He has filled all the chairs in the former order, and is past grand of the latter. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. A very agreeable and affable gentleman, he has made many friends during his residence in St. Charles, and receives and merits the high regard of the entire community. His estimable wife is a member of the Congregational church.

---

REV. W. D. ATCHISON, chaplain of the insane hospital at Elgin, has devoted his life to the ministry and in that noble calling his influence has been widespread, bringing comfort and happiness to many saddened hearts, while into many darkened lives he has brought the light of Christianity. He was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, February 19, 1833, a son of Matthew and Mary (Dowling) Atchison, who were also natives of the Keystone state. On the paternal side he is of Scotch descent, his grandfather, John Atchison, having been a native of that land of hills and heather. Coming to America, he located in Redstone, Washington county, Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by two brothers, one of whom, Matthew, took up his residence in Ohio, while the third settled in Kentucky. The grandfather spent the remainder of his life in Pennsylvania, where he died at an advanced age. The maternal grandfather of Rev. Atchison was James Dowling, who was born in the north of Ireland, of Scotch lineage. He came to the United States about the time of the Revolutionary war, and followed farming as a life occupation. His death occurred at the age of sixty years. The history of the

Dowling family can be traced back prior to the advent of Christianity in Ireland. The wife of James Dowling was a relative of Lord Nelson, the great Irish admiral.

Matthew Atchison, father of our subject, was a millwright and carpenter, following those pursuits in order to provide for his large family. He died in his native state when about forty-four years of age. By his marriage he had thirteen children, nine of whom are now living, while four have reached the age of three score and ten. Those who still survive are: James, who is living near Kirwin, Kansas; Sarah, wife of Donald McKenzie, of Elizabeth, Illinois; John, of Lena, Illinois; Nelson, of Elizabeth, Illinois; Mary, wife of Solomon Snodgrass, of Jo Daviess county, Illinois; William Dowling; Jane, widow of Samuel McGrath, of Freeport, Illinois; Samuel, of Lark, Illinois; and Matthew, of Elizabeth, Illinois, are half brothers, the mother having married for her second husband Thomas Gault.

Rev. William D. Atchison resided in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, until fourteen years of age, and then came to Illinois with his mother and stepfather, locating in Jo Daviess county, about fifteen miles from Galena, where he resided until eighteen years of age. In the meantime he had in contemplation the work of the ministry. When only thirteen years of age he was converted and felt the call to preach and all his aims and hopes were directed toward that end. Prayer was always to him a means of strength and help and the study of the Bible his delight from boyhood. His early literary education was acquired in the schools of Jo Daviess county, and later he entered Mt. Carroll Collegiate Institute, and subsequently was a student of languages

in Beloit College, under the tutorage of Professor Emerson, and a Greek professor, a native of Smyrna. When eighteen years of age he began teaching in Jo Daviess county, using the money thus earned to prepare for the ministry. While in Beloit College he received a call to teach in Elizabeth, and there remained for one year. At the age of nineteen he entered upon the work of the ministry to which he has since devoted his life. Joining the Rock River conference in 1854, he was first assigned to the church at Twelve Mile Grove, Stephenson county, Illinois, where he remained one year, then spent two years in Pleasant Valley. He had charge of a mission in Savannah, Illinois, for two years, after which he was pastor of the churches in Elizabeth, Cedarville and Belvidere in turn.

On leaving the latter place Rev. Atchison became chaplain of the Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry and went with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea and through the Carolinas. After the war, in the fall of 1865, he came to Elgin as pastor of the First Methodist church, continuing in that place for three years, during which time the house of worship was erected. For three years he filled the pulpit of his church in Kankakee and for a similar period was pastor of the church in Aurora, and spent one year in Oak Park, Illinois. After three years passed in Waukegan, he was called to Sterling, and afterward filled the pulpits of the churches in Princeton, Sycamore and Galena. For four years he continued to minister to the spiritual needs of the people of Galena, and then assumed a superannuated relation with the church, since which time he has acted as supply at different points. On the 4th of April, 1897, he was appointed chaplain of the Illinois Northern



Hospital for the Insane at Elgin, and preaches there each Sunday.

On the 3d of January, 1855, Mr. Atchison married Miss Hannah Jennie Cook, daughter of John and Martha (Bennett) Cook, natives of England, who came to the United States in 1834, locating near Galena, Jo Daviess county, where they remained some years, when they moved to Iowa where their death occurred. Six sons and two daughters have been born of this union: John E., of Atchison, Kansas, married Emma Pearl Solomon and had three children, Frederick, William and George; Wilbur F., now pastor of the Methodist church of Woodlawn, married Rena Michaels, dean of the Woman's College, at Evanston; Florence Josephine resides at home; Hugh D. is a minister of the Methodist church at Wilmette, Illinois; Howard H. died at the age of three years; George B. is a dentist of Elgin; Nellie C. died at the age of three months; and Robert Hall Bruce completes the family.

Rev. Atchison is a member of the Ancient Order United Workmen and of Veteran post, No. 49, G. A. R. In politics he has been a staunch Republican since casting his first presidential vote for Fremont. He has always been a strong and popular pulpit orator, standing high in the councils of his church, and his life has been permeated with the noblest principles and purposes known to humanity.

---

WILLIAM C. KIMBALL, deceased, was for many years one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of Elgin. He was a native of Groton, New Hampshire, born February 17, 1806, and was the son of Joseph and Nancy (Currier) Kimball,

also natives of the Granite state. They were the parents of six children, two sons and four daughters. With a view of bettering his condition in life and giving his children better opportunities for advancement, Joseph Kimball made a trip west, and, after looking around, decided to make Kane county his future home. In 1835 he started back east for his family, but died while passing through Ohio. His son, Samuel, who came with him to Kane county, remained here while his father went back, and shortly after the death of the latter, the remainder of the family, save our subject, joined him, making Elgin their home. The daughters were Nancy Currier, who married Alden V. Hills; Laura, widow of Asa Smith, and a resident of St. Louis; May Carter, now Mrs. Bartlett Adams, of St. Louis; Mrs. Ruth Ann Thiers, of Elgin; and Susanna Clement, who married Hiram George.

William C. Kimball grew to manhood in his native state, and was educated in the public schools of Groton. In 1835 he married Caroline Willard, daughter of William R. and Eleanor (Mann) Willard. From Groton, New Hampshire, he removed to Sherbrooke, Canada, where he engaged in mercantile business for a time, but in 1837 sold out and came to Elgin, Illinois, and purchased a large tract of land, but turned his attention principally to the mercantile business, opening a store and for years being successfully engaged in trade. The country was then new and his trade extended for many miles in each direction. He later erected a flouring mill, which was called the Waverly Mill, and which is now owned and operated by the Stewart Brothers. This was the first mill erected in this part of the country and its patrons came from far and near.



The next venture of Mr. Kimball was the erection of a hotel which was given the name of Waverly house. Previous to its erection he lived over his store, but on the completion of the hotel he moved into it, and for some years served as landlord in addition to his other business. With his brother Samuel, he purchased large tracts of land on the west side of the river, which he sold off in parcels from time to time.

In 1856 Mr. Kimball met with some reverses in his business interests in Elgin, and later lost quite heavily in operating some of the lead mines of Missouri, the ore not being as extensive as anticipated. His reverses, however, did not cripple to any extent his milling business, which he continued until his death. His business interests were of such a nature as to require a large number of employees, and his trade was for many years very large. His name was a household word, and he was known far and near for his good deeds and his charity. He had a soul that sympathized with those in distress and would do all in his power for their relief.

In his political belief, Mr. Kimball was a staunch Democrat, and was ever ready with time and money to advance the interests of his party, though he never cared for official position. On the urgent solicitation of friends he ran for mayor of Elgin and was duly elected, serving one term in a satisfactory manner. He was a great admirer of Stephen A. Douglas, the "Little Giant," and followed his lead through the stormy political career of that statesman. Like his great leader, when the question came up for final settlement as to whether the union of states should be maintained, he sunk the partisan in the patriot and unhesitatingly declared for the union. While not in the

service, his sympathies were with those engaged in putting down the rebellion.

In his religious views Mr. Kimball was a Universalist, believing in the fatherhood of God, and brotherhood of man, and that while man might stray from the paths of virtue and right, a just God was always ready to welcome the return of the prodigal and receive him again in favor. His wife believed with him in these great views and was likewise a member of the Universalist church.

After a long and useful life, Mr. Kimball was called to his reward May 5, 1875, and his body was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Elgin. The city council of Elgin, on the announcement of his death, passed the following complimentary preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, this council has learned of the death of one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, an honored ex-mayor of the city, and wishing to express our feelings and the sense of the people upon the sad event; therefore

*Resolved*, That in the death of William C. Kimball, the city has lost an honored and highly respected citizen, whose private and public record was characterized by industry, purity and generosity.

*Resolved*, That, as a fit expression of our feelings and a slight honor to his memory, this council attend the funeral in a body.

*Resolved*, That the business men of the city be requested, as a further mark of respect, to close their places of business at the hour appointed for the funeral, to remain closed for the space of one hour.

*Resolved*, That we tender to the family of the deceased, our heartfelt sympathy at the great loss which has overtaken them.

The resolutions were ordered spread upon the records of the council and an engrossed copy furnished the widow and published in the city papers. Mrs. Kimball survived her husband some years, dying January 3, 1883. They were the parents of seven children: William, who died young; Leonidas, who also died young; Eugene, who died at the age of seventeen years; Emma and Ella, twins, the latter being the wife of John J. Williford, and residing in Anna, Illinois; Anna, who died in childhood; and Charles W., who lives in Elgin.

Emma Kimball grew to womanhood in Elgin and was educated in its public schools. On the 25th of June, 1863, she married Charles J. Hawkins, a native of Cayuga county, New York, and a son of Joseph and Lucy (Adams) Hawkins. To them have been born five children: Frank J., who is now operating the home farm, married Rose Grove, and has two children—Morris and Mabel; William J. and Morris B. are at home; Lucy died at the age of one year; and Ella W. is at home.

On the discovery of gold in California, Mr. Hawkins, though quite young, started to the new Eldorado, and is numbered among the '49ers. His experience going and coming and his life in that rich field can never be forgotten. On his return, about four years later, he went to his home in Genoa, New York, where he engaged in farming until he came west in 1857, settled in Elgin, and engaged in the business of loaning money for several years. In 1869 he purchased the farm in Cook county, near Elgin, consisting of about three hundred and twelve acres, where he has since resided, and for a number of years gave a part of his time to its cultivation. He is now living retired. Politically he is a stanch

Democrat. Religiously Mrs. Hawkins is a Universalist. Like her father she is honored and respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances, who appreciate her loving kindness and many acts of true Christian charity. A life-long resident of Elgin and vicinity, she has witnessed with pride its growth and prosperity. The poor have always had in her a true friend, and many sacrifices has she made to alleviate the sufferings of others.

**F**RANK W. JOSLYN, the efficient state's attorney for Kane county, now serving his second term, is the senior member of the firm of Joslyn & Schultz, with offices in the Spurling block, Elgin, Illinois. He was born in that city April 27, 1860, and is the son of Edward S. and Jennie (Padelford) Joslyn, the former a native of New York and the latter of Massachusetts.

Edward S. Joslyn was by profession a lawyer, and in 1835, when but seven years of age, was brought by his parents to McHenry county, Illinois, where he grew to manhood. His primary education was obtained in the subscription schools of McHenry county. When fifteen years of age he went into a blacksmith shop to learn the trade, and there continued for five years. He then took a course in Elgin Academy, later read law in the office of Paul R. Wright, and after examination was admitted to the bar. Like all attorneys of an early day, he mixed politics with his legal business, and in 1856 stumped the state for Fremont, the first presidential candidate of the Republican party. For some cause, in 1859 he endorsed the views of Stephen A. Douglas, and was known as a Douglas Democrat during the remainder of his life.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



FRANK W. JOSLYN.





COL. E. S. JOSLYN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Like his lamented leader, Edward S. Joslyn was a strong Union man, and when the south attempted to secede he took up arms in defense of the Union. He was first commissioned captain of Company A, Seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was the first company of the first regiment from Illinois, with which he served six months. Resigning his commission, he came home and assisted in organizing the Thirty-sixth Regiment of Illinois Infantry, and was commissioned lieutenant-colonel. With his regiment went to the front, and was actively engaged until the battle of Pea Ridge, where he was wounded. Soon after the battle, and on account of his wound, and also from having contracted dysentery, he received a furlough and returned to his home in Elgin. His health not being restored as soon as anticipated, he tendered his resignation. His bravery being recognized by his superior officers, the resignation was not accepted, but the time of his furlough was extended. This extension was made several times with the hope that he could return to his post of duty, brave men and efficient officers being then in great demand. On the statement of his physician, his resignation was finally, but reluctantly, received, and his discharge granted in the fall of 1862.

It was some time, however, before he regained his usual health. In the meantime he gradually resumed his law practice, and for many years was recognized as one of the ablest criminal lawyers in Illinois, and as a general practitioner had few superiors. Among the most noted cases in which he figured was that of the Emma mine case in Utah, involving some three million dollars, which he won for his clients.

As an orator, his reputation extended

far and wide. While in Utah obtaining evidence in the case just mentioned, he dressed as a mountaineer, in buckskin breeches, jacket, wore a sombrero hat, and went in and out among the natives as one of them. His oratorical ability was soon discovered, and was often called upon for a speech, and responding spoke upon various subjects to the edification of all. By the citizens of that region he was dubbed "the old man eloquent of the mountains." While there he defended the accused in two murder cases, winning them both. At home he was often called upon on short notice for a speech, and it mattered not what the subject, he was always ready. His imitative powers were great, and few were the public men but what he could imitate their style of speech. His speeches always abounded in apt illustrations, bright witicisms, and caught the crowd.

As a citizen he was at all times progressive and devoted much time to advancing the material interests of his adopted city. For a number of years he served as alderman and for two terms was mayor of Elgin. A friend of education he helped establish the free school system for the state. Religiously he was a Baptist, of which church his wife is also a member. His death occurred at the age of fifty-eight years, and his loss was felt most deeply, not alone by his good wife, who still survives him, but by many friends throughout the county who knew his worth as a lawyer and as a man.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Lindsey Joslyn, was a native of Vermont, of English origin. In early life he followed farming and the millwright trade. About 1858 he came to Kane county, where he practiced law and served as justice of the peace some years. He was better known

among the settlers of Crystal Lake and around Woodstock, McHenry county, where he lived many years. His death occurred in Elgin, when seventy-three years of age.

The maternal grandfather, Rodolphus W. Padelford, was born at Savoy, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in 1806, and came west in 1842, locating in Elgin. He was of English descent, a descendant of Jonathan Padelford, who came across the water in a very early day. In early life he followed farming, but learning the daguerreotype business he established the first gallery in Elgin, and followed that profession until 1866, when he was burned out. A friend of liberty, while residing in Buffalo, New York, he conducted a station on the underground railroad, and many a poor colored person owed his liberty to Mr. Padelford's watchful care. Owen Lovejoy, Wendell Phillips and other noted abolitionists were numbered among his personal friends.

Few men were ever better known in Kane county than Adolphus Padelford. On the organization of the city of Elgin in 1854, he was elected its first city clerk, and continued in that office for twenty years consecutively. In 1866 he was elected clerk of the city court of Elgin, and served as such until 1889. In 1886 he was elected police magistrate of Elgin and held that office two terms. A strong Baptist, he was clerk of the Baptist Association of Illinois from 1850 until his death, and was clerk of the First Baptist church of Elgin for over forty years, and deacon for the same length of time. He was clerk of the board of trustees of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane for twenty years, and township treasurer of Elgin for twenty-five years. As a bookkeeper and accountant he had few superiors. His

death occurred at Elgin in 1894 at the age of eighty-eight years, four months and twenty-four days.

Frank W. Joslyn, our subject, was born and reared in Elgin, and here has spent his entire life. His primary education was obtained in the public schools of the place, and his higher literary education in the Elgin Academy, from which he graduated in 1881. The succeeding three years he spent in teaching, and during his leisure moments read law, passed a successful examination, and was admitted to the bar in 1884. He commenced practice in his native city and while as a rule it is true that "a prophet is never without honor, save in his own country," here where he grew up and was well known in boyhood and youth, he began his life work and success has crowned his efforts. Since 1894 he has been in partnership with Fred W. Schultz.

On the 7th of December, 1886, Mr. Joslyn was united in marriage with Miss Carrie A. Mead, daughter of F. W. and Emma (Colby) Mead, and one son—Paul—has been born unto them.

Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Joslyn are identified with the Baptist church. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen, Home Forum, Maccabees, and Sons of Veterans. In woodcraft he has taken especial interest and from 1886 to 1890 he was consulting attorney for the Modern Woodmen. In behalf of that order he has made addresses in four or five states of the union.

Politically, he is a Republican and for the principles of the party he has taken an active part in several campaigns, speaking in Kane and adjoining counties. In 1885 he was elected city attorney of Elgin and served two terms. In 1889 he was appointed



master in chancery in the city court of Elgin, and in 1892 was elected state's attorney for Kane county, and re-elected in 1896, and is now serving his second term. As a prosecutor he discharges his duty faithfully without fear or favor, and has had remarkable success, securing the conviction of a very large proportion of those prosecuted. Inheriting the talents of his father as a public speaker, he makes a good impression before a jury, and in the trial of cases holds his own with the best.

---

**D**ANIEL TUTTLE, a substantial and enterprising farmer of Kane county, first came to the state in 1847. He is a native of New York, born in Oswego county, February 11, 1824, and is the son of Ethel Tuttle, a native of Vermont. His grandfather, David Tuttle, was a native of Tuttle Hill, England, and in 1816 settled in Oswego county, New York, where he purchased a farm and lived until the age of ninety-four years. Ethel Tuttle grew to manhood and in Oswego county married Rhoda A. McAlpine, a Scotch lady. Her father, John McAlpine, was an early settler of Oneida county, New York, and when Mrs. Tuttle was a child moved to Oswego county. After their marriage Ethel Tuttle and his wife resided in Oswego county a few years, and in 1829 moved to Madison county, New York, and located on a farm, where he reared his family. In the spring of 1849 he moved west, and settled in De Kalb county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for a few years. In 1852, accompanied by one of his sons, he went overland to California, where he remained five years, engaged in mining and freighting. He was

only fairly successful, and in 1857 returned home, but soon went to Missouri, where he purchased land to which he later removed with his family. He there spent the last years of his life, dying in 1863. He was an old Jackson Democrat in his political views. His wife died in De Kalb county in 1860.

Daniel Tuttle is the oldest of five sons born to Ethel and Rhoda A. Tuttle. Milo, the next in order of birth, settled in De Kalb county, and some years later moved to Iowa, bought a large tract of land near Webster City, engaged in stock-raising, and there died. George W. married in De Kalb county, where he lived some years, and later removed to Kansas, and now resides in Eldorado, that state. Joel grew to mature years, went to California with his father, and there died some years ago. David married in De Kalb county, there resided for a time, but later moved to Iowa, locating at Clear Lake, where he now resides.

In Madison county, New York, our subject spent his boyhood and youth, and received a fair education in its common schools. When eighteen years of age he began life for himself, purchasing his time from his father, giving him therefor one hundred and fifty dollars. For several years he engaged in lumbering in his native state, with fair success. He then determined to come west, and in 1847 moved to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and later went to Wisconsin, and for a few years engaged in lumbering, going back and forth during the time. In 1852 he made a permanent settlement on his land in De Kalb county, and also bought out his father's improvements, and began farming. This land was located near the present village of Waterman, and by subsequent purchase he made a fine farm of two

hundred and forty acres, on which he erected a good, substantial residence, good barn, and made of it one of the best-improved places in that vicinity. He there remained until 1870, when he rented the place and moved to Aurora, to give his children the advantages of its public schools. Some years later he sold his De Kalb county farm and purchased the Lawton farm of one hundred and sixty acres, just outside of the corporate limits of the city, since which time he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1889 he bought the residence where he now resides, but still gives his personal attention to his farm.

In February, 1854, in De Kalb county, Illinois, Mr. Tuttle was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Platt, a native of Scotland, but who removed with her father, John Platt, to Prince Edward Island in early childhood, where she was reared and educated, and came with him to De Kalb county, Illinois, in 1853. By this union are four children: the oldest, John, is now married and engaged in business in Aurora; Rhoda remained at home; Margaret is the wife of Frank Minard, of Aurora, and Jane Elizabeth, also at home.

In early life Mr. Tuttle was a Democrat, but believing in the principle of liberty for all men, he became a Republican on the organization of the party, casting his vote for its first presidential candidate, John C. Fremont, in 1856. While residing in De Kalb county he served as highway commissioner and assessor, and also served for some years as a member of the school board. Since that time he has steadfastly declined all official honors. Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle are members of the United Presbyterian church, in which he has been actively engaged for nearly forty years. In the work of the Mas-

ter they have always taken great interest, giving of their time and means to advance the cause.

JAMES ROCKWELL, of Batavia, Illinois, has spent sixty-four years of a long and useful life in Illinois, and all but four years of that time in Batavia. He is a native of Connecticut, born at Ridgefield, November 9, 1812. His father, Thomas H. Rockwell, was also born in the same town and state, May 21, 1776. The Rockwell family are of English descent, the first coming to this country some years prior to the Revolutionary war, locating in Connecticut. Thomas H. Rockwell, the father of our subject, at Ridgefield, Connecticut, married Polly Smith, a daughter of Capt. David Smith, of the Revolutionary war. He built the home residence at Ridgefield, which was first used for a hotel. Observing the tendency of the liquor traffic, even in that early day, he took out the bar, destroyed the liquor and soon gave up the hotel business. He was an influential man at Ridgefield, where he reared his family and spent his entire life. He died there September 25, 1865, and his wife died February 27, 1869.

To Thomas H. and Polly (Smith) Rockwell ten children were born: Harry Smith, who died in infancy; Phebe M., grew to mature years, married Rev. Moses Hill, and died March 18, 1832; William S., born February 24, 1806, died at sea about 1823. Rev. Thomas Burr, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, came west, locating in Batavia, where he died; David S. married and died in New Canaan, Connecticut; James of this review; George, who died in 1865, in Junction City, Kansas; Francis A.,

who died in Ridgefield, Connecticut; John, who died in infancy; and John Wesley, who lives in the old homestead.

In his native town, James Rockwell grew to manhood, and there learned the cabinet-maker's trade and at the age of eighteen went to New Haven, Connecticut, where he remained about one year, working at his trade. The wages being small and the opportunities for advancement very meager, he determined to try the west, of which he had heard such glowing accounts. Arriving at Detroit, Michigan, he set out on foot from that place for Chicago, and was eight days in making the trip. Chicago at that time was composed of but a few shanties, but he there went to work at his trade and in a short time built a factory, where he employed twelve men. He remained in Chicago about four years, until the failure of the state banks and then discontinued his business and came to Kane county, arriving in Batavia, in February, 1838.

Soon after coming to Batavia, Mr. Rockwell was united in marriage with Miss Margaret Van Nortwick, a native of Argyle, New York. Her father, William Van Nortwick, was one of the first settlers on the Fox river. In 1840, Mr. Rockwell again commenced working at his trade, and for a few years was a manufacturer of furniture. He then retired from business three or four years and then engaged in general merchandising, in which he continued up to 1885.

Mr. Rockwell lost his first wife, who passed away September 30, 1857, leaving two children—Frances Minerva, who married J. M. Davidson, and now resides in York county, Nebraska; and Martha Jane, who died in 1850. In 1848 Mr. Rockwell married Miss Susan Grow, who was born at

Clyde, New York, where she was reared and educated. The children by this marriage are: Margaret, married N. C. Twinning, now living in Batavia, and who has been librarian of the public library about ten years; Anna Maria, living with her parents; and Hattie L., who died in childhood.

Mr. Rockwell is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and assisted in the organization of the first church of that denomination in Chicago, and also in Batavia; he served as superintendent of the Sunday-school, both in Chicago and Batavia, and was very active in church work until his health failed. On April 18, 1898, he attended the sixtieth anniversary of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Chicago, and with Rev. J. P. Brushingham and G. W. Dixon, took part in the exercises. As the first superintendent of the Sunday-school of that church he gave an historical account of its organization and progress. From the organization of the party, he has ever been a staunch Republican. For more than sixty years he has gone in and out among the people of Batavia, and is one of the oldest and honored citizens, well-known throughout Kane and adjoining counties. The poor and needy have ever found in him a friend, and no man in Kane county is more highly honored.

---

**C** DALLAS MONROE, superintendent of the Illinois Creamery Company, at Elgin, was born in Hazleton township, Shiawassee county, Michigan, June 1, 1875. His father, Hiram Monroe, is a native of Tompkins county, New York, and is the youngest in a family of three children whose parents were Isaiah and Phoebe Monroe, worthy representatives of old colonial fam-



ilies. On reaching manhood Hiram Monroe married Miss Louisa, daughter of Marvin Monroe, a distant cousin of President Monroe. Her parents moved to Michigan, where her father resides at the age of eighty-three years, the mother at the age of seventy-eight, after having celebrated their golden wedding. The mother of our subject was a native of Tioga county, New York, and although bearing the same name as her husband, they were not related previous to their marriage. He is a staunch supporter of the Republican party.

The subject of this sketch obtained a good practical education in the public schools of Owosso, Michigan, which he attended until sixteen years of age. On starting out upon his business career, he was employed for two years as a glazier in a casket factory in Owosso, and for a year and a half held a position in the electric light station. Coming to Chicago March 10, 1896, he remained in that city until June, experimenting for the company with which he is now connected, perfecting their system for reworking country butter to convert it into creamery butter. A member of the firm while traveling in Michigan met Mr. Monroe, was pleased with him, and recognizing his business qualifications thought he would make a good manager for their business in Elgin. This resulted in his engagement, and on coming here he rebuilt the old factory at North Elgin, where they conducted operations until May, 1897, when they removed to their present large factory, built under the direction of our subject. The main building is one hundred feet square and two stories in height, while the engine room is forty by sixty feet. Here thirty thousand pounds of common butter can be converted into creamery butter in one day.

The idea of reworking the butter is not original with Mr. Monroe, but the peculiar method of doing so is his invention and is a secret process. The development of the business is due not a little to his energy, activity and excellent management, for he is a wide-awake young business man of sound judgment and progressive ideas.

In Owosso, Michigan, Mr. Monroe was united in marriage with Miss Anna, daughter of M. A. and Helen (Whimble) Parks, the former a carpenter and builder by occupation. Mrs. Monroe's uncle, Davis Parks, a pensioner of the war of 1812, lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and four years, dying in 1894. At the age of one hundred and two, he and his wife, aged ninety-six years, visited Owosso, Michigan, and walked quite a distance from the depot to the residence of relatives. Mrs. Monroe's great-grandfather Whimble, a friend of General Washington, served as an Indian interpreter for that commander during the Revolutionary war, and for his services received a large grant of land.

---

HENRY RANG, the efficient superintendent of streets of Aurora, was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 3, 1838. His father, Adam Rang, and his mother, Margaret (Hoffeker) Rang, were also natives of Germany, were there married, and there the father died in 1844 when about forty-eight years of age. He was a potter by trade, and ran a pottery in Bavaria. A progressive and enterprising man, and a good and worthy citizen, he was honored with several local offices. They were the parents of seven children.

In 1852 two of the children, Fred and Minnie, came to the United States and



located in Aurora. They were so favorably impressed with the country that the remainder of the family determined to come, and on the 10th of March, 1853, our subject and his sister, Margaret, set sail for America. They were on the ocean fifty-six days, and had a good time, good treatment, plenty to eat, and plenty to see of seastorms, sharks almost by the acre. While encountering some terrible storms, no accident occurred. They landed at New York Saturday, May 21, 1853, and left the Monday evening following, and arrived in Aurora on Saturday. They came all the way by rail, except from Buffalo to Detroit. The same trip can now be made in twenty-five hours. The train ran slowly, stopped at about every station, and from Detroit to Chicago required an entire day.

In the fall of 1853 the mother and the other children came to America, and joined the others at Aurora. A few weeks after their arrival Barbara, aged ten years, and Christina, aged twenty-seven, died from fever. This was a very sad event, and was a hard blow to the mother, coming so soon after their arrival here. Of the other children, William now resides in Aurora; Fred, who for many years was shoe merchant in Aurora, died in 1890; Henry is the subject of this sketch; Margaret is now the wife of John Grometer, of Aurora; Minnie married Fred Kehm, a wagon-maker by trade, who removed to Chicago, where his death occurred May, 1894, she surviving him, dying November, 1895, when about sixty-five years of age. The mother died in Aurora in July, 1868, when sixty-six years of age.

Henry Rang received his education in the schools of Bayerberg, Bavaria, where he completed a course. On his arrival in Aurora, he worked four weeks on a farm

near the city, and on the 4th of July, 1853, began working for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, carrying water, running errands, and doing such work as a boy of fifteen could do. The road at that time was in process of construction, and he continued to be thus employed until it was finished to Mendota. In the winter of 1853-4 he was unemployed on account of sickness, but in the spring began working on the railroad again, continuing until September. He then found employment in a dry-goods store as a clerk, where he remained a year and a half. Believing it essential that he should have a trade, he engaged with a carpenter and served three years. He then worked three years in the bridge department of the railroad company, and from 1866 to 1891 he was in the building department, becoming quite proficient, and a valuable man. During the years that had passed he mingled more or less in society, and served his city as alderman for some time, and thus familiarized himself with the needs of the city. On leaving the railroad company in 1891 he was appointed by Mayor Fisher superintendent of streets of Aurora, which position he still holds. He has rendered a very efficient service, as is evinced by the time he has thus been employed.

On the 28th of June, 1858, he married Miss Margaret Muchler. By this union are six children, as follows: Maggie, now the wife of W. C. Fickenschner, is the mother of four children, Metha, Paul, Arthur and Hugo, the latter being twins, and the family resides in Buffalo, New York, where Mr. Fickenschner is employed in the parochial school; Henry, who died at the age of ten months; Carl H. married Josie King, by whom he has one son, Carl, Jr., and they

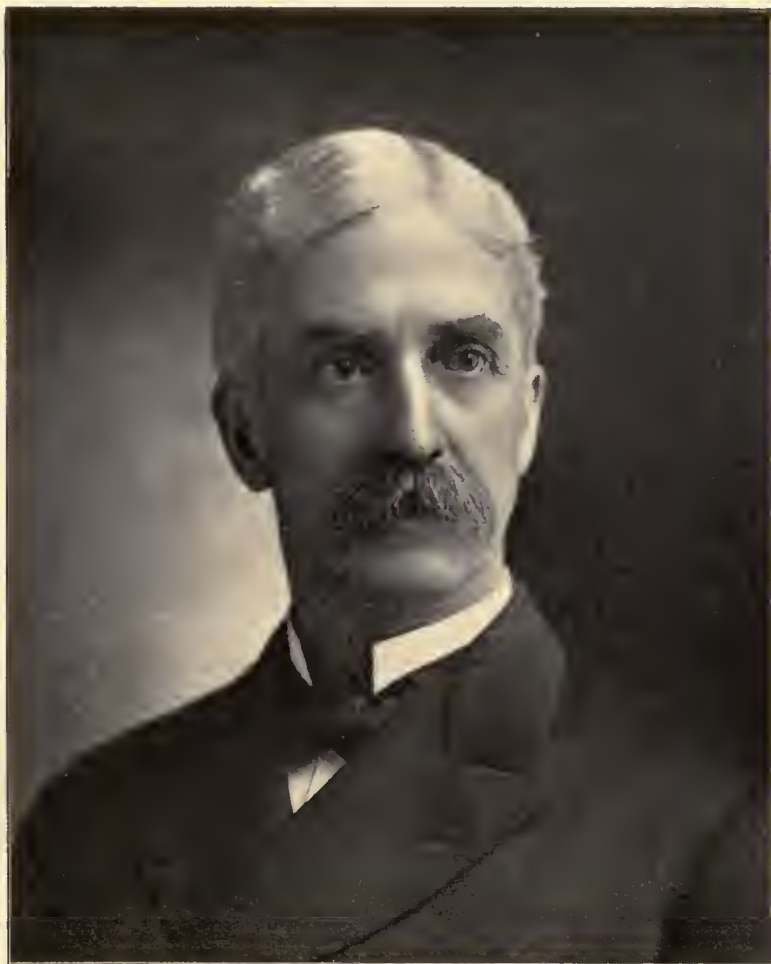
reside in Rockford, Illinois; August, who died at the age of two and a half years; Bertha and Pauline, at home. The mother died January 28, 1891, at the age of fifty-six years. She was a member of the Lutheran church, a devout Christian, a good mother, and did much to make a happy home. Mr. Rang's second wife was Mrs. Catherine Kemerle, native of Germany, and widow of Christian Kemerle. Their marriage was celebrated November 5, 1896. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rang are members of the Lutheran church, in which he has held the office of trustee since 1862, with the exception of one or two years. He is now the treasurer of the church. Politically he is independent, giving more attention to the man to fill the office than the party to which he belongs. He is a good citizen, true to the best interests of the community, and represents the progressive element of the German population of Aurora.

**A**RTHUR A. BENNETT, the efficient mayor of St. Charles, Illinois, now serving his fourth term, has been a resident of the city since 1885. He is of English and Scotch descent, the first of the family coming from England about 1700 and locating in Massachusetts. His great-grandfather, Andrew Bennett, was a native of Vermont and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary army. William Bennett, the grandfather, served in the war of 1812, and was in the battle of Plattsburg. He was also a native of Vermont. George H. Bennett, the father, was born in Montpelier, Vermont, where he married Emeline Young, a daughter of Rev. Zebina Young, a minister in the Baptist church, and pastor of the church at Montpelier. To Mr.

and Mrs. George H. Bennett were born six children, of whom three are yet living, our subject being the eldest. The second, Professor William Z. Bennett, is a graduate of Harvard University, and was seventh in a class of one hundred and ninety-two. He now occupies the chair of physics and English literature in Wooster University, at Wooster, Ohio. Adela E. Bennett now resides with her brother. The mother died in 1865, and the father, who was well known in business circles throughout Vermont and Massachusetts, passed away in August, 1896.

Mr. Bennett, whose name introduces this sketch, was born in Montpelier, Vermont, July 31, 1847, and was educated at Dartmouth College. When his school days were over he engaged in farming in Vermont for several years, also became interested in the creamery business, establishing about thirty creameries in the Province of Quebec, which he successfully operated for seven years. That business naturally led to the manufacture of sugar of milk, and for three years he carried on operations along that line in Burlington, Vermont. In 1885 at the end of that time he came to St. Charles, removing his plant to this place, where he has since successfully engaged in business. This is the only manufactory of the kind in the state, and three-fourths of all the sugar of milk manufactured in the world is now made in St. Charles. From the beginning Mr. Bennett's business has rapidly increased until it has assumed extensive proportions and has become quite profitable. His refinery is located at St. Charles, and he has five other evaporators, all in the Elgin district.

In 1869, in Brookfield, Vermont, Mr. Bennett was united in marriage to Miss



A. A. BENNETT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



Harriet French, a native of that state, who was reared and educated in Brookfield. Her father, Otis French, was a business man and early settler of Barre, Vermont. Mrs. Bennett died in 1879, leaving one daughter, Clara E., who was provided with a good education, and is now the wife of Rev. W. E. Clark, of St. Charles, an evangelist, professor and teacher now located in Boydton, Virginia. In Montpelier, Vermont, Mr. Bennett was again married, in 1883, his second union being with Miss Eleanor C. Needham, also a native of the Green Mountain state, and a daughter of Captain Sidney R. Needham, of Montpelier, who for twenty years was captain of a merchant vessel sailing between Liverpool and Sidney, Australia. Two sons have been born of the second marriage, namely: Edward Ellsworth and Sidney Royal.

Since casting his first presidential vote for General Grant in 1868, Mr. Bennett has been an ardent Republican, and earnestly advocates a protective tariff and sound money. He has taken quite an active and prominent part in local politics, is a recognized leader of his party in his community, and in 1891 was elected mayor of St. Charles, to which office he has been continuously re-elected up to the present time, plainly indicating his popularity and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow-citizens. 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 received his hearty endorsement. Mr. Bennett is a Master Mason, having joined Seneca lodge, No. 40, F. & A. M., of Milton, Vermont, many years ago, and both he and his wife are active and prominent members of the Congregational church of St. Charles.

HON. WILLIAM F. DICKINSON, president of the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, but who is practically living a retired life, has been a resident of Kane county since 1866. He is a native of Vermont, born in the town of Washington, Orange county, April 19, 1814. The family was originally from England, the first of the name, Nathaniel Dickinson, coming to the New World in 1629. In England the family occupied a prominent position and had its coat of arms. Gideon Dickinson, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Massachusetts, and in his day was quite prominent. His son Joshua Dickinson was also born in Massachusetts, where he grew to manhood and married Mrs. Prudence Stone, *née* Fuller, who was then a widow and a daughter of Simeon Fuller. They became the parents of six children, of whom Emily married Nehemiah S. Tinker and settled in Chelsea, Vermont, afterwards moving to Derby, Vermont, where her death occurred; Joshua B., who removed to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and married Katherine Lee of that city. He was elected first mayor of the city, and died while the incumbent of that office; William F., of this review; Prudence, who married Judge Thurston, removed to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and there died; Franklin, who married a daughter of Judge Peasley, located in Chelsea, Vermont, was sheriff of his county for some years and died at that place; Fannie who married Judge Porter Kibbey, of Randolph, Vermont, and who afterwards removed to Detroit, Michigan, where he served as judge of the probate court; Persis Jane, who married Edward Blackwell, of New York; he is now deceased, while she is living at Montpelier, Vermont; her son-in-

law, James C. Houghton, is vice-president and general manager of the National Life Insurance Company.

Joshua Dickinson, soon after his marriage, removed to Washington, Vermont, where he engaged in merchandising for some years. About 1815, he moved to Chelsea, there engaged in business, and was elected judge of the county court, and held other positions of honor and trust. He subsequently removed to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, where he and his wife both died. He was a man of prominence wherever he lived, and was held in high esteem.

William F. Dickinson grew to manhood in Chelsea, Vermont, and there received his education in the public schools. His youth, when not in school, was spent in his father's store, where he received a thorough, practical business training. After arriving at manhood, he engaged in the mercantile business, at Plainfield, Vermont, and was there two years. He then returned to Chelsea, where he succeeded his father in business, and was thus engaged for twenty-six years. During this time he took an active part in public affairs, and filled various official positions.

Mr. Dickinson was married in February, 1837, at Tonbridge, Vermont, to Mary Helen Hall, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Jonathan C. Hall, a business man of Tonbridge, where she was reared and educated. Three children were born of this union, as follows: Chase Hall, who grew to mature years, married Ruth S. Pitkin, of Delavan, Wisconsin, and for some years was a merchant at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and there died in 1897. He was a prominent and successful merchant and had the reputation of being one of the best business men of the place. He left a wife

and son, Bartlett C. Dickinson, now a student in the Michigan University, Ann Arbor. His daughter, Helen Louise, met her death by drowning, while bathing in a lake near Kalamazoo, Michigan. Helen Louise, married Henry B. Towne, November, 1871. She died in April, 1873. Henry B. Towne died in Chicago in 1885. Marcia Isabel, who remains with her father at home.

In October, 1866, Mr. Dickinson moved with his family to Aurora, where he engaged in the lumber business. For some years he had been interested in the lumber interests at South Haven, Michigan, having invested largely in pine lands in that region. After continuing the business some eight years at Aurora, he sold his lumber interest and accepted the position of secretary and general manager of the Aurora Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, in which capacity he served for several years. He was then elected president of the company, which position he still continues to hold. The factory is one of the important industries of Aurora, and much of the credit of its success is due to Mr. Dickinson.

Mr. Dickinson cast his first presidential ballot for Martin Van Buren. He continued to act with the Democratic party until the organization of the Republican party, and in 1856 was a delegate to the first National Republican Convention, at Philadelphia, and assisted in the nomination of the "Great Pathfinder," General John C. Fremont. For several years he served as treasurer of Orange county, Vermont, and in 1859 was elected judge of probate for the district of Randolph, and re-elected in 1860, serving two terms in that office. He was also elected in 1860 a member of the state legislature, and, being re-elected, served two

terms. While a member of that body, he served on several important committees, including that of banking. He was later elected state railroad commissioner, in which position he also served two terms. Since coming to Aurora he was elected and served two terms as alderman of the city, and for some years served as assistant supervisor on the county board. In whatever position he was called upon to fill, he made a faithful and efficient officer.

Mr. Dickinson was one of the organizers of the Second National Bank, of Aurora, and was elected director, a position he held during its existence. He also served as a director of the Old Second National Bank, which succeeded the former organization. While residing in Orange county, Vermont, he was also a director in a bank, being associated with Senator Morrill. For more than fifty years he was a bank director, a term of service of which there are but few equals.

Mrs. Dickinson died in Aurora, in March, 1872. She was a woman of great refinement and lovable character, and her friends were many wherever known. Mr. Dickinson and his daughter, who are members of the New England Congregational church, reside in a beautiful home on Downer Place, where they delight to entertain their many friends. For almost a third of a century he has been a resident of Aurora, and in that time has done much to advance its material interests. Few men have more or stronger friends.

---

**D**IETRICH LAUE is one of the leading farmers of Hampshire township, his large farm lying in sections 2 and 3. Of the many races that make up the component

parts of our mixed nationality, none, perhaps, have added more to the national wealth than the sturdy sons of the Fatherland. Germany has furnished to America many who have become prominent in the councils of the nation. In her fleets and armies, and in her works of peace, many have risen to places of honor and trust. In the commercial world and upon the farm, many have obtained wealth and prominence.

The family from which sprang the subject of this sketch was one of wealth and prominence in the old kingdom of Hanover. In the days prior to its absorption by Prussia, Hanover was the richest of the German kingdoms. The public treasury was so well filled that interest of the kingdom's capital was sufficient to sustain their army, and the peaceful avocations of life were not as heavily taxed as now to keep them on a war footing. All its sons were not then required to spend three or four years in the army, and their time was not, therefore, withdrawn from the pursuits of peace. This was the condition of affairs when Dietrich Laue, grandfather of our subject, removed from France to the kingdom of Hanover with his parents, who were French. When an old man it was his delight to call his grandchildren around him and relate incidents of earlier times, and talk to them in French, in which he was a fluent speaker, much to their amusement, their ears being accustomed only to the German tongue. He was a man of wealth and prominence, a large land owner for the time in which he lived and one having a fine education. For many years he was a magistrate, and the leading man of Hemsem, the village and district in which he lived. It is related that it fell to his duty to find quarters for some thousands of French soldiers who were sta-



tioned there during the Napoleonic wars. During this time, at noon each day, he was required to act as escort to the women who took food to their husbands in the field, they fearing the troops of the foreign invader. He attained a good old age, passing away when eighty-two years and four months old, revered by several generations of the Hemsem villagers. He was twice married, first to a widow lady, and to extinguish title to property, of the former husband's estate, he gave the daughter a thousand dollars as a settlement, a very large sum of money at that time, showing him to be a man of more than ordinary wealth at the time. After her death he married a Miss Pinne, who became the mother of Henry Laue, father of the Subject of this review.

Henry Laue was born in the village of Hemsem, in 1812, and attended the schools conducted by the Lutheran church, and at the age of fourteen was confirmed and admitted to membership in the church. He devoted himself to farming and lived most of his life on a comfortable farm of sixty acres, which in that county, under their system of cultivation, amounts to two or three times that number of acres in this country. In 1881, he came to America, and for seven years made his home with his son near Harmony, Illinois. But it is hard to transplant an old tree into new soil. Thoughts of the fatherland crowded themselves upon him, and finally the longing for the old home became too great to be withstood. In 1888, he returned to the home of his childhood, and in January, 1891, went to his rest, having lived a long and useful life of which his children may well be proud.

Henry Laue married Mary Vogel, daughter of Dietrich Vogel, who was a farmer in comfortable circumstances in Hemsem.

The mother died at the age of sixty-one, a woman full of Christian virtues. To them were born seven children as follows: Henry, who lives on the old home farm; served during the Franco-Prussian war, and was detailed for service at the officers' quarters because of his faithfulness and steady habits; Louisa, who married Henry Deusing, and lives in Germany; Fred, who also served during the Franco-Prussian war, and, like Henry, because of his faithfulness, was retained at headquarters with the paymaster, receiving mail, and handling money; he came to America in 1882, and now owns a fine farm in McHenry county, near Harmony; Dietrich, our subject, who was named for his grandfather; August, who is engaged in farming in the old country, and who never came to America; William, who came to America some years after our subject, and now owns two fine large farms in McHenry county, not far from the Kane county line; and Sophia, who married Patrick Kain, and lives in Chicago.

Dietrich Laue was born in the village of Hemsem, near the market town of Nienburg, July 29, 1848, the year of the revolution of the German states. He attended the parochial school as usual, but owing to the family residence having been burned, and the necessity of his being employed in some capacity, he was passed through the school a year earlier than common, though he passed all the examinations to the satisfaction of the teacher in charge. At an early age he was employed on a large estate, keeping watch over the cattle in the fields for several years, when he was appointed, and for four years had full charge of the sheep of a large estate. The last six months before sailing for America he was employed at ordinary farm work.



When it came to breaking home ties, the grief of the family was profound. The aged grandfather threw his arms around the neck of his favorite grandson, named for him, and implored him to remain. Sailing from Bremen October 16, 1868, in the Hansen, the largest and safest vessel of the line, after a fair voyage of ten days our emigrant landed at New York, and came directly west to Chicago, the time occupied by the emigrant train, in which he took passage, being five days. At this time he was thirteen dollars in debt, and this is the start he had in this country.

From Chicago, Mr. Laue went to Bloomington, Du Page county, securing work with Henry Harmoning, with whom he remained one year. The four following years he was employed on the farm of Lewis Bartlett, and then returned to his former employer, remaining two years. It is a noticeable fact that Mr. Laue remained for a long period of time at each place, and received from forty to fifty dollars a year more than others working for the same person. His employers could rest easy when away from home, knowing that Dietrich Laue was in charge and that everything would be as well cared for as if they were on the place. One of the secrets of Mr. Laue's success, was that he always endeavored to take as careful interest in his employer's affairs, as if they were his own.

Mr. Laue was married in Chicago, February 24, 1875, to Miss Sophia Reinking, a native of Ontarioville, Illinois, daughter of Dietrich Reinking and Dora (Fisher) Reinking. By this marriage, have been born seven children, all of whom yet remain under the parental roof. They are—Fredrick, Emma, William, Herman, Tillie, August and Lena.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Laue had saved fourteen hundred dollars. He then came to Hampshire township and purchased two hundred and sixty acres on section 2, on which he made a payment of twelve hundred dollars. He then began a career of unusual success, which has made him the owner of a large tract of as fine land as lies in the state of Illinois. Before he had completed the deferred payments on his first purchase he bought one hundred and fifty acres adjoining his farm on section 3, on which stands a substantial house and barn. On the first tract he erected a large two-story frame house and a fine basement barn, 36x80. He follows dairy farming and keeps on hand from one hundred to one hundred and ten milch cows, the products of which he ships to Chicago. A man of unusual good business management, he is training his sons in the same energetic ways.

The family are all members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, of Harmony. In politics Mr. Laue is a Republican, and sees no present reason why he should ever make a change. He has served a number of years as school director for his district, which extends into McHenry county, and in the spring of 1898 was elected one of the road commissioners of Hampshire township. His life of patient industry, should be an incentive to others who would succeed in life.

JOHN A. McQUEEN, residing on section 1, Plato township, Kane county, has spent almost sixty years of his life in this county. The McQueen family is one of the oldest and most respected of the Scottish yeomanry. For many generations, representatives of the family were to be found

in southwest Scotland. The first to come to America was George McQueen, who was born in Wigtonshire, Scotland, in 1805, and was the youngest of a family of ten children. He was educated for the ministry, but feeling no call for clerical life, became an ironmonger in Scotland. His father was well-to-do and owned a large farm, on which George was reared. The latter was also a farmer, as well as a merchant.

In 1836 George McQueen sold his property in Scotland and came to America, and for three years lived at Croton Point, New York, on the Hudson river. In 1839 he came west by boat to Troy, New York, thence by canal to Buffalo, and from there to Chicago by lake. He came at once to Kane county and purchased two hundred and thirty acres in section 1, in Plato township, where the remainder of his life was passed, he dying in 1859. Before leaving Scotland he married Margaret McCornack, born in Scotland in 1807, and the eldest of a family of six children born to Andrew and Helen (McGeogh) McCornack. Her parents came to America in 1837 and her father died here at the age of ninety-nine years. She died in 1860 at the age of fifty-three years. To George and Margaret McQueen seven children were born, as follows: Ellen, who married Alexander Caskey, of Chicago Heights, and is now deceased; William, who died at the age of nineteen years; Andrew, living in Adams county, Washington; John A. of this review; Elizabeth, wife of James Rosborough, of Plato township; Janet, wife of W. J. Christie, of Elgin; and Mary H., wife of W. J. McEldowney, of Chicago Heights.

John A. McQueen was born at Croton Point, April 14, 1839, and was but three months old when his parents came to Kane

county. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the public schools at Udina and also Elgin Academy until the age of eighteen years. He then taught school for two years, and on his father's death, in 1859, he took charge of the home farm until his mother's death, one year later. He continued to remain on the farm until the outbreak of the rebellion, when he enlisted August 17, 1861, in Company B, a calvary company attached to the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His company was mustered in at Camp Hammond, Aurora, and was from there sent to Benton Barracks, where the regiment remained one month, engaged in drilling. It was then sent to Camp Rolla, where it remained until January, 1862, and was in the battle of Pea Ridge, under Curtis. It then marched to Cape Girardeau, where it took a steamer to Pittsburg Landing, and marched thence to Corinth, participating in the siege of that place. The regiment was then sent to Nashville and took part, under Buell, in the race with Bragg for the Ohio river at Louisville, Kentucky. It was in the battle of Perryville, and later in the battles of Stone River and Murphrysboro. In the Chattanooga campaign it participated in the battles of Chickamauga and Lookout Mountain, under Hooker, in that engagement so graphically described as the battle above the clouds. It was then in the campaign and the battles around Atlanta.

While in Lookout Valley, Mr. McQueen's time expired, and he re-enlisted for three years or "until the close of the war." From Atlanta, under Howard, the regiment marched to Savannah, on the world famed march to the sea. With the division that moved to Beaufort by the steamer and thence to Pocotalico, the regi-

ment moved on to Columbia and Goldsborough where Sherman and Scofield made a junction. After leaving Beaufort Mr. McQueen had charge of General Howard's scouts, and was recognized as one of the most daring of men in that service of the many fearless ones who made enviable records during the war.

Two days after leaving Columbia, while out with a scouting party, Mr. McQueen was riding a white horse that he had picked up, his own having become disabled. This made him conspicuous, and in consequence he was an easy mark for the enemy, and received a severe wound in the groin. After lying twenty-four hours in a nearby cabin he was captured. From this time on his experience reads like a romance. During the time of the disorder, when Columbia was burned during its occupancy by the federal troops, Mr. McQueen used every effort to restrain the troops and posted a guard to protect the residence of an aged couple. It proved to be that of Rev. A. Toomer Porter, chaplain of a confederate general and a man of great influence in the south. Because of this fact the minister gave him a letter addressed to Gen. Wade Hampton or any confederate officer into whose hands it might fall, stating the fact and commending him to their consideration. After receiving the wound, Mr. McQueen was removed to the home of a southern soldier who had lost an arm in the battle of Petersburg, under General Lee. He carried our subject one mile to his home, and there cared for and protected him. That letter secured for him the consideration he received. A noted guerrilla came to the cabin with the intention of killing him, but was prevented by the owner, who would have protected him with his life.

When Rev. Porter learned of the wounding of Mr. McQueen he came to him and secured his removal to a confederate hospital at Camden. Here he was commended to the favor of Bishop Davis, of South Carolina, and by his own generosity to fellow inmates in dividing the food sent him by friends of the Bishop, won their hearts and was given better treatment than he would have otherwise received. When somewhat recovered he was removed to the military prison, and here the Bishop's son came to him and secured for him the best to be had. While here he saw Dr. Todd, a brother-in-law of President Lincoln, who was serving as surgeon in the confederate army. Bishop Davis and Rev. Porter also visited him while in the prison, and as soon as he was able to travel Rev. Porter took him to Chester, South Carolina. Their only conveyance to Chester was a rickety old buggy and a condemned army mule. The latter was so weak that he could not draw both men in the buggy, so Mr. Porter walked the greater part of the way.

At Raleigh Mr. Porter secured the parole of our subject, and he there waited the arrival of Sherman's army. The pages of history do not record a greater expression of gratitude for favors shown than that exhibited by Rev. Porter to Mr. McQueen. He traveled with him more than thirteen hundred miles, the greater part of the distance on foot, and using his influence with superior officers, finally secured his parole. On several occasions he was instrumental in saving our subject's life. At a G. A. R. reunion at Washington, some years after the close of the war, there was a very affecting meeting of Mr. Porter and Mr. McQueen. The reverend gentleman now conducts a school for orphans of the war, both union



and confederate, and for its maintenance secures large sums of money from the north. Beginning as a private, Mr. McQueen was later commissioned first lieutenant, and was known as a fearless and daring scout of great service to Sherman's army.

On his return home Lieutenant McQueen purchased from the other heirs the old homestead and has now one hundred and ninety-five acres under a high state of cultivation. On the place he has erected two dwellings and three large barns. For some six years after the close of the war he made a specialty of sheep raising, but that industry becoming unprofitable he abandoned it. About 1871 he began dairy farming, and keeps upon the place about one hundred head of cattle. The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad cutting through his farm, a station was there located, which he named Plato, but which name was changed by the railroad company to McQueen's Station. Here for a time he engaged in the mercantile business. The farm is now conducted by his sons.

Lieutenant McQueen was united in marriage at Chicago Heights November 28, 1865, with Miss Martha E. Eakin, born May 22, 1845, and a daughter of Stewart B. and Catherine (McEldowney) Eakin, both of whom were natives of Ireland. By this union five children were born as follows: (1) Catherine Margaret, who attended the Elgin academy, and later graduated from the Rockford Female College, and who is now holding a position in the Gail Borden Library at Elgin. (2) Alice J., a graduate of both the Elgin Academy and Rockford Female College. She is a teacher of great ability. When Professor Welch resigned as principal of the Elgin Academy and took charge of Lake Forrest Seminary,

he insisted on Miss McQueen receiving an appointment, and she was the first female teacher in that institution. (3) William Charles, a graduate from the Elgin Academy and who spent one year at Knox College, Galesburg, married Irene McCornack, daughter of Andrew H. and Isabella M. (Eakin) McCornack. The latter was a daughter of Samuel and Jane (Christy) Eakin, Jane being a daughter of William Christy. Andrew H. McCornack was the son of William and Eliza (Frazer) McCornack, the former from Wigtonshire, and and the latter from Inverness-shire. She was the daughter of William and Isabella (McLean) Frazer. William McCornack was the son of Andrew and Ellen (McGeough) McCornack. To William C. McQueen and wife two children have been born, one dying in infancy, the other being Martha Isabelle. (4) George Stewart, who attended the public school and Elgin Academy, now engaged in farming at McQueen's Station. He married Jenny Mink, daughter of Leander and Marcia (Woodward) Mink, by whom he has two children, Margaret and Harry. Leander Mink was the son of Robert and Jane (Vantine) Mink. His wife, Marcia, was the daughter of Robert and Mary (Crandall) Woodward. (5) John Walter, a graduate of the Elgin Academy, is now a student in Beloit College.

Lieutenant McQueen is a member of Elgin post No. 49, G. A. R. No man stands higher in the community. He is conscientious and upright, a good citizen, thrifty and energetic.

**M** T. BARROWS, now living a retired life in Dundee, Illinois, has been a resident of the state since January, 1856.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



M. T. BARROWS.



MRS. M. T. BARROWS.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



His life is an exemplification of the fact that there are no rules for building characters, and none for achieving success. The man who can rise from the ranks to a position of eminence is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that surround his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same, the surroundings of individuals differ but slightly. When one man passes another on the highway of life it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably encompass the whole human race. Among the most prominent men of Kane county, is the one whose name heads this sketch. He was born in the town of Corinth, Saratoga county, New York, July 15, 1834, and is the son of Theron Barrows, born in the same town in 1812. His grandfather, Joseph Barrows, was also a native of New York, and one of the early settlers of Saratoga county, where he was for many years one of the leading farmers. The family are of English descent, three brothers coming to this country at an early day, one locating in Connecticut, one in Massachusetts, and the ancestor of our subject in New York.

Theron Barrows was a blacksmith by trade, which occupation he followed in his native state. He there married Marietta Grippin, a native of Saratoga county, New York, and a daughter of William Grippin, a pioneer farmer of that county. Both received the common-school education of early days, gleaning their greatest knowledge in the stern school of experience. They were brought up believers in the Baptist faith, and joined a church of that denomination in the town of Corinth, New York. They never changed from this belief, but continued firm to the end of their lives. At the early ages of nineteen and seventeen years, re-

spectively, they joined hands in the holy bonds of matrimony, and started forth on life's journey, spending nearly sixty years together.

In 1854 Theron Barrows moved with his family to Dundee, Illinois, where he engaged in the hardware business, which he successfully conducted for a number of years. Closing out his stock, he removed to Elgin, and became a stockholder and vice-president of the Home National Bank, with which institution he was connected until his death, in December, 1892. His wife survived him a few months, passing away in 1893. They were laid to rest in the Dundee cemetery. In early life he was a staunch Whig and an enthusiastic supporter of Henry Clay. He believed in maintaining a high tariff and was unalterably opposed to slavery. After the change of political parties, he remained a firm Republican to the end of his life. In his business relations he was ever accounted honest and upright, valuing his word higher than written guarantee. Socially he was a man of genial and pleasant manners, making and retaining many friends.

M. T. Barrows, our subject, grew to manhood in Greenfield Centre, Saratoga county, New York, and there learned the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked and carried on a shop for some years. In January, 1856, he came west, locating first in Dundee, where he operated a blacksmith shop for two years, when he sold out and removed to Barrington, Cook county, where he carried on a shop for five years. Returning to Dundee he took an interest in the hardware store, in partnership with his father, which connection was continued for eight years. He then purchased his father's interest and continued the business with gratifying success, until 1888, when he sold out

and has since lived a retired life. He has also dealt somewhat extensively in real estate, buying and selling farm land. He now owns several farms, one in Kane county, two in Cook county, one in Lake county, one in Boone county and one of nine hundred and sixty acres in Howard county, Iowa, and a plantation in Monticello, Jefferson county, Florida, of over five hundred acres. The farms are all for stock and dairy purposes, and are all well improved places, comprising a total of three thousand, five hundred acres.

Mr. Barrows was united in marriage at Dundee, Illinois, in December, 1856, to Miss C. L. Oatman, only daughter of Jesse Oatman, a pioneer settler of Kane county. There were ten children born of this union, five of whom died in infancy and early childhood. The living are Clara M., wife of Dr. Briggs, of Elgin; Herbert A., in the insurance business at Dundee; Elta V., wife of A. C. Crawford, of Freeport, Illinois; Lucy B., wife of Alfred Ketchum, a farmer of Dundee township; and L. Gertrude, now taking a course of music in Newport, New Hampshire.

Politically Mr. Barrows is a Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. From that time to the present he has voted for the nominees of that party for president at each election. While preferring to give his time and attention to his extensive business interests, he was elected and served as president of the town board three terms. When a young man he united with the Odd Fellows and passed all the chairs, but is now an ancient Odd Fellow. He is a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife and children are also members.

Mr. Barrows commenced life for himself

a poor boy, working for twenty-five cents a day, and later four dollars a month. At the age of eighteen he had saved one hundred and forty-nine dollars, with which he commenced blacksmithing for himself at Greenfield Centre, New York. By his own industry and thrifty habits, he has acquired a competency, and is able to live a retired life. When he came west he had about twelve hundred dollars, which he invested in business, and success has crowned his efforts in a remarkable degree. For forty-two long years he has been a resident of this vicinity, and is well known in Kane and adjoining counties, and those who know him best hold him in the highest regard.

JOEL GOODELL, who for twenty years has been the efficient assessor of St. Charles township, has made his home in the city of St. Charles almost continuously since January 24, 1857, and, as a public-spirited and progressive citizen, he has given his support to all measures for the public good.

Mr. Goodell was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, March 25, 1832, a son of Levi and Elizabeth (Covey) Goodell. The father was born in Salem, Massachusetts, about 1796, and died in 1858, while the mother died in Jefferson county, New York, when our subject was about twelve years old. In their family were five children—four sons and one daughter—all of whom are still living in New York, with the exception of our subject, and are heads of families, and Levi, Daniel, Hiram and Lucinda are all residents of Lewis county, that state.

About 1837 Joel Goodell accompanied the family on their removal from St. Lawrence county to Jefferson county, New York,

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



L. GERTRUDE BARROWS.





M. T. BARROWS.

HERBERT A. BARROWS.  
THERON C. BARROWS.

THERON BARROWS.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

locating sixteen miles from Watertown, where he grew to manhood. As his educational advantages were limited, he is almost wholly self-educated. At the age of sixteen he began learning the tanner's and currier's trade, in the village of Champion, New York, serving a four-years' apprenticeship, but after working as a journeyman for one year in Carthage, his health failed, and during the following year he spent most of his time in hunting and fishing with the hope of regaining his lost strength. He then engaged in farming for a year or two.

In Jefferson county, New York, Mr. Goodell was married to Miss Mary Orrinda Everden, September 1, 1855. She was born at Clayton, Thousand Islands, in the St. Lawrence river, a daughter of G. W. Everden, who was captain of a vessel, and was drowned the night of November 11, 1835, when his ship was lost. In his family were only two children, his son being E. G. Everden, a farmer and business man of Benona, Oceana county, Michigan, who is married and has a family. Mr. and Mrs. Goodell have one son, Ernest F., cashier of the banking house of Bowman, Warne & Stewart, of St. Charles. He is a well educated and successful business man, of sterling worth and many excellent traits of character. He is married and has two sons, Harry and Ralph, and a daughter, Charlotte M.

After his marriage, Joel Goodell continued to engage in farming in his native state until 1857, when he emigrated to St. Charles, and began the practice of veterinary surgery, with which he was perfectly familiar, his father having been connected with that profession. At the end of a year he returned to New York to care for his father who was ill, and while there he en-

listed, in 1861, in the Seventeenth New York Artillery, stationed at Sackett's Harbor, but on examination he was refused. Returning to St. Charles, in 1863, he was for about a year in the government employ, treating horses at the government corral in Chicago. Subsequently he practiced veterinary surgery in St. Charles for a number of years.

The Republican party has always found in Mr. Goodell a staunch supporter, having voted for every presidential candidate since casting his vote for John C. Fremont, in 1856, with the exception of once when not at home during the election. He has been a delegate to many county conventions, has taken an active interest in local politics, and for four years served as collector of St. Charles township, since which time he has been assessor. For a number of years he was also a member of the school board, and has most capably and faithfully discharged the duties of whatever office he has been called upon to fill, including that of deputy sheriff of Kane county, in which he served for three years. Although not a member of any religious organization, Mr. and Mrs. Goodell attend the Congregational church, and they have the respect and esteem of all who know them.

**E** J. BOLDT is one of the important factors in the business circles of Elgin, and his life is an exemplification of the term "the dignity of labor." The possibilities that America offers to her citizens he has utilized, and though he came to this country in limited circumstances he has steadily and perseveringly worked his way upward, leaving the ranks of the many to stand among the successful few. He now con-

ducts in Elgin a store which would be a credit to a city of much greater size, dealing in wall paper and paints and doing a general painting and decorating business.

Mr. Boldt was born in Tessin, Mecklenburg Schwerin, Germany, November 6, 1858, a son of Ernest J. and Mary (Hoffman) Boldt, also natives of Germany. The former was an officer on board a German vessel and followed the sea during the greater part of his active business life, making a number of trips to India on merchant marines. At the age of sixty-five he laid aside business cares and lived retired in the enjoyment of a well-earned rest until his death, in 1862. He was at the time in his sixty-ninth year, his birth having occurred in 1791. In religious belief he was a Lutheran. Mrs. Mary Boldt, who was his second wife, is now living in Elgin, at the age of sixty-three years. They had three children: E. J.; Adolph, employed in the postal service of Germany, and Caroline, wife of John Wagner, who resides on a farm near Dundee, Illinois.

Mr. Boldt, of this sketch, completed his literary education by his graduation in a high school at Tessin, about 1873. He then entered upon an apprenticeship to the painter's and decorator's trade under William Toellner, painter and decorator, completing his term at the age of nineteen, but remaining with his employer through the following year. When twenty years of age he entered the German army and on the expiration of his two years' term went to Hamburg, where he worked at his trade for six months. He then again entered the army, being called for a drill of six weeks. On once more returning to civil life, he determined to seek a home in America, and on the 22d of October, 1881, landed in

New York, whence he came to Elgin. He made this place his destination by reason of his uncle, F. O. Hoffman, living on a farm near here. After visiting his uncle for two weeks he secured employment with the firm of Day & Fencher, painters and decorators. After eight months Mr. Day removed to Syracuse, New York, and Mr. Boldt entered into partnership with Mr. Fencher, a connection which was maintained for a year.

Since that time Mr. Boldt has been alone in business, and has met with a splendid success, which he well merits. He carries a large and well-selected stock of wall paper, and has taken contracts for papering, painting and decorating some of the finest structures that have been erected in this part of the state. His business has constantly grown in volume and importance, and has now assumed extensive proportions. The frescoing in some of the churches in Elgin, Barrington, Hampshire and Geneva has been done by him and able assistants. He has taken contracts for painting many of the public buildings, and now has a contract for such work in the new park pavilion in course of construction; also a large new club-house at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. He has painted and tinted the inside walls of most of the Elgin school buildings, and in papering and decorating private residences he has a very large business. His artistic taste at once recognizing harmony in colors and tints, and grasping almost intuitively the effect that will be produced by certain combinations proves a very valuable factor in his work. He keeps always on hand a force of employes, and during the busy season frequently has as many as sixteen skilled workmen.

On the 4th of October, 1884, Mr. Boldt was united in marriage to Miss Lizzie, daugh-



ter of Fred Yurs, an agriculturist living near Elgin. They now have an interesting family of three children: Walter A., A. Herbert and Hazel Esther. The parents are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, and in social circles occupy an enviable position, their generous hospitality being enjoyed by many friends. Mr. Boldt gives his political support to the Republican party, but has never aspired to office, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business, in which he has met with signal success.

---

**E**BENEZER P. EATON, deceased, was widely and favorably known throughout various sections of the west, with whose business interests he was prominently identified. He was born in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1821, and when a lad of ten years removed to Waterloo, New York, with his parents, Ebenezer and Mary (Stuart) Eaton. His father was a descendant of Francis Benjamin Eaton, a Pilgrim who came to this country in the Mayflower.

About 1843 or 1844 Mr. Eaton came west and first located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was employed as a clerk in a hotel for three years. Becoming thoroughly familiar with that business, he opened a hotel in Chicago, which he conducted for two years, and subsequently he was successfully engaged in the same business at Elkhorn, Walworth county, Wisconsin, for sixteen years. In 1865 he removed to Clinton, Iowa where he engaged in hotelkeeping and also conducted a livery stable for ten years. Removing to Dixon, Illinois, in 1875, he carried on a livery there until 1880, when he retired from active business, enjoying a well earned rest at his pleasant home in Elgin, where he lived

for two years. A pleasant, genial gentleman, he made a most popular and successful landlord, and his house was always a great favorite with the traveling public. His political support was always given the men and measures of the Democratic party, and fraternally he affiliated with the Masonic order, and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In Clinton, Iowa, on the 23d of January, 1891, he was called to his final rest, and his death was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances as well as by his immediate family.

In early manhood Mr. Eaton married Miss Julia Harriman, a native of Canada, born at Jerusalem, thirty miles from Montreal. She is a representative, however, of some of the oldest and most highly respected families of the United States. Her paternal grandfather, Rufus Harriman, was born in Vermont of New England parentage, and married Lucinda Davis, a native of Connecticut, and a daughter of Samuel and Abigail (Clark) Davis, who were also descended from old Colonial stock. Mrs. Eaton's father, Noah Harriman, was born in Vermont, but spent much of his early life in Canada and New York, coming west in 1844 and locating in Elkhorn, Wisconsin, where he died in November, 1894, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. By occupation he was a farmer, and he had the respect and esteem of all who knew him. Mrs. Eaton, who is a most estimable lady, has a pleasant home at No. 363 Park avenue, Elgin, where she expects to spend her declining years.

Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, as follows: (1) Oriën C., who makes his home with his mother in Elgin, was in the one-hundred-days' service during the Civil war, and is now a traveling salesman

for a Chicago house. He married Eva Babcock, now deceased. Politically he is a Democrat, and socially he is a member of the Masonic fraternity. (2) Edgar Stewart, a grocer of Elgin, is a Republican in political sentiment, and is also a Mason. (3) Dora Louisa is living with her mother. (4) Stella M. is the wife of Walter Bates, a traveling salesman of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and has one child, Dorothy.

**C**HARLES J. ANDERSON, farmer and station agent at McQueen Station, Plato township, is a native of Kane county, born in Elgin, October 31, 1855. He attended the public schools of that city until about fourteen years of age, when it became necessary that he should find some useful employment, and for about six years he worked in the condensing factory, planing mill and in other places. In 1875 his father bought a farm of ninety acres, lying in Plato and Rutland townships, to which the family removed. For his father Charles worked until he purchased the farm to which he has since added twenty additional acres, bought of Andrew McCornack. The farm is used for dairy purposes, Mr. Anderson shipping the products to Chicago.

John Anderson, the father of our subject, was born in the city of Boroas, Sweden, and came to America in 1854, sailing from Gottenberg, and landing at Boston, where he remained six months. He then went to Chicago and thence to Elgin, and labored at what he could find to do. For a time he followed mattress making, and worked in the condensing factory until he purchased his farm in 1875. He has now retired from active work and makes his home with our subject. While residing in

Sweden, he married Anna Peterson, by whom he had seven children, five of whom reached maturity—Andrew, who was born in Sweden, six months before sailing, died in Elgin, at the age of forty-seven years; Sophia, living in Chicago; Louise, now Mrs. Peder Rovelstad, of Elgin; and Charles J., our subject, and his twin brother, William, who resides at South Manchester, Connecticut.

The subject of this sketch was married at McQueen's Station, February 10, 1887, to Miss Christine Caroline Johnson, a native of Sweden, who came to America with her brother in 1880. By this union five children have been born—Agnes, Anna, Antonia, Clara, and Carl William. The first named died at the age of three years and eight months. Mrs. Anderson died April 15, 1898. Her funeral was held in Elgin, and was attended by many friends who knew her in this life and who grieved with husband and motherless children. Her remains were laid to rest in Bluff City cemetery.

Since September, 1882, Mr. Anderson has served as station agent at McQueen's Station, and has been postmaster since Harrison served as president. He is a member of the Swedish Lutheran church of Elgin, of which body his wife is also a member. In politics, is a thorough Republican. As a citizen, he stands high in the estimation of his fellow men.

**L**ABAN HAYWARD, who is now living retired in Aurora, but who for over forty years was one of the active, enterprising and representative business men of the city, dates his residence in the state since 1849, and in Aurora, Kane county, since

1865. The Hayward family are of English descent, the first of the name settling in Vermont at a very early day. In that state Asa Hayward was born in 1784, and died in 1868. His son, Willard Hayward, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, in 1808. He was there reared, and married Betsy Bradish, the youngest of a family of eight children of Jonas M. Bradish, who was also a pioneer of Vermont. After his marriage Willard Hayward engaged in farming in Rutland county, Vermont, where he remained until 1849, and then moved west by way of the Erie canal and the lakes to Chicago, where he secured teams to haul his family and personal effects to Will county, Illinois. He there purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, and commenced the improvement of the place. For thirteen years he resided there, engaged in agricultural pursuits, then moved to Aurora and purchased residence property, where his death occurred in 1880, at the age of seventy-two years. His good wife survived him for over eleven years, being called to her reward in 1892. Their remains lie buried in Spring Lake cemetery, where a substantial monument marks their last resting place. They were the parents of two sons and one daughter: Henry, who for some years was an invalid, died in 1855; Mary E. married William Hattery, who is a business man residing in Waterloo, Iowa; Laban, the younger son, completes the family.

Laban Hayward was born in Rutland county, Vermont, August 21, 1836, and was a lad of thirteen years when he came with the family to Will county, Illinois. He there grew to manhood, and assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. His educational advantages were limited, but he acquired suffi-

cient knowledge to pass an examination, and for two winters engaged in teaching in the public schools. He has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Emmerancy Moore, a native of New York, where she was reared and educated, and who for some time was a teacher in the public schools. The wedding ceremony took place August 19, 1858. On the 30th of November, 1861, she was called to her final rest, leaving two children—Ada, wife of James A. Cook, of Waterloo, Iowa, and Eva, wife of Mr. Banister, of near Dwight, Illinois.

Mr. Hayward's second marriage was in Will county, September 24, 1863, when he wedded Elizabeth Barclay, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, born November 18, 1841, and who came with her father, James Barclay, to this country in 1857. Her father was for years a prominent farmer in Will county, but now resides in Aurora, living a retired life. By this union there were six children, of whom one is deceased, Clara, who died in childhood. The living are: Mary, wife of S. D. Brown, who holds a position with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad; Martha, formerly a teacher in the Aurora public schools, residing at home; George, Arthur and Charles, who succeeded their father in the grocery business at the old stand.

After his first marriage, Mr. Hayward took charge of the old homestead, and for nine years was there engaged in farming. He then moved to Aurora and engaged in the butchering business on the east side. Three years later he built a business house on Broadway, and continued in the meat business, later adding a stock of groceries. For five years he engaged in meat packing, in connection with his other lines of trade, also in buying and handling fruit and veg-



etables. Until January, 1898, he was actively engaged in business, when he was succeeded by his sons. Success crowned his efforts in every respect, his trade at all times being quite extensive, due in a great measure to his public spirit and the determination to succeed. He is now a stockholder, and for several years was a director in the First National Bank of Aurora. He is also a stockholder in the Home Building and Loan Association, the Aurora National Loan Association, and the Ice Company. In many of the business enterprises of Aurora, in the past thirty years, he has lent a helping hand.

The first ballot cast by Mr. Hayward for president of the United States, was in 1860, when he voted for Abraham Lincoln. From that time to the present, he has been an earnest advocate of the principles of the Republican party, and has voted for each of its presidential nominees. For two years he served as alderman of his ward, during which time he was on several important committees, including the railroad committee, that secured the building of the viaduct over the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. In his second year he was chairman of the committee on sewers, and was instrumental in having built the large sewer on the east side. He has ever been a friend of education and the public schools, and has given earnest support to every effort calculated to advance the school interest. While not a member of any church, he has assisted in the erection of several of the church buildings in the city, and has contributed of his means to other benevolent purposes. Mrs. Hayward is a consistent member of the Presbyterian church. Externally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge and chapter, and has represented

the former several times in the grand lodge of the state.

Mr. Hayward has been a resident of northern Illinois for forty-nine years, almost a half a century. For thirty-three years he has resided in Aurora. He has witnessed the growth and development of this part of the state, seen it change from a wilderness, and in its transformation has borne no inconsiderable part. Identified with the institutions of the city, and the prosperity of its people, he is numbered among the honored old settlers of Kane county. He is a man of good business ability, of exemplary habits, of tried integrity and worth, and he and his most estimable wife and family are esteemed and respected by all, and their many friends will be pleased to read this short sketch in the Biographical Record of Kane county.

**J**OHAN HENRY KARL, deceased, was for years one of the active business men of Aurora, and one of its most highly-esteemed and valued citizens. He was of foreign birth, but his duties of citizenship were performed with a loyalty equal to that of any native son of America, and, when this nation was imperiled by the hydra-headed monster, Rebellion, he went at once to its defense. Mr. Karl was born in the principality of Reis, Germany, November 15, 1835, of which place both his father and mother were natives. The father was by trade a builder and contractor and emigrated to America in 1850, settling in Buffalo, New York, soon after, and there engaged in business, very extensively, in contracting and building.

John Henry Karl had attended school in Germany and continued his studies in





J. HENRY KARL.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Buffalo, principally at a night school, working during the day. In that city he learned the drug business thoroughly, then removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he carried on the business for a time. In 1859 he came to Aurora, in response to a call from John Stout, and entered the drug business with that gentleman, on Broadway street. There he continued in active operation until the breaking out of the war in 1861, when he hired a man to represent him in the business and joined the Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Colonel Grisel, his position being that of hospital steward. After serving eleven months, on account of sickness, he was discharged for disability. Returning home to Aurora, and after recuperating, he entered into the active duties of his business again, still in partnership with Mr. Stout. The business was continued until 1870, at which time the stock was sold and the partnership dissolved.

In the spring of 1872, Mr. Karl bought the undivided half interest in the Aurora stone quarry, in partnership with Blasius Berthold, and the business was carried on under the firm name of Berthold & Karl. The same year Mr. Berthold was killed by the explosion of a pump engine, and the widow of Mr. Berthold and Mr. Karl carried on the business in partnership for a time, until she sold her interest to Mr. King. The partnership of Karl & King was very brief, a brother of his former partner, Mr. Berthold, Antone Berthold, buying Mr. King's interest, and for eight years Karl & Berthold successfully worked the quarry. Ever since his return from the army Mr. Karl had experienced delicate health, and in 1880 he sold out his interest in the quarry to his partner, and in April, 1881,

he died and was buried in Spring Lake cemetery, his death being mourned by a large circle of friends.

The marriage of Mr. Karl to Elisabeth Leppert, daughter of John and Helena (Baum) Leppert, was solemnized in June, 1867. To this union five children were born, all of whom are yet living—Robert Henry, Edward George, Oda Leonora, Louis William and Harry Herman. All are yet residing in Aurora, and Robert H. was married to Martha Swartz, of Columbus, Ohio. Louis and Harry are conducting a drug store in the Coulter block.

Mr. Karl served several years in the volunteer fire department of Aurora, and was a member of the Aurora Rifle Company. In 1867 he erected a residence on Broadway, which he afterward sold, and then erected a beautiful home at 189 South LaSalle street, in which the family yet reside, and also a prominent business block, and was the owner of other business property in the city. A good business man, conscientious in all his dealings, his death left a void in business circles. Mrs. Karl and the family occupy a prominent position in the social circles of Aurora and are held there in highest esteem.

---

**S** N. HOOVER is numbered among the ablest young attorneys of Kane county, and although but a few years a citizen of the county he has attained high rank at the bar. His office is in the Mercantile Block, Aurora. He was born in Clermont county, Ohio, and is the son of Peter H. and Augusta A. (Prather) Hoover, both of whom are natives of Ohio. The father has been a farmer for a number of years. He came to Illinois, in 1868, locating in Randolph

township, McLean county, where he purchased a quarter section of land, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is now living retired in the city of Bloomington. Although an ardent Republican, and one who in almost every campaign has made many public speeches in the interest of his party, he has never aspired to office. He favored a vigorous prosecution of the war, and was a strong Lincoln man. Although about seventy-six years of age, he is a well-preserved man, physically and mentally, and is yet strong in the faith of his party, being a great admirer of William McKinley. His wife died January 5, 1892, at the age of sixty-three years. Both parents were of the Methodist faith and communion. The Hoover family of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, are of the same stock, and were originally from Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. Our subject is the youngest of five children, born to Peter H. and Augusta A. Hoover, the others being Orlando J., a resident of Paoli, Kansas; Nettie, now Mrs. W. P. Jones, of Bloomington, Illinois; Thomas Henry, a resident of San Francisco, California; and William W., who resides at Manson, Iowa.

The subject of this sketch was educated at the Illinois Wesleyan University, at Bloomington. Leaving college, he studied law with Brock & Holly, of Bloomington, and then taught school at Rankin, for two years. Removing to Red Cliff, Colorado, he there engaged in teaching for two years, and on June 1, 1891, was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of his profession at that place. Soon after his admission to the bar, he was elected district attorney for the fifth judicial district of Colorado; was re-elected, but resigned the position to come to Aurora, in 1893. In

July, 1892, he was chairman of the committee on resolutions in the silver convention of the Pacific states in Denver, and introduced a resolution by which the convention declined to co-operate with any political party. This resolution being carried and Mr. Hoover having taken a decided stand in a speech before the convention in its favor, he was antagonized by Governor Waite and the Populists who were seeking to commit the convention to the support of their candidates. While in Colorado he was a candidate for the legislature on the Republican ticket, and during the campaign of 1892 he stumped that state for General Harrison. While attending the Columbian exposition at Chicago, in 1893, he determined to cast his lot with the people of Aurora, and removed to the place in the fall of that year. He then formed a partnership with Senator George E. Bacon. Mr. Bacon died in 1896, since which time Mr. Hoover has been alone in the practice. His ability was soon recognized by his fellow members at the bar, and he was appointed in 1894, assistant state's attorney for Kane county, which position he resigned in July, 1896, at which time he left the Republican party, on account of his position on the silver question, which was antagonistic to the party platform, adopted at St. Louis, in the convention which nominated William McKinley. His position on the silver question, and the ability displayed by him, in presenting his views to the people, secured for him the nomination for congress, in the Eighth congressional district, by the free silver Republicans and the Democratic party. At the convention, where his nomination was made, in Aurora, he made a speech, that was attentively listened to by the large crowd assembled,



and which carried conviction to the minds of many persons. Notwithstanding the strong canvass made, and that he ran ahead of his ticket, he was defeated for election by Mr. Hopkins, the candidate of the Republican party, which has an overwhelming majority in the district.

Mr. Hoover was married August 29, 1888, to Miss Carrie I. Lowry, a daughter of James B. Lowry, of Yorkville, Kendall county, Illinois, to which place Mr. Lowry removed from Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he had attained prominence, and had served as the first county clerk of Erie county. He came to Illinois, in the latter part of the forties, and was numbered among the early settlers of Kendall county. To Mr. and Mrs. Hoover one child, James Blaine Hoover, was born, January 23, 1893.

Fraternally Mr. Hoover is a Mason, and in politics is a silver Republican, and is a committee man at large for the state of Illinois. He is recognized as an able orator, and since coming to Aurora has built up a large and profitable practice, and occupies a position second to none as a member of the Kane county bar.

**JAMES W. HIPPLE**, an enterprising farmer residing on section 32, Elgin township, was born in Landisburg, Perry county, Pennsylvania, September 11, 1835. His father, Jesse Hipple, was a native of Pennsylvania, as was his grandfather, John Hipple. The latter dying when quite young, but little is known of his ancestry, save that the family, consisting of five brothers, came to this country prior to the Revolutionary war. John Hipple was a blacksmith by trade, and was employed in that capacity during the war for independence. He owned

a farm which he sold about the close of hostilities and was paid in Continental money, which proved to be worthless, so all was lost. Our subject has some of the old money yet in bills of twenty dollars, eight dollars, one dollar and other smaller denominations.

Jesse Hipple, our subject's father, was born October 11, 1800, and died at the age of eighty-three or eighty-four years, at Geneva, New York. In early life he learned the tailor's trade, which occupation he followed until retiring at an advanced age. He married Miss Mary Stone, born in Juniata county, Pennsylvania, and daughter of Richard Stone, who came from London, England, and who was an only child of his parents. He left his native land when quite young, and never but once visited his parents in the old country, since which time all trace of them was lost. Their estate is still due the heirs. To Jesse and Mary Hipple were born six children—George, living retired in Chicago; Catherine, who died at the age of six years; Jane, wife of Israel Knettle, of Elgin; Martha, widow of Lysamder Stowell, now living in Elgin; Ann, wife of David R. Shively, of Chicago; and our subject.

James W. Hipple remained under the parental roof until sixteen years of age, and during that time received a good common-school education. He then went to Geneva, New York, and worked at the tailor's trade and was there engaged in business. He later formed a partnership with his brother, which continued a few years, and, being dissolved, he went to New York City and for a time was engaged as a traveling salesman for a wholesale house dealing in men's furnishing goods. While residing in Geneva, New York, he was united in marriage, Feb-

ruary 15, 1859, with Miss Arrietta T. Becker, a native of New York City, and daughter of Vrooman Becker, who was born in Schoharie county, New York, July 4, 1808, and died July 16, 1865, in Chicago. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, and in 1855 came west to Chicago, and became an extensive lumber merchant in that city, his business being later transferred to his son and our subject. He was four times married, becoming the father of ten children. His first marriage was with Eliza Van Dolson, daughter of Garrett Van Dolson, a soldier of the war of 1812. She was born February 24, 1814, in New York City, and died in Geneva, New York, March 19, 1842. His second marriage was with a Miss Ansley, and his third one with Martha Van Dolson, a sister of his first wife, who became the mother of two children, both deceased. His fourth marriage was with Miss Cornelia Dodge, by whom he had four children: Edwin D., Sarah L., Albert and Kate. Of the four children by his first wife, two survive: Helen, wife of George Hipple, of Chicago; and Arrietta, wife of our subject. The deceased were Gideon L., who was a partner with our subject in the lumber business; and John William, who served during the late war and was wounded at the siege of Vicksburg, and who died in Chicago in 1897.

To our subject and wife five children were born: (1) Jesse Vrooman, born January 30, 1862, married Lena Peterson, daughter of Peter Peterson, by whom he has three children, James David, John Becker, and Annie Elizabeth. (2) Gideon Becker, at home. (3) James Stone, a student of mechanical engineering in the state university at Champaign, Illinois. (4) Marietta, a graduate of the Elgin Academy, and in the

class of 1898, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (5) Annie Louisa, a graduate of the Nurses' Training School of Elgin.

After being upon the road for some time Mr. Hipple decided to again go into business, and located at Watkins, New York, but soon removed to Geneva, at the other end of the lake, and opened a store next to that of his brother. After remaining there a short time he sold out to his brother, removed to Chicago, and worked for his father-in-law in an agricultural implement factory for one year, at the expiration of which time he engaged in the lumber business until the great fire of 1871 wiped him out. Soon after the fire, in partnership with Jacob Oestmann, he opened a lumber yard and conducted the same until 1875, when our subject disposed of his interests, and in the spring of that year moved to his present farm which he had purchased some time previous to the fire.

The experience of Mr. Hipple and his family were thrilling during the fiery ordeal. Owning teams for delivery of lumber, he was enabled to move his household effects to vacant property at a safe distance, and by strenuous efforts saved his house from burning and prevented robbery by the lawless thugs that infested all parts of the city, from which the inhabitants had fled.

On coming to his farm, a fine tract of three hundred acres, Mr. Hipple began its improvement. He rebuilt the barn, which is now forty by one hundred and forty-eight feet, with high basement stables for nearly one hundred head of cattle. He also built an addition to the dwelling house making it one of the most comfortable country residences in the county. A good tenant house was also erected, a residence for his married son. A horse barn was also built separate

from the main cattle barn, and a nice milk house, where milk is cooled before taking to market. The farm is now thoroughly under-drained, with some twenty miles of tiling, main and lateral. Two-thirds of the land is under cultivation and all crops are used on the farm. He keeps an average of eighty milk cows in addition to young stock.

In his political views Mr. Hipple is a Republican. He would never accept public office save of that of school director, which he filled for six years, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his private business interests. The family is held in the highest esteem throughout the community. Religiously, Mrs. Hipple is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which our subject is an attendant.

---

**T**HERON BAKER, a well-known resident of St. Charles, is a man whose successful struggle with adverse circumstances shows what can be accomplished by industry and economy, if guided by sound judgment and good business ability. From the early age of fourteen years he was obliged to make his own way in life without the aids which are usually considered essential to success, but now in his declining years he is able to live retired and enjoy the fruits of his former toil.

Mr. Baker was born in Genesee county, New York, November 7, 1817, a son of George and Phoebe (Hall) Baker, also natives of the Empire state, the latter born in the town of Hartford, Washington county. The Baker family is of Welsh descent, and was founded in New York at an early day in the history of this country. Our subject's father was a soldier of the war of 1812, and for his services he subsequently

received a pension. In Genesee county, New York, he followed farming until 1843, when he came to Illinois and settled in Waukegan. Later he removed to Bureau county, this state, but spent his last years in Wichita, Kansas. In his family were nine children—five sons and four daughters—all of whom reached years of maturity, and three sons and two daughters are still living.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in Genesee and Wyoming counties, New York, acquiring a very meager education, but his training at farm work was not limited. In Wyoming county he was married, December 22, 1842, to Miss Isabella Culberson, a native of Ireland, who came to the New World when a child of ten years. Coming west in 1843, they first located in the town of Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where Mr. Baker had entered a tract of forty acres the year previous. Upon the place he built a log house, and to the improvement and cultivation of his land he devoted his energies for thirteen years, transforming it into a good farm. He then sold and removed to Green county, Wisconsin, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres of wild land and opened up another farm, making this place his home for fifteen years. On disposing of that property he came to Kane county, Illinois, in September, 1870, and bought a farm of forty-one and one-half acres in St. Charles township, on the Elgin road, two miles from St. Charles. He completed the house, built a good barn and substantial outbuildings, set out an orchard, and made many other improvements upon the place which added greatly to its value and attractive appearance. After successfully operating the farm



for twenty-two years, he sold it and bought a residence lot in St. Charles, on which he erected a comfortable home, where he is now living. Besides this property he owns one good residence which he rents, and also seven building lots.

Mr. Baker lost his first wife December 12, 1887, and in Kane county was again married, September 12, 1888, his second union being with Miss Harriet Butler, a sister of O. M. Butler, an early settler and prominent manufacturer of St. Charles. She was born in Rochester, Windsor county, Vermont, and was reared in Essex, Chittenden county, that state. She obtained a good education, and in early life was a successful teacher in Kane county, Illinois, having come to the west in 1847. Religiously she is a member of the Congregational church of St. Charles and takes an active interest in its work.

Politically Mr. Baker is a stanch Republican, and has never failed to cast his ballot for its candidates at every presidential election since voting for John C. Fremont in 1856. He has never aspired to office, however, preferring to give his attention to his private affairs. His business undertakings have been crowned with success, and he has not only secured a comfortable competence, but has gained the respect and esteem of all who know him.

---

LYMAN D. MORGAN, who resides on L section 25, Hampshire township, was one of the "boys in blue," who, at their country's call, went out in defense of the Union, and gave between two and three years of his young life to the service of his country. He was born in Coral township, McHenry county, Illinois, May 9, 1845, and is the son of

Lyman Morgan, Jr., who was born in Pompey, Onondago county, New York, and who married Polly Thomas, also a native of Pompey and a daughter of John Thomas, of that place. The paternal grandfather, Lyman Morgan, Sr., was likewise a native of Pompey, New York, and there died when about eighty years of age. Lyman Morgan, Jr., left his native state in 1839, came west and settled in McHenry county, Illinois, and there engaged in farming, and where he died in 1866, at the age of fifty-six years. His family consisted of seven children of whom two only are now living—LeRoy, who is living at Platte, Michigan, and who served during the war in the Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry; and Lyman D., our subject.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended the district schools until the age of fourteen years. In 1859 the family moved into Kane county, Illinois, locating on the farm which is now owned by our subject. Mr. Morgan enlisted October 17, 1862, as a member of Company B, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, and served until December 15, 1865. He went first to Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, Missouri, and thence to Alton, Illinois, guarding prisoners. At that place he was taken ill, from impure water and food, and would have died but for the kindness and care of an old Scotch woman. He was next sent to St. Joseph, Missouri, thence to Weston, south of St. Joseph, doing scouting duty, which kept him out most of the night in order to prevent bushwhackers and thieves from depredation. From Weston he went to Macon City, Missouri, then to Brookfield and Laclede. For a while he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth, and then sent to do scouting duty



around Fort Scott and west of that place to Humboldt, Kansas. While there they learned that their command had been ordered to Lawrence, Kansas, at the close of the war to be discharged. The troops became incensed at the officers for not complying with orders. The officers desired promotion before disbanding and for that reason withheld the orders. The troops mutinied, when they learned that instead of being mustered out they were to be sent west to fight Indians, and many of them deserted. Those who stayed went west to guard the Butterfield overland dispatch and the government mail. Some stole cavalry horses and escaped with them. Our subject was sergeant of the guard during the last days and tried to hold deserters in check. He was at last mustered out, at Fort Leavenworth and was discharged at Springfield, Illinois.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Morgan returned home and worked for his father until the latter's death in 1866, about the time he attained his majority. He promised his father on the latter's deathbed to remain with his mother. He intended to study for a profession, having a thirst for learning, and was well fitted, mentally, for success in any profession. His life work, however, was changed by the death of his father. After returning home he attended school for two years in winters, one year of which time he was in Elgin Academy, and being a diligent student he secured a teacher's certificate and taught in the old village of Hampshire.

Mr. Morgan was promised the home farm on condition that he take care of his mother, but had to buy the interest of the other heirs in the estate. He secured sixty acres of the original farm and bought ten acres

additional. In 1871 he went to Otter Creek, Michigan, and went into the wood business in partnership with an uncle, supplying wood to be used in an iron furnace. The iron company failed and they had thirteen hundred cords of wood left on their hands, which was a severe financial loss. In 1874 he returned to the farm and has here since resided.

On the 9th of May, 1874, at Platte, Benzie county, Michigan, Mr. Morgan was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Ann Helmer, born at Rainham Centre, Haldiman county, Canada, and a daughter of Jonas E. and Sophie (Miller) Helmer. The father of the latter, Joseph E. Miller, was a soldier under the great Napoleon. Jonas E. Helmer was born in Ohio, from which state he moved to Canada, where he lived several years, and in 1858 returned to Ohio. In the latter state Mrs. Morgan grew to womanhood. To Mr. and Mrs. Morgan seven children were born: Alice M., deceased, was burned to death, her clothes taking fire while burning brush; Ora, Mabel L., Izo T., Ambert Delos, Eugenia and Lyman Judd. Ora attended the State Normal school two years and has taught school in the district in McHenry county, where his father attended when a boy. Mabel has also engaged in teaching, and for three years had charge of a school at Old Hampshire, where her father taught when a young man.

Fraternally, Mr. Morgan is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Knights of the Globe, and of the Royal Neighbors. In the latter order Mrs. Morgan also holds membership. They attend the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he is a Republican. Among the local offices held by him is that of school trustee and school director. As a citizen he is held in the

highest esteem and is ever ready to do his part in whatever tends to advance the interest of his county and state.

**M**oses W. Hawes, deceased. In studying the lives and characters of prominent men, we are naturally led to inquire into the secret of their success and the motives that prompted their action. Success is a question of genius, as held by many, but is it not rather a matter of experience and sound judgment? When we trace the career of those who stand highest in public esteem, we find in nearly every case that they are those who have risen gradually, fighting their way in the face of all opposition. Self-reliance, conscientiousness, energy, honesty—these are the traits of character that insure the highest emoluments and greatest success. To these we may attribute the success that crowned the efforts of our subject.

Moses W. Hawes was born September 2, 1814, in Watertown, New York, receiving his early education in that city. Later he went to Baltimore where he learned civil engineering, and in 1837 was sent from that city to the province of Concepcion, Chili, South America, to erect and put into operation the second flouring mill in that country. He was chosen from among one hundred applicants for the position. In that country he became a very prominent man and there continued to live for over twenty years. Being a first-class engineer he became a large government contractor and built many bridges, docks, etc. While residing in Chili, he married a Spanish lady, by whom he had six children, only one of whom is now living, a daughter who married Bernardo Bambach. He died in 1877,

and his widow now resides in Tome, Chili. In 1859 Mr. Hawes went to China and completing the circumnavigation of the globe returned to the United States. His wife having died, Mr. Hawes was married February 12, 1860, to Miss Jennie Rosencrans, who was born October 4, 1833, and is the daughter of Asa and Jane (Cole) Rosencrans. On the first of August, 1860, accompanied by his wife Mr. Hawes went to Chili, where he remained until the autumn of 1869, when they returned to the United States and first located in Elgin, Illinois. In 1870 he went to Mendota, Illinois, where he was engaged in the lumber business until 1872, when he returned to Elgin. After a short time he went to Europe and subsequently made two other trips across the ocean.

In 1877 Mr. Hawes was called home to serve as president of the Home National Bank, which position he resigned in 1879 and again moved to Mendota. In 1892 he once more returned to Elgin where he remained until his death, November 22, 1894, at the age of eighty-three years. He was a consistent member of the Congregational church, to which Mrs. Hawes also belongs. She is a lady of pleasing presence, and scholarly attainments, and is the only representative of the Rosencrans family once so prominent in Kane county.

**J**AMES C. BROWN, whose home is at No. 403 North Spring street, Elgin, was for many years prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Kane county, but is now living retired. He was born in Steuben county, New York, March 20, 1832, a son of Henry and Lois (Colvin) Brown, the former a native of Dublin, Ire-



M. W. HAWES.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



land, the latter of Connecticut. While living in the east the father worked at the tailor's trade, but after coming to Illinois, in 1844, he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, buying a tract of government land in Hampshire township, Kane county, which he transformed into a good farm. His wife died in May, 1845, at about the age of thirty-six years, and he subsequently married Lavina Gleason. He cared nothing for official honors, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to the development and improvement of his farm. In 1850, accompanied by our subject, he went to California by the overland route, starting from Grundy county, Illinois. On reaching Green River, Utah, the son was taken ill, so that he did not reach his destination until in 1851. The father remained on the Pacific slope, dying in Oregon, in 1870, when about seventy years of age. He was a consistent member of the Free Will Baptist church, to which the mother of our subject also belongs. Fraternally he was a Mason of high standing. In the family of this worthy couple were nine children, of whom five are still living: Betsy A., now residing on Ashland avenue, Elgin, is the widow of Willard B. Allen, who died at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, while serving in the Union army during the Civil war; Charlotte is a resident of Hampshire, Kane county; James C. is next in order of birth; and Lois V. and Henry W. are both residents of California.

In the schools of New York, James C. Brown began his education, which was completed after the removal of the family to Illinois in 1844, by attending the public schools in Kane county. He assisted his father in the work of the home farm until the 1st of May, 1850, when they started for California. For eleven months he remained

in Salt Lake City, becoming well acquainted with Brigham Young, and at balls would dance with several of his wives the same evening. He attended one wedding where the bridegroom, a Mr. Cook, married two sisters, standing up between them, the veil being over them all. This was a common occurrence in Salt Lake City at that time. Mr. Brown boarded with a man who had four wives living in the same home. Meeting with many interesting experiences, he thoroughly enjoyed his trip to California, in which state he engaged in mining for a year, and later farmed in the Suisun Valley for two years.

After about four years spent upon the Pacific slope, Mr. Brown returned to Illinois in the fall of 1853, having met with moderate success. Two years later, on the 23d of September, 1855, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Miss Teressa P. Harney, who was born in Massillon, Stark county, Ohio, a daughter of T. J. and Mary (Burgess) Harney, natives of Canada. She was educated in a private school on the Western Reserve in that state, and at the age of eighteen began teaching near Massillon. After coming to Kane county, in 1854, she taught in the schools of Hampshire, teaching boys and girls, whose children years later attended a school conducted by her daughter, Mrs. Hollenbeck. Mrs. Brown is the only survivor in a family of six children, three of whom died when young. Thomas, the oldest, was a soldier of the Mexican war, and Sarcfield M. was a soldier of the Civil war. He was the first soldier whose remains were brought back to Elgin for interment.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown were born four children, namely: (1) Lillie was educated in the Elgin Academy, began teaching in

the schools of Hampshire township, and later taught for six years in the graded schools of Elgin. In 1884 she married Ralph D. Hollenbeck, who is a prominent attorney and graduated in the same class with his wife, by whom she has one child, Helen. In 1891 she was elected a member of the school board and served in that capacity for two terms, being chairman of the teachers committee for three years. Since its organization she has been identified with the Woman's Club, which is one of the best and largest clubs of the kind in the state outside of Chicago. It has erected and conducts an excellent hospital in Elgin, and has taken an active part in many enterprises for the good of the city. In its work Mrs. Hollenbeck has borne an active and prominent part. (2) Ira J., the second child of our subject, finished his education at the Elgin Academy, and is general milk solicitor for the Illinois Central Railroad, having charge of all the milk carried by that road. He married Estella Wilcox, by whom he has three children—Calvin W., James P. and Harry H.—and they live in Genoa, Illinois. (3) Dairy died at the age of eleven years. (4) Mary L. is the wife of Walter P. Johnson, a grandson of Gail Borden, and they live in southern California. Their children are Borden, Calvin, Gail and Richard.

On his return from California Mr. Brown invested his capital in a farm in Kane county, to which he added from time to time until he had one of the most valuable and desirable places in the community. To agricultural pursuits he devoted his energies until elected sheriff in 1870, when he removed to Geneva to assume the duties of that office, which he so acceptably discharged that in 1872 he was re-elected, serving in all two terms.

In October, 1861, during his country's hour of peril, Mr. Brown laid aside all personal interests and enlisted in Company B, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, under Colonel Farnsworth. For three years he was in the service, participating in all the battles in which his command took part, and when his term of service had expired, he was honorably discharged October 18, 1864. Fortunately he was never wounded, taken prisoner, sent to the hospital, nor confined in the guard house during the entire time, though he met with many narrow escapes. For a time he was on detached service. Since his retirement from the office of sheriff he has made his home in Elgin.

Socially Mr. Brown affiliates with the Masonic order and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he is identified with the Republican party. Besides serving as sheriff of the county, he has filled all the township offices while residing in Hampshire township, and has always been recognized as one of the valued and useful citizens of his community. His wife and some of their children are members of the Congregational Church, and in social circles the family is one of prominence.

---

JOSEPH CLARK, one of the highly respected citizens of St. Charles, who for nearly half a century has been identified with the interests of Kane county, is a native of England, born in the city of London, August 27, 1837. His father, Edward Clark, also a native of that country, emigrated with his family to the New World in 1852, the voyage across the Atlantic consuming six weeks. The vessel on which they sailed, the American Eagle, carried them safely from London to New York, whence they

proceeded by way of the great lakes to Chicago, and in May, 1852, they arrived in Kane county. St. Charles was then the terminus of the railroad. About a mile and a half from the village the father purchased a tract of ninety-one acres of land, which he at once commenced to clear and improve, erecting thereon a good frame residence. Upon that place he continued to make his home until about two years prior to his death, when he removed to St. Charles, where he passed away March 1, 1886. The mother of our subject died in England, and there the father was again married, his second wife dying in Kane county, in 1853.

The children born of the first marriage were Ellen, wife of W. H. Britt, of Chicago; William, now deceased; Joseph, of this sketch; Mrs. Cooley, of Batavia, Kane county; Mrs. J. F. Elliott, of St. Charles; and Edward, who during the Civil war was a member of the Thirty-sixth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and died from effects of wounds received while defending the old flag and the cause it represented.

At the age of fourteen, Joseph Clark came to the United States with his father, and in Kane county grew to manhood. He had received good educational advantages in his native land, but after coming to this country attended school but very little. Remaining at home he assisted his father in the arduous task of developing the wild land into highly cultivated fields. Although of foreign birth, he had great love for his adopted country, and during her hour of peril he offered his services to the government to assist in putting down the rebellion. In August, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee, and with his

command he participated in the engagement at Tallahassee; followed Price while on his raid; was in the first siege at Chickasaw Bayou; took part in the battle of Arkansas Post, and in the siege of Vicksburg. He was then detailed for hospital service at Young's Point, where he remained for some time, and from March until July, 1863, he served on a hospital boat on the river. On account of illness he was then discharged and returned home, where he remained until he had somewhat regained his lost strength.

The following year Mr. Clark began farming upon rented land and continued to follow that occupation for a few years. He then removed to St. Charles, where he purchased a lot and erected his present residence in 1876, while he engaged in teaming for some years. After his father's death he bought the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead and to agricultural pursuits again turned his attention, successfully operating the farm until 1892, when he rented it and returned to St. Charles, where he is now living retired. Upon the farm he has made a number of useful and valuable improvements.

On the 22d of October, 1863, in Kane county, Mr. Clark was united in marriage with Miss Amanda A. Wood, a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, who, when a child of three years, was brought to Illinois. Her father, William Wood, was a pioneer of Kane county, first locating in Blackberry, and later in Batavia, where he spent his last years. Mrs. Clark grew to womanhood and was educated in Kane county.

The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Clark are as follows: Hattie A. died at the age of twenty-two years; Mabel A. is the wife of S. W. Durant, formerly of St. Charles, but



now of Huntley, Illinois; William Edward married Clara Bennett, of St. Charles, a daughter of A. A. Bennett, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. They are both connected with the Boydton Missionary School, at Boydton, Virginia, where Mrs. Clark is serving as a teacher and Mr. Clark as an editor and publisher. They are well educated and both were formerly teachers. Mary J., the next of the family, was for a time matron of the Boydton School, but is now at home; Joseph O., Anson I. and Ruth Ellen are all at home.

The Republican party finds in Mr. Clark a staunch supporter of its principles, and he has voted for every presidential nominee of the party since casting his vote for John C. Fremont in 1856. Although he has never sought office, he was elected and acceptably served as collector of St. Charles for four or five years. Mrs. Clark, her oldest sons and two daughters, are members of the Congregational church, the services of which Mr. Clark also attends, although not a member, and to its support he contributes of his means. As a citizen he has always been true and faithful to every trust reposed in him, so that his loyalty is above question, being manifest in days of peace as well as when he followed the old flag to victory on southern battle fields. As an honored pioneer and representative man of the community he is also worthy of the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

---

REV. CALEB FOSTER, who resides at No. 93 South Fourth street, Aurora, Illinois, has been a minister of the Gospel for sixty-one years and in that time has been instrumental in bringing many into the kingdom, and has left the impress of his

mind upon the minds and hearts of thousands of persons where he has broke the bread of life. He was born February 14, 1812, near Franklin, Venango county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of John and Mary (Martin) Foster, both of whom became residents of the Keystone state, in early life accompanying their respective parents from Baltimore, Maryland, during the last century.

John Foster was a farmer by occupation, owning a farm on the banks of the Allegheny river, where he and his wife resided until his death, the former in 1837, at the age of fifty-one years, though naturally a healthy man. When Caleb Foster was four months old his father was drafted into the war of 1812—being drafted a second time. His wife survived him many years, dying at the age of eighty-four. They were the parents of seven children, who reached maturity: Ross; James, who is still living in Pennsylvania, at the age of eighty-nine years; Caleb, now in his eighty-seventh year; Mary, who married William De Woody, and raised a large family of children, most of whom grew to be men and women, is still living in Pennsylvania at an advanced age; John; Julia Ann, who married John Temple; and Eliza, the youngest of the family, who married Seth Temple, all of Pennsylvania.

Caleb Foster began his education in the common subscription schools of his state, where it was often found difficult to support the schools for lack of funds. He afterwards attended Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pennsylvania, during parts of 1834-5-6. He entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church and received an appointment July, 1846, at the organization of the Erie conference at Meadville,



Bishop Soule, presiding, and Bishop Morris by his side. From that organization he was transferred to the Pittsburg conference and was assigned to Florence circuit, Allegheny county, then Kittanning circuit, then Somerset, then Fish Creek Mission in Virginia, then Harrison circuit, West Virginia, Lewis circuit, West Virginia, and from there he was transferred back to his native state and assigned to Blairsville, where he formed the acquaintance of Miss P. J. Waterman, who afterward became his wife, and from there to the Pittsburg Wesleyan Chapel.

Mr. Foster was married in October, 1843, to Miss Parmelia Jane Waterman, daughter of Lyman and Parmelia Waterman, of Blairsville, Pennsylvania, her father at that time being a wholesale merchant at Blairsville. Subsequently removing to Pittsburg, he continued in the same line of business for some time. The year after his marriage, our subject removed to East Liberty circuit, where he remained two years; then to Chartier circuit, near the city of Pittsburg, one year; then to Asbury Chapel, Pittsburg, two years. While here he was a member of the committee on publication of the Pittsburg "Advocate." He was next assigned to Brownsville, two years; then to Monongahela City, two years; then back to Asbury Chapel, one year. In 1854 he was transferred to the Rock River conference, and was stationed at Peoria, Illinois, one year, and was then at Canton, Illinois, two years. Rock River conference being divided at that time, he fell in with the southern division, and took his certificate of location and moved to Ottawa, Illinois, where he spent one year, at the end of which time he was re-admitted to the Rock River conference at Waukegan and sent to Mendota, where

he remained two years, and was then assigned Sandwich for two years and Oswego one year. While there, in September, 1863, he received the appointment of agent for Clark's, now Jennings' seminary at Aurora, in which he was engaged for three years, and so active were his exertions that in that time he raised by voluntary contributions the sum of eighteen thousand dollars to apply to the benefit of the seminary.

In the fall of 1866 Mr. Foster retired from that work, and being quite worn out by his excessive labor, sought needed rest, but for a brief period only, as the limited state of his finances urged further active exertions. His many friends ill-advisedly counselled him to take a supernumerary relation to the church, which he tried without much reward, turning his attention to various occupations, until February, 1871. In that year he was invited to enter into the American Bible work, a position he accepted, and has ever since been actively engaged in it with most gratifying success, and although eighty-six years of age, is as vigorous and energetic as most men who are thirty years his junior.

To Mr. Foster and wife were born seven children, five of whom are now living, as follows: Mary Emma, Parmelia A., Lyman W., Ada J. and Robert N. Parmelia A. is now the wife of Rev. W. H. Burns, D. D., of Oak Park, Cook county, Illinois. Mr. Foster is the oldest member, as well as being the oldest man, on the board of trustees of Jennings seminary, and has been trustee a longer period than any man ever connected with the position. He is widely known and respected by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance, and he possesses a wonderful retentive memory of people and events of the past, and his mind

is no less active on those of the present. A good conversationalist, genial and pleasant with all, he finds pleasure in his work and health in the active exercise pertaining thereto. At his own request his relation to the conference is now that of superannuate. In politics he is a Republican.

**D**UANE B. BALDWIN, a farmer residing on section 24, Hampshire township, traces his ancestry back to Joseph and Elizabeth Baldwin, his great, great-grandparents, who were natives of New England, the former dying January 9, 1808, at the age of seventy-nine years, and the latter March 13, 1808, at the age of sixty years. Their son, Thomas Baldwin, was born in April, 1784, probably in Connecticut. He was a blacksmith and tool-maker by trade, and during dull seasons of the year would take his tools that he had manufactured and sell them through the country. On the 19th of April, 1817, in Connecticut, he married Polly Lanfear, who was born in 1798, and who was the daughter of John and Mary Lanfear. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Dorset, Vermont, where he died July 4, 1854, she surviving him, dying in 1872.

Lucian Baldwin, son of Thomas and Polly Baldwin, was born at Dorset, Vermont, March 29, 1819. He there grew to manhood and married Maria J. Lanfear in May, 1843. She was born at Ticonderoga, New York, and in childhood made the old fort a playground. Her father, David Lanfear, was a soldier in the war of 1812. He married a Miss Phillips and came west with Mr. Baldwin, later went to California, where he died in 1870, at the residence of a daughter. Lucian Baldwin came to Kane

county, Illinois, in July, 1843, and settled on the farm now owned by our subject. It was all in timber at the time, and he cleared the land, split rails to fence it, built the log house in which our subject was born, there lived for some twenty years, and, in 1872, built the present large frame house. He died January 29, 1889. To Lucian and Maria J. Baldwin, four children were born—Charles H., who lives at Pingree Grove; Duane B., our subject; Ella J., wife of Scott Phillips, an employee of the watch factory in Elgin; and Anna M., wife of Silas E. Crane, a carpenter living on section 25, Hampshire township.

Duane B. Baldwin, was born on the farm on which he now resides, November 22, 1849. His education was obtained in the district schools of Hampshire township, supplemented by two terms at the Elgin Academy. The first school he attended was in an old log house with puncheon floor and puncheon benches. He attended school until about nineteen years old, in the meantime assisting in the cultivation of the home farm. In 1869 he took charge of the farm, and continued its cultivation until 1873, with the exception of a short time in 1870, when he operated a sawmill in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1873, he went to California and at Truckee, Nevada county, engaged in the lumber and wood business. He remained in California until 1876, a part of which time he was working in the interest of the Bank of California, getting out timber and lumber at Virginia City. Returning home, from 1876 to 1891, he was engaged in farming, then moved to the village of Hampshire, where he engaged in cultivating land near there, and also in bailing hay and other occupations. On the 1st of March, 1898, he returned to

the home farm which comprises one hundred and sixteen acres, and is used for dairy purposes. He keeps about twenty-five head of cows and ships the product to Chicago.

Mr. Baldwin has been twice married, first in Elgin, February 11, 1879, to Miss Etta Allen, daughter of John A. and Patience (Bowen) Allen, by whom he had one child, Emory D., who is with a relative operating a steamer on Lake Michigan. The second marriage of our subject was at Columbiana, Ohio, December 30, 1885, when he wedded Verana Sinsel, a daughter of Henry and Caroline Sinsel. By this union four children have been born—Ethel M., Eva, Walter and Iva.

Fraternally, Mr. Baldwin is a member of Hampshire lodge, No. 443, A. F. & A. M. Politically he is a Republican. For years he served as assessor of his township, and has served as road commissioner and school director for several terms each. He is a wholesouled, genial man, very popular, and has many friends throughout Kane and adjoining counties.

---

GEORGE FREAR, who is living a retired life in Aurora, was for many years one of the trusted employees of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and also a contractor and builder, having charge of the erection of a number of the substantial buildings of the city. He has been a resident of Aurora since April, 1856. A native of Canada, he was born in Quebec, February 4, 1821. His father, Joseph Frear, was born in Northumberland county, England, April 2, 1777. In coming to America, he was nine weeks

in crossing the Atlantic. He first settled in Oswego, New York, but remained there only a short time, moving to Quebec, Canada. He married Eleanor Lee, also a native of Northumberland county, England. By trade he was a cabinet-maker, joiner and wheelwright, having served an apprenticeship in the old country. In Quebec he worked at his trade, and also for a time was engaged in merchandising. In 1828 he returned to the states, locating in the city of New York, where he worked at his trade a number of years. In 1839 he moved to Ulster county, New York, and purchased a farm of one hundred acres, and for ten years was engaged in farming. He later removed to Binghamton, New York, and there died, January 2, 1851. His wife passed away April 17, of the same year.

George Frear is the youngest and only surviving child of Joseph and Eleanor Frear. While residing in New York city he attended St. John's Academy, where he received a liberal education. He there learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, but had previously worked three years at wood carving. With his father he went to Ulster county, New York, and took charge of the farm. He also removed with him to Binghamton, and there worked at his trade.

While residing in Ulster county, Mr. Frear was married November 11, 1847, to Miss Jane Clemons, a native of New York, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Ira Clemons, a farmer of Ulster county. By this union they became the parents of four children, as follows: Mary Anna, now the wife of E. W. Shepherd, a soldier of the late war, but now a machinist of Aurora; Eleanor L., who for some years was a successful teacher in the public schools of Aurora; George William, who



died in early childhood; and Maria Emily, who died at the age of four years.

After residing nearly five years in Binghams, Mr. Frear moved back to Ellen-ville, Ulster county, New York, where he engaged in contracting and building for two years. In 1856, he came west, located in Aurora, then a town of less than two thousand inhabitants. Here he also engaged in contracting and building for a little more than two years, and in 1859, went into the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops, working in various departments, principally as a pattern maker, and also in the construction and the repair of coaches. He continued with the road some five years, and then purchased a farm in Cook county, to which he removed, and where he remained but eleven months. Selling out he returned to Aurora and went back into the shops, where he remained about twenty-five years.

Politically Mr. Frear was first a Whig, then an Abolitionist, and on the organization of the Republican party, became identified with it. His first presidential ballot was cast for General Winfield Scott, and his first Republican ballot for John C. Fremont. He has never desired or held public office, with the exception of being a member of the school board for three years, during which time he used his influence in securing good schools. Religiously he is a member of the Presbyterian church, in which he has been an elder for a number of years. Mrs. Frear is also a member of that church, and both take a lively interest in whatever tends to promote the Master's cause.

Mr. and Mrs. Frear celebrated their golden wedding November 11, 1897, at which time a large number of their friends congregated and gladdened the hearts.

They were the recipients of a number of presents, showing the friendship and esteem in which they are held. The session of the church presented him with a gold-headed cane on that occasion. In the forty-two years of their residence in Kane county, Mr. and Mrs. Frear have made many warm friends, who esteem them for their Christian character.

---

LOUIS A. CONSTANTINE, postmaster of Aurora, was born in Buffalo, New York, March 13, 1853, and is the son of Louis A. and Fannie (Case) Constantine, the former born about 1800, in Berlin, Germany, while his father was a member of the French Legation. He came to the United States in the '30s, where he lived for some time and where his death occurred in 1865. On coming to this country, he adopted the principles of the Whig party, and later became a Republican. His wife, Fannie (Case) Constantine, was born in Devonshire, England, and came with her parents to Canada, when she was eleven years of age. She died in 1892, at Davenport, Iowa, where she was visiting her daughter. Louis A. and Fannie Constantine were the parents of eight children, four of whom are yet living: Sidney M., an attorney at Three Rivers, Michigan; Alice, now Mrs. Charles Stephens, of Davenport, Iowa; Louis A., our subject; and Benjamin F., manager of the "Post," Aurora. The deceased are William, Carrie, Maria, and Mary.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools at Buffalo, N. Y., and Grand Rapids, Michigan. He then entered a printing office as an apprentice, serving through all the grades and was then transferred to the business office. His first work was in





LOUIS A. CONSTATINE.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

the office of the "Republican," at Dowagiac, Michigan, then the Grand Rapids "Eagle," the Jackson "Citizen" and the "Gazette" at Davenport, Iowa, and the Chicago "Daily News." From the "News" he came to Aurora, in November, 1877, and bought the "Post," which he has since published. This paper is a daily, seven-column folio, and devoted to the interest of the Republican party. It has been a prosperous paper since it was started, and has absorbed the "Democrat," "Times," "The Journal" and "Blade," weekly newspapers of Aurora.

Mr. Constantine was united in marriage March 27, 1882, at Aurora, with Miss Lillian Loomis, daughter of William and Isabel (Seeley) Loomis. She is a native of Aurora, and her parents were natives of Erie county, Pennsylvania. They had three children—William, deceased; Mary, now the wife of Dr. Douglas Long, of Detroit, Michigan; and Lillian. Mr. and Mrs. Constantine are members of the Peoples church, Aurora.

Since attaining his majority, Mr. Constantine has been actively engaged in politics, and, as a Republican, has been a leader in the councils of his party. He was clerk of the senate committee two terms, and was private secretary of President Bogardus, of the senate. For two years he was in the internal revenue service, in Chicago, under Christian Mamer. On the 13th of January, 1898, he was appointed by President McKinley, postmaster of Aurora, commissioned on the 20th and took possession of the office February 1, 1898. He has served as delegate to many county, district and state conventions, has been chairman of the city executive committee, and chairman of the senatorial committee. He is president of the Republican press association, of the eighth

congressional district, and state organizer of the Illinois Republican League. A man of action, pleasing manners and good address, he has many friends, not only in Kane county, but throughout the state.

DR. WILLIAM A. PRATT, proprietor of the Cedarside Stock Farm, and breeder of Holstein-Friesian cattle, section 1, Elgin township, has the reputation of being one of the best breeders in the state of Illinois, his stock being found in nearly every state and territory in the Union. He was born in Naperville, Du Page county, Illinois, October 25, 1843, and is the son of Dr. Philomen Brown and Mary (Grimes) Pratt, the former a native of Brattleboro, Vermont, born in 1815, and the latter of Genesee Valley, New York, born in 1818. Her uncles on both sides participated in the war of 1812. Dr. Philomen B. and Mary (Grimes) Pratt, were early settlers of Du-Page county, and he was one of the first dentists in Illinois, beginning practice in Chicago, in 1850. On the discovery of gold in California, he made a trip to the new Eldorado, but only remained one year, returning to engage in the practice of his profession, having previously studied under his brother, D. Amos Pratt. In early life he was politically a Whig, and later a staunch Republican.

When our subject was but six years of age, the family moved to Batavia, Illinois. Young as he was he drove three head of cattle twelve miles, on foot. After living in Batavia, they moved to his present farm, where he since continued to reside, a period of forty-seven years. He came soon after a railroad was built to Elgin, and when wolves and foxes were yet seen in the vicin-

ity. His education was received in the common schools of Batavia and Elgin, supplemented by an attendance at Wheaton College, then under the presidency of the elder Blanchard. At the age of twenty-one he began the practice of dentistry with his father at Elgin, at which he continued eight years.

Since discontinuing the practice of dentistry, Dr. Pratt has given his entire attention to stock raising. At first he raised only Jersey cattle, but soon changed to Hostein-Friesian and is now one of the largest individual breeders in America of that stock. He has been in the business since 1880, and has three farms stocked with registered cattle. The home farm consists of one hundred and fifty acres, partly lying in Cook county. He has one hundred and sixty acres near Gilbert and one hundred and thirty-five acres near Spaulding. The following are some of the noted strains that he has on hand in the spring of 1898: Pauline Paul, Nierop, Coronet, Duchess of York, Mathilda K., Ondine, Empress, Snowflake, Queen Bess, Zuider Zee, Astrea, Countess of Flanders, Maid of Twisk, Echo, Aaggie, Netherlands, Cliftons, Minks and Mercedes.

Dr. Pratt has been twice married, his first union being with Miss Mattie Patrick, born in Bloomingdale, Illinois, and a daughter of Hiram Patrick. After her death he married Katie Gibbons, daughter of John and Mary (Prendergast) Gibbons, by whom he has six children—Walter, Matie, Alice, Ada, Alpha, and William A. The first two died in infancy.

Dr. Pratt is a scientific and expert breeder and is an acknowledged authority on cattle. Cedarside farm, which adjoins the corporate limits of Elgin, is one of the

best known farms in this section of the state. His dwelling house, which is of the Italian style of architecture, occupies an exceedingly fine location, with fine groves surrounding the house and cedars lining the roadside. Soon after electric roads were built to Dundee, the Doctor laid out a fine park of thirty-five acres, which he gave the name of Trout Park, making of it a fine summer resort. All kinds of outdoor amusements are provided for its patrons in the summer and Trout Lake is well stocked with brook trout secured from Seth Green. Politically Dr. Pratt is a Republican and fraternally a member of Lochiel lodge, No. 105, K. of P., of Elgin.

**BRYANT DURANT.**—Years of quiet usefulness and a life in which the old-fashioned virtues of sincerity, 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. Durant, one of the oldest residents of St. Charles, is also one of the honored pioneers of Kane county, where he has made his home since May, 1837, and it is safe to say that no citizen of the community is held in higher esteem than he.

In the town of Ware, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, Mr. Durant was born December 14, 1807, and is of the eighth generation of the family in this country. His ancestors were among the earliest settlers of the old Bay state, making their homes in Boston and Newton, and among their number were several who participated



in the Revolutionary war, aiding the colonies in their struggle for independence. Our subject's grandfather, Denny Durant, was born in Newton, near Boston, of French extraction, and the father, John Durant, was a native of the same place. The latter engaged in merchandising in early life, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. He married Abigail Ward, also a native of Massachusetts, and a daughter of Elijah Ward, another representative of one of the first families of that state, and a Revolutionary soldier. In 1849 John Durant joined our subject in St. Charles, where he spent his last days, and now he and his wife, who survived him about two years, sleep side by side in the cemetery at that place.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of his native state to a limited extent, but is principally self-educated and is a well-informed man. During his youth he learned the bricklayer's trade, at which he worked at Cambridge, Brighton and Newton for about sixteen years, and also engaged to some extent in farming in Massachusetts. In 1837 he came to Illinois, by way of the lakes to Chicago, where his brother James engaged in merchandising for many years. He arrived in that city in March, and the following May came to Kane county, where, in company with his brother and another gentleman, he bought a claim of one thousand acres, which he at once began to open up and improve. After following agricultural pursuits for two years, he had the farm operated by others while he worked at his trade in St. Charles and in different sections throughout Kane county for some years, though he still continued to live upon the farm. When the property was divided he obtained two hundred acres,

on which he erected a substantial brick residence, good barns and other outbuildings, and made many other valuable improvements. The place is pleasantly located only two miles from St. Charles. About 1881 he rented the farm and removed to St. Charles, where he has since lived retired, enjoying the rest he has so well earned and so richly deserves.

At Genoa, DeKalb county, Illinois, Mr. Durant was married in 1842, to Miss Jerusha Shurtliff, who was born and reared in Lowell, Massachusetts. Her father, David Shurtliff, was born in Plymouth, that state, and belonged to one of its earliest families. Mr. and Mrs. Durant have six children, namely: Julia is the wife of J. W. Johnston, of St. Charles; Henrietta is the widow of Frank Herrington and now resides in Oberlin, Ohio; William H. is a business man of Chicago; Emma is the widow of Dr. Lane, who was a leading physician of St. Charles for some years, and she now resides with her parents, while she is successfully engaged in teaching in St. Charles, being a lady of superior education; Abbie is the wife of Henry Allen, of Iowa; and Charles is married and engaged in farming in Kansas.

Since the election of General Jackson to the presidency, Mr. Durant has always been found at the polls on each election day, supporting first the candidates of the Whig party, and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its earnest advocates, voting for John C. Fremont in 1856. He attended the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency, and was always a warm admirer of the martyr president and his policy. Believing that a protective tariff is best suited to the needs of the American people, he

gives it his hearty support, and he is also a staunch supporter of the gold standard of currency. With the Congregational church he and his wife hold membership. Although their lives have been quiet and unassuming, they have made hosts of friends throughout Kane county, and by all who know them they are held in high regard.

**H**ORACE J. SEYMOUR, a well-known contractor and builder residing at No. 40 Jefferson avenue, Elgin, is a native of Illinois, born in Cook county, February 10, 1851, and is a representative of one of the oldest and most distinguished families of the United States, its members being well represented in the early wars of the country. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to Richard Seymour, who came to the New World about 1635, and was the first mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, his name appearing on the monument erected to the first settlers of that place, in Center church burying ground. His son Thomas was the father of Captain Matthew Seymour, whose son, Captain Thomas Seymour, took an active and prominent part in the French and Indian war. The son of the last named, Ebenezer Seymour, was born May 16, 1729, near Greenwich, Connecticut, and married Ruth Scribner, who was born in 1730 and died in 1820. Their son Jesse, who was the great-grandfather of our subject, was a commissary in the war of the Revolution, and emptied his private purse to pay for food for the soldiers. He married Mercy Fancher, of Dutchess county, New York, and to them were born fifteen children.

John Seymour, our subject's grandfather, married Elizabeth Wright, who was

born November, 1794, and was one of a family of six children, whose parents were Ephraim and Martha Wright, the former born February 6, 1766, the latter April 8, 1770. Her grandparents were John and Elizabeth Wright, the former born December 25, 1736, the latter May 2, 1746. John Wright was a son of John and Ruth Wright, the former born April 5, 1703, a son of Gideon and Margaret W. Wright. Gideon Wright was born in Germany, January 8, 1675, and was the founder of the branch of the family in America. To John and Elizabeth (Wright) Seymour were born the following children: Samuel, Susan, Wright, and Ephraim, all deceased; Hannah, who is still living; Elizabeth and Frederick, both deceased; and Harvey, Joseph, John W., Cordelia, deceased, and Deziah, all living. The mother of these children died September 28, 1816, aged sixty-six years, nine months and twenty-seven days, and the father passed away at the home of John Seymour, in Elgin, aged ninety-seven years, nine months and seven days. Both were laid to rest in the cemetery at Barrington, Cook county.

Our subject's father, Joseph B. Seymour, was born near Dundee, Steuben county, New York, and on coming west in 1844 located upon a partially improved farm in Barrington township, Cook county, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his removal to Aurora in 1867. There he still continues to reside at the age of seventy-four years. He married Mary S. Haven, who was born in Carthage, Jefferson county, New York, November 28, 1832, a daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Strong) Haven. Her mother was born in Stafford, New Hampshire, August 22, 1799, and died November 22, 1874. Mrs. Seymour is one

of a family of seven children, of whom only two are now living, the other being Martha Malvina, who was born in Carthage, New York, July 9, 1836. The parents of our subject are both earnest and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are held in high regard by all who know them.

Horace J. Seymour was reared upon the home farm in Cook county, and after the removal of the family to Aurora continued his education, taking a miscellaneous and business course. He is the only child of his parents. After his marriage he engaged in farming for three years in Cook county, and for the following four years was employed as clerk and driver by the American Express Company at Aurora. He then engaged in farming near Kankakee for three years, after which he lived in that city for two years, and in 1884 came to Elgin in time to vote for James G. Blaine for president. Having learned the carpenter's trade in early life, he has successfully engaged in contracting and building in Elgin, erecting residences principally. He has also been interested to some extent in the real-estate and mercantile business, and in his undertakings has met with a fair degree of success.

On the 20th of March, 1872, Mr. Seymour was united in marriage with Miss R. Jennie Smith, a daughter of Reuben B. Smith, of Lamont, Cook county. Her great-grandmother, a Mrs. Streater, of Washington county, New York, lived to the extreme old age of one hundred six years. Her seven brothers all went as volunteers in the Continental army during the Revolutionary war, while the sisters were left at home to carry on the farm. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have two children: Hattie and Fred Wesley.

The former is now the wife of H. T. Pixley, of Marion, Iowa, and has two children: Merle Seymour and Ira A.

Our subject, his wife and children all hold membership in the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mrs. Seymour is a teacher in the Sunday-school. She is a graduate of the Aurora high school, and for several years successfully engaged in teaching in that city. Mr. Seymour is a charter member of and active worker in the Modern Woodmen Society of Elgin, of which he was treasurer for several years after its organization, and is at present a member of the sick committee, which during the past year dispensed about two thousand dollars for the relief of the sick. Politically he is an ardent Republican, and has filled the office of assistant supervisor, but cares nothing for political honors. As a business man and citizen he enjoys the esteem of the entire community.

**L**ESTER M. BURROUGHS, M. D., is one of the oldest and most successful practitioners in Kane county, and has been a resident of Batavia since 1861. He is a native of Ohio, born in Shalersville, Portage county, September 25, 1820. His father, Daniel Burroughs, Jr., was born in New Hampshire, but reared in Williamstown, Vermont, while his grandfather, Daniel Burroughs, Sr., was a native of Connecticut, born in May, 1755, and was a faithful soldier in the Revolutionary army. The family are of English descent.

In 1810 Daniel Burroughs, Sr., accompanied by his father's family, located in Portage county, Ohio, and were among the earliest settlers of that locality. In that county Daniel Burroughs, Jr., married Miss



Abigail Hine, a native of Connecticut, whose father, Daniel Hine, was also a native of that state. He located in Trumbull county, Ohio, in 1808. By trade Daniel Burroughs, Jr., was a brick and stone mason, but in later life followed farming. He was a soldier in the war of 1812, and at Detroit was among the number surrendered to the enemy by General Hull, but was soon after paroled. In 1836 he moved to Illinois and located in Kendall county, where he engaged in farming. His last years, however, were spent at Batavia, and his death occurred at the residence of his son in 1866. His wife passed away in Kendall county in 1863.

The subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his parents at the age of sixteen years. His literary education commenced in the common schools of Ohio, and completed in the public schools of Illinois. In early life he conceived the idea that he would make the medical profession his life work. Purchasing some books he commenced reading, and later entered the office of Dr. Gardiner, of Blackberry, Illinois, and under his instruction continued his studies. He then took a special course of lectures in the medical college at Cleveland, Ohio, and later spent one year in the medical college at Kenosha, Wisconsin. After some three or four years' study he commenced the practice of medicine. Soon after he commenced practice, he was called to attend a small-pox patient, and before his patient recovered he was called to treat sixty-nine other cases.

While residing in Blackberry, Dr. Burroughs was united in marriage, November 24, 1849, with Miss Almira Wheeler, a native of Troy, New York, who came with her parents to Kane county, Illinois, in 1838.

Her father, David Wheeler, was a prominent man in Troy, and there served as post-master eight years under General Jackson. After his removal to Blackberry he served in like capacity for ten years. In the war of 1812 he was taken prisoner by the British, and held at Barbados for some time. He married Judith Pearson, of Newberryport, Massachusetts, in 1815. He reared a family of eight sons and one daughter. In Kane county he was quite a prominent man until his death.

In 1861, Dr. Burroughs located at Batavia, where he has since continued in active practice, although nearing his four score. In the early days he was an Abolitionist, and was one of the conductors on the underground railroad, assisting fugitives who were fleeing to a free land. His first presidential ballot was cast for James G. Birney. Believing that the desires of his heart might the sooner be gained, on the organization of the Republican party, he identified himself with it and has voted for each of its presidential candidates from Fremont to McKinley. While always taking an active interest in political affairs, his professional duties have prevented his holding official position.

To the Doctor and Mrs. Burroughs, two daughters were born. Mary B. is now the wife of William K. Coffin, a banker of Wisconsin, and president of the Bankers' Association of that state, and Nellie May, who yet resides at home. Fraternally Dr. Burroughs is a Master Mason and is also a member of the Odd Fellows. In the subordinate lodge of that order he has passed all the chairs, and in the encampment he has likewise filled all the offices. For sixty-two years he has been a resident of the state of Illinois, the greater part of which time he has been engaged in his professional duties, and



the good that he has done in the alleviation of human suffering can never be known. Few men have more friends throughout Northern Illinois than has the subject of this sketch.

---

**W**ILLIAM KLICK, section 10, Hampshire township, is descended from an old German family, whose ancestors came to America prior to the Revolutionary war. His grandfather, Conrad Klick, was probably born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, the family being well known pioneers of that section, the great-great-grandfather there being killed by the Indians. Conrad Klick, who was a farmer by occupation, married Elizabeth Weidmeyer, also of an old colonial family. His death occurred when he was about sixty-five years old.

John Klick, the son of Conrad and Elizabeth Klick, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, in December, 1806, and was reared in his native county. When a young man he worked in a mill, but followed the occupation of a farmer the greater part of his life. In 1847, he came west, driving through from Pennsylvania to Kane county, Illinois, with horse teams, and was five weeks on the way. He settled in section 11, Hampshire township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of timber land, a very small part of which had been cleared. He went to work and cleared most of the land and there resided until his death. He was a thrifty man and a good farmer and was fairly successful in life. Before leaving his Pennsylvania home he married Katherine Decker, a native of Berks county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob was Elizabeth (Brandt) Decker. Her father was a carpenter by trade, and died when she

was quite young. Her paternal grandfather was in the Revolutionary war, and was marked by a bullet wound on the forehead, the scar of which remained until his death. To John and Katherine Klick ten children were born, of whom nine are living, as follows: William, our subject; Elizabeth, who married Moses Reams, and lives on section 11, Hampshire township; Anna, who married Ephraim Reams and lives in Iowa; Susanna, wife of Rev. Henry Shoemaker, of Elgin; John Henry, a resident of the village of Hampshire; Jonathan, engaged in farming in Iowa; Mrs. Lucetta Gift, of Hampshire township; Catherine, widow of Christian Schiller; and Henry, residing in Iowa. Amanda died in young womanhood.

William Klick was born in Bethel township, Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1829. He attended the common schools of his native county until thirteen years of age, and worked on a farm until he came west in 1847. Here he remained under his father's roof and assisted in the cultivation of the farm until his marriage, when he rented the farm and began life for himself. Some four or five years later he purchased twenty acres, which he worked in connection with his father's farm, and subsequently bought eighty acres of prairie land, lying three miles west. The two places being so far apart made it inconvenient to work them, so he sold both in 1865, and September 13, of that year, bought his present farm of seventy-five acres, in sections 10 and 15, on which was a log house and barn. He improved the house, covering the outside with siding and lathing and plastering the inside, making it a comfortable house, in which he resided with his family for some years. Later he

built a neat frame house, good, commodious barns and other outbuildings, and placed the farm under a good state of cultivation. He planted an orchard, which for years bore a large amount of fruit. In addition to general farming, he is engaged in dairying in a small way, selling milk to the factory in Hampshire. From his dooryard, a fine view is obtained across the country west, the village of Genoa being distinctly seen.

Mr. Klick was married in Hampshire township, June 1, 1850, to Caroline Reams, born in Union county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Samuel and Salome (Aurand) Reams, the latter being a daughter of John and Catherine (Young) Aurand. The mother of Samuel Reams attained the age of eighty-eight years, and her brothers, Peter and Henry, lived to be eighty-eight and eighty-six years respectively. Both served in the Revolutionary war. Samuel Reams left Union county, Pennsylvania, in 1834, and moving to Ohio, there resided eleven years. In 1845 he came to Kane county, Illinois, coming through with ox teams and bringing also four cows; he was four weeks on the road, camping each night by the wayside. He arrived in Kane county in July, bought a farm in Hampshire township, and there resided until his death at the age of seventy-three years.

To our subject and wife six children were born, of whom Ira and Nathan are deceased, the living are: (1) William Franklin, who married Lydia Marshall, by whom he has three children, Carrie, Lydia and Daniel. They lived in Elgin a number of years, but in 1894 went to Chicago: (2) Aaron, who married Ellen Williams, by whom he has eight children, Alonzo, Emma, Samuel, Rosa, William, Wilbur, Clarence

and Malinda; of these, Emma is now deceased. (3) Elias, who makes his home with his parents, is an expert carpenter and cabinet maker, very ingenious, manufacturing various sweet-toned musical instruments. (4) Samuel, who is employed on neighboring farms, makes his home with his parents.

Politically Mr. Klick is a Republican and has been honored with several township offices including school director, road commissioner and constable. In the first named office he served for thirteen years. Our subject well remembers pioneer days in Kane county. There were yet wolves and deer here when the family came and he remembers on one occasion that his dog bringing a deer at bay, and endeavoring to shoot it his gun failed to discharge. Some hunters who were chasing it soon came up and pursued it to its death.

---

NATHANAEL J. THOMAS, city electrician of Aurora, was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 7, 1838, and is the son of Henry and Susannah (Bayliff) Thomas. The father was a native of Virginia, born March 14, 1803, and was the son of Jacob Thomas. By occupation Henry Thomas was a farmer, and he removed to Ohio with his parents, when a small boy, and where he resided for many years. He came to Illinois, locating in Bureau county. In 1862, he removed to Iowa, locating in Pocahontas county, where he purchased a farm, and carried on farming until his death, October 25, 1881. In religion he was a Methodist, and politically was originally a Henry Clay Whig, and later a Republican. His wife, Susannah Bayliff, was born February 15, 1808, and died February 20, 1883. She was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal



NATHANAEL J. THOMAS.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW HOSPITAL



church. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom grew to mature years. They were Daniel, now living in Washington; Jacob, deceased; Lydia, who married Jeremiah Young, and is living in Washington; Joshua, deceased; Benjamin, who died in infancy; Joel B., of Oklahoma; Nathaniel J., our subject; William A., who died in the army, was a member of Company B, Ninety-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry; Ellen, who married Barney Hanshire, living in Iowa; Henry H., who died in infancy, and Sally A., who married George Strong, and after his death, married Mr. Brice and is in living in Washington.

Our subject was in his twelfth year, when his parents left Ohio and came to Illinois. He was reared on the home farm, where he assisted his father, and attended the country schools as the opportunity was afforded him. On the 12th of August, 1862, at Dover, Illinois, he enlisted in Company B, Ninety-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and went into camp in Chicago, on duty at Camp Douglas, guarding Shiloh prisoners. The regiment remained there until November 9th, and was then ordered to Memphis, Tennessee, and was with Grant on the Holly Springs expedition. Returning to Memphis they remained until they went out against Vicksburg. The regiment was in the Third Brigade, under command of General McPherson, which formed a part of the Seventh Division, of the Seventeenth Army Corps. Mr. Thomas took part in all that siege, until the surrender. He was next on the expedition against Johnston, on the Big Black river, after which he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, February 14, 1864. He was then sent to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, where they had a recruiting camp, and was there until ordered to Little

York, Pennsylvania, where he remained two months. From Little York they went to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and was there seven months, then to Philadelphia, and Chester, Pennsylvania, where he remained until mustered out, July 8, 1865. He came out of the service without a scratch.

After being mustered out, Mr. Thomas returned to Bureau county, and February 1, 1866, went to Mendota, and there entered the telegraph service of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad company until December, 1886. Early in 1887, he resigned from the service of the company, and entered the service of the city of Aurora, in charge of its electric lights.

Mr. Thomas was married August 12, 1862, to Miss Mary E. Barr, a native of Coshocton, Ohio, and daughter of Hezekiah and Hannah Barr. By this union was one child, which died in infancy. Mrs. Thomas died July 18, 1871, and Mr. Thomas married his second wife, Adaline Warner, October 11, 1874. She was a native of Prophetstown, Illinois, where her parents now live. She died December 23, 1876. The third marriage was to Miss Libbie M. Evans, who was born in Aurora, and was a daughter of Griffith and Elizabeth (Welden) Evans, both of whom are natives of Pennsylvania. She died February 27, 1897.

In politics, Mr. Thomas is a Republican, and a stalwart member of the party. He is a charter member of Charlemagne lodge, No. 245, K. P., and of the Mendota lodge, No. 293, I. O. O. F. He is also a member of the Aurora post, No. 20, G. A. R., of which he is past commander, and has served as delegate to the state encampments, also a member of Greusel Garrison, No. 143, Knights of the Globe. For his services during the late war, he is now receiving

a pension. In political matters he has always taken an active part, and is regarded very highly as a citizen, and as an official. In him the city has a faithful and a capable officer in charge of their electric system, and one in whom they can rely as always being ready, and at his post of duty.

**E**BENEZER DENNEY, one of the old and much respected citizens of Aurora, and president of the board of public works, was born in Yorkshire, England, August 15, 1840, and is the son of Joseph and Jane (Spur) Denney. His father came to the United States in 1855, located in Aurora; he was a cabinet maker and followed his trade in this country for a time, and then retired from active business. His death occurred in 1878, at Aurora. Politically he was a Republican, and religiously a member of the First Congregational church. He was a man of medium size, solid built, of strong character, but generous with all. His wife, Jane Denney, was a native of Nottinghamshire, England, and was also a member of the Congregational church. She died in 1861. They were the parents of seven children, and those living are Thomas, residing in Aurora; Joseph, Hallifield and our subject, all residing in Aurora.

Ebenezer Denney, our subject, attended the schools of Yorkshire, and worked with his father at the cabinet maker's trade. In 1850, his brothers, William and Joseph, came to the United States and engaged in cabinet making at Aurora. On their recommendation, the remainder of the family came also to this country, and our subject went into the business with his brothers. William died in 1861. Our subject enlisted to serve his adopted country, and was mus-

tered into the service on his birthday, in 1862, at Chicago, as a member of Company G, Seventy-second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. From Chicago they went to Cairo, and from there to Paducah, Kentucky, thence to Columbus, at which place the regiment joined Grant's army, and took part in the siege and reduction of Vicksburg. He was with the force of sappers and miners, whose duty was night work in the mines and fortifications. His regiment was one of the first to march into Vicksburg, after the surrender.

Mr. Denney was detached from the Seventy-second Regiment and made quartermaster sergeant of the Fiftieth Regiment, United States Colored Troops. He was with that regiment for a few months, when he received a commission as second lieutenant of Company E, of that regiment. After remaining at Vicksburg for some time, he went with the regiment on the Mobile expedition, and was in the great attack on Fort Blakeley. They then returned up the Mississippi and was stationed at Jackson, Mississippi, when he was finally mustered out. In 1864, he was promoted to first lieutenant, after which he was on staff duty, on the staff of General M. F. Force, who was a great friend of his. While at Jackson, a singular thing occurred, Lieutenant Denney for one day being in command of the department, General Force having turned the command over to him when he was mustered out.

After his being mustered out Lieutenant Denney was sent to Vicksburg, where he was paid off and discharged. He then returned to Aurora, and took up his business again. In 1882, he formed a partnership with his brothers, Joseph, Thomas and Hallifield, the firm being known as the Denney

Brothers. In March, 1894, Albert Denney, son of Joseph Denney, and our subject, purchased the interest of the other members of the firm, and the firm name is now Denney & Denney. They carry a general stock of furniture, and undertaking supplies, and their large warerooms are full of all kinds of goods in the line of their trade. They do their own upholstering, and manufacture mattresses, etc.

Lieutenant Denney was married September 10, 1861, to Mary Elliott, daughter of W. T. and Rebecca (Pierce) Elliott, who were numbered among the early settlers of Kane county, and who were natives of New York. The mother is still living on the old homestead in Aurora township, the farm being the one purchased from the general government. Mrs. Denney was born on that farm. Her death occurred in 1862, ten months after her wedding day. On the 7th of November, 1865, Lieutenant Denney was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Mix, at Raymond, Mississippi. Thus something was done toward bringing the two factions together. Not having any children of their own, they adopted George Burton Denney, when the child was but two years old. He is now twenty-two years old and is associated with his father in the business. In the public schools of Aurora, he was liberally educated, and was then sent to the conservatory of music, at Chicago, to perfect his musical education. He has fine musical talent, and plays several instruments. He is a member of the Aurora cornet band, and gives instructions on the clarionet, piano and guitar.

Mr. and Mrs. Denney are members of the Congregational church of Aurora, and in politics he is a Republican. He has served in the city council two terms, and

has been on the hospital board, the library board and is now on the board of the Old Ladies' Home. For a number of years he was secretary of the Building and Loan Association, and is now its president. In 1897, he was appointed by Mayor Holden, president of the board of public works, the duties of which office he fills in the most satisfactory manner. While a member of the city council, he was chairman of the committee on public lights, and the present splendid electric light plant, which is now owned by the city, and its fine system, dates back to the time when Mr. Denney took hold of the subject and to the city's ownership. He is a member of the Masonic order, Jerusalem Temple and of the chapter. He is also a member of the Odd Fellows, the United Workmen, Knights of the Globe and Aurora post No. 20, G. A. R., of which he past commander, and by reason of his position, has been delegate to the state and national encampments.

---

JOHN ADAM SCHOEBERLEIN, the efficient chief of the fire department of Aurora, is a native of the city, born March 3, 1861, and is the son of John A. and Barbara (Pfeifer) Schoeberlein, both of whom were born in Bavaria, but were married in this country. The father was born in 1813, and came to the United States in 1854, locating in Aurora, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing until 1873, when he engaged in the coal business, which he conducted for sixteen years. His death occurred at Aurora, January 27, 1892. He was a member of the German Methodist church, and was the founder of that denomination in Aurora, and continued one of its main pillars until his death. Politically he



was a Republican, and a strong advocate of the principles of that party. His father, also named John Adam, was by occupation a farmer, and lived and died in Bavaria. His wife is still living in Aurora, and is a worthy member of the church founded by her husband. They were the parents of eight children, of whom three grew to maturity—Fred, who was at one time an alderman in the city of Aurora, and the youngest person ever holding that position in the city council, died April 17, 1888; Sabilla, died at the age of fifteen years.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Aurora, and received his education in the public schools. He was but sixteen years of age when he commenced the grocery business at the corner of New York and Union streets, which business he carried on for twelve years, when he sold out. He was in partnership with his brother. In June, 1892, he was appointed by W. S. Frazier, then mayor of the city, chief of the fire department, serving for two years, when a change of government took place. In June, 1897, he was again appointed to the position by Mayor Holden, and is still holding that place. His administration has been satisfactory and he is making a good officer, as is demonstrated by the efficiency of the fire department.

Mr. Schoeberlein was married March 15, 1883, to Miss Mary Peetz, a native of Aurora, and a daughter of Jacob and Mary Peetz. By this union are three children—Ella May, Earl and Mate. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Schoeberlein are members of the German Methodist church. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

John A. Schoeberlein, the father, erected the Schoeberlein block, a three-story brick

structure, on Fox street, which he gave to our subject before his death. Chief Schoeberlein has a good substantial home which he erected for himself and family on the corner of State and New York streets, and where he resides, respected by all who know him.

JOHN ALLEN, deceased, was for some years one of the leading farmers in Hampshire township, residing on section 23. He was born at Louisville, St. Lawrence county, New York, September 10, 1809, and was the son of Elijah and Susan (Edson) Allen, both of whom were natives of Vermont. The former died at about the age of eighty-two years in Beaver, Crawford county, Pennsylvania. The latter died at about the age of eighty years. Elijah was the son of Aaron, who served through seven years of the Revolution, while he served in the war of 1812.

In 1829 our subject moved to Burton county, Ohio, and in 1833 moved to Crawford county, Pennsylvania. While residing in the latter county he married Jane De Wolf September 26, 1852, born in the town of Corinth, Saratoga county, New York, January 26, 1826, and who removed with her parents to Crawford county, Pennsylvania, in 1838. She is the daughter of Charles and Betsy (Putnam) DeWolf, both natives of Chester county, Vermont. Her grandfather, Edward DeWolf, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, while her father served in the war of 1812. By this union were five children—Edna Jane and Edwin John, twins, the latter being deceased; Charles C., deceased; Adelbert and John E. Politically Mr. Allen was originally a Whig, and later a Republican. Religiously he was



a member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1865 Mr. Allen moved west, with a view of bettering his condition in life. He arrived in Kane county, Illinois, April 14, of that year, and bought one hundred and thirty acres of land on section 23, Hampshire township, known as the old Doty farm. In 1883 he bought eighty acres adjoining on the east, on which was a fine large house and large barns. In this house the family has resided for some years, the old house having burned. After a long and useful life Mr. Allen was called to his reward May 28, 1895. His residence of thirty years in Kane county had brought him somewhat prominently before the people, and he was well known in Kane and McHenry counties.

Adelbert Allen, son of John and Jane Allen, grew to manhood on the home farm, and married Minnie Howe, November 14, 1894, who was fourth in a family of eight children born to William J. and Johanna (Benke) Howe. Her father, was born in the village of Baenkenhaven, province of Pomerania, Prussia, April 1, 1842, and her mother born April 11, 1842, was reared in Germany, and came to America in 1868, embarking October 15, at Hamburg, on a sailing vessel. The voyage was a stormy one and required eleven weeks and four days. They landed at New York, December 25—a memorable Christmas day—and came direct to Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, where Mr. Howe secured work until spring. He first worked for Dr. Crabtree and later farm work near Harmony, in McHenry county. After working as a farm hand for seven years, he rented a farm near Harmony for one year, then rented in Hampshire township two years and again

one year more in McHenry county, and for five years on the farm of William Willetts, in Hampshire township, and later two years in Rutland township. He bought his present farm of eighty acres in December, 1883, to which he moved January 1, 1884. William J. Howe was a son of Christian Howe, born in Pomerania, about 1810, and then died about 1854, when William was a boy. The grandfather, John Howe, was a farmer in Germany, where his entire life was spent. Christian Howe married Mary Miller, now living in McHenry county, at the age of eighty-three years. Her father was a shepherd in the old country. William J. Howe married Johanna Benke, in the village of Giescehn, Pomerania, December 10, 1867. She is a daughter of Joseph Benke, a farmer who lived and died in the old country. To Adelbert Allen and wife one child has been born, Walter Raymond, born September 28, 1895.

JOSEPH SANFORD FERRY, of Aurora, Illinois, has spent sixty years of his life in the Prairie state, almost within hailing distance of Aurora. He is a native of Washington county, New York, born October 18, 1829. His father, Sylvanus Ferry, was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1800, and there grew to manhood, moving from thence to Washington county, New York, in company with his brother, Homer Ferry. He married, in Washington county, Miss Rhoda Wilson, a native of that county and state, and a daughter of James Wilson, also born in the same county. By trade Sylvanus Ferry was a tanner and currier, and followed that occupation during his entire life. In 1836 he moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, where he remained about one and

a half years. In 1838 he moved west to Du Page county, Illinois, locating in Naperville township, where he purchased a claim and where his death occurred two years later. His wife survived him many years, and passed away at the advanced age of eighty-seven years. Our subject was the youngest and only survivor of their three children. His brother, Melancthon Ferry, grew to manhood, married and farmed for some years, later removed to Aurora, where he lived retired, and where his death occurred. The sister, Louisa, died a single lady.

Our subject was but nine years of age when he came west with his parents to Du Page county, and on the home farm grew to manhood, and, as the opportunity was afforded him, attended the district school a few weeks in the winter months. He married in Du Page county, November 25, 1855, Miss Sophronia Kenyon, a native of Washington county, New York, born January 12, 1830, and a daughter of Daniel and Esther (Warner) Kenyon, both of whom are natives of Vermont, the latter being a daughter of Israel Warner, and a granddaughter of Col. Seth Warner, who served in the Revolutionary war under his father, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Ferry. Israel Warner was for many years a prominent man in Vermont, and, later, moved west, and died at the age of ninety-eight years. Mrs. Ferry grew to womanhood and was educated in the schools of New York and Vermont, and was a teacher in each of those states about eight years. She came west, in 1853, with her parents, who located in Du Page county, where she again engaged in teaching, in which she continued until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Ferry three children were born: Addie,

wife of Edward Strong, a business man of Aurora; Jenny, wife of Jesse Tenney, also a business man of Aurora; and William W., married, and now living retired in Aurora. There are now in the family eleven grandchildren.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Ferry located on his farm of one hundred and thirty acres, lying near Naperville, where they remained a number of years, then sold and moved to Aurora, where Mr. Ferry purchased residence property and vacant lots on which he erected several neat dwelling houses. They remained in the city some six or seven years, then traded some city property for two hundred acres of land lying in Du Page and Kane counties. On that place they remained from 1873 until 1890, in the meantime purchasing two adjoining farms, giving them about six hundred acres of very valuable land. In 1890 they returned to Aurora, where they have since continued to reside, Mr. Ferry again engaging in building enterprises. Being a natural mechanic and very handy with tools, he has assisted in the erection of all his buildings.

Like the great majority of the wealthy and influential men of the country, Mr. Ferry commenced life in limited circumstances, and by his own exertions, assisted by his good wife, he has succeeded in acquiring a competency, and is numbered among the well-to-do men of Aurora. In addition to his residence property he has invested in the stock of the German National Bank.

Politically Mr. Ferry is a Republican, voting for the nominees of that party in all state and national elections, but in local elections he casts his ballot for the one he considers the best man. He never wanted

or held office, save that of school director, which he was induced to accept, because of his interest in good public schools. Mrs. Ferry is a consistent member of the Congregational church of Aurora. They are both highly respected, and have many warm friends in Kane and Du Page counties.

MRS. SARAH F. (GIFFORD) PRES-  
TON is a worthy representative of the oldest and one of the most highly respected families of Elgin. She was born in Chenango county, New York, at Dundee, September 13, 1834, a daughter of James T. and Laura (Raymond) Gifford, also natives of the Empire state. There the father was interested in a manufacturing business until 1835, when he emigrated to Illinois, locating in what is now Elgin. He had the distinguished title of the "father of Elgin," as he was the founder of that city, erecting the first house, which was his home for several years, and also served as the first post office, school building and church. It stood for many years, but was finally torn down when Prairie street was cut through. Near its site a stone has been placed which bears the inscription: "One hundred feet from this spot stood James T. Gifford's log house—the first home in Elgin—built in the spring of 1835, where was organized the first Congregational church, May 12, 1836, of the following members: George McClure, Sarah McClure, Julia McClure, Philo Hatch, Mary Ann Kimball, Relief Kimball, Reuben Jenne; Ruth C. Dixon, Experience Gifford, James T. Gifford, Laura Gifford." Gifford street was named in his honor, while Raymond street was named for his wife's family. His sister, Miss Harriet Gifford, familiarly known as "Aunt Har-

riet," was the first white woman to wade the Fox river at Elgin, crossing the stream for the purpose of visiting a sick friend. She was an excellent, kind-hearted lady, given to deeds of charity and benevolence. Mr. Gifford watched with interest the growth of the city which he had founded and lived to see it number several thousand inhabitants.

On the first day of January, 1800, James T. Gifford was born at Herkimer, New York, and on New Years day, 1823, he was united in marriage with Miss Laura Raymond, of Sherburn, New York, who was born November 26, 1800. Her father, Newcomb Raymond, was a Revolutionary soldier, entering the Colonial army when but a boy. He married a Miss Gray. Coming to Elgin in 1835, Mr. and Mrs. Gifford bore an important part in the upbuilding and development of the city, and became widely and favorably known throughout this section of the state. He erected the brick building at the corner of Prairie and Villa streets, which he rented. Being a good mechanic, and of an inventive turn of mind, he invented a reaping machine, which he was giving a trial in a harvest field the day of his death, which was probably hastened by great exposure in the hot sun. He was attacked with Asiatic cholera, dying that evening, August 10, 1850. Thus passed away one of the honored pioneers and representative citizens of Kane county. He had served as the first postmaster of Elgin, and also acceptably filled the office of justice of the peace for a time. In every way he proved a valued and useful citizen, taking an active part in the work of the Congregational church, of which he and his wife were charter members, while he was a leader in the Sunday-school and in other good works.



She, too, was an earnest Christian, and a most estimable woman. Her death occurred August 5, 1872.

In the family of this worthy couple were six children, namely: Caroline, wife of Orlando Davidson; Lucy D., who died at the age of eighteen years, while the family were living in Wisconsin for a few years; James H., who was born December 3, 1830, and died in Elgin, January 15, 1883; Fulton, a banker of Mendota, Illinois; Sarah F., the subject of this sketch, and Newton Dexter, who was born in 1841, and died in Wisconsin, November 1, 1847.

Reared in Elgin, Sarah F. Gifford began her education in the public schools of that place, and afterward attended a young ladies' seminary on Wabash avenue, Chicago. On the 26th of April, 1860, at Elgin, she gave her hand in marriage to George Preston, a native of Manchester, New Hampshire, and a son of Paschal and Ruth Preston, who visited the west several times but never located here, and both are now deceased. George Preston spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm in his native state, and in early life came to Elgin. In the fall of 1861 he responded to his country's call for aid, enlisting in Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was assigned to the Army of the Southwest. He had served but a short time when he was taken ill, and was first confined in a hospital at Vicksburg, and later at St. Louis. On account of physical disability he was honorably discharged and returned home. After his recovery he worked in the watch factory of Elgin until life's labors were ended, August 7, 1873, being forty-one years of age at the time of his death.

Three children were born to Mr. and

Mrs. Preston, namely: Mabel, now the wife of Dr. Peterson, of Dundee, Kane county, by whom she has four children—Max, Elsie, Moritz and Waldemar; Starr K., who is employed in the watch factory in Elgin, and Ruth, an accomplished musician, who is now engaged in teaching music in Elgin, and is also serving as organist at the Baptist church. The mother and daughters are all consistent members of the Congregational church, and the family is one of prominence in social circles.

**W**ILLIAM LEET, deceased, was for many years a well-known banker and business man of Bradford, Stark county, but who for the last ten years of his life residing in Aurora, where he was recognized as one of the best business men of the city. He was a native of Connecticut, born in Chester, October 20, 1827, and was the son of Simeon W. and Anna Leet, both of whom are natives of the same state. His ancestry is traced back to William Leete, who came from England in 1639, and who filled many offices of trust, being governor of the New Haven colony, and after the union of that colony with the colony of Connecticut, was governor of the latter, which position he filled continuously until his death in 1683.

But little is known of the boyhood of our subject. His parents were in limited circumstances, and when quite young he went to live with a Mr. Jones, of his native town, and served as a chore boy. He accompanied Mr. Jones to Illinois, in 1841, and remained with him on his farm in Trivola township, near Elmwood, Peoria county, some four or five years. The treatment received from his employer becoming



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



WILLIAM LEET.



MRS. WILLIAM LEET.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



unbearable, he left and worked for other persons until he secured enough to pay for his return east. Having had a taste of western life, he was dissatisfied with his New England home, and again returned to Illinois. In some way he was attracted to Milo township, Bureau county, and he there engaged with a farmer for ten dollars a month. His first month's wages were promptly paid, but on the expiration of the second month, his employer told him that he could not pay him. "Very well," said Mr. Leet, "Give me the amount due. I want my money to be earning something as well as my hands."

As a boy Mr. Leet showed none of that trait of character which so distinguished him in after life. In fact, his employer, Mr. Jones, who was his uncle, told him that he was a worthless fellow, and would never be able to earn his living. The incident related above marked but the beginning of whatever afterwards was the ruling spirit of his life—the determination to accumulate and succeed in all his undertakings. When he was able to buy out Mr. Jones three or four times over, he took pleasure in calling his attention to his estimate of him so freely expressed.

No educational advantages were given our subject, and it is doubtful if in his entire life he spent six months in a school room. But he was possessed of a large amount of common sense and Yankee shrewdness, and his remarkably success is but another illustration of what may be accomplished, even through the environments may not be the best. Too much stress is laid by many for their failures by ascribing it to the influences with which they were surrounded. But William Leet, the poor boy, exiled from home, and the tender and loving care of parents, while

yet in his boyhood, rose above his surroundings and set a worthy example to coming generations.

As soon as his accumulations were sufficient Mr. Leet made his first purchase of land, consisting of eighty acres of wild prairie in Milo township. This land he at once commenced to improve, but later sold to Andrew Britton, and purchased three hundred and twenty acres on section 33, which became the old home place. Early in the spring of 1854, Mr. Wilcox came to Milo township and rented a portion of the Leet farm. In his family was a young lady, Miss Helen Spear, a native of England, who was brought by her parents in infancy to this country. Her mother having died a few months after her arrival, she was kept in the families of different persons until she was about four and a half years old, when she was taken and reared by Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox. Mr. Leet was at once attracted by this young lady, and after an acquaintance of but a few months, they were united in marriage, August 29, 1854. By this union eight children were born, three of whom died in infancy. The living are: (1) Mary J., wife of Rev. J. C. Stoughton, of Aurora, a noted minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, of whom a sketch will be found on another page of this work. (2) Frank M., who married Lyda Lenton, of Audubon, Iowa, and has two children, Helen and William. (3) Rosa, now the wife of Robert Thompson, of Bradford, Stark county. They are the parents of two children, Claude R. and William L. (4) Anna L., wife of Asmus Boysen, of Manning, Iowa, by whom she has three children, Allan, Helena, and Anna. Mr. Boysen is a land agent and dealer, owning considerable land in Arkansas, Nebraska, Iowa,

and Minnesota, with his main office in Chicago. (5) George Kellar, who is unmarried and resides with his mother in Aurora.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Leet had accumulated about twenty thousand dollars, and was considered a wealthy man. But this was but the beginning. His aim was still higher. Industrious as the day was long, he gave himself little rest. While yet residing on the farm it was his custom to be up long before day, and seldom did he retire until late in the night. Some years before the war, he erected a warehouse in Henry, Marshall county, and commenced the purchase of grain, shipping to Chicago and other markets. Although his farm was twenty miles away, when the roads were at all passable, he drove to and from each day. His success here was remarkable.

Soon after the war Mr. Leet commenced buying and shipping grain from Bradford, and until his removal to the village in 1873, he rode in daily from his farm, returning in the evening. For some years he not only controlled the grain market of Bradford, but at Castleton, Duncan and Lombardville, on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. When business was rushing he would not stop to write checks for grain purchases, but would tear off the corner of any envelope, letter head, or take even a piece of brown paper, jot down the weight and price, and tell the seller to take it to the bank and get his money. When the cashier would remonstrate with him and tell him to write regular checks, he would reply: "You know my figures and you know my signature; that is enough." They were paid.

William Leet was a man of remarkable brain power and great business sagacity. His memory of business transactions, and

even the smallest detail of each transaction was wonderful. It mattered not how many loads of grain he may have weighed any day, he would remember every circumstance attending the purchase of each. He could not be deceived. While his accommodations at the bank were all that could be expected, he felt it to his interest to have control of one, and in 1875 purchased the Bradford Exchange bank, then operated by A. B. Miner & Co. This bank he continued to operate until his death, and with the success attending every enterprise in which he engaged. Although he had no experience in that line of business, and knew nothing of the system of bookkeeping in such institutions, he intuitively grasped every detail. Quick of action, with clear foresight, he made few mistakes. Business was rapidly carried on; no time was lost. With him a minute lost was so much money. Persons having business with him were expected to make it known with as few words as possible, and with just as few words he rendered a decision, it mattered not if thousands of dollars were involved.

While giving much of his time to the grain trade, and later to his banking interests, Mr. Leet was always more or less engaged in the real estate business, buying and selling lands, and loaning money upon real estate security. At one time he was the owner of nearly five thousand acres of land in Stark county alone, and his purchases elsewhere were enormous. Loans were made and mortgages taken upon farms not only in Stark, but in adjoining counties as well. He was never known to foreclose a mortgage that could be avoided. He would renew loans already made time and time again, giving the mortgagors all the time necessary in which to meet their pay-

ments. Many farmers throughout the section in which he operated, have reason to bless his memory for the forbearance shown them in distress. As long as he believed one would do what was right, he never showed a disposition to crowd. Many illustrations of this fact could be given, and but few farmers within a radius of twenty miles from Bradford but will bear testimony to the statement. A wealthy farmer residing in Osceola township, Stark county, but lately remarked that all he had was due to William Leet. He said he came to this country a poor man, and Mr. Leet loaned him four hundred dollars with which to make his first purchase of land, and from time to time loaned him thousands of dollars, "And," said the farmer proudly, "he never required from me a mortgage."

In the course of time his business interests extended into other states, especially into Iowa, and he established a bank at Audubon, in that state, which is now under the control of his son, Frank M. Leet, who has shown much of the characteristic energy that distinguished the father. The bank building was personally superintended by him in its erection, and the business was put upon a safe footing. To-day the estate has many large tracts of land in Iowa, and very large sums loaned upon farm lands.

At quite an early day Mr. Leet began to operate upon the Board of Trade in Chicago, and in 1888 removed to that city, where he remained two years, and then made his home in Aurora, going to Chicago and returning each day. The same success attending him in his enterprises elsewhere followed him upon the Board of Trade and his profits were very large. Whether upon the bull or bear side of the market, he seemed to know what was best and where

his money should be placed. He continued to reside in Aurora until his death which occurred September 5, 1896, and his remains were laid to rest in the beautiful Spring Lake cemetery.

William Leet was a man strong in his likes and dislikes. For a friend he would do much; for an enemy nothing. With mind fully absorbed by business, he gave but little attention to his social nature. A good provider, his family never lacked for the comforts of life. Fraternally, he was for some years a Master Mason, but later in life was dimitted. Religiously, he was in sympathy with the Methodist Episcopal church, although he never united with any organization. He believed in the Bible literally, and enjoyed a sound orthodox and practical sermon above everything else. With much of the modern style of preaching he had no sympathy. He believed in calling things by their right names, and not mincing matters by trying to smooth them over. Politically he was a Republican, though he gave but little attention to politics in the common acceptance of the term. He would not accept local office under any consideration. For the same reason that he did not exercise his social nature more—his great business interests—he gave but little attention to local affairs, though on the construction of the railroad through Stark county he invested in its bonds and advocated the local aid of his township and county.

Few men with such limited opportunities have accomplished so much. At his death he left a large estate, which, by his request, has remained intact, a co-partnership having been formed by his widow and heirs under the firm style of Leet & Company, and under that name they now carry



on the business which he established and so successfully conducted for many years. The family seems to have inherited much of the business sagacity of the father, and are all honored members of society and highly respected. The widow yet makes her home in Aurora, and enjoys the love and respect of a large circle of friends and acquaintances.

---

**J**OHAN A. BROWN, a progressive business man of St. Charles, who owns and successfully operates a fine farm in Kane county, is a native of New York, born in the town of Dryden, Tompkins county, near Ithaca, September 7, 1832. His grandfather, Daniel Brown, also a native of New York, was one of the early settlers of Tompkins county, and was a soldier of the war of 1812. Jacob Brown, our subject's father, was born in that county, and there married Anna Baldwin, born in New York, of Holland parentage. Throughout life he continued to engage in agricultural pursuits in Tompkins county, where he died in 1836 when our subject was only four years old. The mother carefully reared her family of ten children, all of whom reached years of maturity, but only four are now living, namely: Mrs. Sally Grover, a widow, residing in New York; William W., a business man of Cortland county, New York; John A., of this sketch; and Jacob E., a resident of Tompkins county.

In the county of his nativity John A. Brown grew to manhood and obtained a fair common-school education. Until fifteen years of age he lived upon a farm and devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. He then learned the saddler's and harness-maker's trade in Ithaca, and later followed

that occupation at Deposit, New York, on the Delaware river. Coming west in 1854, he located at St. Charles, where he purchased a harness shop and business already established, successfully conducting the same until 1864. That year he bought a farm in Du Page county, Illinois, which he operated for three years, and then removed to Virginia owing to ill health. At Spottsylvania Court House he bought a plantation, on which he also engaged in farming for three years, trading his property at the end of that time for a farm near Olean, McKean county, Pennsylvania. In connection with agricultural pursuits, he here engaged in the oil business, owning an interest in twenty-one oil wells, which were in successful operation. After residing in that county for six years, he sold his land, but still retained his interest in the oil wells. Returning to St. Charles in 1881, he bought two adjoining farms of two hundred and forty acres in Campton township, and has since given his attention to their cultivation and further improvement. For dairy purposes he keeps upon his place from thirty to sixty cows, but to a great extent he now leaves the more active part of the work to his son, Frank J. Brown.

In Du Page county, December 7, 1857, Mr. Brown was united in marriage with Miss Lucretia J. Wheeler, a native of Massachusetts, who, during childhood, was brought to Illinois by her father, Job Wheeler, a pioneer of Du Page county, where he secured a tract of government land. Three children bless this union: Frank J., who is married and carries on the home farm; Albert W., who is a resident of Houston, Texas, and is a railroad engineer running on the Southern Pacific; and Lucinda May, wife of Harry Hatch, of Chicago.



Reared a Democrat, Mr. Brown has always been a staunch supporter of the principles of that party and cast his first presidential vote for James Buchanan. Although he has never cared for official honors, he has most creditably served his fellow citizens as a member of the school board. Socially he is a Master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of St. Charles, and both he and his wife are members of the Eastern Star. Wonderful indeed are the changes that have taken place in Kane county since Mr. Brown first came here in 1854, and in this work of transformation he has borne an important part, and he is justly numbered among the valued and useful citizens of the community. The part he has taken in the development of the county has impressed his name indelibly upon its records and he well deserves mention among the honored pioneers.

---

**W**ILLIAM WALLACE McDONALD, general merchant and postmaster of East Plato, Kane county, Illinois, is a native of the county, whose parents were among its earliest settlers. John McDonald, his father, was born near Glasgow, Scotland, in 1814. When about fourteen years of age, he emigrated to Canada, sailing from his native city. The weather was quite stormy, with head winds, and the vessel was often blown back. The voyage was a long and tedious one; they ran out of provisions and the water was low. The last few days the passengers and crew subsisted on tallow candles, but they arrived at last, all being nearly starved. After remaining in Canada for a time, he moved to the state of New York, and at the age of twenty-one came to Kane county, Illinois,

when the country was in its primitive state. He secured land in section 30, Elgin township, and by his thrifty habits acquired a fine farm and goodly amount of property. He was a man of strong determination, inflexible will, and spoke the Gaelic language. In the early days he was, politically, a Whig, and, later, a Republican.

John McDonald married Miss Rebecca Denmark, born in England, March 22, 1820. Her parents died when she was quite young, and she came to Elgin about 1835, with the Gifford family. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Elizabeth Ann, married John Linkenfelder, and is now deceased; Mary Eliza, wife of H. H. Allanson, of Plato township; William Wallace, our subject; Miranda Jane married Clark Tucker, and is now deceased; James D., living in Plato township; George, a resident of Elgin; John Horace, who died at the age of six years; Sophia Jeanette married Duncan Johnson and lives in Iowa; Nancy married Frank Butterfield, of Elgin; and John L., clerking in Elgin. The father of these children died August 26, 1870, and the mother in June, 1893.

William Wallace McDonald was born on the old homestead, section 30, Elgin township, October 14, 1846. His education was obtained in the district school, mostly in winter terms, which he attended until the age of nineteen. He remained with his father, assisting in the cultivation of the farm until he was twenty years of age, when, on the 4th of October, 1866, he married Miss Elizabeth M. Younges, a native of Elgin township, born October 17, 1848, and a daughter of Charles and Madeline (Linkenfelder) Younges, and fourth in a family of six children. By this union three children have been born, the first dy-

ing in infancy. The living are: Charles Adelbert, who married Elizabeth Hogereffe, by whom he has one child, Nona Emily; and John Freeman, who married Annie Phalen.

On 1879 our subject, in partnership with his brother James, purchased fifty acres in section 30, a part of his father's old farm, on which they built a creamery and operated the same until 1885, when they sold out. Our subject had previously purchased the old home farm, and engaged in farming until the spring of 1896. In 1888 he erected a store building at East Plato and commenced merchandising, but sold out the following year. In February, 1896, he rented his farm to his son, repurchased the store and resumed merchandising. About the same time he received the appointment of postmaster, and is yet holding the office. In addition to his stock of general merchandise he deals in farm machinery and implements. His trade is a fairly satisfactory one.

Fraternally Mr. McDonald is a member of Greenwood tent, No. 117, K. O. T. M. In politics he is a Republican. For many years he served as school director of his district, since April, 1897, has been a justice of the peace. He is a hustling business man, genial in manners and a general favorite. The family have been long and favorably known in the township, being among the earliest settlers, who struggled hard to make Kane county occupy its proud and enviable position.

**H**ENRY FICKENSHER, 271 Foxstreet, Aurora, Illinois, is one of that sturdy, persevering and honorable sons of Germany, that have played such an important part in

the progress of our American Union. He came to Aurora fifty years ago, when this place was a struggling village of less than eight hundred people. Born in Bavaria, Germany, July 4, 1828, he is the son of Frederick and Mary (Giegold) Fickensher, both natives of Bavaria, as were their forefathers.

Frederick Fickensher, with his wife and family of five children, emigrated to America in the spring of 1848, and came direct to Aurora, Illinois. They expected to here meet friends, but were much disappointed to learn on their arrival that their friends were located at Aurora, Indiana. However, they liked the appearance of the Fox river village so much, that they decided to remain. The father purchased a small farm of forty acres on the Wauponsie, on which was a log cabin, and in this the entire family resided. His children were William P., Henry, George, Elizabeth, and Margaretta.

Henry Fickensher's opportunities for an education were very meager. His family were of limited means, and his ambition from youth up was to assist in their support. He therefore gained but little school education, but learned much through observation and association, with men through nearly forty-five years of active business life in his adopted city. He had learned the trade of a barber in his native land and soon perceived a good opening for the practice of his trade here. Therefore in 1850, he opened the first barber shop in East Aurora, and did a fair business from the beginning. In course of time he built a brick block, No. 9 South Broadway, which building he still owns, but in 1893 retired from active business.

On the 26th of December, 1851, he married Miss Dorothy Weise, whose parents

were residents of Kane county, but were originally from Saxony. Our subject and wife have three children living, and three have gone to "the land beyond." Those living are Eno L., who is practicing his profession of dentistry in Chicago, and is married and has one son, Harry. Bertha is the wife of Asher Breemer, a druggist of Amboy, Illinois, and they have three children, Clara, Eno and Walter. Clara, the third child of our subject, is the wife of F. W. Bloss, a hardware merchant of Aurora, doing business on South Broadway.

In politics Mr. Fickensher is a Republican and in the early '60s held the office of city collector. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while both himself and wife are members of the Lutheran church. They reside in a pleasant home at 271 Fox street, which he built in 1852. They are both highly respected in the community in which they have resided for fifty years.

**EDWARD L. HUNT**, now living a retired life in the city of Batavia, has been a resident of Kane county since 1853, and for more than a third of a century was one of the enterprising business men of Batavia. He was born in Princeton, New Jersey, July 22, 1817. His father, William Hunt, born in 1785, was also a native of that town and state, as was likewise his grandfather, John Hunt. The family are of English origin, the first of the number settling in New Jersey prior to the Revolutionary war. William Hunt, was by trade a blacksmith and carried on business in Princeton for many years. He there married Eleanor Schenck, a native of Middlesex county, New Jersey, and a daughter of John

Schenck, whose father served in the Revolutionary war. They were the parents of three sons and one daughter. John, the eldest, was a soldier in the Mexican war and killed in the battle of Monterey. Edward L., was next in order of birth. Voorhes, the third son, grew to mature years, married and died in Trenton, New Jersey. The one daughter, Elizabeth Schenck, is a resident of North Adams, Massachusetts. The mother of these children passed away in 1839, while the father lived until 1877, dying at the advanced age of ninety-two years.

Edward L. Hunt grew to manhood in Princeton, New Jersey, and there received a fair common-school education. When a lad of thirteen years, he went into a store as clerk, where he received a thorough and practical business training. In 1841 he was united in marriage, at Princeton, with Miss Catherine F. Ross, a daughter of Robert R. Ross, and a distant relative of Betsy Ross, who made the first American flag. Mrs. Hunt was reared and educated in Middlesex county. Her father, Robert Ross, was a soldier in the war of 1812, while her grandfather, Robert Ross, Sr., was a Revolutionary soldier, and later was elected and served as sheriff of Middlesex county. He was a very prominent man in his day.

In 1853 Mr. Hunt came west and located in Batavia. He first clerked one year, and then bought an interest in the store and continued in the business until 1857. Selling out, he moved to Sangamon county, Illinois, and engaged in farming about five years. While there he formed the acquaintance of Abraham Lincoln, our first martyr president. In 1862 Mr. Hunt returned to Batavia, and in August, of that year, enlisted as a member of Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment,



Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was mustered into service at Springfield, Illinois, in the later part of that month. He enlisted as a private and served till the final close of the war, being discharged and mustered out at Camp Douglass, in August, 1865. He was under fire of the Rebels eighty-two days and sixty nights in defense of the old flag and the union. Among the engagements in which he participated were Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, siege of Vicksburg, siege of Spanish Fort, fourteen lesser fights and skirmishes and two other sieges. While in the service he traveled over four thousand miles.

After his discharge, Mr. Hunt returned to his home in Batavia, and engaged in clerking for some years. In 1871, he bought out an established business and engaged in the mercantile trade with John Davis, under the firm name of Hunt & Davis. The partnership was continued until 1891, a period of about twenty years, when Mr. Hunt sold his interest to his partner and has since lived a retired life. However, in December, 1897, he was appointed receiver of a drug stock, and has also acted in like capacity for several parties that have failed.

In his early life Mr. Hunt was a Whig, his first presidential vote being cast for William Henry Harrison in 1840, and his second for Henry Clay in 1844. On the organization of the Republican party in 1856, he voted for John C. Fremont, and from that time to the present has been a staunch advocate of Republican principles. He never sought a public office, but in 1893 was elected justice of the peace and was re-elected in 1896.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hunt four children were born, two of whom died in infancy. The living are Robert R., a machinist in the

watch factory at Elgin, and Mrs. Elizabeth Spooner, a widow lady, now residing with her parents. She has three children as follows: Frank Ed, married and residing in New York City; Flora, wife of Ferdinand Wirtz, of Chicago; and Catherine, wife of Frank H. Hall, of Chicago. Mrs. Spooner is a member of the First Congregational church of Batavia, while her mother is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally, Mr. Hunt is a member of the G. A. R. and is now past commander. He is held in the highest esteem, and is popular in the community where he has so long resided.

JOHN H. HODDER, editor and proprietor of the "Aurora Daily and Semi-weekly Beacon," has been a resident of Aurora for forty-four years, save a short time spent at Woodstock, McHenry county. He is a native of Dorsetshire, England, where he grew to manhood, and served an apprenticeship to the printing and bookbinding trade. Hearing much of the United States and believing his success in life the better assured by his removal there, in 1853, when about eighteen years of age, he came to America, landing in New York city, where he remained for a time working at his trade. In 1854 he came west to Chicago, and thence to Aurora, where he obtained employment in the office of D. and J. W. Randall, who had just purchased the "Aurora Beacon." Two years later he established the first book bindery in Kane county, which he conducted for a time, when it was consolidated with the "Beacon" office, Mr. Hodder becoming associated with O. B. Knickerbocker, in the firm of O. B. Knickerbocker & Co., in the





J. H. HODDER.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

publication of the "Aurora Beacon." In 1858 the "Beacon" and "Republican" were consolidated and the firm of Bangs & Knickerbocker formed, which continued the publication of the "Beacon." Mr. Hodder having sold his interest, engaged in the job printing business on his own account, which he continued until 1861, when he removed to Woodstock, McHenry county, and for two years published the "McHenry county Union." In 1863 he returned to Aurora, and for three years was foreman of the "Beacon" establishment. In 1866 he purchased Mr. Bangs' interest in the concern, and the firm of Knickerbocker & Hodder was formed, the co-partnership continuing until the death of Mr. Knickerbocker in May, 1885. Since that time Mr. Hodder has conducted the business, and under his management the "Beacon" has continued to maintain a position in the front rank of newspapers in the northwest. In 1882 Mr. Hodder erected a substantial building on the Island, expressly for the business, and has one of the best appointed printing and book binding establishments in the state outside of Chicago.

In December, 1859, Mr. Hodder was united in marriage with Miss Kate M. Heywood, a native of Worcester county, Massachusetts, who was then engaged as a teacher in the Aurora public schools. By this union there are two living children, one son and one daughter. Frank H. Hodder, after receiving his primary education in the public schools of Aurora, entered Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1882, with the degree of Ph. M. Soon after his graduation he accepted a position as instructor in history and political science at Cornell University, New York. After remaining there four years, he

went to Europe, spending nearly two years at the German universities in study. While there he was cabled an offer of the chair of American History in the Kansas State University, at Lawrence, Kansas, which he accepted, and is now filling that position with distinction. The daughter, Miss Kittie B. Hodder, lives with her parents in their pleasant home at 241 South Lincoln avenue, Aurora.

In 1876 Mr. Hodder invented and patented "Hodder's Blotter Tablet," a simple and convenient device in stationery binding, which speedily came into general use throughout the United States and Canada. In educational matters he has always taken interest, and for several years efficiently served as a member of the board of education of school district No. 5, Aurora. Coming to this country at a time when the slavery agitation was at its height, and when the slave power was determined to force slavery upon the territories of the Union, notwithstanding the terms of the Missouri compromise, he naturally allied himself to the Republican party, casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and has ever since taken an active part in Republican politics. In June, 1889, Mr. Hodder was appointed by President Harrison, postmaster of Aurora, and filled that position until March 1, 1894, his administration of the affairs of the office meeting with general approval. As editor of the "Beacon," he has been a prominent advocate of every enterprise calculated to build up the city and county.

---

JONATHAN MILLET HOLT, of Aurora, was for thirty-seven years foreman of the freight car shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, at that place.

His great length of service attests his ability as a workman and manager of men. He was born in the town of Norway, Oxford county, Maine, January 13, 1827. The family are of English origin, and was founded in this country long prior to the Revolutionary war. Three brothers came from England, one of whom settled in the south, another in New York, and the third in Massachusetts. Our subject is descended from the one settling in the latter state. His grandfather, Darius Holt, was born in Massachusetts, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and participated in the battles of Bunker Hill and Lexington. For his services in the struggle for American Independence, he was pensioned by the general government. After the close of the Revolution he moved with his family to Maine, and was among the first settlers in Oxford county. He there opened up a farm in the vast wilderness, where he spent the remaining years of his life. His son, Darius Holt, Jr., there married Sarah Manson, born at Kittredge, Maine, her father being one of its first settlers. After their marriage he engaged in farming in Norway, Oxford county, Maine, but later went to Canada, where his death occurred. His wife survived him a number of years, and died October 20, 1870, at her home in Maine at the age of eighty-one years.

Jonathan M. Holt is one of four sons and two daughters born to Darius and Sarah Holt, all of whom grew to mature years, but three are now living. One brother, Daniel Holt, is a farmer residing in Norway, Maine. His sister, Ann, married Silas Goud, and resides on Cousin's Island, Casco bay, Maine. Our subject grew to manhood in his native county and state, and in its common schools received a fair

education. His boyhood and youth were spent on the home farm, assisting in its cultivation. During that time he also learned the carpenter and joiner's trade with his father. On attaining his majority he went to Lawrence, Massachusetts, and entered the carshops of the Boston & Maine railroad. He there remained until 1854, when he went to California, by way of Aspinwall, Panama, crossing the isthmus and proceeding to San Francisco. He remained in California for three years and a half, working for a time in the mines, but principally at his trade in San Francisco. While there the city was overrun with lawless characters, which he assisted in connection with the vigilance committee in subduing, thus restoring law and order. In 1857, he returned home by the same route that he went, and in his native town resumed work as contractor and builder. In the fall of 1858 he came to Aurora, where he also engaged in contracting and building, until in July, 1859, when he went into the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. He was soon made foreman of the freight carshops, a position that he held until 1897, when he was compelled to quit work on account of illness. He was then one of the oldest and most efficient employees in the shops at Aurora.

Mr. Holt was married in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in April, 1853, to Miss Elnora Phipps, a native of Maine, born in Otisfield, in 1827, and a daughter of John and Relief (Burnell) Phipps, the former a native of New Hampshire, and the latter of Maine. Mrs. Holt is one of their two remaining children, the other being Professor Sireno B. Phipps, now a resident of Aurora, where he has lived for about twelve years, and is engaged as a teacher of instrumental



music. He is also a composer of music, and has published a number of volumes of considerable merit and which have had a ready sale. To Mr. and Mrs. Holt six children have been born, as follows: Eugene Oscar, married, and engaged in business in Aurora; Abraham Lincoln, married, and also a business man of Aurora; Ansel Lewis, married, and employed in the shops of the Burlington road at Aurora; George Wesley, also in the employ of the Burlington road, residing at home; and William Francis, engaged in clerking and residing at home. They lost one daughter, Elnora May, who died at the age of eleven months.

In early life Mr. Holt was a Whig, and cast his first presidential vote for Zackary Taylor, in 1848. He continued to act with that party until 1856, when he supported John C. Fremont, and has since been an earnest and enthusiastic Republican. For six years he served as alderman of his ward, during which time he was on several important committees. He was on the fire and water committee, when the water works was established; was chairman of the electric light committee, when electricity was adopted as a means of lighting the city; was chairman of the street and alley committee, and also chairman of the building and public grounds committee. The work done as a member of the various committees, is but another proof of his ability to render efficient service in whatever position he is placed. He has always taken great interest in political affairs, and as a delegate to various county and state conventions, has exerted a good influence. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge, chapter and commandery. He is also prominent as an Odd Fellow, having passed all the chairs in the subordinate lodge, and repre-

sented his lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state. Mrs. Holt is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has been active in its work. The family are highly regarded in Aurora, and wherever known they are held in the highest esteem.

---

WALTER A. MERREFIELD, who for twenty-three years has served as assistant postmaster of Elgin, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity, was born in Hanover, Cook county, on the 14th of November, 1850, and is a son of Charles E. and Harriet E. Barnard Merrefield. On the paternal side he is of English descent. His grandfather, Charles E. Merrefield, was a native of England, and crossing the Atlantic to America, spent his last days in Elgin, where he died at about the age of sixty years. Farming was his chief occupation. His family numbered two children, one of whom, the father of our subject, was born while the family were crossing the Atlantic. When a young man he took up his residence in Elgin and accepted the position of bookkeeper in the bank of Towne, Lawrence & Pease. He was also assistant postmaster here for some years. He married Miss Harriet E. Barnard, a native of New York, and a daughter of Ephaphas Barnard, who was born in the Empire state and was of Dutch descent. By occupation he was an agriculturist. Mr. and Mrs. Merrefield became the parents of two children, Walter A. and Frank C. The father died at the age of thirty-four years, and the mother, surviving him some time, passed away in 1874, at the age of sixty-one. He was a soldier in the Mexican war, and a highly respected citizen of Elgin.

Walter A. Merrefield was reared in Cook and Kane counties, Illinois, removing to the latter when nine years of age. He spent his minority here, and after acquiring a preliminary education in the public schools, continued his studies in the Academy of Elgin. Entering upon his business career, he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits, but after a time began the manufacture of cheese and butter in Hanover. After some years service as assistant postmaster of Elgin, he engaged in the manufacture of cheese and butter in LaSalle county for four years, and then returned to Elgin. He was first appointed assistant postmaster January 1, 1871, serving at that time for eight years, and then after his four years' residence in LaSalle county, he returned and was again appointed assistant postmaster, which office he has now filled since 1879. His faithful discharge of his duties and his courteous treatment of the patrons of the office has made him a popular official.

On the 5th of August, 1874, Mr. Merrefield was united in marriage to Miss Esther Burnidge, a daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Field) Burnidge. Four children have been born of this union: Hattie May, Myra Jennette, Walter Charles and Floyd Austin. All are with their parents with the exception of Walter Charles, who died at the age of four years. The mother died in 1891, in the same month in which her son's death occurred.

Mr. Merrefield holds membership with the Modern Woodmen of America, and gives his political support to the men and measures of the Republican party. His home is at No. 603 Spring street, and in the city where he has long made his home he is widely and favorably known.

**JOHN J. CLARK.**—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, Mr. Clark is quietly living at the home of his son at No. 750 Highland avenue, Elgin, surrounded by the comfort that earnest labor has brought him.

Mr. Clark was born October 26, 1816, in Dundee, Yates county, New York, and is a son of Thomas and Jane (Plummer) Clark, the former a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the latter of Yates county, New York. Thomas Clark, Sr., the paternal grandfather, was also born in Philadelphia, was a carpenter and contractor by occupation, and during the Revolutionary war he aided the colonies in achieving their independence. He reared a family of three children, one son and two daughters. At the time of his death he had reached the extreme old age of one hundred and two years, but was still quite active, having walked four miles a few days before he died. The maternal grandparents of our subject were George P. and Hannah (McMurtrie) Plummer. He was a farmer and during the Revolutionary war made a number of sleds for the soldiers. He died when about ninety-two years of age.

During his early manhood Thomas Clark, Jr., was a boat builder and sea captain, but later turned his attention to farming. On coming west in 1840, he located in Udina, Kane county, Illinois, where he died in 1859, at the age of seventy years. He was a Spiritualist in religious belief. Being drafted during the war of 1812, he hired a substitute. His wife survived him only two years, dying in Sacramento, California, when about seventy years of age.

After his death she had crossed the plains by wagon with some of her children. Nine children were born to them but only four are now living, namely: John J., George, Palmer and Barton.

John J. Clark grew to manhood upon a farm at Dundee, New York, and during his youth learned the millwright's trade, which he successfully followed for over twenty years. In the fall of 1841, he came by way of the Great Lakes to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased fifty-three acres of his father's farm, but after operating it for a few years, he sold and bought a drove of horses, preparatory to starting across the plains to California. When about sixty-five miles above Fort Laramie, the Indians stole his horses and also shot one of the company but did not kill him. They pushed on to California, walking much of the distance. In that state Mr. Clark and his son Byron worked at bridge building, receiving three dollars and a half per day, and after two years spent upon the Pacific slope they returned to Illinois by way of the Isthmus.

Mr. Clark next owned and operated a planing mill and sash factory in partnership with his brother Thomas, who afterward raised two companies for the Civil war and in the service rose to the rank of colonel. His death occurred in Chicago, in 1894. When our subject and his brother dissolved partnership, he and his son bought a water power and run a machine shop for many years, but for the past three years he has lived retired, enjoying a well-earned rest.

On the 16th of November, 1843, was consummated the marriage of Mr. Clark and Miss Delia Maria, daughter of John Rich, and they became the parents of four children, two sons and two daughters. Roselia married Edwin Little, but is now

deceased. Byron wedded Mary Sovereign and has two children—Alice, wife of Joseph King, by whom she has one child, Lyle; George married Mary Dorrissey, now deceased, and to them were born two children—Arthur, and John Ella is the wife of Jacob Deill, of Chicago, who is a conductor on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. The two children born to them are now deceased. Mrs. Clark, who was a faithful member of the Methodist church, departed this life November 3, 1860, and our subject now makes his home with his son Byron.

In his political affiliations Mr. Clark is a Democrat. For almost fifty-seven years he has been a resident of Kane county and therefore has witnessed almost its complete development. On his arrival here the land was mostly in its primitive condition, and wild game of all kinds was very plentiful. Mr. Clark has ever taken great delight in hunting, fishing and other outdoor sports and when a young man he always came out ahead in a jumping contest. He now belongs to the Elgin Rifle Club, attends the big shooting matches in various parts of the country, and although eighty-one years of age he can shoot as well now as he could twenty years ago, for his eyesight is strong, being able to read without glasses. As he still enjoys boating, hunting and fishing, he has two small family steamboats, tents and other hunting paraphernalia, and takes numerous trips up the river, spending several days at a time in his favorite sports. He has always endeavored to live peaceably with all men, having never had a quarrel, and he therefore has the respect and esteem of a large circle of friends and acquaintances who appreciate his sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

George P. Sovereign, the father of Mrs.



Byron Clark, is a native of Canada. In 1847 he married Agnes Windsor, a native of England, from which country she came with her parents when fourteen years of age. Immediately after their marriage, which was solemnized at Simco, Canada, they came direct to Kane county, locating on a farm in Plato township, where they resided until 1877, when they removed to Elgin. In 1879 they moved to St. Cloud, Minnesota, where they now reside. They were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are yet living—Mary A., Frances, Ella E., George, Harriet, Myra and Daniel. Mrs. Sovereign is a member of the Baptist church.

---

**G**EORGE MUIRHEAD, the well-known supervisor of Plato township, resides on section 16. His father, also named George, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1802, and died in Plato township, Kane county, January 2, 1892. He grew to manhood in his native city, and learned the weaver's trade, which he followed until his emigration to America. He was eleven years with one firm, and fifteen years with Sir James Anderson. On leaving his employer, the latter gave him a present of ten pounds in gold, thus showing his appreciation of his long service. He arose from the rank of weaver to that of warper, and had charge of the weaving over many operators.

On emigrating, George Muirhead, Sr., took a boat from Glasgow to Liverpool, and embarked in the American vessel, Thomas H. Perkins, for Philadelphia. Soon after landing at the latter place he went to Baltimore and thence to Cumberland, Maryland. Looking through Maryland, he found nothing that exactly suited him, so came on to

the west. Embarking on the Ohio river, the family came by boat down that stream and up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and by canal to Chicago. From the latter place he came to Dundee, Kane county, and a few weeks later, in November, 1849, came to Plato township, where he had bought eighty acres in section 14. This he sold in 1860, and bought one hundred and sixty acres in section 16, which became the nucleus of the large estate now owned by his sons, the greater part of it in partnership, but some in severalty.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Muirhead, spent his entire life in Scotland, as did his wife, who was a Miss McFarland, and one of his father's brothers, William, uncle of our subject, was in the battle of Waterloo. George Muirhead, Sr., first married Jane Bennie, in Scotland, and to them four children were born: Catherine, who married William McKensie, of Creston, Illinois; George, our subject; Annabella, wife of Gordon Ellis, of South Dakota; and Jane, wife of John McKensie, living at South Grove, De Kalb county, Illinois. For his second wife, Mr. Muirhead married Mary Morrison, in Scotland, who bore him eight children as follows: Emily Elizabeth, widow of Emery Lee, of Kane county; Mary Jeanette, who first married William Tanner, and at his death Brainard Goff, of Newhall, Iowa; James, in charge of the brother's store, at Plato Centre; William, cultivating part of the farm owned by the brothers; Maggie L., wife of Charles Sherwood, of Plato township; Lily Alice, who makes her home with our subject; Charles, who also makes his home with our subject; and John, in the store at Plato Centre.

George Muirhead, our subject, was born in Glasgow, Scotland, June 8, 1838, and as



the eldest son, much of the responsibility of the farm management fell upon him. For over forty years he has been the recognized head of the family. He was eleven years old when the family emigrated to America, and his education began in the schools of Scotland, was completed in the district schools of Plato township, which he attended as the opportunity was afforded him. Much is due to him for the successful management of the affairs of the Muirhead brothers, which is composed of George, James and William Muirhead.

James Muirhead was born on section 14, Plato township, November 1, 1854, and his education was obtained in the district schools and Elgin Academy. He occupied one of the farms until 1888, engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1887, in company with his brothers, he opened a store at Plato Centre. Since 1886, he has served as postmaster of that place, and for three years served as justice of the peace. He has been twice married, his first union being with Anna A. Aiken, a native of Scotland, and his second union, with Sarah A. Shedden, who was born in Plato township, and a daughter of John A. and Margaret (Rosborough) Shedden. By this union four children have been born—George, Margaret, Boyd, and one who died in infancy.

William C. Muirhead was born in Plato Centre, June 15, 1857. His education was also received in the public schools of Plato township and in Elgin Academy. His life work has been principally that of farming, and in 1888, when his brother James took charge of the store, he moved to the farm near the station. His marriage with Martha A. Sherwood took place December 10, 1884. She was born in Burlington town-

ship, Kane county, and is the daughter of Milton and Sarah (Pease) Sherwood. By this union are three children—Milton, Mary and Ethel.

Religiously, George Muirhead is a member of the Congregational church, and politically he is a Republican, as was his father before him. George Muirhead, Sr., was one of the first abolitionists in Kane county. While coming here he incensed the captain of a boat on the Ohio river by freely expressing his opinions. He and a fellow sympathizer were ordered by the captain to be silent on the subject of slavery, as it was distasteful to the rest of the passengers who were mostly southerners. However, he continued to express his opinion as freely as he wished. Our subject has been honored by his neighbors with nearly all the official positions in their gift. He is now serving his second term as supervisor, which position he most acceptably fills. His love for his native land has never abated, and he has twice visited the scenes of his childhood. The Muirhead family are of sterling qualities, honor and honesty being their two leading traits. Thrift and energy are the secret of their unusual success. All are held in the very highest esteem.

---

W P. LILIBRIDGE, secretary, treasurer and general manager of the St. Charles Lumber Company, is numbered among the leading business men of that city, which has been his home since 1892. He was born at Harvard Junction, McHenry county, Illinois, January 11, 1869. His grandfather, O. P. Lilibridge, was a native of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to McHenry county early in the '30s. There his son, L. M. Lilibridge, was born about 1845.

After he grew to manhood, L. M. Lilibridge married Miss Ella J. Billings, also a native of McHenry county, and a daughter of Capt. William G. Billings, a prominent man of that county, who served as internal revenue collector of the northern district of Illinois, and who was a soldier in the late war, holding a captain's commission. At present, L. M. Lilibridge is a prominent business man and stock dealer of McHenry county, Illinois, and the owner of considerable real estate in that county.

W. P. Lilibridge, our subject, is the son of L. M. and Ella (Billings) Lilibridge. His boyhood and youth were spent in his native county, and after spending some time in Beloit College he took a regular course in the Rockford Business College. He then spent two years in the lumber yard at Harvard, with W. D. Hall, and in 1889 went to Marathon county, Wisconsin, into the lumber regions, and spent two years in the employ of the Alexander Stewart Lumber Company, the greater part of which time, grading, inspecting and looking after the stock. In 1892 he came to St. Charles as general manager of the yard here, and served in that capacity one year, then purchased an interest in the business, of which he has since had entire charge as secretary treasurer and general manager.

Mr. Lilibridge was united in marriage in St. Charles, Illinois, December 6, 1894, with Miss Lottie Marsden, a daughter of Thomas Marsden, a prominent manufacturer of Kane county. She was born in St. Charles, reared and educated in its public schools, being a graduate of the West Side High School, and for four years held a position in the office of the circuit clerk of Kane county. By this union are two children—M. Duane and Gladys V.

The St. Charles Lumber Company carries a very complete stock of building material, including sash, doors and blinds, and in connection have established a coal yard, all of which is under the management of Mr. Lilibridge, who is regarded as one of the best business men of the city. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic lodge of St. Charles, of which he is the present worshipful master. He has represented his lodge in the grand lodge of the state. He is also a member of the Fox River chapter at Geneva; the Modern Woodmen of America, at St. Charles, of which he is venerable consul, and also the Knights of Pythias.

NATHAN J. ALDRICH, senior member of the well-known law firm of Aldrich, Winslow & Worcester, with office on River street, over the Second National Bank, Aurora, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, December 3, 1851, and is the son of L. T. and Delia A. (Southworth) Aldrich, both of whom are natives of New York. The father, who is a retired farmer, residing at Millington, Kendall county, Illinois, came to the state in 1838 from New York, and is one of the pioneers of Kendall county. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order. Few men are better known throughout Kendall and adjoining counties. His wife is a member of the Congregational church. Of their three children, Nathan J. is the eldest; Elizabeth is now the wife of George J. Marvin, a farmer of Livingston county, New York, and Edward P., who resides in Millington, Illinois.

Our subject was reared on the home farm in Kendall county, and his primary education received in its public schools. He later attended the Fowler Institute at New-



NATHAN J. ALDRICH.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



ark, Illinois, and the State Normal School, at Normal, Illinois. On leaving the latter institution he began reading law in the office of Judge M. O. Southworth, of Aurora, and then attended law school in the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in 1876. One year later he came to Aurora and commenced the practice of his profession. He later formed a partnership with Albert J. Hopkins, and under the firm name of Hopkins & Aldrich, they continued in practice from 1879 to 1895, when the co-partnership was dissolved and the present firm of Aldrich, Winslow & Worcester was formed.

On the 28th of August, 1879, Mr. Aldrich was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Winchell, a native of Kendall county, Illinois, and daughter of George W. Winchell. By this union one child has been born: Louisa A., who yet resides at home. Mrs. Aldrich is a member of the Baptist church of Aurora, and is quite active in all church and benevolent work. Fraternally Mr. Aldrich is a member of the Masonic order.

In politics Mr. Aldrich is an ardent Republican, and in every general and local campaign takes an active part for his party. But it is as an attorney that he is best known. His practice, which is a general one, is extensive, and few cases of note in Kane county in which he is not employed on one side or the other. He practices in all the courts of the state and the United States courts.

---

JOSEPH NEWMAN has for over a quarter of a century been prominently identified with the business interests of Elgin, and has taken an active part in promoting

the substantial improvement and material development of the city, his labors in its interests being most effective and beneficial. Like many of its leading and influential citizens he was born on the other side of the Atlantic, his birth occurring May 10, 1854, in Herefordshire, England, and in that country his parents, William and Emma (Thurgood) Newman, spent their entire lives. Of their twelve children, only four sons came to America, the others being, John of Elgin, and Henry, who resides in Chicago and is with the firm of Sprague, Warner & Company; and Walter, who lives in Rogers Park, Chicago, where he is engaged in business.

Joseph Newman attended the common schools of his native land, but as his parents died when he was quite young, he started out to make his own way in the world at the age of twelve years, being first employed as errand boy in a printing office. He continued with the same company until he came to America in 1869, crossing the Atlantic in a London steamer, which was twenty-one days in making the voyage. He made his home in Chicago with a maternal aunt, Mrs. Sarah Pinkerton, who had brought his brother John to the United States in 1859. Our subject remained in Chicago, working for Norton & Company until the great fire of 1871, which destroyed most of the city and reduced his aunt's home to ashes.

Coming to Elgin in 1872, Mr. Newman secured the position of bookkeeper in the First National Bank, and was thus employed until 1880, since which time he has been interested in the creamery business, at first as a member of the firm of Newman & Hawkins, later Nolting & Newman, with A. Nolting as a partner, and now with his brother

John in the John Newman Company. In 1893 he purchased an interest in the Spring Brook Creameries, forty in number, which are scattered throughout several different states. The firm does an extensive and profitable business, and is one of the leading concerns of the kind in this section of the country. On leaving the banking business in 1877, Mr. Newman went into the Fountain Creamery, east of Elgin, and worked under the tutelage of L. H. Wanzer for one year, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with every department of the business. He afterward, however, returned to the bank for a time. He is now vice-president and treasurer of the Illinois Dairymen's Association, and is also trustee of the Universalist church, to which he belongs. In business circles he stands high, his upright, honorable course winning him the confidence of all with whom he comes in contact. In politics he is a Republican.

On the 23d of May, 1879, Mr. Newman was united in marriage to Miss Winna S. Balch, a most estimable lady, who is also a member of the same church. They have four children, namely: Balch William, Mary Emma, Louise and Margaret.

Rev. William Stevens Balch, Mrs. Newman's father, was for many years one of the most prominent ministers of the Universalist church in this country. He was born in Andover, Vermont, April 13, 1806, a son of Joel Balch, who was the oldest son of Hart Balch. Joel Balch was not a great man as the world counts greatness, but was one of the representative citizens of Vermont, being a man of simple ways, strong common sense and rugged, sterling character. Rev. W. S. Balch inherited the rare intellectual and moral gifts which so distinguished his ancestry; he was an ardent and practical

lover of all that was noble and good in man; was a hater of selfishness, greed, hypocrisy and pretence; and his influence was great and always on the side of right. He led a consistent, noble Christian life. At an early age he entered the ministry of the Universalist church, preaching in Vermont and New Hampshire in 1827 and 1829. The following year he married Adeline Gail Capron, and removed to Albany, New York. In 1830 became pastor of the church at Watertown, Massachusetts; in 1832, at Claremont, New Hampshire; and in 1836 at Providence, Rhode Island. In 1841 he took charge of the Bleeker Street church in New York City, preaching for the same congregation there for seventeen years, during which pastorate his wife died, and a few years later he married Mary Ann Waterhouse. On leaving that city it was his intention to retire altogether from the ministry and spend his remaining years at his rural home in Ludlow, Vermont, but in 1865 he came west, and was subsequently pastor of Universalist churches at Galesburg, Illinois, Hinsdale, Elgin and Dubuque, Iowa, his pastorate at the last named extending from 1877 until 1880. The last six years of his life were passed mostly at Elgin, where he died December 26, 1887, after sixty years of faithful work in the ministry. In his death the Universalist church lost one of its oldest ministers, as well as one of its most devout and saintly characters, and wherever known he was held in high regard, having the respect not only of his own congregation, but also the esteem of the entire community.

The children of Rev. W. S. Balch were as follows: Addie, wife of Sydney A. Miller, of Omaha, Nebraska; W. D., who was vice-president of a bank at Mason City, Iowa,

and died in 1897; Emma, widow of Linus Dickinson; Edward E., cashier of the Omaha National Bank at Omaha; Estelle, of New York; Elena, who died unmarried; John J., agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad at Mount Clair, Illinois, children of his first wife, and Winna S., wife of Joseph Newman, of this review; and George W., a civil engineer of Elgin, now at Moorhead, Mississippi, constructing a branch for the Illinois Central railroad; and Clarence, who died at New York, children by the second union.

---

ARTHUR L. GILLETT, who is engaged in the livery business on River street, Aurora, is a native of Kane county, born in Sugar Grove township September 27, 1857, and is the son of Lewis and Rachel (Harmes) Gillett, both of whom are natives of New York, the former born in Sullivan county, in 1821. By occupation he was a farmer and was engaged in agricultural pursuits before moving west. About 1850 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Sugar Grove township, where he purchased a farm of two hundred acres, to which he added from time to time until he owned about one thousand acres in Kane and De Kalb counties, all of which was under cultivation. He was a very enterprising and substantial farmer, and resided upon his original tract until his death, in 1888. His wife survives him and resides in the village of Sugar Grove. Arthur L. Gillett was second in order of birth in a family of four children, of whom two are deceased. His sister, Rachel May, is now the wife of M. O. Shoop, of Kaneville, Illinois. In his native township he grew to manhood and in its common schools received his pri-

mary education, which was supplemented by a course in Jennings Seminary. He remained with his father on the farm until after attaining his majority, and in Kane county married Helen E. Ravlin in November, 1878. After their marriage they resided on a farm in De Kalb county for five years, and then moved to Sugar Grove township, where he also engaged in farming for five years. Leaving the farm he removed to the village of Sugar Grove and engaged in the lumber and coal business, buying out a firm that had been some time established. After remaining there for five years he sold out and moved to Aurora, where he purchased a livery business, and has since been engaged in that line. Mr. Gillett lost his first wife, who died in Sugar Grove in 1890, leaving two daughters, Grace E. and Edith M., both students of the West Aurora High School. Mr. Gillett was again married in October, 1892, his second union being with Miss Della M. Todd, a native of Kane county, and a daughter of Eleazer and Emma Todd, her father being a business man of Aurora.

Politically Mr. Gillett is a Republican, the principles of which party were instilled in him in his youth. He was made an Odd Fellow in Sycamore, but is now a member of Wabansia lodge, No. 45, of Aurora. He is also a member of the Knights of the Globe and the Royal League of Aurora. Socially he is a member of the Aurora City Club. A lifelong resident of Kane county, save for the period of five years, which he spent on the farm in De Kalb county, he has been identified with its institutions and has witnessed its growth and prosperity until it is to-day one of the best counties in the great state of Illinois. A man of exemplary habits and upright character, he is



held in the highest esteem, and with his wife holds a high social position in the city of Aurora.

**ALFRED W. KELLY.**—Among the pioneer settlers of Kane county this gentleman is worthy of notice in a work of this kind. For fifty-three years he has been identified with its interests, having located here in the spring of 1845, and has contributed his share to its material progress and prosperity. He was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years, but is now practically living retired in St. Charles.

Like many of the best citizens of the county, Mr. Kelly is a native of the Empire state, born in Schenectady, March 17, 1828. His grandfather, William Kelly, was a native of Scotland, and at an early day came to the new world with his father, Robert Kelly, a pioneer settler of Albany, New York. John S. Kelly, our subject's father, was born in the city of Schenectady, in 1805, and was there married to Eliza Mansfield, who was born in New York, May 20, 1808. In his native city he engaged in the lumber business and also carried on operations as a contractor and builder. He took quite a prominent and active part in political affairs, and served for several terms as alderman of the city. Emigrating to Illinois in 1845, he purchased a tract of seven hundred acres of land in Rutland and Plato townships, Kane county, and to its improvement and cultivation devoted his energies with good results. Here he also became one of the leading and influential men of the county, served as justice of the peace for several years, and held other positions of honor and trust. In connection with his farming operations, he engaged in contract-

ing and building in Elgin, and built the old Baptist church at that place. He died in Rutland township, in 1892; his wife passed away in 1884, and both were laid to rest in Udina cemetery, where a substantial monument marks their last resting place.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest of the children of this worthy couple, the others being as follows: Sarah is the wife of Stiles Mansfield, of New Haven, Connecticut; Elizabeth is the wife of Owen Weld, of Elgin; Captain Leveret is married and resides in Washington, District of Columbia, where he is serving as deputy commissioner of pensions. He served through the Civil war as a member of Company A, Thirty-sixth Illinois Infantry, and from private rose to the rank of captain. After his marriage he first located in Rutland township, Kane county, and was afterward elected sheriff of the county, serving in that capacity for two terms. He was one of the leading and popular men of his community. Dr. Lin A. Kelly is a prominent physician of Winona, Minnesota. The foregoing were all born in Schenectady, New York. John H., born in Rutland, Illinois, is a substantial farmer now living in Elgin. John and Marietta both died in infancy. Mary died after reaching womanhood and was buried in Elgin. Charles died at the age of twelve years.

While living in New York Alfred W. Kelly was provided with good educational privileges, having attended the Lyceum at Schenectady, and after coming to Illinois attended school to some extent. He was thus well fitted to engage in teaching. He assisted his father in opening up and developing the home farm, and remained under the parental roof until he had attained man's estate.



At Udina, Kane county, Mr. Kelly was married, April 2, 1851, to Miss Elizabeth Pruden, Rev. C. R. French officiating. She was born in Romulus, Seneca county, New York, October 7, 1828, a daughter of John and Sarah (Ransom) Pruden, the former a native of Pennsylvania, but reared in New York, the latter a native of Rome, Oneida county, New York. In 1843 her parents came west and settled near the present city of Elgin, Mr. Pruden purchasing a tract of about six hundred acres four miles west of that place. He was a prominent and successful farmer and highly respected citizen. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly have three children: Sarah Eliza, wife of Frank W. Alexander, of St. Charles; Emma Isabel, deceased wife of A. H. Perkins, of Genoa, Illinois, and Walter Scott, who married Nellie Gup-til, of Chicago, and located on a farm in Kane county, where he lived for three years, removing at the end of that time to Elgin, where he died, leaving a widow and four sons.

After his marriage Mr. Kelly located upon a partially improved farm in Plato township, Kane county, his residence being a log house, and for four years he made that place his home. He then removed to a place in Rutland township, comprising one hundred sixty-five acres, a small portion of which was under cultivation and a little frame house erected thereon. To its further improvement and cultivation he devoted his energies until he had one of the best farms in the locality. His first home was replaced by a substantial and commodious residence, a good orchard was set out, and in fact, the place had all the conveniences and accessories of a model farm of the nineteenth century. On leaving the farm he came to St. Charles, where he

was employed in a store for eight years, and he subsequently had charge of a store at Pingree Grove, where he served as postmaster for two years and a half. The following five years were spent upon his farm, but since February, 1888, he has lived retired in St. Charles, enjoying a well-earned rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life.

The Republican party finds in Mr. Kelly a staunch supporter, and he has voted for all its presidential candidates since John C. Fremont with the exception of the year he supported Horace Greeley. Twice he was elected alderman of St. Charles, but after serving for three years he resigned. He also filled the offices of school director in Plato township and trustee in St. Charles and his work along this line has been very effective in securing better schools. As a public-spirited and progressive citizen, he has given his support to all measures for the public good, and his life has been such as to command the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact, either in public or private life.

---

**SIDNEY B. HAWLEY, M. D.**, deceased, was born in Fairfax, Vermont, March 29, 1831; he was the son of Lyman and Melina (Wells) Hawley, both natives of the Green Mountain state. Lyman Hawley, the father, followed the occupation of a farmer and on the home farm our subject worked in his early youth and attended the district schools of the neighborhood. He was afterwards placed in the seminary at Brattleboro, where he completed his literary education. He later attended the medical college at Castleton, Vermont, graduating with honors in 1851, and receiving his de-

gree of M. D. On the 8th of November, 1853, he married Mary A. Webster, a daughter of Alanson and Lucy (Reed) Webster, all residents of Fairfax, Franklin county, Vermont, and there the marriage ceremony took place. After his marriage he removed to the town of Jefferson, Ashtabula county, Ohio, and commenced practicing as physician and surgeon. Her father was of Welch descent, while her mother came of good New England stock. Alanson Webster was a second cousin to Noah Webster, the renowned lexicographer, and moved from Connecticut to Vermont at an early day. In his family were seven children—Alonzo, Jane, Buell, Ami, Fidelia, Clark and Mary A.

Dr. Hawley continued the practice of his profession very successfully in Ashtabula county, Ohio, for five years, when on the advice of friends he removed to Chicago, but remained there only two years. In the meantime he visited Aurora, and was favorably impressed with the beauties of the place, and seeing it to be much preferred to Chicago for rearing his young family, he decided to remove here, which he did, bringing with him his wife and three children as follows: Clark, born November 15, 1854, at Jefferson, Ohio; Idelia M., born March 9, 1856, also at Jefferson, Ohio; Burritt, born October 9, 1860, in Chicago. The latter died in Aurora, November 26, 1883. After the removal of the family to Aurora two more were added, Alanson W., born December 14, 1865, and Arthur Lyman, born May 31, 1868.

On coming to Aurora Dr. Hawley opened an office at No. 45 River street, in 1860, where he practiced his profession until the war commenced. He then joined the army as assistant surgeon of the Thirty-sixth

Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and was commissioned surgeon of the Thirty-fifth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and chief operator of the Third Division, Fourth Corps, of the Army of the Cumberland. He was present at the battles of Mission Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Chickamauga, and during the latter engagement was taken prisoner and spent six weeks in Libby prison, where everything he possessed was confiscated. Being exchanged, he returned to his regiment and continued in the service three years, ministering to sick and wounded. While in the service he narrowly escaped injury, but was never wounded.

In 1864 Dr. Hawley returned to Aurora and resumed his practice in the same office he had formerly occupied, and carried on a very successful practice until his death, which occurred November 26, 1877, and his remains were interred at Rose Hill cemetery. While caring nothing for office, he was prevailed upon to serve as alderman of the First ward for one term, and discharged the duties of the office in a conscientious manner. Fraternally, he was a member of the Aurora post, No. 20, G. A. R. He was also a member of Trinity Episcopal church, in which he was vestryman for thirteen years. Mrs. Hawley is also a member of the same church. During his life he built an elegant home at 227 Walnut street, where his widow still resides.

The father of Mrs. Hawley was for many years a prominent citizen of Lowell, Massachusetts, where he filled the office of justice of the peace and represented his town in the legislature. He and his wife lived together nearly sixty-five years, he dying in his ninety-fourth year and she when eighty-five years old.

The children of Mrs. Hawley now living

are Clark, who is practicing his profession of oculist and optician at 70 State street, Chicago, and who married Edna Chittenden, by whom he has two boys, Ralph and Webster. Idelia L. married James Hanna, by whom she has three children, Ruth, Phillip and Paul; they reside in Aurora. Alanson is unmarried and is a practicing physician at the state asylum at Kankakee, Illinois. Arthur, the youngest son, married Miss Olive McGrath, of Rochester, New York, and they now reside at Seattle, Washington.

---

MRS. CLARK WILDER, who resides at No. 463 North Lake street, has been a resident of Kane county since October 20, 1837. She was born in New London county, Connecticut, at Old Lyme, October 17, 1810. Her father, Timothy Lord, who was a native of the same county and state, there married May Munsel. By trade he was a wheelwright, and followed that occupation until his death in 1812. Mrs. Lord later married William H. Harrison, said to be a relative of President Harrison. She died in February, 1826. Mrs. Wilder was the youngest and the only survivor of three daughters by the first marriage. She grew to womanhood at Lyme, and then moved to New York, with a sister, and there gave her hand in marriage to Clark Wilder, the marriage ceremony taking place February 17, 1833.

Clark Wilder was a native of New Hampshire, and when a lad of fourteen years, moved with his parents, Joel and Lydia (Newton) Wilder, to New York. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Wilder began their domestic life on a farm in St. Lawrence county, New York, where they

remained about four years. They then came to Kane county, Illinois, by team and the lakes, coming through Canada into Michigan and after visiting a brother of Mr. Wilder at St. Joseph, Michigan, they came to Aurora, which then had but three frame houses and one log house on the west side. Mr. Wilder had visited this section in 1836, and purchased a claim of one hundred and sixty acres on the west side of the river, and forty acres of timber on the east side. There was a log house on the claim in which he moved with his family, and there they lived for eleven years. It was a very rudely constructed house and until repaired by Mr. Wilder, snakes would stick their heads through the open floor, and the roof was so that one could see the stars through the cracks. After residing there the time mentioned, in 1848 Mr. Wilder built a large, substantial stone residence, where his widow and daughter now reside. He at once commenced the improvement of his place, and there resided until his death, August 5, 1870, at the age of sixty-nine years. Clark Wilder was a man of good education, was interested in the public schools and served as school commissioner for a time. He was a very active business man, progressive in his views, and on the organization of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, invested in its stock. In early life he was a Whig, and later a Republican.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilder ten children were born, eight of whom grew to mature years, and six are now living. The oldest, George W., married, has six children, and is a prominent man in Aurora; Bert S. married, and resides at Cedar Falls, Iowa; Joel, who died at the age of one year; Mary W., widow of Peter S. Lossing, by whom she



had eight children; Emeline W., wife of Fred Hotz, deputy sheriff of Kane county; William Wallace, who was a soldier in the Civil war, taken prisoner, held one year at Andersonville, paroled, and died while on his way home; Lewis, who resides in Aurora; Joel M., of Yates Centre, Kansas; Amelia, who died at the age of one year, and Frank C., who met death by accident at the age of about twenty years. Mrs. Wilder has seventeen grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

When seventeen years of age Mrs. Wilder was converted and was immersed in the Connecticut river and united with the Baptist church. On coming to Aurora she formed one of the original number in the organization of the First Baptist church, with which she has since been identified and has been one of its active workers, and is to-day the oldest member of that church. Although more than four score years have passed over her head, she yet takes the same interest manifested in her younger days, in every department of church work. Her place in the house of God is always filled whenever possible for her to be there. For sixty-one years she has been a resident of Kane county, and her experience of pioneer days were such as to make her more fully enjoy the luxuries and comforts of the present day.

CHARLES H. BACKUS, banker, Hampshire, Illinois, is a representative of the commercial and financial interests of Hampshire, and is well known throughout Kane, DeKalb and adjoining counties. He traces his ancestry back to colonial days prior to the Revolutionary war, in which both paternal and maternal ancestors were

prominent participants. On the maternal side Ephraim Lyon, a descendant of Ponce de Leon, served a number of years during the struggle in various official capacities. For a time he was adjutant in the Twenty-first Massachusetts Regiment, was first lieutenant in Captain Obadiah Johnson's company, Third Regiment, Militia of Boston, was a member of Captain Bute's company, of "Lexington Alarms," was first lieutenant in the Third Massachusetts Regiment under General Israel Putnam, and lieutenant in Captain Whiting's company, Fourth Regiment, commanded by Colonel John Ely. Ephraim Lyon's son James married Polly Trowbridge, daughter of James and Mary (Kendall) Trowbridge, the former being a son of Daniel and Hannah (Spring) Trowbridge. Daniel Trowbridge was a sergeant in the Eighth Company under Captain Ingalls, of the Eleventh Regiment, from Pomfort, Connecticut. He was chairman of the committee to secure clothing for the Revolutionary soldiers, and was a member of the committee to suggest means to prevent depression of continental money. Mary Lyon, daughter of James and Mary (Trowbridge) Lyon, married Augustus Dodge, whose daughter, Susan, married Jirah L. Backus, father of our subject. He was the son of De Lucena and Olive (Simonds) Backus. The latter was a daughter of Elijah and Martha (Canada) Simonds, her father being a member of the Lexington Alarms, from Windham, Connecticut, and was a participant in the battle of Bunker Hill.

Charles H. Backus, our subject, was born in Chaplin, Windham county, Connecticut, June 9, 1856. He attended the common schools in his native town until seventeen years old, and then taught school





C. H. BACKUS.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

for two years. Desiring a good business education, he attended Eastman's Business College at Poughkeepsie, New York, and after which he again engaged in teaching for two years. In the spring of 1879 he came west and for one year clerked in a general store at Marengo, Illinois, after which he was for two years in the Farmers' and Drovers' Bank, at the same place. He then came to Hampshire, and April 1, 1882, established the Kane County Bank. From that time to the present, he has been a moving power in a number of industries in the village. With E. C. Sholes, he established the pressed brick and tile works, with a capacity of a half million brick and one hundred and fifty thousand tile per annum. For some years, under the firm name of Backus & Maynard, he was in the coal business. This business was discontinued in 1897. At present he is the senior member of the firm of Backus & Sisley, dealers in clothing, boots and shoes, at De Kalb, Illinois. He is half owner in the "Genoa Issue," a weekly paper published at Genoa, Illinois. He is also the owner of considerable farming land in McHenry county. Among other lines in which he is interested is that of insurance, in which he represents fourteen leading companies. This is the only insurance agency in Hampshire and vicinity. Some years since he established the "Hampshire Register," which later he sold to its present proprietor.

On the first of January, 1884, at Geneva, Illinois, Mr. Backus was united in marriage with Miss Emma L. Sisley, born in West Chicago, and a daughter of John and Anna Sisley. By this union there is one son, Charles Sisley, who resides at home.

In politics Mr. Backus is a Republican, and since coming to the township has taken

a very active interest in political affairs. He has been a member of the village board for six years, clerk of the school board six years, township supervisor four years, and village treasurer ten years. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Globe, Knights of the Maccabees, and Sons of the Revolution. As a citizen he is thoroughly enterprising and has always lent a helping hand in the establishment of any industry calculated to advance the interest of his town and county.

**THOMAS HARTMAN**, who resides at No. 106 South Lincoln avenue, Aurora, Illinois, has been in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company for about forty-three years, and in the passenger service since 1870. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 2, 1840, and is the son of Michael and Margaret (Heaton) Hartman, who were married in New York city, and settled in Cincinnati, in 1838. In 1851, the family came to Aurora, where the father died in 1859, his wife surviving him for many years, dying in 1888. Thomas Hartman was the oldest of their four sons and one daughter. Mary Ellen married James Sunderland, who is now a retired farmer of Gifford, Illinois; William and John, who died in childhood while the family were residing in Cincinnati; and Eddie, who died in Aurora, at the age of ten years. The subject of this sketch was eleven years of age when the family came to Aurora. Here he finished his education in the common schools and at the age of fifteen, entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, in the freight house at Aurora. He was then made yard switch-

man, and later yardmaster. He next went on the road, first serving as a brakeman on a freight, running from Aurora to Chicago. He was in the freight service for ten years as brakeman and conductor, and in October, 1870, was given charge of a passenger train, from Aurora to Chicago. He was later transferred to the Fox River branch, and for ten years was on the Dubuque line, after which he was given charge of the Omaha express, and has been on that run ever since. During the great strike of 1887-8, he was used by the company to get trains out of Chicago, when no other man could do the work. He knew the strikers, and had no trouble to switch and run his trains. As a matter of course his services have been appreciated by the road, and by the public and he is one of the most valued of the employees of the road.

During his residence in Aurora, he has bought and built a number of residences and has contributed his share in beautifying the place. Mr. Hartman was married in Aurora, April 29, 1897, to Mrs. Catherine Russell, a daughter of John Russell, who is now deceased. She is a native of Ohio, and was reared and educated in Cincinnati. By her first husband, she had five children, three of whom are grown, while two, Clem and Lillian, are yet at home. By a former marriage, Mr. Hartman has two children, Charles, a young man in the employ of the Burlington road and on the train with his father, and Katie, a young lady at home. She is well educated, and after attending the Aurora schools finished her course at St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, Iowa. She is quite proficient in music, and has gained quite a reputation by her singing.

Politically Mr. Hartman has been a Democrat from his youth up, but in 1896,

on account of his views on the currency question, being a believer in sound money, he voted for William McKinley. In local elections he usually casts his vote regardless of party politics. Religiously he and his family are members of the St. Mary's Catholic church, of Aurora. For nearly half a century he has been a resident of Aurora, and in its progress and development he has taken a lively interest. As a citizen he enjoys the respect and esteem of the community, and as a railway conductor he is very popular.

---

LOUIS THON, a representative of the great mercantile interests of Aurora, doing business as a general merchant, at No. 16 North Broadway, was born in Hessen-Cassel, Germany, December 22, 1846, and is the son of Eckhardt and Elise Thon, both of whom are natives of the same country, where their entire lives were spent, the father dying at the age of fifty years, and the mother some years later at the age of sixty-eight years. They were members of the Protestant church. Of their family of eight children one died in infancy. The living are Wilhelm, a farmer residing in Germany; Karl, also a farmer in Germany; Louis, our subject; Richard, a jeweler in Germany; Emma, Minnie, and Amelia, all unmarried and residing in Germany.

The subject of this sketch was reared to farm life, at which occupation he continued until seventeen years of age in his native land. His education was received from private tutors. In 1864 he came to America in a sailing vessel, and was sixty days on the water. While they encountered several storms, no serious damage was done. After landing in Quebec, Canada, he there



spent a day or two, and then came west to Chicago where he spent a month. From Chicago he came to Aurora, and engaged as a farm hand by the month. In May, 1864, he enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-first Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and being the only German in his company, he rapidly learned the English language. The regiment was one of the number called into service for one hundred days, and was stationed at Columbus, Kentucky, from which place they scoured the country and did guard duty. They were once out on a raid for a full month, but had no engagements. The service, however, was hard on our subject, and although he went out weighing one hundred and sixty-five pounds, on his return he weighed but one hundred and twenty pounds. With his regiment he was discharged at Chicago, October 10, 1864.

Returning to Aurora he engaged with the same farmer from whom he first obtained employment, and continued with him until the fall of 1865. He then went to California, by the way of New York and the Isthmus of Panama, taking a steamer on the other side of the Isthmus for San Francisco. He then went to Gold Run, and worked on the Central Pacific railroad for a time, and then returned to the neighborhood of San Francisco, where he worked on a farm until the fall of 1866. Having enough of California, he came back to Aurora by the same route that he went. On his return he again commenced farm work, at which he continued until the spring of 1867. Securing a position as clerk in the grocery store of John Plains, he there remained until 1869, when, having accumulated some money, on the 7th of June of that year, he engaged in busi-

ness for himself as the senior member of the firm of Thon & Otte, dealers in dry goods and groceries. That partnership continued about twenty years, when it was dissolved, since which time Mr. Thon continued alone in the business until April 1, 1898, when he associated with him his two oldest sons.

On the 7th of March, 1869, Mr. Thon was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Naehner, a native of Germany, coming to this country in 1853 with her father, Dr. Naehner. Her mother died in this country, and her father returned to Germany where his death occurred. To Mr. and Mrs. Thon six children have been born, as follows: Lizzie, wife of Willie J. Eitelgoerge, a cigar manufacturer of Aurora, by whom she has two children, Norma and Rhoda; Eckhardt, partner in his father's business; Carl, also a partner; Willie and George, in the High School; and Emma, who died at the age of two years.

The family are attendants of the Lutheran church of Aurora, and, fraternally, Mr. Thon is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. In politics he is independent, though usually voting the Democratic ticket. Although he came to this country a poor boy, by his industry, economy and strict attention to business, he has met with good success in life. He is a stockholder and one of the directors in the Aurora National Bank, and has been active in many of the enterprises of the city. The family reside in a beautiful home at 286 South Lincoln avenue, which only thirteen years since was the last house out; but now nice residences extend for a mile beyond. Mrs. Thon, although unobtrusive, is positive in those qualities that go to make up noble womanhood. The genial bearing of the parents does much to sustain the social

life of family and friends. Mr. Thon is a man of strict integrity, of good business qualifications, and is ranked with the leading business men of the city.

**G**EORGE A. YOUNG, Esq., a well-known and popular citizen of Elgin, is now serving as justice of the peace, with his office at No. 13 Chicago street. He was born in Orange county, New York, April 21, 1830, and is the only child of George A. and Betsy (Allen) Young, the former also a native of the Empire state, and the latter of Windsor county, Vermont. During his early manhood the father was employed as professor of mathematics, and later engaged in merchandising, but his earthly career was short, dying in Minnesink, New York, in 1830, at the age of twenty-nine years. His widow then returned to the home of her parents in Windsor county, Vermont, where she died when our subject was only fourteen. He then went to live with his uncle, William G. Young, in Oneida county, New York, remaining with him until he had attained his majority.

Mr. Young began his education in the schools of Vermont, and later attended the Delancy Institute at Hampton, New York, where he had for a room-mate the late Judge Barton, of Freeport, Illinois. Before he reached the age of twenty-one he successfully taught a village school at Deansville, New York, where his predecessor had been run out of by the older scholars, who boasted that the next teacher would be treated in a like manner. But Mr. Young resolved to conquer the school, and for three years he remained at that place. Later he purchased a farm of seventy-five acres and

another tract of fifty acres in Oneida county, New York, and gave his attention to agricultural pursuits for three years.

In November, 1851, Mr. Young married Miss Lydia Atherton, a daughter of William Atherton, and to them were born two children: Jennie, who died at the age of ten years; and one who died in infancy. Emigrating westward in 1854, Mr. Young located in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he engaged in the lumber business and made his home for twelve years. In the winter of 1861 he commenced to raise a company in that place for the Civil war, but before the quota was complete he was taken dangerously ill and being sick for some time, he was prevented from joining the army. On his recovery he was connected for two or three years with the American Express Company in Chicago, and for a time during the war had charge of the Adams Express Transfer at Cairo, Illinois, which place at that time did the largest transfer business in the United States.

In 1866 Mr. Young removed to Leland, Illinois, where for nineteen years he was engaged in the lumber business, but since 1885 has made his home in Elgin. Previous to coming here he had engaged in the raising of fine horses, and in Elgin superintended the building of race tracks and also dealt in horses until 1896. Since his election to the office of justice of the peace in 1897 he has devoted his attention to the duties of that position, and is proving a very capable official.

Mrs. Young, who was a most estimable lady, departed this life March 19, 1891, after having been an invalid for many years. Her husband has since made his home at the corner of South Channing and Stella streets. Since the organization of the Re-

publican party he has been one of its staunch supporters and while a resident of Leland, Illinois, he served as police magistrate for a number of years. He also filled the office of city treasurer of Janesville for two terms, and the duties of these various positions he discharged in a prompt and able manner, thus winning the commendation of all concerned. He is a pleasant, genial gentleman and has made a host of warm friends since taking up his residence in Elgin.

**N**ATHAN A. DRAKE, deputy sheriff and alderman of the fourth ward, Batavia, first came to Kane county in 1870, locating at Batavia, where he has since continued to reside. He was born in Potter county, Pennsylvania, March 30, 1839. His ancestry can be traced back to Sir Francis Drake, of England, and was founded in this country in the seventeenth century, three brothers arriving here at that time, one locating in Virginia, another in New Hampshire and the third in New Jersey. Our subject is a direct descendant of the latter brother. Thomas Drake, his great-great-grandfather, was born in New Jersey, as was also his grandfather, Jonathan Drake, and his father, John Drake, the birth of the latter being in 1805.

From Essex county, New Jersey, John Drake moved with his parents to Cortland county, New York, where he later married Sarah Barker, a sister of L. P. Barker, a former sheriff of Kane county. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, all of whom grew to mature years. They were as follows: Francis D., who was a soldier in the Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, is now a resident of Freeborn county, Minnesota; Martin V., also a sol-

dier of the Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, died at Corinth, in 1862; Nathan A., our subject; F. H., who was a member of the Third Wisconsin Cavalry, now resides at Albion, Dane county, Wisconsin; and Sarah E., widow of Daniel P. Davis, now resides at Harrison, Nebraska.

In 1845, John Drake moved west with his family, and settled in Dane county, Wisconsin, and later moved to Waushara county and located on Indian land, being the first white man to settle in that county. He there engaged in farming and also kept a stage station and tavern. In 1860, his wife died, and in 1862, he moved to Winona, Minnesota, and engaged in the hotel business for several years. While residing there he married Mrs. Lytle, a widow lady. From Winona, he moved to Ord, Valley county, Nebraska, where the last years of his life were spent, his death occurring November 2, 1888.

The subject of this sketch, a youth of sixteen, came west with his parents to Wisconsin, and in Waushara county, January 9, 1860, was united in marriage with Miss Phebe Holcomb, a daughter of Joseph Holcomb, and a native of Allegany county, New York, where she was reared and educated. By this union are four children—Carrie E., wife of Solomon Trumbull, residing in Irvington, Iowa; Frank L., who died a young man, meeting his death by accident; William J., a contractor and builder of Batavia; and Minnie, at home.

After his marriage Mr. Drake commenced farming, but in response to the call of President Lincoln and the governor of his state, enlisted May 20, 1861, in the three-months' service. He re-enlisted November 25, 1861, as a private in Company K, Thirteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infan-



try. With his regiment he was sent first to the Army of the Frontier, under Gen. Jim Lane, was subsequently transferred to the Army of the Tennessee, under Grant, and later to the Army of the Cumberland. He participated in many skirmishes and small fights, marching many hundreds of miles over Kansas and in Tennessee, chased Forrest for nearly fifteen months, having many skirmishes with his army. At Clarksville, Tennessee, he was wounded and disabled for life. At Nashville, Tennessee, in February, 1864, he was discharged on account of his wound.

Returning to his home in Wisconsin, Mr. Drake engaged in farming during the summer of 1865 and in the winter following went to Memphis, Tennessee, in the employ of the government. There was a militia regiment at that place to protect the city, and with it Mr. Drake served on picket duty a few times. In the spring he again returned to Wisconsin, where he remained one year, then went to Winona, Minnesota, where he spent four years, coming to Batavia in 1870, as already stated. He here engaged with L. P. Barker & Company, and was with them fifteen years, working at his trade of mason. For the last ten years he has followed mason work during the season. Politically Mr. Drake is a stanch Republican, his first ballot for president being cast for Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He was appointed deputy sheriff by Mr. Burke in 1894, and is now serving his fourth year. In 1895 he was elected constable, but after qualifying he soon resigned the office. In the spring of 1897 he was elected alderman of the fourth ward, and is yet filling that position. As a delegate he has attended many conventions of his party, both city and county. Fraternally he is a member of the

G. A. R., post No. 48, from which he has been sent as delegate to the state encampment, and in 1894 was commander of the post.

**H**ENRY C. KRUMM, general superintendent of the tile works at McQueens station, was born in the village of Klein Lukow, province of Mecklenberg, Schwerin, Germany, August 3, 1846. He is the son of Joseph and Caroline (Strohpager) Krumm, both of whom are natives of Germany, in which country the latter died. Joseph Krumm was the son of Karl and Sophia (Bloom) Krumm. He came to this country at an early day, and settled in Wisconsin, dying at Manitowoc, at the age of fifty-nine years.

Henry C. Krumm attended the public schools of his native land until the age of fourteen years, when he was confirmed and united with the Lutheran church. He then secured employment in a brick and tile works in his native place, and was thus engaged at the time of his coming to America, in 1869. During this time, however, he served in the German army in its war with Austria in 1866. Five years later his brother served in the war with France.

Mr. Krumm sailed from Hamburg, and landed at New York, September 26, 1869. He proceeded at once to Marine City, St. Clair county, Michigan, and for seven years was employed in the brick and tile works at that place. He then came to Kane county, and at Dundee worked in the brick and tile works for D. H. Haeger nineteen years. In May, 1894, he bought the tile works at McQueens station, which he run for two years. In 1896 the business was incorporated under the name of the Elgin Brick and Tile Company, the incorporators



being a number of gentlemen of Elgin and Dundee. Its officers are J. B. Lane, president; D. McBride, secretary; and Henry C. Krumm, general manager. In addition to the tile works at McQueen, the plant includes the brick works at Pingree. Its output is about six hundred thousand each of tile and brick per annum.

Mr. Krumm was married in Michigan, February 16, 1871, to Miss Lena Haeger, a daughter of Fritz and Johanna Haeger. She was born in the village of Kriesow, province of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, and came to America with her parents on the same vessel with our subject. By this union six children have been born, as follows: Matilda, who married Richard Ludwig, employed in the tile works at McQueen's station, by whom she has three children, Herbert, Elsie and Fairy. Emma, who married William Lawrence, also of the tile works, is the mother of three children, Bertha, Lydia, and an infant. Clara married August Pasley, a machinist in Dundee. Adolph, Henry and Robert, at home.

Politically Mr. Krumm is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since becoming a naturalized citizen. Fraternally he is a member of Port Huron tent, Knights of the Maccabees. He is a member of the Lutheran church, of which body his wife is also a member. As a citizen, Mr. Krumm is held in high esteem, and in common with others of his nationality, has done much to build up and improve his adopted country.

---

CHARLES T. WILBER, proprietor of the Wilber House, Carpentersville, and who for some years efficiently served as postmaster of the village, has resided here

since 1863. He was born at Seneca Falls, New York, August 5, 1838. His father was a native of England and settled in New York in the early part of the present century. He there married Maria Walters, a native of Connecticut, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, as follows: Mary A., wife of Patrick Drew, of Seneca Falls, New York; William, who came west in 1862, and worked in the shops in Carpentersville, is now deceased; Kate M., wife of W. H. Haley, of New Hartford, New York; and Charles T., of this review.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, attended the common schools and learned the molder's trade, in Seneca Falls, and there followed the business for two years. In 1863 he came to Illinois and joined his brother in Carpentersville, and soon after went to work in the shops of the Illinois Iron and Bolt Company, where he continued to work for about twenty-five years, resigning his position in July, 1893.

Mr. Wilber was married at Carpentersville in 1867, to Miss Mary Allison, a native of Illinois, born in Chicago, and a daughter of John Allison, a pioneer merchant of Carpentersville. By this union there are five children,—Flora M., residing at home; and who served as deputy postmaster under both her father and mother; Wallie B., who died at the age of six months; W. H., an electrician, now employed in the Bolt Works; Guy R., a farmer residing in Janesville, Wisconsin; and Elion Gladys, a pupil in the home school.

Politically Mr. Wilber is a lifelong Democrat, and cast his first presidential vote for the "little giant," Stephen A. Douglas, in 1860, and has voted for each succeeding presidential nominee of that party to the present time. Under the first administra-

tion of Grover Cleveland, Mrs. Wilber received the appointment of postmaster of Carpentersville, and acceptably filled the office for four years. Under the second administration of Cleveland, Mr. Wilber was appointed and efficiently conducted the office for four years.

In 1888, Mr. Wilber engaged in the hotel business and from that time to the present has continued to minister to the wants of the traveling public. He makes a good landlord, being of genial disposition and one who tries to do right by his fellow-men. For more than a quarter of a century he has been a resident of Carpentersville and his friends are numerous throughout this section of the state.

---

**J**OHN F. THORWARTH, president of the Aurora Brewing Company, is one of the most enterprising of the German-American citizens. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, April 16, 1834. His parents, George and Mary Thorwarth, were also natives of that country, where their entire lives were spent. On a farm in his native country our subject spent his boyhood and youth, and there received his education, with the exception of two winters' schooling after coming to America. In 1852, when but eighteen years of age, he started for the New World, shipping on board a sailing vessel, and was fifty-six days from London to New York. He came direct to Cook county, and from 1852 to 1860 was engaged in farming. He then visited the old country, and on his return to Cook county engaged in general merchandising in the town of Bremen, where he remained until 1868. During the war Mr. Thorwarth did much in helping the poor men of

Bremen township who were subject to draft. On one occasion he went out and collected six hundred dollars for a poor blacksmith. By his own exertions he secured means for paying bounties and securing substitutes for men who were unable to leave their families. These kind deeds brought him prominently before the people and made him very popular. His popularity was such that the people insisted on his accepting the office of supervisor of the township, which position he filled from 1864 to 1866. He also served as postmaster and was justice of the peace until his removal to Aurora. His acquaintance throughout his section of the county was quite extensive, and he enjoyed the confidence of one and all.

In 1868 Mr. Thorwarth came to Aurora and resumed general mercantile business. In 1873 he formed a partnership with Joseph Fulton in the hardware trade which connection was continued until 1889, when he sold his interest and in 1890 sold out his general merchandise store. In the mercantile business he had been quite successful.

After selling out his mercantile establishment, with two others, he organized the Aurora Brewing Company, and was elected its first president, which position he still continues to hold. The brewery is situated on the west side of Fox river, and covers several acres of land. Its output is about thirty thousand barrels per year, and they pay the United States government about twenty-six thousand dollars per year as a revenue tax. Some thirty-five men are given constant employment and the business is a prosperous one.

Since coming to Aurora, Mr. Thorwarth has repeatedly been honored by his fellow citizens with various offices within their gift.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



J. F. THORWARTH.





MRS. J. F. THORWARTH.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

From 1872 until 1884, he served as a member of the city council. He was then elected mayor and served one term. While mayor an application was made by certain persons for a franchise for the establishment of water works for the city. Through the influence of Mr. Thorwarth the application was refused. Under their proposition they were only required to lay out about ten miles of water main and the water furnished the city would have cost six thousand dollars per year. Rejecting the proposition, and after a hard legal fight, which was taken to the supreme court of the state, the city was bonded for a sufficient amount to put in the works, and in due time completed forty miles of water main. The interest on the bonds amounts to no more than would have been paid to the private corporation for the use of ten miles of main and the city has an income at the present time (1898) of about twenty-five thousand dollars per year, which, after paying the interest, will secure a sinking fund that will in time pay the principal of the bonds. For this good work the citizens can thank Mr. Thorwarth and those who backed him in the matter.

For nine years he served as assistant supervisor from Aurora and was a valuable member of the county board. He has always been prominent in developing the best interests of the city, and is one of Aurora's valued citizens. In securing the location of the present magnificent bridge across the river on New York street he was quite active and much credit is due him. Enterprising and progressive in all things, he never stands back when a work is being done that will prove beneficial to his adopted city and county. Fraternally he is a Mason, and is a member of the blue lodge, chapter and

commandery. In politics he has been an ardent and enthusiastic Republican since the organization of that party. Religiously he was reared a Lutheran, of which church his parents were members, but with his family he now attends the People's church in Aurora.

---

CHARLES C. QUACKENBUSH, who resides at No. 310 South Lincoln avenue, Aurora, Illinois, is the present well known and efficient superintendent and cashier of the Carpentersville, Elgin & Aurora Electric railway, was born in Aurora, May 12, 1866. His father, John Quackenbush, is a native of Onondago county, New York, where he was reared and educated. When a young man he came to Aurora, where he remained until the commencement of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the first call, for three-months men. At the expiration of his time, he re-enlisted as a private in Company H, Twenty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and later was promoted to first lieutenant of the company and served as such until the close of the war. With his regiment he participated in many engagements, was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and was also in the grand review at Washington, at the close of the war. On receiving his discharge from the service, he returned to Aurora, and engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years. His marriage with Sarah Riley was celebrated in Aurora. She is a native of New Jersey, where she grew to womanhood, and received her education. Withdrawing from the mercantile trade, Lieutenant Quackenbush entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, with whom he remained

some years and then moved to Chicago, where he now resides.

Charles C. Quackenbush grew to manhood in Aurora, received his education in the public schools and was graduated from the high schools. He then began working in the car department of the Burlington road, where he remained some eight or nine years, resigning in 1891, in order to accept the position of superintendent of the Aurora Street Railway Company. From that time to the present, he has had charge of the business and has increased the number of miles of track from eighteen to twenty-eight. That he has made an efficient officer is attested by his length of service and by the estimation in which he is held by the stockholders and patrons of the road.

Mr. Quackenbush was married in Aurora, October 25, 1892, to Miss Della Verbeck, a native of Kane county, Illinois, born in Aurora, where she was reared and educated, and was a successful teacher in the public schools. By this union there are two children, Elizabeth Gail and Alta Mabel. Mr. and Mrs. Quackenbush are members of the People's church. They reside in a beautiful home on the east side of Aurora, which is the abode of hospitality. Politically, Mr. Quackenbush is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. A lifelong resident of Aurora, he is well known by all its people, and by them is held in the highest esteem.

United States in June, 1869, and located in Chicago, where he is still living, but retired from active business. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran Church, and politically he is a Republican. They are the parents of six children, of whom our subject is the oldest, the others being Erika, now the wife of Axel Wessman, of Chicago; Ida, wife of Erik Peterson, of Chicago; Hannah, wife of Gustav Osterholm, of Chicago; August, in Chicago; and Adolph, who died in childhood.

The subject of this sketch received his education in Stockholm, where he learned the machinist's trade, becoming quite proficient in all branches of machinery. In 1872, he sailed for the United States, coming direct to Chicago, and at once engaged at his trade, making vaults, etc. This was after the great fire, and his skill as a machinist was particularly desirable and useful at that time. He remained there until 1880, when he went to New York city, and remained one year, and then returned to Chicago and engaged in the machinery business, remaining there until 1890. He then came to Aurora, and was superintendent of the Gardner Sewing Machine Company up to the fall of 1893, when the Automatic Machinery Company was organized and he was chosen secretary and treasurer. The business was first established by Mr. Erikson and Alex Levedahl, and was commenced in a small way, but has had constant growth. In 1895, the company was incorporated, with a capital stock of fifty thousand dollars, all of which is paid in. The present officers are Alex Levedahl, president; Simon Florsheim, vice-president; and C. E. Erikson, secretary and treasurer. The officers mentioned, together with Oscar Norling and Thomas H. Ball, comprise the

---

CHARLES E. ERIKSON, secretary and treasurer of the Aurora Automatic Machinery Company, of Aurora, Illinois, was born in Stockholm, Sweden, April 19, 1824, and is the son of Erik and Catherine Erikson. The elder Erikson came to the



present board of directors. The present building was erected in the fall of 1895.

The Automatic Machinery Company manufacture bicycle parts, hubs and all the ball bearings in connection with their wheel. Their goods are known by the trade mark "Thor." They ship their products to all parts of the United States, England, France, Germany and Sweden, and have built up a large trade. The output is from two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to three hundred thousand dollars annually, and they are running to their full capacity. The factory is located on Claim street, in the eastern part of the city. They employ in the busy season from two hundred and thirty to two hundred and fifty hands, during which time they usually run night and day. The plant is very complete and they make their own patterns, and have their drafting rooms and blacksmith shop.

Mr. Erikson was united in marriage November 2, 1886, with Miss Josephine L. Miller, a native of Chicago, and they have now two children, Clifford and Ethel. The parents of Mrs. Erikson are still living in Chicago. In politics Mr. Erikson is a Republican. As a business man he is enterprising, and thoroughly abreast with the times. To Mr. Levedahl and himself too much credit can not be given for the successful management of the business of the Automatic Machinery Company, which is now one of the leading industries of Aurora.

---

REV. ANDREW PINGREE. The Pingree family in America sprang from the youngest of two brothers, Aaron and Moses Pengree, who emigrated from England early in the seventeenth century. Aaron Pengree died childless, while a large family was born

to Moses Pengree, which scattered over New England. Moses Pengree died January 2, 1696, at the age of eighty-six years. The spelling of the name in due time was changed from Pengree to Pingree. Of the descendants of Moses Pengree, was born Andrew Pingree, Sr., in the town of Rowley, Essex county, Massachusetts, February 17, 1775. He became a manufacturer of shoes in a town near Lynn, but afterward moved to the town of Weare, Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, where their first child was born. He subsequently lived in Springfield, Grantham, Meriden and Plainfield, New Hampshire. In 1838, he moved with his family to Kane county, Illinois, and bought a farm on which he lived until his death, March 25, 1846. He married Abia Straw, born in Weare, New Hampshire, in 1786.

Andrew Pingree, Sr., while not a church goer, was a profoundly religious man, and remained at home with his family on the Sabbath day, reading his Bible. One year he was elected tithing man of the church and did not miss a service. One of his duties was to keep order in the church, and it is said that the youngsters were more circumspect that year than any other. Only once during the year did he lose control of his gravity. A small urchin sitting next to him in church, drew from his pocket a knife and twist of tobacco, gravely offered Father Pingree a chew. He was so seriously earnest in doing so that the humor of it struck the tithing man as too ludicrous to restrain an extensive smile. During the rest of the year he was solemnity and gravity personified. Andrew Pingree, Sr., and wife were the parents of ten children, three of whom are now living—Sallie, Dr. Daniel, and Betsy Ann. The deceased are Andrew, our subject; Israel Straw, Abia, Francis, Betsy,

Emily, and William Cutler. Of the three living, Sallie is the wife of Moses Fall Ramer, of Elgin. Daniel is a physician and surgeon of Hico, Texas. Betsy N. is now the companion of Mrs. Pingree, the widow of our subject. She first married Hiram Nelson, of Vermont, and their only daughter, Jenny C., married A. J. Nichols, of St. Charles, and they have one child, Harry. The second union of Betsy N. was with Otto W. Perkins, who died in 1870. They had no children of their own but adopted John Vanderhook, who married Lizzie Gallagher, by whom he has three children, John Lester, William Roy, and Sadie May. Father Pingree was a man of noble character, industrious, economical, temperate and honest. At the time of his death, he was of Universalist faith. In politics he was a Democrat.

Rev. Andrew Pingree, the subject of this sketch, was born in Weare, New Hampshire, July 16, 1803. He subsequently resided in Springfield, Grantham, Meriden and Plainfield, New Hampshire. He received a good common-school education, and at the age of about twenty-one years learned the clothier's trade. He taught school winters and worked at his trade during the remainder of the year, until he earned enough to pay his expenses while attending Kimball Union Academy, at Meriden, until the spring of 1827. About that time he went to Hingham, Massachusetts, where he clerked in a store, taught school in winter, and at the same time studied for the ministry with Rev. A. A. Folsom, of Hingham. It was during this period while teaching at North Scituate that he met the girl who later became his wife. She was one of his pupils at one time. In 1834 he began his ministry, and soon afterward went

to Belfast, Maine, where he was minister of the gospel and principal of the high school. Later he filled a like position at Castine, Maine. In 1838 he came west with his father's family and took up a tract of land, shortly afterward returning to the east, where he continued preaching and teaching until his final emigration to Kane county, in 1846.

On the 14th of January, 1844, at Scituate, Massachusetts, Mr. Pingree was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Merritt Curtis, born in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, April 12, 1811, and the daughter of Ammiel and Hannah (Merritt) Curtis, both descended from Pilgrims who came over in the Mayflower. Hannah Merritt lived all her life on the place where she was born, and died there in 1825, at the age of forty-five years. She was the daughter of John Merritt. In early life Ammiel Curtis was a merchant, and, later, a farmer in Massachusetts. He came to Illinois and died in 1851, aged seventy-one years, his death being the result of an accident. He was the father of three children—John, who died in infancy; Hannah M., widow of our subject, and Martha Augusta, who made her home with Mrs. Pingree until her death.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Pingree took up their home at North Scituate, where they resided until September 1, 1846, when they came to Kane county. For a year and a half after coming west they resided in St. Charles, Mr. Pingree teaching school and filling the pulpit of the Universalist church. Some time after the death of his father he moved to the family estate in Rutland township and began the accumulation of land, which at the time of his death aggregated nearly fifteen hundred acres. He continued preaching until the business, inci-

dent to the management of his large estate, prevented, but at funerals and weddings he officiated until the end.

Mr. Pingree was a man of wide learning and culture, with a knowledge of civil engineering, doing considerable surveying throughout the county. He was the second supervisor of Rutland township and served in that capacity for eighteen years. He often served as special commissioner for the county and as executor and administrator of estates, guardian of minor children, notary public and for many years postmaster at Pingree Grove. He was a trustee of Lombard University, Galesburg, and did much to promote its interests. In politics he was a Democrat, but was in favor of the abolition of slavery.

Mr. and Mrs. Pingree were never blessed with children of their own, but adopted Emma Gilbert, who married Captain L. M. Kelly, of Elgin, and died, leaving three children. Mrs. Pingree still attends to her own business, can read without glasses, and is in possession of all her faculties to a remarkable degree. Mr. Pingree died at his home at Pingree Grove, August 18, 1879, and in his death Kane county lost one of its most useful and highly respected citizens. Few men in northern Illinois were better known, and none more highly esteemed.

---

**M**ICHAEL STENGER, deceased, was born at Gramschatz, Bavaria, Germany, February 2, 1827, and there grew to manhood. In 1848 he accompanied his parents, Peter and Barbara (Stark) Stenger, to America. They were both natives of Bavaria, as were also their parents. On landing at New York the family made their way direct to Naperville, Du Page county,

Illinois, where the father engaged in a brewing business for a number of years. His brewing plant was burned down, but at once rebuilt and the business continued with gratifying success. He eventually retired, turning the business over to his two sons, John and Nicholas, who carried it on until 1892, when they sold out to a syndicate. The children born to Peter Stenger and wife were: Anna, Peter, Nicholas, Mary, John, Michael, Nicholas, second, Melchoir and Barbara. Of these Anna, Michael, Nicholas and Melchoir are deceased.

Michael Stenger attained his education in the parochial schools of his native country. In 1850, while living in Naperville, he caught the gold fever and went with a body to delve for the precious metal in the newly-discovered mines of California. There is a superstition existing among Germans that the first day of August is an unlucky one to commence an important enterprise, and it was on August 1, 1850, the expedition set forth, with some misgivings as to a successful outcome. The superstition was fully verified in his case, he finding little or no gold, and later turned his attention to farming. He remained in California for seven years.

Returning home by sea and the Isthmus of Panama, Mr. Stenger again took up his life in the Prairie state. On the 26th of December, 1857, he married Miss Margaretha Herbert, a daughter of Phillip and Margaretha (Dieter) Herbert, natives of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, where Margaretha Herbert was also born, and from which country the family emigrated to the United States in 1854. After marriage our subject came to Aurora and carried on the business of retail liquor dealer until 1876, when he retired on a competence, having amassed



property to the value of seventy thousand dollars. At the time of his death, which occurred May 25, 1895, he owned several business blocks, some seventy lots in the best residence portion of the city, also six residences, including the one at No. 310 New York street, in which his widow now resides. He owned a tract of land of thirty-eight acres on New York street, which he converted into a park—called Stenger park. He later sold it to a syndicate, who platted the same—it now being known as Arlington Heights. He was a man of good education and had learned much by travel and business associations with other men. He possessed a good knowledge of the law, which was of considerable utility to him on several important cases in which he became involved. His desire was to obtain that only which was his by right and justice, and he was always willing to battle for these privileges. To Michael Stenger and wife were born the following named children: Henry, Mary; Emma, who died young; Emma, second of the name; Michael, Jr., Barbara and Anna. With the exception of the infant, Emma, all are still living, and reside in Aurora, save Henry, who is in business at Mendota, Illinois. In politics Mr. Stenger was a stanch Democrat, and a member of the German Catholic church of Aurora, as are his wife and family. Three daughters and one son make their home with their widowed mother. The family are held in high esteem.

---

EDWIN W. THOMPSON, one of the leading livery stable keepers of Aurora, was born June 7, 1845, in Dorset, Vermont, and is the son of John and Julia A. (Colson) Thompson. The father was born in the

town of Grafton, Windham county, Vermont, September 1, 1814, while his father, William Thompson, was born in Londonderry, New Hampshire, where he engaged in farming, and from which state he removed to Vermont at an early day, settling in Windham county, where he lived and died. His children were Jonathan H., John, Henry, William, Harvey, James and Mary Ann, all of whom came west except Mary Ann and Henry.

John Thompson was by occupation a farmer, and came to Kane county in September, 1845, locating in Sugar Grove township, where he purchased a partially improved farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres. He continued the cultivation of that farm, to which he subsequently made some additions, until his death in August, 1892. In politics he was a Republican, and in early life was a member of the Congregational Church, to which his wife also belonged. He was a large-sized man, fully six feet in height, and weighed about one hundred and eighty-five pounds. Julia, his wife, was a daughter of David and Chloe (Morse) Colson. She was a native of Dorset, Vermont, and her father was a native of the same state. He was an officer of the State Militia, and our subject as yet has his old commission. Mrs. Thompson died in August, 1891. She was the mother of five children, all of whom died in infancy but Bert H. and our subject. Bert H. is now living on the old homestead.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm in Sugar Grove township, where he attended the common schools, and assisted his father in the cultivation of the farm. At the age of twenty-one years he started out in life for himself by renting a farm, adjoining that of his father. He



continued in that occupation until about 1885, with the exception of about three years, when he removed to Sugar Grove Station, and engaged in the lumber, coal and feed business, and also did some auctioneering. He remained in Sugar Grove until 1890, when he removed to Aurora, and buying out the stables of Fred Wright engaged in the livery business which he has since continued. He is located at No. 67 Broadway and has a full line of livery, and is well equipped for the business. He also operates the sprinkling wagons, and has a transfer line, merchant's express, and storage warehouse. His business is quite extensive, and he is worthy of the patronage received.

Mr. Thompson was united in marriage March 5, 1866, at Batavia, Illinois, to Miss Mary E. Paull, a native of Sugar Grove township, and a daughter of Stephen G. and Roxey A. (Barker) Paull, who were natives of New York, who moved to Medina county, Ohio, and from there came to Illinois in 1837, locating in Sugar Grove township, where they engaged in farming. Their other children were Jane H., who married N. W. Thompson, and died in 1893; John B., Mary E., and Flora D., the latter being the wife of Robert L. Wing. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of two children, Clarence Stephen, and John Paull, the latter dying November 10, 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are members of the People's church, Aurora. In politics he is a Republican, and for twelve years served as school trustee, in Sugar Grove township, and for a time served as highway commissioner. Fraternally he is a member of Waubansie lodge, No. 45, I. O. O. F.; Aurora lodge, No. 390, K. P., and is captain of the uniform rank. He is also a member

of the Knights of the Globe, and Modern Woodmen of America. He is a man of good business standing and is respected by all.

---

JOSEPH B. SEYMOUR, now living a retired life at 405 Lasalle street, Aurora, Illinois, came to the state in 1842. He is a native of New York, born in Yates county, September 1, 1824, and is the son of John and Elizabeth (Wright) Seymour, both of whom were natives of New York, the former born in Dutchess county, in 1783. In 1842, he came with his family to Illinois, and settled in Cook county, where he purchased a fairly improved farm on which was built two log houses and he further improved and developed the place. Later he built a good frame residence and good frame barn. An active and enterprising farmer he continued at farm labor until late in life, when he moved to Elgin, and died at the residence of his son, John W., at the age of ninety-three years. Of their family of twelve children five are yet living.

Joseph B. Seymour came to Illinois when eighteen years of age, having spent his boyhood and youth in his native state, where he had very limited educational advantages, attending school during a few winter months. On coming to Illinois, he assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-two years of age, after which he gave him half time until his marriage.

Mr. Seymour was married in Cook county, Illinois, June 11, 1848, to Miss Mary Saviah Haven, who was born November 28, 1832, in Carthage, Jefferson county, New York, and a daughter of Samuel and Lydia (Strong) Haven, the former a native

of Massachusetts, born about 1790, and the latter a native of New Hampshire. They were married in Paris, Oneida county, New York. In 1844, Samuel Haven with his family came west, and located in Cook county, Illinois. By occupation he was a blacksmith and followed that business a few years after coming west. He spent the last years of his life with a daughter, Mrs. Lydia Knowles, in Michigan, and there died. Of his family of two sons and five daughters, Mrs. Seymour and a sister, Mrs. Martha Vernon, of Chicago, are the only survivors.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour began their domestic life on a farm in Cook county. He first purchased one hundred and twenty acres on which was a frame house, the farm being partially improved. From time to time, as his means increased he purchased other tracts and became the owner of four hundred acres on which were three good dwelling houses, two good barns, and which in due time he made one of the best farms in Cook county. He continued to reside upon the place until 1867, when he rented it and moved to Aurora, where he purchased a residence on Broadway, in which he lived until 1882, when he sold and removed to Elgin and there resided six years. In 1888, he returned to Aurora, purchased lots and built a good substantial residence where he yet resides.

While residing in Elgin, Mr. Seymour farmed a small place adjacent to the city, and with that exception has lived a retired life, but looking after his farm in Cook county. A part of the place he sold, but yet owns two hundred and seventy acres. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have one son, Horace Jerome, who resides in Elgin, and of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. In early life Mr. Seymour was a Whig, but

on the organization of the Republican party, became identified with it, supporting its men and measures up to 1884, since which time he has been an advocate of the principles of the Prohibition party. For many years Mrs. Seymour has taken a very active interest in temperance work, and in missionary work. Both he and his wife are members of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of Aurora, and for the erection of the present house of worship they contributed of their means. For twenty-five years he served as steward of the M. E. church and has also served as trustee.

When Mr. Seymour came to Illinois, Chicago was but an insignificant town and he has lived to see it take rank as the second city in the union. The changes that have been made in the fifty-six years of his residence in Illinois can scarcely be conceived. An almost unbroken wilderness at the time of his arrival, the country is now dotted with flourishing villages and cities, and the magnificent farms with their large dwelling houses and barns indicate that the people are prosperous, indeed.

---

N R. ZACK, senior member of the firm of Zack & Mylius, engaged in plumbing, gas and steam fitting, and sewerage, 52 North Broadway, Aurora, was born in this city December 21, 1860, and is the son of Michael and Anna (Izabaugh) Zack. The father came from Austria to this country in 1849, located in Chicago for one year and a half, and came to Aurora, and was one of its first settlers. He was a tailor by trade, and carried on a shop in Chicago and also for a short time in Aurora; later he moved to a farm, on which he is yet living, and is about seventy-five years of age. He is



N. R. ZACK.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



a member of the German Catholic church. His wife died about 1890, when about sixty-five years of age. She was also a member of the Catholic church. Of their family of nine children four are deceased. The living are Mary, residing at home; Nettie, wife of Jacob Marx, of Aurora; N. R., our subject; Anna, wife of Michael Wannamaker, of Kane county; Michael on the old homestead; and Frances.

Our subject attended the schools of Aurora, and spent his youthful days on a farm, until seventeen years old, when he went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he commenced to learn the plumbing business. After remaining in Minneapolis some eight months, he returned to Aurora, and went to work in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops in the coach department and remained three years. He started in business on the island, and was one of the firm of John Linden & Co., with whom he was connected six years, after which he established his present business, under Fouth Brothers' store, becoming the senior member of Zack & Mylius. They came to their present place of business, in 1894, where they keep on hand a full line of plumbing, steam and gas-fitting material, as much probably as any other two firms in the city. They do an extensive business, and are worthy of the patronage received.

On the 16th of October, 1884, Mr. Zack was united in marriage with Miss Frances Beaver, daughter of John Beaver, a well-known citizen of Aurora. Four daughters have come to bless their union—Kittie, Mamie, Haddie, and Olga. The parents are members of the Catholic church and politically Mr. Zack is Democratic in national affairs, and in local affairs he is independent.

ADONIRAM RIDDLE, of Aurora, first came to this state in 1846, remained four years, returned east, and in 1856 located in De Kalb county, and two years later came to Kane county, where he has since continued to reside. The family are of Scotch descent, the first of the name locating in New Hampshire at an early day. James Riddle, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of New Hampshire, as was his son, Enoch Riddle, who was born in the town of Grafton, Grafton county. In his native state Enoch Riddle married Polly Prescott, also a native of Grafton, New Hampshire, and a daughter of Reuben Prescott, who was a pioneer of that state. They became the parents of six sons and one daughter: Adoniram, our subject; Prescott, who moved to California about 1850, and there resides; Lyman, also residing in California; Cyrus, who died in De Kalb county, Illinois; Orisina, widow of John Cole, residing in De Kalb county; Robert, who resides in Will county; and Charles, also residing in Will county. After his marriage, Enoch Riddle engaged in farming in his native county, and there continued for many years. In his old age he came west to Illinois, where he joined his children, locating first on a farm in De Kalb county, where his wife died, after which he resided with a son in Will county, and there died.

Until sixteen years of age, Adoniram Riddle remained on the home farm, during which time he received a fair common-school education. Going to Vermont, he spent three years working first on a farm and then on a turnpike. He then went to Massachusetts and took a position in a cotton factory, where he remained nearly three years, and at Worcester, Massachusetts, entered a ma-

chine shop and worked one year. He then went to Boston and worked for the Boston Locomotive Company for about two years. From Boston he went to Keene, New Hampshire, where he engaged in railroad work, first in the repair shops, and then in charge of an engine on the road. In 1846, he came west, and entered a tract of some six hundred acres in De Kalb county, Illinois, to which he removed in 1856. On removing to the place he at once began its development, and remained on the farm about two years. In 1858 he sold out, moved to Aurora, purchased two lots on the corner of Broadway and LaSalle streets, where he built a residence into which the family moved. On coming to this place he entered the employ of the Burlington road, first in the roundhouse department, and about one year later was given charge of an engine, on which he continued to run for about twenty years. He then gave up railroading, purchased a stone quarry opposite the seminary, and, in partnership with his son, engaged in getting out rock. They built up a large business, shipping considerably, besides supplying the home demand. In 1895, he purchased a farm of eighty acres, adjoining the city limits of Aurora, and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits.

In 1852, in Carroll county, New Hampshire, Mr. Riddle was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Cook, a native of that county, and a daughter of Eben Cook, also a native of New Hampshire. She had one sister, Emily, widow of Thomas Christopher, a carpenter and joiner of Boston, Massachusetts, where his death occurred. Mrs. Christopher made her home with Mrs. Riddle for a number of years. There are two living children by this union, the oldest being Clarence, who is married and operates the

stone quarry. The other is D. A., a manufacturing jeweler of Providence, Rhode Island. They lost one daughter, Alice, who died at the age of three months.

Mr. Riddle was reared a Democrat, but believing in the equality of all men, he became a Republican on the organization of that party, with which he has since continued to act. Fraternally he is a Master Mason. As a citizen he has ever borne his part in the upbuilding of his adopted city. He was one of the originators of the Aurora street railway, became a stockholder and was one of its first directors, serving until the road was sold to the New York Company. For forty years he has been identified with the interests of Aurora, and has here many warm friends.

---

JOHN GARDNER, who is living a retired life in the city of Aurora, is a well-known and highly respected citizen, and for many years was actively engaged in business in the place. He was born near the city of Newark, Essex county, New Jersey, December 5, 1820, and is the son of Daniel Gardner, born in Essex county, New Jersey. In his native state Daniel Gardner grew to manhood and married Phileta Edwards, a native of what is now Union county, New Jersey, and a daughter of Nathaniel Edwards, who at the age of sixteen years offered his services to his country, and fought during the entire struggle for American independence. By trade Daniel Gardner was a cooper, and followed that occupation, in connection with farming, during his entire life. He died in New Jersey in 1858, his wife surviving him some three years, passing away in 1861. Of their family of twenty-six children, ten sons and four

daughters grew to mature years. There were living sixteen of the children at one time. Of the entire number, only three now survive, John, Joseph and Luther, all residing in Aurora.

John Gardner grew to mature years in Essex county, New Jersey, and there learned the cooper's trade with his father, and followed it for some years. He was married in Essex county in 1847, to Emma Ball, a native of that county, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Noah Ball, also a native of Essex county. By trade he was a hatter, but late in life engaged in farming. His wife was Fannie Edwards, likewise a native of New Jersey. To Mr. and Mrs. Gardner six children were born, of whom Emma Frances and Charles Henry died in childhood; Mary Emma died at the age of seven years; Burton, when about five years old; and Horace in childhood. The only survivor is Hattie, who yet resides under the parental roof.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner began their domestic life in the suburbs of Newark, where they resided until 1853. While residing in Orange county, New Jersey, he manufactured a ship load of butter cases, which were filled with butter and sent to Australia. In September, 1853, Mr. Gardner came to Illinois, and purchased a farm near Eola, consisting of one hundred and twenty-one acres of improved land. He further improved the place, and there resided about fourteen months, when he sold out and returned to Orange, New Jersey, where he engaged in the lumber business. The first year he lost heavily by having several thousand feet of very valuable lumber being caught in a storm and washed out to sea. He continued the lumber business about three years, and in February, 1858,

again came west, locating in Aurora, where he bought several lots on which he erected five dwelling houses, which he later sold. He also erected a cooper shop, and engaged in coopering, in which he was actively engaged for over twenty years, usually employing two or three men. His principal product was butter firkins, which he manufactured for the Aurora market.

Mr. Gardner and his family are members of the Park Place Baptist church, with which body he has been connected since coming to Aurora. For the past twenty-five years he has devoted his time largely to church work. He was ordained a deacon of the church in 1873. With that earnest desire to help his fellow men, he has freely given of his time to the Master's cause. The good that he has done will only be known at the last day.

JOSEPH W. GARDNER, of Aurora, Illinois, has been actively engaged in contracting and building in this city since 1855. He is a native of Essex county, New Jersey, born May 1, 1825, and is the son of Daniel and Phileta (Edwards) Gardner, both of whom are natives of the same state, the former born in 1781 and the latter in 1787. She was the daughter of Nathaniel Edwards, who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, under General Washington. By trade Daniel Gardner was a cooper, which he followed in connection with farming, for many years residing near the city of Newark, New Jersey, where he reared his large family, and where his death occurred.

Joseph W. Gardner is one of a family of twenty-six children born to Daniel and Phileta Gardner, the children all being



at single births. Of the number Luther, John, and our subject are the only ones living. Joseph W. Gardner grew to mature years in his native state, and at Newark, New Jersey, learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, serving a four years' apprenticeship. Before he attained his majority, he engaged in contracting and building, superintending the erection of three dwelling houses in Newark. He was married in that city April 17, 1847, to Miss Elizabeth Garrison, a native of Sussex county, New Jersey, and a daughter of James Garrison. By this union were three children, two of whom are living—Ann Eliza, wife of John Glaspie, who was a soldier in the war for the union, but is now a merchant and postmaster of Galatia, Colorado. William Edward, who is assisting his father in contracting and building. He was married in Aurora, November 23, 1881, to Miss Annie E. Freeman, who was born, reared and educated in Aurora, and the daughter of James Freeman, who was for forty years a merchant of the city, but who died in 1896. By this union are two children, James Lewis and Gertrude May, both students in the Aurora schools. James Freeman, the father of Mrs. William E. Gardner, was a native of Wales, born in 1830, in a house which was on the line between England and Wales. He came to America with his parents in 1838, and to Aurora in 1840. Here he grew to manhood and married Ann Eliza Graves, daughter of the first Baptist minister of Aurora.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner resided some three years in Newark, where he engaged in contracting and building. From Newark, he moved to Piermont, New York, where he engaged in the repair and construction shops of the New

York & Erie railroad, continuing there about three years, serving as foreman in the shops. In 1855, he came to Aurora, Illinois, and purchased the property where he now resides. He at once commenced contracting and building, in which he has been actively engaged from that time until the present. Many of the public buildings and substantial residences of Aurora attest his skill as a builder. His building operations have been quite extensive, and his work has always been considered the very best. Commencing life for himself, empty-handed, by his own labor he has secured a competency and is recognized as one of the substantial men of Aurora.

Politically Mr. Gardner was an old Jackson Democrat, but of recent years he has voted independent of party, casting his vote for the man that he considered best qualified for the office. His son is also independent in politics. Religiously, he is a member of the Park Place Baptist church, with which he has been identified for forty years. His wife and family are also members of the same church. On the 17th of April, 1897, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner celebrated their golden wedding, a large number of relatives and friends meeting with them in honor of the occasion and presenting them a number of testimonials of their esteem and friendship. For forty years they have been residents of Aurora, and their friends are numerous indeed.

**JAMES V. MINK.**—Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful business men of Elgin is the subject of this sketch, who is a well-known real-estate dealer, with office in room 7, Town's Block. He was born in that city June 26, 1852, a



son of Robert and Sarah Jane (Van Tine) Mink, natives of New York. His paternal grandfather, John Mink, was also born in New York, of Holland Dutch descent, and was a farmer by occupation. At an early day he came west and took up his residence in Kane county, Illinois, but died two years later, when nearly ninety years of age. He reared a small family. Our subject's maternal grandfather was born in this country and died in middle life.

In 1842 Robert Mink, our subject's father, came to Kane county and purchased a fine farm of two hundred acres two miles northeast of Elgin, which he transformed into one of the most highly-cultivated tracts in the locality. After engaging in agricultural pursuits for many years, he laid aside business cares and lived retired in Elgin for a few years before his death, which occurred in 1880, when he was sixty-seven years of age. His wife had passed away three years previous at the age of sixty-five. Both were earnest, consistent Christians, the mother belonging to the Baptist Church, while the father was a Presbyterian in faith. Four children were born to them, of whom three are still living: John W., Leander F., and James V.

Upon the home farm James V. Mink was reared, and, after attending the district schools for a time, he entered the Elgin Academy, where he completed his education. For five or six years after starting out in life for himself, he engaged in the grocery trade in Elgin, but for the past twenty years has been interested in real estate, doing a large and profitable business along that line. Besides his property in Elgin, he owns an excellent farm of three hundred acres five miles east of that place, and also city property in Chicago.

On the 18th of May, 1878, Mr. Mink was united in marriage with Miss Gracie Todd, a daughter of Thomas and Anna (McNeil) Todd, and to them have been born seven children, three sons and four daughters, namely: Edna J., Royal J., Clyde, Annie, Gladys, Mamie, and one who died in infancy. Only three are now living—Annie, Gladys and Clyde. The family have a beautiful home at No. 554 Douglas avenue, which was erected in 1885. Mrs. Mink holds membership in the Congregational church.

Politically Mr. Mink is identified with the Republican party, and for four years he most efficiently served as alderman of the First ward. Integrity, activity and energy have been the crowning points of his success, and his connection with different business enterprises has been of a decided advantage to the city. He is public-spirited and progressive, giving his support to all measures which he believes calculated to advance the general welfare.

CAPT. FRANCIS H. BOWMAN, president of the Bowman, Warne & Stewart Bank, St. Charles, Illinois, has been a resident of the city since 1845, and is well-known and greatly esteemed by all the people of Kane county. He is a native of New York, born in Broome county, May 9, 1816, and is a son of Ebenezer and Sylvia (Barnaby) Bowman, both of whom were natives of Vermont. The Bowmans are of English ancestry and were early settlers of the Green Mountain State, where Ephraim Bowman, the grandfather of our subject, was born.

Ebenezer Bowman was born about 1794, and grew to manhood in his native state, where his marriage with Sylvia Barn-

aby took place. About 1814 the young couple removed to Broome county, New York, where he cleared a farm in the wilderness, built a hewed log house and there resided until the death of his wife in 1828. He then moved to Pennsylvania, where he remained a short time, afterward returned to Vermont, again married, and there resided during the remainder of his life. Our subject is the oldest of two sons and three daughters born to Ebenezer and Sylvia Bowman. His brother, Benjamin Carlton Bowman, grew to manhood and settled in Pennsylvania, but later moved to Williamsport, where he engaged in the lumber trade and in banking, being for some years president of a Williamsport bank. He died there in 1896. One sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Yaw, resides in Franklin county, Vermont. Another sister, Prudencia, wife of John Colcord, resides in Vermont. The third one, Hannah M., married Hannibal P. Wood, and located in Illinois, where she died.

Francis H. Bowman was twelve years of age when his mother died. He then went to live with his uncle, Hiram H. Heath, of Ithaca, New York, and later removed with him to Auburn, New York. Good common-school advantages were given him while residing both at Ithaca and Auburn, which he industriously improved. When still in his youth he entered a hardware store in Auburn, New York, as a clerk, and there remained nine years, securing a good practical training in business affairs. The last few years of his stay there he was a confidential clerk of the firm and transacted much of the business.

While his business relations were pleasant and he had the full confidence of his employers, the life of a mere clerk was distasteful to him. He desired to better his

condition in life, and with that end in view came west in 1845 and located in St. Charles, Illinois. Here he at once engaged in the hardware trade, a line with which he was thoroughly familiar. For three years he carried on the business alone, and then associated with himself John Lloyd, and a foundry business was added to that of hardware, the combined line being carried on under the firm name of Bowman & Lloyd. This was continued from 1848 until 1861.

The war for the union was now in progress and Mr. Bowman determined to enlist. Accordingly he sold out his interest in the hardware line to Owen Butler, but by mutual consent retained his interest in the foundry. In October, 1861, he was commissioned captain of Company G, Fifty-second Volunteer Infantry, and with his regiment marched first to St. Louis, from which place it went south, joining the advance in time to take part in the battle of Shiloh in April, 1862. Soon after this engagement he resigned his commission and returned home.

On his return Captain Bowman resumed active relations with Mr. Lloyd in the foundry and about one year later repurchased the interest of Owen Butler in the hardware trade. This relation was continued for some years. Captain Bowman then selling, lived retired for one year. But one of his temperament could not endure that kind of a life. He was one of the organizers of the Kane County National Bank, and was a director during its existence. J. C. Baird & Co. succeeded to the Kane County National Bank in which Captain Bowman was a stockholder and director, and at the death of Mr. Baird, some time later, he became its general manager. For about three years the business was continued un-

der the old name, when a new co-partnership was formed by Mr. Bowman, John Warne and John Stewart, since which time the bank has been run under the name of Bowman, Warne & Stewart, bankers. It is recognized as one of the reliable and solid institutions of the county, due in a great measure to the well-known business ability and conservatism of Captain Bowman.

After remaining a bachelor in St. Charles for four years, in October, 1849, Mr. Bowman returned to his native state, and at Elmira married Helen M. Smith, who was born, reared and educated in that city. She was a faithful wife and helpmeet to him for forty-two long years, passing away in December, 1891. There were three children by this union: Carleton Smith, a farmer residing in Kane county; Francis E., who died in infancy, and Edward Harvey, who was a lawyer by profession, practicing for about five years in Chicago. He was accidentally drowned in 1890.

In early life Captain Bowman was politically a Whig, casting his first presidential ballot for William Henry Harrison in 1840. With that party he continued to act until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks, voting for General Fremont for president in 1856. From that time to the present he has never missed voting for the Republican nominee for the highest office in the gift of the people. His interest in the party has never abated, and in the campaign of 1896 he was a warm supporter of William McKinley, and an earnest advocate of protection and reciprocity. In the various conventions of his party—county, district and state—he has often served as a delegate, and by his fellow citizens has been honored with many local offices, including supervisor of his

township, being the first elected to that office in St. Charles, trustee of the town of St. Charles, school trustee and school treasurer, serving in the latter position some twelve or fourteen years. In every position, public or private, he has discharged its duties faithfully and well. Fraternally he is a member of the Odd Fellows, subordinate and encampment, and has filled every position in his local lodge and camp. He has also served as a delegate from his lodge to the grand lodge and also to the grand encampment. For more than fifty years he has been a member of the order and has taken great interest in its welfare and in the dissemination of its principles, believing them to be for the best good of humanity.

In addition to his banking business, Captain Bowman is a stockholder in the tile factory, the condensing company and the Crown Electric Manufacturing Company. Few concerns established in St. Charles but have had his hearty co-operation. For fifty-three years he has been identified with the commercial and manufacturing interests of Kane county, and few men are better known and none more highly respected. As a business man and financier he has the confidence of all. His memory will long be cherished by those who know him, and his industry, thrift and business sagacity will be an incentive to those who come after him.

---

CHARLES LEVEY, a retired farmer living at Batavia, traces his ancestry in this country to Jacob Levey, a native of Germany, who emigrated to this country prior to the Revolutionary war, and who assisted in its struggle for independence. His son, John Levey, was born in Schenec-



tady, New York. He married Nancy Clute, a native of New York, but of German descent. They were the parents of eight sons and six daughters, the sons all growing to mature years, six of whom are yet living, as follows: Samuel is a farmer of McHenry county, Illinois; Andrew is engaged in farming in Minnesota; John resides in New York; James resides in Schenectady county, New York, where he is engaged in farming; Peter is also a resident of Schenectady county, and Charles of this review. The two sisters living are Catharine, wife of John Akin, of Farmington, Illinois, and Elizabeth, wife of Cornell Brunk, of New York.

Charles Levey, our subject, was born in Schenectady county, New York, August 4, 1829, and is the son of John and Nancy (Clute) Levey. He there grew to manhood and had but limited educational privileges. A young man of twenty-four years, he came west in 1853, and first located in Du Page county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for several years. He was married in Batavia, Illinois, October 10, 1855, to Miss Ann Frydendall, a native of Schenectady county, New York, and who came to Illinois with her parents, Daniel and Hannah (Venton) Frydendall, in 1842. Her father was by occupation a farmer and engaged in that calling during his entire life, dying February 13, 1888. His wife survived him, and died April 15, 1898, when eighty-four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Levey are the parents of six living children, as follows: Theodore, married and engaged in farming in Blackberry township; Charles W., married and also engaged in farming; Daniel, a carpenter and joiner, married and residing in Aurora; Elmer, a farmer of Blackberry township; Belle, wife of Lewis Krumlanz, and May, wife of Thomas Mead, of Batavia.

In 1865, Mr. Levey moved with his family to Kane county and purchased a farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Blackberry township, which was partially improved, and on which was a log dwelling house. He at once commenced its improvement and in due time built a large house, barn and other outbuildings, and there resided for some years. Renting out his own farm, he subsequently rented a farm of six hundred acres, on which he resided three years. He still owns the old homestead, which is operated by his son Elmer. Having a sufficient amount of this world's goods to enable him to live in ease and retirement, in the fall of 1889, he purchased residence property and removed to Batavia. Occasionally he visits the old farm, when the weather is pleasant, and assists his boys in the farm work.

Politically, Mr. Levey was formerly a Jackson Democrat, but is now independent, voting for such men as he thinks best qualified to fill the offices. He has been a resident of Illinois for forty-five years, while his wife has resided here fifty-six years. They are both well known in Kane and Du Page counties and are held in the highest esteem.

---

JOHN KEMP, of Aurora, Illinois, came to this city in 1855, and for about a third of a century was one of its most enterprising business men. He is now living a retired life, enjoying the fruits of honest toil. He was born in the town of Hull, Yorkshire, England, May 29, 1816. His father, John Kemp, Sr., was also a native Yorkshire, and there married Francis Hart, born and reared in the same shire. John Kemp, Sr., was a sailor in early life, and





JOHN KEMP.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

spent some years upon the sea. In 1829 he came to America and located near Montreal, Canada, and was one of the earliest settlers of that county. From there he moved to New York state and removed to Toronto, Canada, where he died.

The subject of this sketch was but thirteen years of age when he came with his parents to America. He remembers well the hardships endured, as pioneers of a new country. However, he went to Montreal, learned the harness maker's trade, serving an apprenticeship of four years. He there married, September 10, 1835, Miss Elizabeth McCullum, born in the Isle of Wight, and a daughter of James McCullum, a native of Scotland. By this union are four children, as follows: Elizabeth, who grew to womanhood, married and is now deceased; Charlotte, wife of John Kessler, residing in Rhilander, Wisconsin; Mrs. Fannie Rowland, now residing in Los Angeles, California; and Matilda, wife of Henry Gregory, residing in Charleston, South Carolina.

After marriage Mr. Kemp worked in Montreal for twelve years, then moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where for a time he worked at his trade as a journeyman, and later started a shop of his own, and carried on business for three years. He then moved to Chicago, where he remained about nine months, and in 1855 moved to Aurora, then a town of about twelve hundred inhabitants, bought property and has here since continued to reside. He commenced business on the west side, and was the second to engage in the harness trade on that side of the city. After a few years he formed a partnership with Horace Gilbert and the firm did a very profitable and extensive business for thirty years, often working as many as fifteen men in their shops. Mr.

Kemp did all the cutting and laying out the work for the entire force. He remained in active business until 1888, when he sold out and has since lived retired. During this time he purchased two farms in Hancock county, Iowa, one of which he continued to hold for twenty-five years. He also purchased vacant lots in Aurora, which he held for a rise in value.

Politically, Mr. Kemp is a Republican, with which party he has continued to act since its formation, but he has never wanted nor would he ever accept public office. When a young man of nineteen, he was converted and united with the Wesleyan Methodist church, but later transferred his membership to the Methodist Episcopal church, with which body he has been actively connected for many years, and for the greater part of the time since coming to Aurora a member of the official board of his church. His wife has also been an active member of the same church for many years. For forty-three years he has been a well-known citizen of Aurora, where he and his most estimable wife are held in the highest respect by one and all.

JOHN N. HURD came to Aurora in the fall of 1854 and has here since made his home. While now living a retired life he was for many years one of the active and enterprising business men and manufacturers of the city. He was born in Bennington county, Vermont, July 1, 1830, and is the son of Gilbert and Eleanor (Thomas) Hurd, both of whom are natives of the same state, the former born in Bennington county, in 1803. The grandfather, Abraham Hurd, was a native of Vermont, of which the Hurd family were pioneers,

emigrating there from Connecticut. The marriage of Gilbert Hurd and Eleanor Thomas was celebrated in 1827. She was a daughter of Reuben Thomas, who was likewise a native of Vermont, of which state his father, Reuben Thomas, Sr., was a pioneer. Gilbert Hurd followed the occupation of a farmer in his native state, and in 1853 emigrated to Illinois, locating in Oswego, Kendall county, where he remained one year and then came to Aurora, when he purchased farm and town property. For many years he engaged in farming and in buying and dealing in stock, sheep and wool. He was a very liberal man and gave of his means for the erection of different churches and also gave liberally to charitable and benevolent purposes. His death occurred March 30, 1876. His widow survives him and resides on the old homestead where the family have lived for more than forty years. She is now eighty-eight years old.

The subject of this sketch is one of a family of four sons who grew to mature years. Reuben T. married and resided for a time in Vermont, where he was engaged in business. He later moved to Aurora, where he became a prominent business man and died here in October, 1894. His wife preceded him to their heavenly home some three years previously, leaving three children. John N., of this review, was next in order of birth. Hosea B., who now resides with his mother and brother in Aurora. Samuel, the fourth son, died January 1, 1897.

In his native state John N. Hurd grew to manhood, and received a good common-school education. After attaining his majority he taught six winter terms of school and in the summer assisted in taking care of the home farm. In 1854 he joined the

family in Aurora, and in partnership with a brother engaged in farming and also in dealing in stock and wool. They continued in these lines until about 1867, when, with his brother Samuel, he engaged in the manufacture and sale of tinware, employing agents and furnishing them with an outfit, sold all through the country. They usually had some ten or twenty teams on the road, and gave employment to over fifty hands. They did a very extensive business which was continued until 1885. For about six years of that time, our subject, in company with Daniel Volentine, was engaged in the wool business. The partnership was dissolved by the death of Mr. Volentine, and for the succeeding two years he was with William Volentine, the son of the former partner. The business of Mr. Hurd was not confined solely to the lines mentioned. He from time to time engaged in buying and selling farms and in the improvement of city property. He also assisted other parties who were trying to establish themselves in business by loaning them money.

Early in the spring of 1869, Mr. Hurd went east, and in Washington county, New York, March 16, married Maria Gray, a native of that county, and a daughter of William Gray, also a native of that state. By this union were two children, one of whom, Gracia, died at the age of fourteen months. The other, Rhoda M., is now the wife of William H. Parker, Jr., of Aurora, by whom she has one son, John Alfred. Politically Mr. Hurd is a staunch Republican, as was also his father, though in early life the father was a Whig. He never cared for public office, and has repeatedly refused to consider his nomination or election to any. However he was elected and served one term as alderman of his ward, discharging



his duties in a faithful manner. On the organization of the Second National Bank, he acquired some stock and for a number of years served as director. In the forty-four years of his residence in Aurora, he has done his part towards its growth and development.

**D**WIGHT A. CHAMBERLIN, supervisor and a prominent business man of Elgin, is the well-known district agent of the Rockford Insurance Company, with office in the Elgin National Bank building, Elgin, Illinois. He is a native of the Prairie state, born in Rockford, June 2, 1849, and is a son of Alfred A. and Nancy E. (Munger) Chamberlin, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Massachusetts. In their family were four children: Marian C., widow of John Loop, of Santa Monica, California; Emma, wife of George M. Welles, of Elgin; Thyrsa T., wife of George W. Bridgman, of Bridgman, Michigan; and Dwight A., our subject.

Alfred A. Chamberlin, the father, was a pioneer of northern Illinois, locating at Aurora when the settlers' cabins were few and far between. At that time the great Prairie state gave but little promise of the bright future that was before it. Chicago was then but a small village, and the most enthusiastic of its citizens little dreamed of what it was destined to be. The county of Kane existed but in name, its many thousands of acres of fertile land unturned by the plow. For some years after his removal to Illinois, he engaged in the foundry business in Rockford, with moderate success. From Aurora he removed to Oregon, Ogle county, Illinois, and later to Rockford. In 1859 he moved to Cherry Valley,

Illinois, and there engaged in the milling business until his retirement to private life. In 1894 he came with his wife to Elgin and lived with his children, dying at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Welles, June 3, 1897, at the age of ninety years. His wife preceded him but five days, dying May 29, 1897, at the age of eighty-eight years. For a period of sixty-three years they traveled life's journey together, happy in each other's love. One could not live without the other, and so the angel of death tarried but a few days after taking the one before he called for the other. Religiously she was a Baptist, and, while he never united with any religious body, he attended services with her. In his life he endeavored to faithfully carry out the golden rule.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, William Chamberlin, was a native of Vermont and there died. In his family were six or seven children who grew to maturity. The maternal grandfather, Lyman Munger, was a native of Massachusetts, where he died at an advanced age.

Dwight A. Chamberlin, our subject, was about ten years of age when his parents removed to Cherry Valley, and his education begun in the public schools of Rockford, was afterward completed in the same place. In 1871 he commenced the insurance business in his home village, and for some years traveled in the interest of the Rockford Insurance Company. His success as a solicitor soon gave him standing with his company and his patronage rapidly grew so that he became well known in many localities, and many held their insurance until his arrival that it might be given him. In 1885 he removed to Elgin, opened an office and has here since continued to reside. Having visited this place while on the road, he had

here a number of patrons to begin with, and that number he rapidly increased. His business has been a large one and fairly profitable even in the midst of the hard times from 1893 to 1897. His company is well known to be among the best in the country and a risk placed with it is known to be safe.

On the 2nd of July, 1886, Mr. Chamberlin was united in marriage with Miss Cora L. Orth, daughter of John and Mary (Gardner) Orth, and their union has been blessed with two children: Harry D. and Marie E. Mrs. Chamberlin is a member of the First Congregational church of Elgin. John Orth, her father, was a native of New York, and came to Illinois early in the '50s, locating in the township of Caledonia, Boone county, where he engaged in farming up to the time of his death, which occurred October 10, 1878. His widow is a native of Lockport, Niagara county, New York, where they were united in marriage. She is still living on the old homestead in Caledonia township, loved and respected by a large circle of friends. They were the parents of two children: Ida C. and Cora L.

Fraternally, Mr. Chamberlin is a member of the Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Royal League and Home Forum. Politically, he is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since casting his first presidential vote for U. S. Grant, in 1872. For two years he served as assistant supervisor of Elgin, and in the spring of 1897 was elected supervisor for a term of two years. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs and for the success of his party has labored hard in season and out in the dissemination of party principles. During the campaign of 1896 he gave much time to the work, and of his means he has

usually given with a generous hand. In his business he is recognized as a hustler, and in the discharge of his official duties he has exhibited the same energy that characterizes him as a business man. As a progressive citizen of Elgin and Kane county he is well worthy a place among its most honored men, and few men in the county have more staunch, true and tried friends than the genial, open-handed and warm-hearted subject of this biography.

---

JOSEPH TEFFT, M. D., the first mayor of Elgin, and for years one of the most prominent citizens of Kane county, was born in Lebanon, Madison county, New York, August 29, 1812, acquired a good literary education for the times, read medicine with an uncle in Great Barrington, Vermont, and in 1833 attended medical lectures at a college in Brattleboro, that state. His father, Jonathan Tefft, Sr., was born in Madison county, New York, March 18, 1790, and in that county married Elizabeth Collins, who was born December 8, 1792, and died August 24, 1856. In 1835 they emigrated to Illinois, first settled on a farm adjoining the town of Elgin, but in Cook county. On removing to section 36, Elgin township, Kane county, the following year, he sold the Cook county farm to his son. The family were members of the Society of Friends, and were widely and favorably known. Having sold the farm to his son Jonathan, he removed to the city of Elgin, where he died January 26, 1866, at the age of seventy-six years. In politics he was first a Whig and later a Republican. (Further mention is made of the family in the sketch of Jonathan Tefft, on another page of this volume.) The family has been

identified with the history of this country since colonial days. In the possession of Jonathan Tefft, of Elgin township, is the certificate of marriage of his grandparents, Jeremiah Tefft and Rhoda Hoxsie, of Richmond, Kings county, Colony of Rhode Island, dated October 23, 1768. After the Revolutionary war they removed to what was then the "far west," locating in Madison county, New York, where they reared a large family of children and spent their remaining days.

With his father's family our subject came to Illinois in the fall of 1835, making the entire journey with ox teams. He first located at South Elgin, but later traded farms with his father, taking the one in Cook county, a part of which is now Lord's Park. Upon this place are still standing apple trees which were planted by Jonathan Tefft. He was the first physician of Elgin, and in the discharge of his professional duties, as well as the common duties of pioneer life, he experienced many hardships. At one time he and his brother-in-law, P. C. Gilbert, had occasion to go to McHenry county. On their return they found that a flood had washed away the bridge over Fox river, and following the direction of a neighbor they started to ford the stream, the Doctor taking the lead. The horses, however, had to swim partly across. On arriving home the Doctor found an urgent call awaiting him. He immediately re-crossed the river, saw his patient and returned, the feat being accomplished with great fatigue both to man and beast.

Some of the earliest settlers tried to drive away those who came a little later, so that they might secure larger tracts of land when their first claims were perfected, but their threats had no effect upon Dr. Tefft.

He was warned to leave his claim, but paid no attention to it. A notice was tacked to his door, and finally one of the band came to his cabin, telling him the rest of the crowd were waiting at the edge of the timber to punish him if he did not leave. He defied them and they asked for a parley. He replied if they would leave their rifles in the field, they might approach and seat themselves upon a log in his yard, and that he would come out, rifle in hand, and parley with them. This was done, with the result that he told them plainly that he would stand by his rights as an American citizen, and if he were injured more than one of them would suffer from the encounter. He was left in peace, his firmness and determination having won the day. He continued in active practice until 1875, and was frequently called in consultation up to the time of his death. Being a great reader and student, as well as an enterprising progressive man, he kept abreast of the times in his profession, the general sciences and literature. He was one of the most honored and highly respected citizens of the community.

Dr. Joseph Tefft was twice married, his first union being with Miss Emeline Gilbert, by whom he had one child, Julia, now deceased. For his second wife he married Mrs. Lavina (Johnson) Ormsby, a native of Putney, Vermont, born August 25, 1815. By this union there was one child, Leslie E. She died in Elgin, January 22, 1897.

Dr. Joseph Tefft was the first mayor of Elgin, and served in all five terms. He was president of the Elgin Academy from its inception until his death, which occurred August 26, 1888. He was also president of the Scientific Society, and was a man highly honored and respected by all, and his



death was sincerely felt in the community for which he did so much, and where he so long resided.

**J**AMES W. BATTLE, ex-mayor of Aurora, was born in the town of Gill, Franklin county, Massachusetts, October 5, 1831. His father, Ichabod D. Battle, and his mother, Miranda S. (Moore) Battle, were both natives of Orange, Massachusetts. By trade the father was a wheel-wright and wagonmaker, which occupation he followed during his entire life. His death occurred at the age of eighty-seven years, and he was a remarkably well preserved man until the end, running a sawmill at the age of eighty-three years. His wife died at the age of fifty-seven years. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, as follows: Jane I., widow of Hetsel Purple, resides in Greenfield, Massachusetts, but spends most of her time with her children; James W., our subject; Edwin P., formerly an engineer on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, now resides in Chicago; Charles S., living in Aurora.

The subject of this sketch was reared in town and country, and attended school in the country until about sixteen years of age, when he secured employment on a farm, at five dollars per month, during the summer. He then went to work in a pail factory, where he remained a year or two, going from there to Athol, Massachusetts, where he was employed in a hotel. From Athol he went to Phillipston and worked at splitting palm leaf, for making hats. He continued there one season, but there was too much brimstone in the business, and so he secured work in the chair factory. After being employed there a short time, he went

to Cape Cod and drove a peddler's wagon, but soon returned to Winchester, New Hampshire, where he engaged in the same business. From there he went to Cleveland, Ohio, and later to Norwalk, in the same state, and in 1853, commenced firing on a railway locomotive, remaining there fourteen months. On account of cholera he went east and was married November 4, 1854, to Miss Cordelia Lobdell, a native of Monroeville, Ohio, by whom he had one child, Emma C., wife of Frank Griffith, now residing in Racine, Wisconsin, by whom she has three children, Jamie, Frank and Sadie. In 1856 Mrs. Cordelia Battle was called to her final rest.

The second marriage of Mr. Battle occurred September 7, 1859, when he was united with Miss Isabella Gilbert, daughter of Lyman and Emily Gilbert, both of whom were natives of Massachusetts. Her father was born in 1796, and died November 4, 1849; her mother died May 7, 1881, at the age of seventy-six years; they were members of the Universalist church. In their family were seven children: George, born in 1824, died June 4, 1863; Foster, born February 19, 1825, died April 5, 1842; Cephas, born October 13, 1827, moved to South Carolina, in early manhood, where his death occurred in June, 1894; Lyman, born August 10, 1829, died May 1, 1856; Isabella, born October 25, 1833, is the wife of our subject; Emily, born June 12, 1838, died May 19, 1857; and Foster, the second, born March 18, 1846, died July 27, 1889.

In 1855, our subject came west with his wife, and located in Michigan City, Indiana, and for seven months was with the New Albany & Salem railroad as fireman, and then secured a position as engineer on the Michigan Central railroad. With that road



he continued until 1859, when he went to the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad, but did not long remain with it, resigning on account of ill health. He went to Massachusetts to regain his health, and was under the doctor's care for some time, and then engaged in farming. In the spring of 1860, he bought out a store, at Northfield Farms, Massachusetts, and was in the mercantile business until 1862, when he sold out and returned west to Aurora, taking an engine on the Burlington road. He continued in that service, until the day Lincoln was assassinated. From Aurora he went to Janesville, Wisconsin, and for four years ran an engine on the Wisconsin division of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. He then opened a hotel in Chicago, the Clarendon, on the corner of Clark and Ontario streets, but only remained there six months, when he sold out and returned to the Burlington railroad at Aurora, and ran an engine for six years. He next engaged in the grocery business in Aurora, with Robert Pierpont, and was with him six years.

On the introduction of the street railway in Aurora, he was made superintendent, and continued to be thus employed until his appointment as superintendent of the water works in 1886. He held that position three years, and then went into the lumber business, as the senior member of the firm of Battle & Glover. After five months they sold the business to the street railway company. In 1878, Mr. Battle was elected alderman, and was re-elected until 1882, when he was nominated and elected mayor of the city, serving one term. In 1892, he was again elected alderman of his ward, and served two years. He was in the council when the city changed its lighting from gas to electric light, being the first city in the

country to establish that system. Representatives from various cities in almost every state in the union came here to see the plant.

In 1894, Mr. Battle was again elected mayor, but was counted out. He contested the election, and was declared elected by the county court. An appeal was taken to the supreme court, by the other party, and that court confirmed the decision of the county court. He was then given the office, but had only six weeks to serve. Since that time he has been in private life, giving his attention to other interests until in April, 1898, he was elected supervisor of Aurora township without opposition. He is now one of the directors of the Silver Plate Manufacturing Company, a stockholder in the cotton factory of Aurora, and has been connected with various other manufactures of the city, of late years. Mr. Battle was made a Master Mason in Harmony lodge, at Northfield, Massachusetts, in 1863, and is a member of the Jerusalem Temple at Aurora. For many years he was a member of the Railway Locomotive Engineers. In politics he is an ardent Republican. He has never asked for an office for himself, and it has been with him, that the office sought the man, and not the man the office. In all official acts he strives to do his duty, regardless of popular feeling.

---

JOHN W. LINDEN, who represents the Seventh ward as a member of the board of aldermen in the city of Aurora, was born in the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, January 27, 1859, and is the son of Peter and Mary Ann (Flammang) Linden, both of whom were natives of the same country. In his native land Peter Linden followed

the trade of wagon maker, but on coming to this country in 1861 engaged in farming, which occupation he followed until his death, January 26, 1883, at the age of sixty-seven years. He was one of the first settlers in what is known as the "big woods." He was a member of the St. Nicholas Roman Catholic church, as was also his wife, who died January 4, 1898, at the age of seventy-four years. Of their family of five children, John is the city inspector of sewers; Henry engaged in the saloon business in Aurora; Susan, wife of Nicholas Linster, of Aurora, an employe of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company in the shops at Aurora; Maggie, wife of Peter Wagner, an electric lineman of Aurora, and John W., our subject.

John W. Linden was educated in the country schools and also in the parochial schools of Aurora. For fifteen years he was an employe of the woolen mills at Aurora, in the carding and spinning departments. After leaving the mill he engaged in the wholesale and retail liquor business, as agent for the Pabst Company of Milwaukee.

Mr. Linden was married in October, 1885, to Miss Catherine Winkle, daughter of Jacob Winkle, one of the first German settlers in this section, coming here in the forties. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Linden are members of the Roman Catholic church. He takes great interest in politics, and is an ardent believer in the restoration of silver. He is the present chairman of the Democratic senatorial committee, of Kane and Du Page counties, and has held that position for the past six years. He has been a delegate to the various state conventions of his party, and was a delegate to the first silver convention held in this state. Few men

are better posted in political issues, especially on living questions. In 1891 he was elected alderman from his ward, and has since held the office by re-election. That he has made a good officer is attested by his continuous service. As a citizen he is alive to all the best interests of Aurora.

---

REV. JONATHAN C. STOUGHTON, a superannuated minister of the Rock River conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, residing at No. 70 South Lincoln avenue, Aurora, Illinois, was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, November 3, 1820, and is the son of Henry and Almira (Clapp) Stoughton, both of whom were natives of Connecticut. The father moved from Connecticut to Ashtabula county, Ohio, in 1812, when a young man, and was there married. His life occupation was that of a farmer, and his death occurred in Windsor township, Ashtabula county, in 1876, when in his eighty-sixth year. He was a member of the Congregational church, while living in Connecticut, but, after coming to Ohio, did not unite with any church, as there were no churches of that denomination there at that time. He was well and favorably known in the county, which was so long his home. His wife, who was a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church, died in 1844. Of their seven children, four are still living: Mary, wife of Mr. Gould, residing in Ashtabula county, Ohio; Sarah, also a resident of that county; and Henry E., of Cambridge, Illinois, which has been his home for many years.

Jonathan C. Stoughton, who was the eldest of the seven children born to his parents, remained on the home farm until in his eighteenth year, when he came to Illi-

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



REV. J. C. STOUGHTON.





MRS. J. C. STOUGHTON.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

nois, and worked on a farm in Trivola township, Peoria county, for one hundred dollars per year, remaining there for three years. He then entered Knox College, at Galesburg, from which he graduated in 1846. During vacations he taught school, and worked in the harvest fields, that he might secure the means to continue his studies.

At an early age he was converted, and united with the Methodist Episcopal church. From the time of his conversion, he felt the desire to enter the ministry. In 1846, he joined the Rock River conference, with which he has since held official connection. In 1854, after having served at various places, he came to Aurora, and took charge of the Methodist Episcopal church at this place. Two years later, by appointment from the conference, he built the Jennings Seminary. In 1858, he went to Freeport, where he continued until 1860. He was elected a delegate from the Rock River conference to the general conference, held at Buffalo, New York, in 1860. He then went to Champaign, Illinois, and there erected a building, and started the Champaign and Urbana Seminary. A few years later, when the Illinois legislature had passed an act for the creation of a State University, the building and grounds of the seminary were offered the state, as an inducement to locate the university there. Had it not been for this generous offer, it is more than probable the university would have been established elsewhere.

During the summer of 1861 and that of 1862 he was in the recruiting service, and was instrumental in securing many volunteers. In the fall of 1862, Mr. Stoughton offered his services as a private, and with the command went to Camp Douglas, where

he was commissioned by Governor Yates as a captain of cavalry, but never served in that capacity. He was later commissioned chaplain of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He was sent south to Memphis, and was with Sherman when after Price in Tennessee, and on the Tallahatchie river. He also took part in the siege of Vicksburg. He stood the service fairly well, but took sick on the Yazoo, in the fall of 1863, and was compelled to leave the service. He personally knew Grant, Sherman, and many of the leading officers of the Western army.

Returning home, he shortly after was assigned to Grace Methodist Episcopal church, Chicago, where he remained one year, returning to Champaign, and completing the institution, which had been abandoned thus far during the war. At this time he was not engaged in pastoral work, but was appointed by the conference as a general agent, and lectured much on temperance. In 1864, he started and edited a temperance paper, which was wiped out by the fire in Chicago, in 1871. As a lecturer on temperance, he attained great celebrity, and his services were in great demand. After traveling in Europe for a time, he returned and again took up the regular work of the ministry. After serving the Galena street church, Aurora—followed with Rock Falls, Rochelle and Wyanet—he then went to New Mexico, in charge of the English mission, at old Santa Fe. Later he was sent to Chicago as pastor of the Asbury, and later to the Winter street church, the State street church and the Fifty-fourth street church. After leaving Chicago, he served three years at Sugar Grove, Kane county, Illinois, when he came to Aurora, where he has since continued to reside. He

is now retired, after having served the church fifty years in the active work of the ministry, though not always as a pastor.

Mr. Stoughton has always taken an interest in political affairs, believing it to be the duty of a minister, as well as a layman, to exercise all the rights of citizenship. In 1870, he ran as an independent candidate for congress, against General Farnsworth, who two years previously had been elected by fifteen thousand majority. Notwithstanding the large majority to overcome, Mr. Stoughton made a vigorous canvass. For a few days after the election, the Chicago papers had reported he was elected, but the back townships counted him out.

On the 9th of January, 1847, Dr. Stoughton was united in marriage with Miss Amanda Cheritre, a native of New York state. By this union there were three children, a son and two daughters. The son, Lorenzo T., was drowned in Fox river, at Montgomery, in 1864. With another boy he was in a skiff, floating down the river, and not observing the dam, was carried over and drowned. Of the daughters, Ethel is now the wife of Rev. W. K. Beans, of the Methodist Episcopal church, of Spokane Falls, by whom she has one son, Lorenzo W., student in the medical department, of the Northwestern University, class of '99. Estella, now the wife of Justice Ament, of Chicago. The wife and mother died, August 24, 1880, at the age of fifty-six years. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and a very active worker in the same. September 1, 1881, Dr. Stoughton was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary J. Leet, of Bradford, Illinois, and a daughter of William and Helen Leet. See sketch elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Stoughton is a woman

of superior business ability, and is a very successful worker in the Methodist Episcopal church, of which she has been a member for many years.

Since 1847, Dr. Stoughton has been a member of the Sons of Temperance, and for many years was grand worthy patriarch of the order. Through his instrumentality, many persons have been saved from the curse of drink, and started in the way of righteousness. In 1852, he was made a Royal Arch Mason. While residing in New Mexico, he was a member of the G. A. R., but has not affiliated with the order to any great extent since his return to Illinois. While for many years a strong Republican, in 1872 he supported Horace Greeley for president, making many speeches in his behalf in Indiana and Illinois. For some years he has been an active worker in the Prohibition party.

JOSEPH MOULTON FISH, who is residing in the city of Aurora, is a native of the town of Danby, Rutland county, Vermont, born May 27, 1816. His father, John Fish, was also a native of that state, while his grandfather, Elisha Fish, was born in Rhode Island, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and also in the war of 1812. He was a pioneer settler of Rutland county, Vermont. The family are of English origin, the great grandfather of our subject, coming from England and locating in Rhode Island. John Fish grew to manhood in his native state, and there married Abigail Moulton, a daughter of Joseph Moulton, who was a native of Massachusetts and a pioneer of Vermont. By occupation John Fish was a farmer, and during the war of 1812 served as a non-commis-



sioned officer. His wife died in Vermont, and he later moved to Illinois, and resided with his son Joseph, his death occurring at Lockport, Illinois, in April, 1863.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest son of John and Abigail Fish, and fifth in order of birth of a family of eight sons and four daughters, eight of whom grew to mature years, married, reared families, and are all, except subject, now deceased. In his native state he grew to manhood, and there received limited school privileges, but made the best use of every advantage for obtaining an education. His youth was spent in almost every kind of employment, and he received a thorough practical business training. In addition to mercantile training he was for a time employed in the machine shops at Danby, Rutland county, Vermont. After he had reached his majority he commenced business for himself, starting a blacksmith shop, in which he employed several men. He continued in that business for five years, and was then for seven years engaged in the wholesale marble business, quarrying and manufacturing. Selling out, he removed to Buffalo, New York, and engaged in the manufacture of lumber on Buffalo creek, where he erected a mill, and had charge of a very extensive business, purchasing all the material, selling all the lumber, and employing all the men.

In the spring of 1859, Mr. Fish sold his interest in Buffalo, came to Illinois, and located at Lockport, Will county, and there engaged in the real estate and livery business, and for four years served as deputy sheriff of Will county. In 1865, he moved to Aurora, where he engaged in farming and the real estate business, continuing in that line for several years, during which time he was the owner of several improved farms in

Kane county, and also much city property, and now owns considerable improved residence property.

Mr. Fish was married in Rutland county, Vermont, in 1846, to Miss Martha B. Smith, a native of that county, and a daughter of Asa Smith. After a happy married life of fifty-three years, Mrs. Fish was called to her final rest, May 7, 1897, and her remains were interred in Spring Lake cemetery. Religiously, she was reared in the Quaker faith. Mr. Fish, though not a member, is an attendant of the Methodist Episcopal church, but like his wife was reared a Quaker. While not having any children of their own, they reared and educated three children.

Politically, Mr. Fish was an Old-line Whig, but became a Republican on the organization of that party, and has been identified with it to the present time. He was elected and served eight years as a member of the board of aldermen, during which time he served on some important committee, was chairman of the courthouse, public buildings, and public grounds, was also chairman of the judiciary committee for several years, and a member of the finance. For nine consecutive years he served as justice of the peace, when he resigned the office. He served four years as deputy sheriff in Kane county, also served for nine years on board of town auditors. He has served as a delegate to county, congressional and state conventions, where he has exerted considerable influence. In whatever position called upon to fill he made an efficient officer.

For a third of a century, Mr. Fish has been a resident of Aurora, and in that time has made many warm friends, who esteem him for his worth as a man, and who recog-

nize his ability in every public or private capacity. Commencing life in limited circumstances, by his industry, economy, and business ability, he has become one of the prosperous citizens of Kane county, well-known throughout its length and breadth.

**EZEKIEL PEARCE**, a retired farmer, living at 326 South La Salle street, Aurora, is a pioneer of northern Illinois. He was born in Logan county, Ohio, August 6, 1827, and is the son of Daniel and Sarah (Titsworth) Pearce, the former a native of Maryland and the latter of Ohio. The father was by occupation a farmer, and, in 1832, came to Illinois, and located a claim in Kendall county, to which he removed his family in 1833, at which time they did not know of a white man north of them. They settled near what is now the town of Oswego, and there was only two families between them and Chicago. The family of a Mr. Walker was the only one residing between Oswego and Joliet.

Daniel Pearce served twelve days in the war of 1812, when he was called back on account of the cessation of hostilities. He was married three times, and was the father of fourteen children, nine of whom were by his last wife, the mother of our subject. Of these nine, all are living but two. They were Lemuel, who went to California in 1850, in company with our subject, and, after their arrival, left him and went south with a friend, to engage in farming was never afterward heard from; Ezekiel, our subject; Joseph, a farmer residing in Kosuth county, Iowa; Elizabeth, who married J. B. Stafford, and is now deceased; Daniel, who resides on a cotton plantation, in Mississippi; James, living near Oswego, Illi-

nois; Rebecca, wife of W. H. Chappell, of St. Joseph, Missouri; Isaac, who is in the grain business in Dakota; and Calvin, on the homestead, near Oswego. The father died in 1878, when eighty-nine years old, and the mother in 1874, when seventy-five yearsold. They were members of the Methodist church at Oswego.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and agricultural pursuits have been his life work. At the age of twenty-two years he began life for himself, working a farm on shares. In 1850, he went to California, by the overland route, in company with his brother, Lemuel. They left Oswego, Illinois, March 11, 1850, and reached Placerville, commonly known as Hangtown, on the 14th of July, following. They started in a company of one hundred and fifty persons, but dissensions arose, and there were but few of the number together, on their arrival in California. They passed through Salt Lake City, and there spent eight days, resting and viewing the sights. On account of ill health, he was compelled to return home much before the time expected. On his return he resumed farming, and in 1860, made his first purchase of land in Kendall county, consisting of about thirty-five acres. As his means increased, he made additions to his farm, until he had two hundred and seventy-six acres, which is yet in his possession, and which he farmed for many years. He also has land in Plymouth county, Iowa.

In 1852, Mr. Pearce was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Brownell, a daughter of David Brownell, of Kendall county. By this union were six children: Sarah E., now the wife of J. S. Hoyt, a farmer of Plymouth county, Iowa, by whom she has one child, Harry; Nora, wife of Thomas

Goudie, by whom she has three children, Daniel, James and Margaret, also resides in Plymouth county, Iowa; Frank D., who married Miss Loucks, by whom he has five children, Roy, Nathan, Ezekiel, Lida and Edith, is a farmer residing in Oswego township, Kendall county; Fred K., who married Miss F. Gibbons, by whom he has two children, Arthur and Georgia, resides on the old homestead in Kendall county. Two others died in early childhood. The mother of these children died in 1883, at the age of fifty-seven years. Mr. Pearce's second marriage was in March, 1888, to to Mrs. Stafford, *nee* Ferris, and widow of Joseph Stafford.

Mrs. Pearce is a member of the Episcopal church, and, fraternally, Mr. Pearce is a member of Oswego lodge, No. 303, A. F. & A. M., of Oswego, Illinois. Politically, he is a Democrat. While not in the service himself, his two brothers, Isaac and Calvin, took part in the late war, each serving three years. The latter went with Sherman to the sea. Isaac was a member of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and was taken prisoner, and spent a short time in Andersonville. Both returned and are yet living.

---

PETER VAN DEUSEN, of Aurora, Illinois, though not numbered among the pioneers of Kane county, has been a resident of Aurora for about a quarter of a century. He is a native of New York, born in the town of Livingston, Columbia county, July 8, 1812. His father, Robert Van Deusen, was a native of the same county and state, as was his grandfather, James Van Deusen. The family was among the pioneers of Columbia county and was originally from Holland. Robert Van Deusen

grew to manhood in his native county, and married Barbara Sharp, born at Greenbush, near Albany, New York, of which place her father was an early settler. Robert Van Deusen was by occupation a farmer, and after remaining in New York for a few months after marriage, he moved to the town of Sheffield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where his death occurred some years later, and where his wife also died. Of their five sons and four daughters, all grew to mature years, married and became heads of families. Of this number our subject and one sister are the only survivors. The sister, Sally, is now the wife of John Hillier, and resides in Sheffield, Berkshire county, Massachusetts.

Peter Van Deusen spent his boyhood and youth on the farm in Columbia county, and had but very limited educational advantages, attending school during a few weeks only of the winter months. In other seasons of the year, he had to work on the farm. After leaving the parental roof, he worked out as a farm hand for several years. He first married in Litchfield county, Connecticut, in 1840, Miss Harriet Foster, a native of Connecticut. By this union were two sons: Ward, married and residing in Cherokee county, Iowa; and Frank, married and residing in Litchfield county, Connecticut.

After his marriage Mr. Van Deusen rented a farm in Litchfield county, Connecticut, which he operated a few years, and then purchased the place on which he resided for several years. Selling that farm, he purchased the old homestead in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, which was only two miles from his Connecticut farm. After operating that farm for a number of years, he sold out and came west. While residing



in Massachusetts he lost his wife in 1862. Some six years later, in 1868, he married Miss Fannie Cleveland, a native of Massachusetts. The following year he located in Will county, Illinois, where he rented a farm some four or five years. He then moved to Aurora and was employed in various enterprises for some years. Purchasing a lot soon after his arrival here, he built a neat and substantial residence at 224 Claim street, which is yet his home.

In early life Mr. Van Deusen was a Whig, but since the organization of the Republican party he has been identified with it, and has been an earnest advocate of its principles. While not a member of any church, Mr. and Mrs. Van Deusen attend the Congregational church. In the many years that have passed since coming to Kane county, they have made many warm friends, who esteem them for their worth as citizens, and who honor them for their upright character.

---

**JAMES WRIGHT**, a progressive farmer residing on section 35, Plato township, was born on the farm on which he now resides, March 5, 1859. He received limited schooling in the district school until his fourteenth year, attending three months each winter. His father died at that time, making it necessary for him to shift for himself. He worked for a farmer during his fourteenth year, and attended the winter term of school. Until his eighteenth year he worked by the month for various farmers and then leased eighty acres from his mother, for a period of ten years. The first year his mother kept house for him, after which he kept "bach" for five years, then sold his four-years' leasehold to a brother.

The next six years he worked on farms again, saving his money, and one by one bought up the shares of his brothers and sisters in the farm, until he now owns the entire tract, consisting of one hundred and eighty acres of as fine farming land as lies in the Fox River valley. He bought the final share in 1884.

The house first built by his father on his first purchase, in the '30s, was burned some years ago, and our subject now resides in the old house that stood on the hundred-acre-tract, purchased by his father many years after his settlement in Plato township. In the spring of 1898 he built a fine large barn, thirty-eighty by eighty feet, with a high basement stable for the sheltering of his herd of half a hundred milch cattle, and his teams of fine horses. A breeder of fine horses, Mr. Wright owns "Ben," a beautiful white horse, whose grandsire was the famous Percheron "Success," the first of his race to be brought to America. His dam was of Arabian blood, and "Ben" shows the finer qualities of each, and is so gentle a child can drive him. He has the beautiful outlines and finely arched neck of his Arabian sires. In 1899, Mr. Wright designs building a commodious residence to take the place of the one he now occupies, which, though old, is made comfortable and cosy on the inside by the hand of Mrs. Wright.

Like all thrifty farmers, Mr. Wright believes in building first the barn to shelter the stock and store the grain, which will build the house later. His farm is well cultivated and is used for dairy purposes; all the products of the fields are fed upon the place, making it annually more fertile than the previous year. When a youth of seventeen, Mr. Wright worked with a threshing



machine, and when eighteen purchased a half interest in a machine, and since that time has been engaged each summer and fall more or less in the threshing business. He early began those habits of thrift which have made him independent in middle life, not owing a dollar and able to pay cash for all he buys. When he first began life for himself he had occasionally to contract debts, but which spurred him on until paid. Independence is the fruit of his labor.

William Wright, the father of our subject, was born in London, England, in 1813, and was the son of a small farmer who was not able to give his son an education. He had early to earn his own living, and when a mere child was employed at a few shillings per month, with board, to drive crows from the fields for the large farmers. While thus employed he was not given enough to eat; but he managed to earn enough to bring him to America, although his earnings were small, and it took a long time to secure the required amount. He reached New York in 1836, with only a shilling in his pocket. As soon as he could earn a small sum he came on to Kane county, and for three years worked at anything that came to his hands. He entered eighty acres on section 36, Plato township, later adding adjoining one hundred acres in section 35. At first he raised grain exclusively, but drifted into dairy farming and that became more profitable. He died in 1872, in his fifty-ninth year. In politics he was a Republican.

After living a bachelor's life for five or six years after coming to Kane county, Mr. Wright married Miss Sylvia Seward, a native of Binghamton, New York, who came to Kane county with her parents when a miss of twelve or thirteen years. She was the

daughter of Levi and Harriet (Spencer) Seward. By this union ten children were born, eight of whom are now living: John, living near Plato Centre; William, living in Kansas; Mark, who resides in Nebraska; Sarah, wife of Harry Elmore, of Rockford, Illinois; James, our subject; Huldah, who makes her home with our subject; Jesse; Levi, living at Bafford, Kansas; Katherine, who died at the age of twenty-two, and Frank who died in infancy. The mother of these children died at the age of sixty-seven years.

James Wright, our subject, married, in Geneva, Illinois, December 8, 1885, Miss Harriet Tucker, born in Campton township, Kane county, and a daughter of Charles and Clara (Andrew) Tucker, now residents of Plato township. By this union five children have been born, four of whom are now living: Meerll Elmer, born October 14, 1886; Ida May, born May 8, 1887; Lester Leroy, born April 8, 1894; and Orris L., born July 4, 1897. One child died in infancy.

Fraternally; Mr. Wright is a member of Wasco camp, No. 1701, M. W. A. In politics he is a thorough Republican.

JOHN KELLY is a prominent farmer residing on section 15, Hampshire township, where he is engaged with his brother, Timothy Kelly, Jr., in general and dairy farming. He was born on the farm where he now resides, October 14, 1865, and is the son of Timothy and Mary (Ryan) Kelly, both of whom were natives of Ireland.

Timothy Kelly, the father of our subject, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, March 25, 1818, and came to America in 1840, taking passage on an old sailing vessel, and being shipwrecked. The voyage lasted sixteen weeks, when he landed

at New York, where he lived one year, working at his trade of blacksmith. On coming to Illinois, he secured a position of blacksmith for the stage line running between Chicago and Galena, and was placed in charge of the shop at the stage station one mile west of the old village of Hampshire. He was the first blacksmith in the township. Besides the company's shoeing and repairing, he was allowed to do such other work as came to the shop. Having the only smithy in the neighborhood, he was seldom idle, and, by his thrifty habits, prospered. Soon he began buying land, his first purchase being about 1845, when he secured a portion of the tract which now comprises the homestead, to which he added until it now comprises two hundred and forty acres of as fine land as is to be found in the Prairie state. He built the house and barns, and began the tiling of the land, to which his sons have added until they have more than one thousand rods of tiling. In addition to his farm, Mr. Kelly purchased one of one hundred and forty-five acres, which he gave to his son James, who occupies the same.

In 1848, in Du Page county, Illinois, Timothy Kelly married Mary Ryan, a daughter of Timothy and Ellen (Eagan) Ryan, who emigrated to the states in the early '40s. By this union ten children were born, as follows: Michael, a blacksmith residing in Hampshire; Ellen, wife of Michael Burns, an account of whom appears elsewhere in this work; James, living in the village of Hampshire; Julia, wife of Lawrence Somers, of Hampshire; Maggie, Mary and Bridget, who died quite young; John, our subject; Timothy, Jr., in partnership with our subject on the farm; and one who died in infancy.

After the building of the railroad and the discontinuing of the stage line, Mr. Kelly erected a forge on the farm, and continued his trade, until his farming interests were such as to demand his whole attention. After a long and useful life, Mr. Kelly died June 23, 1889. Religiously he was a Catholic, and in politics a Democrat.

John Kelly, our subject, was reared on the farm, and received his education in the schools of Hampshire village, which he attended until the age of sixteen years. He remained on the farm with his father until his death, since which time, in partnership with his brother Timothy, he has been engaged in its cultivation. They keep it under a high state of cultivation, and have upon the place about fifty head of cows, the product of which they ship to Chicago. In politics he is a Democrat, and, religiously, a member of the Catholic church at Hampshire. He married Maggie Manning, born in Boston, and a daughter of Phillip and Ellen (Hawes) Manning, both of whom were born in County Tipperary, Ireland, and both living in Rutland township, Kane county, in good health.

**H**IRAM T. HARDY, M. D., has been actively engaged in the practice of his profession at Kaneville, Illinois, for a quarter of a century. He is a native of New Hampshire, born at North Groton, Grafton county, March 12, 1838. The family are of English descent, and early settlers of New England. David Hardy, the grandfather, was a native of New Hampshire, as was also his son, Luther Hardy, the father of our subject. The latter grew to manhood in Grafton county, and there married Lucy Tenney, also a native of the Granite

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



H. T. HARDY, M. D.





MRS. H. T. HARDY.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
CITY OF ILLINOIS

state, and a daughter of Benjamin and Betsy (Taylor) Tenney, the latter being a daughter of Jacob Taylor, a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Luther Hardy was a substantial farmer of Grafton county, where he reared his family, and there spent his entire life, dying, however, while on a visit to Boston, Massachusetts, March 27, 1872. His wife passed away August 20, 1871.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth upon the home farm, and in the common schools received his primary education, completing his literary course at the Thetford, Vermont, Academy. After leaving school, he was engaged in teaching for about two years, during which time he began the study of medicine, under the instruction of Dr. E. C. Worcester, and took his first course of lectures at Dartmouth College. In the spring of 1862, he enlisted in the Seventh Squadron, Rhode Island Cavalry, for three-months' service. They were sent to the front, and did duty in Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, principally in scouting and picket duty. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment, returned home, and resumed the study of medicine. His services, however, were needed in the field, and, in the fall of 1863, he again enlisted, this time joining the Third Vermont Battery, and with this battery he was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, participating with it in many engagements, among which was the battle of the Wilderness, numerous engagements around Petersburg and Richmond, and in fact all along the line. Early in 1865 they broke camp, and started after Lee, and our subject was present at Appomattox Courthouse, when General Lee surrendered. After the surrender he was detailed to hospital duty, at Farmville, Virginia, and there

remained until his discharge, June 15, 1865.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Hardy returned home, and again took up the study of medicine. In the fall of 1865 he returned to Dartmouth College, and graduated from that noted institution of learning in the class of 1866, receiving his degree of M. D. Soon after graduating, he located at Strafford, Vermont, and began the practice of his profession, remaining there about five years, and building up a good practice.

While residing at Strafford, Dr. Hardy was united in marriage, March 12, 1868, with Miss Sophia E. Buzzell, a native of Vermont, born and reared at Strafford, and in its schools, and at Flushing, Long Island, receiving her education. She is the daughter of John D. and Wealthy A. (Smith) Buzzell, both natives of Vermont. Dr. and Mrs. Hardy have two children living, Ralph H. and Adra Genevieve. The former is married, and is engaged in business in Kaneville. The latter is a student of the Kaneville school, and has developed fine musical talent. One daughter, Mabel Le Rue, died in 1877, at the age of four and a half years.

In the spring of 1871, Dr. Hardy came to Illinois and located at Elgin, where the parents of Mrs. Hardy had previously settled. During the summer following, Dr. Hardy engaged in the practice of his profession at Elgin, but in the fall of that year moved to Dorchester, Saline county, Nebraska, but only remained there during the winter, returning to Elgin in the spring of 1872, and there engaging in practice about eighteen months, and, in the fall of 1873, removing to and making a permanent location at Kaneville. Here he has since been actively engaged in the practice of his

profession, a period of twenty-five years. His practice is a large one, extending for many miles around. His success as a physician has been such as to commend him to the entire community. He is a member of the Fox River Valley Medical Association, the Chicago Medical Association, the Illinois State Medical Association and the American Medical Association, in each of which he has been somewhat active, preparing various papers, and taking part in the discussions. He keeps fully abreast of the times and well posted in all the medical discoveries, and while, naturally conservative, does not hesitate to adopt that which accords with his judgment.

The father of Mrs. Hardy, John D. Buzzell, came west with his family in 1870, locating in Elgin, Illinois, where he lived a retired life, and there spent his last years, dying in 1874. After his death, Mrs. Buzzell moved to Kaneville, making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Hardy, where her death occurred in 1881. They were both highly honored and respected people.

Politically Dr. Hardy is a staunch Republican, and in 1860, cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln. From that time to the present, he has advocated the men and measures of that party, and has cast his vote for each of its presidential candidates. A friend of education and the public schools, he has served several years as a member of the school board of Kaneville, and is at present one of the board. Religiously the Doctor and wife are members of the Congregational church at Elgin, and attend the Methodist Episcopal church at Kaneville, and for eleven years the Doctor served as superintendent of its Sunday-school, and was also leader of the choir, while Mrs. Hardy was organist for

some years. Their son, Ralph H., is now leader of the choir of the Methodist Episcopal church. Fraternally the Doctor is a Master Mason, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the examining physician for the camp at Kaneville. He is also a member of the Aurora post, Grand Army of the Republic. Few men are better known in Kane county, and none more highly honored than the subject of this sketch.

**D**ANIEL J. FELLOWS, one of the enterprising and progressive business men of St. Charles, dates his residence in Kane county from November, 1839, and is there justly numbered among its pioneers as well as its representative and prominent citizens. The Fellows family is of English origin and was founded in the United States at a very early day, its representatives locating in New York, of which state our subject's grandfather was a native.

His father, Stephen Fellows, was also born in New York, and when a child of five years lost his father. In Genesee county, that state, he grew to manhood and married Sabra Stephens, who was born in New York, of German lineage. In 1835 they removed to Cuyahoga county, Ohio, where our subject was born March 16, 1836, but after a residence there of one year they returned to New York. In November, 1839, however, they came to Kane county, Illinois, where the father purchased a claim of three hundred acres. He later entered the land and converted it into a fine farm, continuing to make it his home until called to his final rest in 1875, at the age of eighty-one years. He was one of the charter members of the Baptist church of St. Charles,



which he helped to organize, and always took an active and prominent part in all church work. His wife survived him for five years, and they now lie side by side in the Garfield cemetery near the old homestead.

To this worthy couple were born five sons and seven daughters, of whom three sons and six daughters are still living. Lucinda was the wife of Joseph Allard, a resident of Iowa. Hiram has been a resident of Oregon since 1847, having driven across the plains with two yoke of oxen and being six months *en route*. Darius died in Utah. Mary, deceased, was the wife of Martin Johnson, of Janesville, Wisconsin. Laura is the widow of A. L. Wheeler and is a resident of St. Charles. Alexander is deceased. Daniel J. is next in order of birth. Stephen A. lives in Ogle county, Illinois. Caroline is the wife of John M. Kendall, of Vandalia, Illinois. Lydia is the wife of James Earnshaw, of Olwein, Iowa. Sarah is the wife of H. M. Wing, of Olwein, Iowa. Jerome Lawrence also makes his home in the same town in Iowa.

Daniel J. Fellows was only a child of three years when brought by his parents to this state, and upon the old homestead in Kane county he grew to manhood, attending the local schools and aiding in the work of clearing and developing the home farm.

After reaching man's estate he rented a farm and began life for himself. In this county he was married in March, 1858, to Miss Serepta Madison, a native of New York State, and a daughter of Dyer Madison, another pioneer of Kane county, who brought his family here when Mrs. Fellows was a child of twelve years.

After his marriage, Mr. Fellows continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until

1865, when he rented his farm, and since November of that year has lived at his present home in St. Charles. For about five years he engaged in pressing hay and handling stock and grain, and, later, in connection with the stock business, he was interested in general merchandising for about three years. On the 3d of June, 1874, he started for California with three car loads of sheep, which he disposed of in San Francisco, the venture proving quite profitable, and the money derived therefrom he invested in half a block on Forty-eighth street, Chicago. After four months spent upon the Pacific slope he returned to St. Charles, and again engaged in the stock and grain business until 1887. That year he and his family went to California by way of the Southern Pacific railroad, and from the southern part of that state proceeded to San Francisco, and, later, to Oregon, visiting his brother, who had left his old home in Kane county just forty years before. This pleasant trip occupied five months. Since his return, Mr. Fellows has given his attention principally to the real-estate business, handling Chicago and farm property.

Our subject's first wife died November 11, 1870, leaving three children. Sabra Ellen married Fred Moore and removed to Kansas, where she died, leaving three children. Elmer, who is now interested in the stock and grain business in St. Charles, is married and has six children. Harry, also of St. Charles, is married and has three children. In Marengo, Illinois, December 25, 1872, Mr. Fellows married Helen M. Beam, a native of Kane county, and a daughter of James Beam, an early settler and pioneer teacher of this region. This wife died March 5, 1889. Two children blessed this union: Willis Daniel, a resi-

dent of St. Charles; and Bessie L., a graduate of the East Side High School, now living at home. On the 25th of September, 1889, in St. Charles, Mr. Fellows was united in marriage with Eliza H. Dailey, who was born, reared and educated in Nova Scotia, and is a daughter of James S. Dailey, also a native of Nova Scotia. By the last marriage there are three children, namely: Howard M., Stephen L. and Laura Elva.

Mr. Fellows cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and was an ardent supporter of the Republican party for many years, but for the past eight years he has been identified with the Prohibition party. He has never cared for political honors, preferring to give his entire time and attention to his business interests. Earnest and consistent Christian people, he and his wife are faithful members of the Baptist church, with which he has long been officially connected, and is now serving as deacon. Almost his entire life has been passed in Kane county, and that those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends testifies to a well-spent life and honorable career.

---

JACOB D. RICKERT, the well-known engineer at the Elgin Watch Factory, of Elgin, Illinois, and one of the honored early settlers of that place, is a native of Pennsylvania, born May 25, 1838, in Schuylkill county, of which his parents, Joseph and Elizabeth (Diebert) Rickert, were also natives. Both were of German descent and were representatives of old Pennsylvania families. Joseph Rickert, who was a farmer by occupation, brought his family to Illinois about 1848, and first located in Geneva, Kane county, where he worked at his

chosen calling for about six years. He then removed to Elmhurst, Du Page county, twelve years later went to Bloomingdale, Illinois, and, after fifteen years spent at that place, removed to Wheaton, where he lived for three years, at the end of which time he located in Naperville, all in Du Page county. At the last named place he died in 1878, and his wife passed away at the home of her son, Daniel, in Aurora, in 1889. They were earnest members of the German Evangelical church, and in politics the father was first a Whig and later a Republican. In the family of this worthy couple were seven children, four of whom are still living, namely: Esther, the wife of Samuel Kline; Sarah, wife of Walter L. Good; Daniel, a resident of Aurora; and Jacob D., of this sketch.

Until attaining his majority our subject remained with his parents, and in the schools of Geneva, Illinois, he began his education, the family having removed to that place when he was about eight years of age. The district schools afforded him the only opportunity he had for obtaining an education. Mr. Rickert manifested his patriotism by enlisting at St. Charles, Kane county, September 16, 1861, in Company D, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, and was in all the engagements of his regiment until after the battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1863. While on a foraging expedition in charge of Quartermaster Chamberlain, he and his comrades met a regiment of Confederate soldiers, who made them prisoners. For about a month he was confined in Libby prison and was then paroled under the condition that they would fight no more. They were ordered to Washington, District of Columbia, where there was a large number of paroled prisoners, more than could be pro-

vided for, and Mr. Rickert was among those discharged by order of the Secretary of War.

Since his return from the war, Mr. Rickert has been employed as a stationary engineer, and in that capacity has been with the Elgin Watch Factory since January 8, 1867, almost a third of a century. His long continuance in their service plainly indicates the confidence and trust the company repose in him.

On the 6th of January, 1864, Mr. Rickert was united in marriage with Miss Harriet A. Smith, a native of Bloomingdale, Du Page county, Illinois, and a daughter of Alvin and Mrs. (Walker) Smith, who were among the early settlers of that place, where the mother died. The father, who was a native of Vermont and a farmer by occupation, departed this life while living in Elgin. Mr. and Mrs. Rickert have four children: Charles A., an employe in the Elgin Watch Factory, wedded Mary Johnson, of Carpentersville, and has one child, Gale; Judson D. married Frances Barber and is employed in the finishing department of the watch factory; Lillian, who is also connected with the factory, resides at home; and Nellie E. expects to graduate from the Michigan University at Ann Arbor in the spring of 1898. The family have a very pleasant home at No. 274 Grove avenue, which was erected by Mr. Rickert, and which is the abode of hospitality and good cheer.

Politically, he is an ardent Republican, and, socially, he is an active and prominent member of the Grand Army Post, No. 49, of Elgin, and he also belongs to the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Loyal Legion. He is a man of domestic tastes and industrious habits, and commands the

confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life. Mrs. Rickert is an earnest member of the Congregational church and a most estimable lady.

JOHN H. SCOTT, who is now living a retired life in Aurora, has been a resident of Kane county since 1838. He is a native of Oneida county, New York, born October 26, 1834. His father, John Scott, was a native of County Derry, Ireland, born about 1804, came with his parents to the New World, when a lad of eleven years. They settled in Oneida county, New York, where he grew to manhood, married Mary Atkinson, a native of Leeds, England, and who came to America with her father, Francis Atkinson, when a child of nine years. John Scott was a wagon maker by trade, and followed that occupation in connection with carpentering in early life. In 1837, he moved to Chicago, then a town of about three thousand people, and for a year was an overseer on the Illinois & Michigan canal. In 1838 he came to Kane county, and spent the winter of 1838-9 in the village of St. Charles. In the spring of 1839, he took up a claim of some four hundred acres in Virgil township. The Indian tent-poles were still on the place, and also the tent-poles of the soldiers under General Scott, who removed the Indians from this vicinity.

After locating upon the farm, John Scott commenced its improvement, and at the same time did a great deal of carpenter work in Kane and adjoining counties, up to within a short distance of Chicago. He built three good houses on his claim, and, in 1856, engaged in merchandising at Black-



berry Station, now Elburn. He remained there for two years, then returned to his farm, but later sold it and removed to Sycamore, De Kalb county, built a residence, and there engaged in business for a time, then returned to farm life, and still later located in Elburn, where he remained about a year. He then went to St. Charles, where he died at the residence of his son, William, in 1880. His wife passed away about two years later. He was quite a prominent man in the early days of Kane county, and was one of the last county commissioners prior to the adoption of the township organization law. For several years he served as justice of the peace, and was one of the most active and enterprising citizens of this county.

John H. Scott, our subject, came to the state a lad of three years, and was but four years old when he came to Kane county. In the primitive schools of the early days, he obtained his primary education, and later attended the St. Charles High School and the Elgin Academy. He remained upon the home farm until after attaining his majority, and with his father was engaged in the mercantile trade at Blackberry Station. In 1858 he purchased his father's interest in the store, which he continued for one year, then exchanged it for a farm in Kaneville township.

On the 22nd of November, 1858, in Ogle county, Illinois, he married Miss Martha J. Ostrander, a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania, where she was reared and educated, and, for a time previous to her marriage, engaged in teaching in the public schools. By this union two children were born, who grew to maturity, the eldest, Lillian Lizzie, being now the wife of F. G. Hanchett, a prominent attorney of Aurora.

The other, R. B. Scott, is also a lawyer of prominence in Aurora. He married Alice M. Downing, a daughter of W. H. Downing, of Aurora.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott began their domestic life in the town of Blackberry, but, in 1859 moved to the farm in Kaneville township, which was a tract of one hundred and forty acres of improved land. He at once began the cultivation of the farm, and engaged in general farming and stockraising for about seven years, when he sold the farm and January 1, 1867, moved to Kaneville, and for a time was clerk in the employ of B. A. Coy, and later with B. A. Coy & J. W. Prichard. After being in the firm for a time, he purchased the interest of the firm, and continued the business until 1888, and meeting with gratifying success. During this time he invested his surplus means in two farms, one near Kaneville, consisting of one hundred and sixty-one acres, well-improved, and a place of four hundred acres in Blackberry township, which was also well improved.

In his political views, Mr. Scott is a Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for John C. Fremont, in 1856. He has cast his presidential ballot for the nominee of that party at every election from that time to the present, save in 1896, when he was prevented from voting by an accident, which confined him to the house. By his fellow citizens he has been honored with various local offices, including that of township treasurer, in which he served several years, justice of the peace for eight years, and also assessor for several years. A friend of education, he served for years as a member of the school board, and for some sixteen years was postmaster at Kaneville. In many of



the conventions of his party, county, congressional and state, he served as a delegate. Faithful in all things, he discharged every duty in a satisfactory manner.

Mr. Scott lost his wife July 5, 1896, and she was laid to rest in Spring Lake cemetery. She was for many years a consistent member of the Methodist church, and died in the faith. For more than forty years, Mr. Scott has also been a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he has taken an active part, and where his influence for good has been felt by many persons. In 1896 he moved to Aurora, where he has since lived a retired life, enjoying the fruits of the years gone by, honored and respected by all. In the sixty-four years of his residence in Kane county, he has made many friends throughout its length and breadth, and has been no inconsiderable factor in its development.

---

JOHN TYERS, of Aurora, Illinois, has been a resident of the city since 1854, during which time he has been actively engaged either in contracting and building, or as one of the trusted employees of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. He was born in Peakirk, Northamptonshire, England, December 4, 1831, and is the son of Matthew and Mary (Lewin) Tyers, both of whom were natives of the same shire, the father being engaged for many years in the mercantile business at Peakirk. The maternal grandfather, James Lewin, also a native of Northamptonshire, was a man of superior education, and a professional teacher, and for thirty years was employed in one school.

John Tyers is one of a family of four sons and one daughter, all of whom grew

to mature years, save one son. Edward was a well-educated man, a teacher in England, where his death occurred. James grew to manhood in England, came to the United States and settled at Oswego, Illinois, and there married. He was a miller by trade, and for a number of years was engaged in the milling business at Oswego, later removed west to Sioux Rapids, Iowa, where he purchased a mill and there carried on business for a few years, then returned to Oswego, Illinois, but is now traveling with his wife in the south. Alice, widow of Mark Vickers, now resides in the city of London. John is the subject of this sketch. William, a miller by trade, is now living retired at West Brighton, near Rochester, New York. In his native country, John Tyers grew to manhood and received good common-school advantages. In early life he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. In company with his brother William he emigrated to America in 1852, and joined his older brother at Vienna, now called Phelps, New York, and went to work at his trade. He there remained two years, about half of which time he was a partner in a sash and blind factory. In 1854 he came to Aurora, where he worked for a time at his trade as a journeyman, and then commenced contracting and building. Later he went into the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and was employed in the construction of buildings and depots. After the Chicago fire, he was sent to that city by the company, and there worked for a time. Previous to his entering the employ of the company, he assisted in the erection of a school-house at Plano, and the Methodist Episcopal church at Sandwich.

Mr. Tyers was united in marriage at Aurora, December 25, 1858, with Miss Sophia Corlett, a native of New York, born near Utica, and a daughter of Thomas Corlett. There are two children by this union, the oldest, Mary E., now being the wife of Lester Barker, a prominent business man of Sandwich. The youngest, William J., is married and is the present city attorney of Aurora. Since leaving the railroad company, Mr. Tyers has worked at his trade, and in contracting and building. Many of the public and private buildings of Aurora show the architectural skill and handiwork of our subject. Since locating in Aurora, as a permanent investment, Mr. Tyers has taken stock in the Burlington road. Politically he is a Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for Abraham Lincoln and his last for William McKinley. He is a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife is also a member, and both are active in church and benevolent work. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason. Mrs. Tyers is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps of Aurora. In the forty-four years of his residence here, Mr. Tyers has witnessed many changes, and in the great transformation that has taken place he has been an active factor. No man in Aurora stands higher in the estimation of the people.

**H**ON. TIMOTHY N. HOLDEN, mayor of Aurora, and a representative of one of its pioneer families, was born in North Charlestown, New Hampshire, March 21, 1839, and is the son of Richard and Sophia (Allen) Holden. Richard Holden was the son of Timothy Holden, a native of New Hampshire, of English ancestry, who was

by occupation a farmer, and served in the Revolutionary war.

Richard Holden was born in Charlestown, New Hampshire, in 1809, and, after arriving at mature years, engaged in the mercantile business in that city. He came west in 1853 with his family and located in Rockton, Winnebago county, Illinois, and there remained until the spring of 1858, when he came to Aurora, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying in his eighty-fifth year. He was originally an Old-line Whig, and, later, a Republican. Sophia, his wife, was the daughter of Nathan and Deborah (Farwell) Allen, all of whom were natives of New Hampshire. She died in Chicago in her eighty-fourth year. They were the parents of four children—James L., living in Chicago; John G., who died in 1895; Timothy N., our subject; and Mary E., living in Aurora.

Mr. Holden began his education in the public schools of Charlestown, New Hampshire, and was fourteen years of age when the family left for the west. He finished his education in the schools of Rockton. When nineteen years of age he went to Chicago and entered the employ of Fuller & Fuller, who are in the drug trade, with whom he remained eleven years. He then engaged in business for himself, in the wholesale glassware trade, on South Water street, Chicago, and was in that business at the time of the great fire in 1871, when he was burned out with the rest. Losing everything, he came to Aurora, and soon after found employment with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, and was with them seven years. He then went into the hardware business, as the junior member of the firm of Kendall & Holden, and that partnership continued for



T. N. HOLDEN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



fifteen years, when he sold out to his partner. In 1895 he took up the real-estate, insurance and loan business, his offices being in the Coulter building.

Mr. Holden was united in marriage, September 17, 1868, to Marian Howell, daughter of Dr. O. D. and Cornelia (Moore) Howell. She was born in Moresville, Delaware county, New York, where her mother was also born, while her father was a native of the same county. They settled in Aurora in 1855, where he continued his practice. Both he and his wife are deceased. They had six children, two of whom are now living—Marian, and Annie the latter being the wife of Judge F. M. Annis, of Aurora. To Mr. and Mrs. Holden, two sons have been born—Frank H., and Ben E., who are now in Paris, where they have been for three years, engaged in study. They completed their preliminary education at Aurora, then graduated at the Chicago Manual Training School, then attended the Institute of Technology in Boston, three years, and are now at the Beauxarts, in Paris, and will finish the course in the fall of 1898. In that school are many young Americans, and all of prominent American families. This will be a splendid schooling for these young men, and when they return they will be richly and well endowed for life's journey.

Mr. and Mrs. Holden are members of the People's church, in Aurora, and in politics he is a Republican, casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He has held various positions of honor and trust, and for eighteen years was a member of the board of education. For fifteen years, he was a member of the board of supervisors of Kane county, and was chairman of the board for eight consecutive

years. In the spring of 1897, he was elected mayor of Aurora, and has made a popular and efficient officer, ever looking towards the best interests of Aurora. He has always taken an active part in the politics of the county, and has been a prominent factor in its growth and development. Socially he is a charter member of the City Club, and has been its president. He is a man of pleasing address, of social characteristics and highly esteemed.

A H. LOWRIE is one of the most influential citizens of Elgin, a conspicuous figure in the business and public life of the city, exerting a strong influence in support of all progressive measures for the public good. A man of splendid intellectual endowment, broad minded and viewing with comprehensive glance the needs of the community, he advocates all that tends to the general welfare, and is accounted one of the valued residents of Elgin.

Born in Berwickshire, Scotland, October 29, 1836, our subject is a son of David and Margaret (Selby) Lowrie, also natives of Scotland. The grandfather, David Lowrie, was an only child. For some years he was connected with the military service of his country, and after the battle of Copenhagen, in which he participated, he was retired on half pay. He taught sword exercises after leaving the army and was a respected member of the community in which he made his home. The maternal grandfather of our subject was a farmer and died in Scotland in middle life. In 1842, David Lowrie, Jr., emigrated to America with his family, locating in Cleveland, Ohio, where he died in March, 1843, at the age of sixty-one years. His wife passed away in 1863 when more

than sixty years of age. Both were members of the Methodist church, and he was a Free Soiler and strong anti-slavery man. Their family numbered ten children, seven sons and three daughters, of whom seven are now living.

Mr. Lowrie, whose name begins this review, was a child of six years when he came with his parents to America. He went all through the Cleveland schools and after his graduation in the high school of that city became a student in Adrian College, Michigan. Later he matriculated in the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, but returned in the senior year to the Adrian college, and was graduated on the completion of the classical course. He received the degree of Ph. D. in the University of Florida, and afterward lectured in Florida and other states on literary and economic topics, being one of the popular orators of the south. On his graduation in the Michigan college with the degrees of A. B. and A. M., he was offered and accepted a tutorship in that institution, but after a short time he left it to take charge of a school in Cleveland, where he remained two years.

Resigning from that position Mr. Lowrie accepted the superintendency of the schools of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and after three years spent in charge of the educational interests of that city accepted a similar position in Marion, but resigned in order to become professor of English literature and political science in Adrian College. For fifteen years he was a member of the faculty of that institution and was regarded as one of the most able, efficient and earnest educators in the state. For three years he was senior proprietor of "The Times and Expositor," of Adrian, then the most influential paper in southern Michigan. In 1882 he came to

Elgin and purchased the "Advocate," a weekly journal, and the following year, by purchase, became proprietor of the "Daily News." In 1886 he associated with him W. L. Black in the publication of these journals, which they have since maintained in a foremost place among the newspapers of the state. The papers are published in the interest of the Republican party, and are excellent specimens of the highest art in journalism. Mr. Lowrie was one of the founders of the Inland Daily Press Association and from the beginning has been one of its officers and active members. He has always avoided public office, but under President Harrison served as consul to Freiburg, Germany, and was an able representative of the American interests there.

Mr. Lowrie was married September 11, 1859, to Miss Mattie B., daughter of Henry and Oraline (Waldo) Pease. Mrs. Pease was a direct descendant of Peter Waldo, who came to this country in the Mayflower, and her grandfather served in the Revolutionary war under Ethan Allen. Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie have three living children. Harry R., the eldest, now on the editorial staff of the "Chicago Times-Herald," is a graduate of Adrian College, and pursued a post-graduate course in the Yale University. Will L. was graduated at Adrian College, and afterward attended the university at Leipsic, Germany. He is now the real-estate editor on the "Chicago Tribune." Alfred Richard, now a student in Yale University, spent one year in Germany, studying the language, which he speaks very fluently. In addition to excellent school privileges, the sons have all had the advantages which only travel can bring. The two elder sons have twice visited Europe, and during his year's stay abroad the youngest

son made a cycle trip from Freiburg, Germany, to Geneva, Switzerland, and all along the banks of the classic Rhine. Mr. and Mrs. Lowrie hold membership in the Congregational church, and their home is the center of a cultured society circle.

**ROBERT ALFRED WINDETT**, physician and surgeon, No. 23 South River street, Aurora, Illinois, was born in Kendall county, Illinois, October 5, 1860, and is the son of Alfred and Electa A. (Ford) Windett, the former a native of England, and the latter of New York. John Windett, the paternal grandfather, also a native of England, was for some years a soldier in the English army. He had a family of six children, of whom Arthur, an attorney in Chicago, and Walter, a farmer in Kansas, are still living. He came to America with his family in 1836 and located in Kendall county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. His death occurred there, at the age of fifty-four years, the result of an accident caused by a horse stepping on his foot. His wife, Elizabeth Windett, survived him some years, dying in 1885, at the age of eighty-four years, her death hastened by a fall in which her hips were broken.

Alfred Windett, the father, was a lad of eleven years when he came with his parents to Kendall county, Illinois. At that time there were many Indians in this vicinity, and he became acquainted with Blackhawk and other noted red men. His marriage with Electa A. Ford took place in Kendall county, where she came with her parents about 1857. She was one of a family of seven children, of whom four are yet living: Frank; Edgar; Amy, widow of William Cox; and Electa A., the mother of our subject.

The deceased are: Martin, an engineer on the Union Pacific railway, running one of the first engines out of Fort Laramie, was shot, and carried an arrow-head in his body for eighteen years, finally dying from the effects of the wound; Washington, a physician and surgeon, and professor of genito-urinary diseases in the Kansas City Medical College, died in 1886; another died in childhood from diphtheria. The mother of these children is yet living in Missouri, and has passed her four-score years. Alfred and Electa A. Windett were the parents of three children, of whom our subject is the oldest. The others are John F., a farmer of Kendall county, Illinois, and James, a farmer of Kane county. The father died in 1889, at the age of sixty-four years. He was for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and an officer in the same. The mother is yet living in Kendall county, Illinois, at the age of sixty-seven years.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native county and received his literary education in the Sugar Grove Industrial School, and in Jennings Seminary, Aurora. After pursuing the prescribed course at Rush Medical College, he was graduated from it in the class of 1887, and at once commenced the practice of his profession in Aurora, where he has since continued to reside. In the eleven years in which he has been professionally engaged, he has built up a large and successful practice, and is recognized as one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Kane county. He has been connected with the Aurora City Hospital since locating here, and is now vice-president of the board of trustees. He is a member of the Aurora Medical Society, the Fox River Valley Medical Society and of the State Medical Association. In



the first named he holds the office of president.

On the 12th of February, 1885, Dr. Windett was united in marriage with Miss Evelyn S. West, daughter of Elijah West, of Chicago. They reside in a pleasant home at No. 96 Oak avenue, where they delight to entertain their many friends. Fraternally Dr. Windett is a member of the Masonic order, blue lodge and chapter, the Sons of St. George, Knights of the Globe, and Modern Woodmen of America, in which latter order he is examining physician for the local camp.\* In all national and state elections he affiliates with the Republican party, but in local elections he votes for men rather than party.

**J**OHAN D. RANDALL, now living a retired life in Aurora, has been a resident of Kane county, since June, 1843. He traces his ancestry back to John Randall, who came from England in 1630, locating in Connecticut, where some of the family have always remained. The great-grandfather of our subject was also named John Randall. His son, Col. William Randall, was in command of a regiment, during the war of 1812, and at Stonington, defended the town and beat off the British. His son, Jedediah Randall, was born in Stonington, New London county, Connecticut, and was the father of our subject. Jedediah Randall married Philura Peckham, of North Stonington, and a daughter of 'Squire Thomas Peckham of that place. After their marriage they remained for some years in Connecticut, and in 1843, came to Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased a partially improved farm, of one hundred and twenty acres, in

Sugar Grove township. After further improving the place, some eight years later he sold and moved to Aurora, but died on a farm near that city in 1860, at the age of sixty years.

Jedediah and Philura Randall were the parents of seven children, whogrew to manhood and womanhood—John, our subject; Russell, now in the real-estate business in Georgia; James, for some years an active business man at Batavia and Aurora, was killed by an accident in his stone quarry; Mary A., married Peleg Winslow, and they located in Hinckley, where she died; Dudley was a printer by trade, and died in St. Louis; Cyrus was a soldier in the war for the union, and died in Andersonville prison; and Roswell, who died at the age of eight years.

John D. Randall was born in the town of Stonington, New London county, Connecticut, August 9, 1823, and his boyhood and youth were spent in his native state, where he was reared to farm life, and in its common schools procured a fair education. He was twenty years old when the family came to Kane county, and for several years remained with his father assisting him in farm work. In 1851, he purchased two tracts of government land, lying near Waterman, Illinois, each containing one hundred and sixty acres. He located upon one quarter, and commenced its improvement, and there resided for three years. Renting that farm, he built a residence and moved to the other tract. In 1855 he sold out and returned to Kane county, buying residence property in Aurora. In the fall of the same year he sold his residence property and purchased a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, lying near the city, to which he removed and there engaged in farming



for some years. He later sold one-half of the farm and yet retains one hundred and sixty acres, just outside the city limits, and which is a well improved and valuable farm.

In 1851 Mr. Randall was married, in Kane county, to Maria L. Barnes, a native of New York, born in the town of Alexander, Jefferson county, where she remained until the age of fifteen years, when she came with her father, Ira Barnes, to Kane county. This was in 1845, her father being numbered among the early settlers of Sugar Grove township. By this union were three children. Frank grew to mature years. He was a natural mechanic, and invented a corn harvester, which he later sold to William Deering, of Chicago. He died in 1882, leaving a wife and three children. Martha grew to womanhood and married Oscar E. Marlette, a farmer of Kane county. Lew Wallace is married and carries on the home farm.

In 1888 Mr. Randall purchased a lot at No. 18 North Chestnut street, where he built a neat residence, and where he has since continued to reside. He has always been an active and enterprising man, and in 1884 was elected highway commissioner of Aurora township, and served three years, during which time the roads through the township were graveled, and the New York street and North avenue bridges were built, important and much needed improvements. While residing in Waterman, he was elected and served two years as assessor, and was also justice of the peace for two years, resigning the latter office when he returned to Kane county. He was also township trustee a number of years, and assisted in the organization of the school districts of his township. Being a firm believer in prohi-

bition, for some years he has been identified with the Prohibition party, but formerly was a Republican. When he came to Kane county, there was not a railroad anywhere in the vicinity, and the country was but little better than a wilderness. He has lived to see it thickly populated, having within its borders many thriving towns, while its farms are the most productive in the country.

---

WILLARD CARYL TORREY, who is superintendent of two departments in the Elgin Watch Factory, is a native of Rockland, Maine, born February 25, 1855. He is a son of Joseph Grafton and Nancy (Caryl) Torrey, the former a native of Hanson, Massachusetts, and the latter of Stockbridge, Vermont. The father was a son of Joseph Torrey, a native of Massachusetts, who died in middle life. He was a minister in the Baptist church. His children were Joseph G., George L., Francis B. and Almira L. Of these, George L. is living in Kennebunkport, Maine; Francis B., in Bath, Maine; and Almira L., the widow of Zopher Sturtevant, in Lowell, Massachusetts.

Joseph G. Torrey was reared in his native state, and in early manhood went to learn the founder's trade, which he followed through life. His death occurred at Rockland, Maine, February 28, 1894. He was a life-long member of the Congregational church, and for many years served as a deacon. In politics he was a Republican. His wife is yet living in Rockland, Maine, and is a worthy member of the Congregational church at that place. They were the parents of six children: Helen Maria, deceased; George Everett; Mary Frances died in infancy; Willard C.; Olive Bird died

in childhood; and Arthur Lawrence. Of these, George is living in Rockland, Maine, and our subject and Arthur L. in Elgin.

The ancestry of Willard Caryl Torrey can be traced back for many generations. He is a grandson of John Caryl and Lucy (Clark) Caryl, the great-grandson of William and Sarah (Barron) Clark, and the great-great-grandson of Captain Peter and Hannah (Eppes) Clark. Captain Peter Clark removed from Braintree, Massachusetts, to Lyndeboro, New Hampshire, in 1775. Soon after arriving there he joined the Continental army, and was commissioned captain in the Ninth Regiment, New Hampshire Militia. He was engaged in the battle of Bennington, commanding a company of sixty men, and in that battle displayed great bravery, being the second to scale the British breastworks. He also took part in the defeat of General Burgoyne, at Saratoga, in 1777.

On the Caryl line our subject is the great-grandson of Dr. John and Eunice (Willard) Caryl, the Doctor being a surgeon in the Revolutionary army. Being the grandson of Joseph and Elmira (Little) Torrey, he is the great-grandson of George Little, the great-great-grandson of Lemuel and Penelope (Eames) Little, the great-great-great-grandson of John and Constant (Fobes) Little, the great-great-great-great-grandson of Lieutenant William Fobes, who was a brother-in-law of Captain Benjamin Church and second to him in command during King Philip's war.

On the Little line Mr. Torrey traces his ancestry to Thomas Little, who came from Devonshire, England, in 1630. He was a lawyer by profession. He married Ann Warren in 1633. Their third son was Ephraim Little, who married Mary Sturdevant.

He died in 1717. His son, John Little, married Constant Fobes, above mentioned, through whom the line continued as already given. Captain George Little, the grandson of John Little, was made an admiral in 1799. He had served in the Revolutionary war.

Another line through which our subject traces his ancestry is that of Richard Warren, who came over in the Mayflower. He was the father of Ann Warren, who married Thomas Little, and Mr. Torrey is therefore his great - great - great - great - great - great-grandson. It will thus be seen that the genealogical record of our subject is a good one, of which he may well be proud. Patriots every one as far as known, they are well represented in the history of our country.

The early life of Willard Caryl Torrey was spent in Rockland, Maine, where he attended the public schools. Later he entered the polytechnic institute at Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was graduated in 1877. He then spent two years at Bath, Maine, as superintendent of the Torrey Roller Bushing works, owned by his uncle, Francis B. Torrey. At the end of that time he started west, stopping at Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he remained six months. He then came to Elgin and entered the machine shop of the Elgin Watch factory, where he was employed some fifteen months. Returning east, he located at Fredonia, New York, and took charge of the tool works of the watch factory there. He only remained at Fredonia, however, six months, and in 1882 again came to Elgin, and entered the watch factory there as foreman of the stem-winding department. Later that department was consolidated with the screw department, and Mr. Torrey was given charge

of both. He now has the supervision of about two hundred hands.

Mr. Torrey was united in marriage at Fredonia, September 2, 1884, with Miss Ruth S. Wilson, daughter of Henry and Almeda (Steele) Wilson, natives of New York. Henry Wilson was a son of Lyman Wilson. His wife was the daughter of Oliver Wolcott Steele, also a native of New York. She is still living in Fredonia, that state, where her husband died September 8, 1876. They were the parents of three children: Addie E., wife of Frank C. Wilson, of Elgin; Elizabeth C., who resides in Fredonia, New York; and Ruth S., our subject's wife. The mother, who is a daughter of Sally Potter, is a member of the Presbyterian church. The Steeles are related to Governor Oliver Wolcott, of Massachusetts.

To Mr. and Mrs. Torrey two children have been born: Marion Goulding and George Arthur.

Mr. and Mrs. Torrey reside in a pleasant home on Watch street, which is ever open for the reception of their many friends. Politically Mr. Torrey is a Republican. Religiously Mrs. Torrey is a member of the Congregational church. Both are highly respected by all who know them.

**PIERCE TYRRELL, M. D.**—Among those who devote their time and energies to the practice of medicine and have gained a leading place in the ranks of the profession is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is now one of the most expert physicians and diagnosticians of Elgin, and his office is located at No. 209 Chicago street.

The Doctor was born in Bullyduggan,

parish of Mullinahone, county Tipperary, Ireland, in August, 1832, a son of William and Bridget (Frisby) Tyrrell, also natives of the Emerald Isle. Of their eight children, six sons and two daughters, only two are now living—Pierce, and David, who is a resident of Rutland, Illinois. The paternal grandparents, Patrick and Johanna (Tobin) Tyrrell, spent their entire lives in Ireland, where the grandfather followed farming, and there both died at advanced ages, the former being ninety-six and the latter ninety-seven at the time of their deaths. The grandmother Frisby was ninety-three years old at the time of her death. When past the age of four score years the grandfather was still very vigorous and active.

John Frisby, the Doctor's maternal grandfather, was educated for the priesthood, but was never ordained, and later became a farmer. He died when about sixty years of age. His people were large and a very warlike race. His son, William Frisby, was six feet two inches in height, measured fifty-two inches around the chest, and although he weighed two hundred and twenty-five pounds, he was an athlete and was very active, able to jump over four horses when placed side by side and into the saddle without touching a stirrup. He possessed a most wonderful constitution, which was plainly demonstrated at the time of his death. He had fallen sixty feet and broken his neck, and although he could not speak he lived nine days. One son of the Frisby family, David, was tried for treason. Both the Tyrrell and Frisby families and connection were instrumental in putting down the collection of tithes in the parish of Mullinahone, county Tipperary.

In his native land William Tyrrell, the Doctor's father, followed the occupation of



farming. In 1847 he crossed the Atlantic with the intention of making a permanent home in America, and only six hours after his arrival at the city of New York went before a notary public and declared his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, as did his brother Pierce. He died, however, on Lake Erie, while en route to Illinois, at the age of forty-nine years, and was buried at Cleveland, Ohio. His wife survived him until 1856, dying at the age of fifty-eight. Both were members of the Catholic church. The Doctor's family are not members of any Christian church. The Doctor is an outspoken agnostic and looks upon the whole thing as a confidence game of R. R. D. D. on their deluded dupes.

The Doctor's primary education was obtained in the schools of his native land. He was fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to America, and has since made his home in Kane county, Illinois, since November, 1847. He was reared on a farm, and having always been a great reader of medical works, he began studying medicine soon after his arrival here, and manufactured fluids, fluid extracts, etc., before he entered a medical school. He first read the popular medical works, also studied under the direction of Drs. Clark and Whitford, and later entered the Eclectic Medical Institute, of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he graduated with the class of 1866. He first opened an office in Gilbert's, Kane county, from there removed to Huntley, Grover township, but in 1868 located permanently in Elgin, where he had previously practiced to a limited extent. He has made a special study of renal and chronic diseases and microscopy. He has always been a believer in bacterial origin of disease and for years has been an expert

in microscopic research, and probably the first physician in Illinois to use or introduce antiseptics and germicides, having used them since 1860.

On September 14, 1868, Dr. Tyrrell married Miss Margaret Ann McGrath, a daughter of Patrick and Bridget (McGrath) McGrath, and to them have been born four children, namely: Mary Olla, born July 24, 1869; William D., February 20, 1871, who is now attending the Chicago Medical College; John Stafford, April 25, 1873; and Pierce C., November 10, 1876, all at home. The children have been provided with good educational privileges, and the family is one of prominence.

In his political affiliations the Doctor is a Republican. His skill and ability in his chosen profession is attested by the liberal patronage he enjoys, and which ranks him as one of the leading physicians of the county, having patients in several states of the Union. In social as well as professional circles he stands deservedly high, and has the respect and confidence of all who know him.

---

EDWARD P. ROBERTSON, who is engaged in the banking business at Maple Park, Illinois, is an old and well-known citizen of Kane county, one who has done much to advance its material interests. He is a native of Saratoga county, New York, born January 3, 1828, and is the son of John D. and Dorothy (Palmer) Robertson, both natives of New York state, and the parents of ten children, five of whom are yet living—Edward P., Benjamin L., James Q., Orville A., and Mary E. The parental grandfather, John A. Robertson, was also a native of New York, and a soldier in the





E. P. ROBERTSON.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

war of 1812. He lived to be about ninety years old. The great grandfather Robertson was a native of Scotland, who emigrated to the United States, in an early day, locating in New York.

The subject of this sketch was born and reared on a farm, and in the common-schools of the neighborhood received his education. In his youth he learned the shoemaker's trade with his father, commencing when eleven years old, and following that occupation until 1860. In 1851 he left his native state for Ohio, and there remained until 1856, when he came to Maple Park, Illinois, and was appointed station agent for the Northwestern railroad, and occupied that responsible position for twenty years. Leaving the employ of the railroad, he engaged in the lumber and hardware business, in which he was successfully engaged until 1891, when he sold out and embarked in the banking business, in which he has since been engaged.

On the 25th of April, 1846, Mr. Robertson was united in marriage with Miss Julia A. Esmond, a native of New York, by whom he had two sons, Charles F. and Ira E. They both served their country faithfully in the war for the union, the former giving up his life at Vicksburg, while the latter survived until after the close of the war, and died at home. Our subject has an adopted daughter, Hattie, who married Robert S. Brown, a former partner of his, and who died on the 20th of August, 1893, when about fifty years of age. They had three children: Esmond R., Letitia and Amy.

In politics Mr. Robertson is an ardent Republican, and has always manifested more or less interest in political affairs. In 1857 he was elected justice of the peace, and again in 1858, and in 1864, serving in

all, seven years. In 1879 he was elected supervisor, and served until 1888. In the village he has held all the important offices, and has ever shown an interest in the material welfare of the place. No improvement has ever been suggested but has met with his unqualified support, and he is therefore regarded as one of the most enterprising of the citizens of Maple Park. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason, holding membership with the lodge at Sycamore, Illinois. He also belongs to the chapter and commandery.

Mr. Robertson is in all respects a self-made man. Through his own exertions he has attained an honorable position and marked prestige among the representative men of Kane county, and with signal consistency, it may be said that he is the architect of his own fortunes, and one whose success amply justifies the application of the somewhat hackneyed, but most expressive title "a self-made man." He has many of the elements of character which have enabled him to pass on the highway of life, many of the companions of his youth, who, at the outset of their careers, were more advantageously equipped or endowed.

**H** B. WATERHOUSE, contractor and builder, 308 Fox street, Aurora, was born in Greenport, east end of Long Island, New York, November 15, 1859, and is the son of William and Cynthia (Booth) Waterhouse, the former a native of Clinton, Connecticut, and the latter of Long Island, New York. William Waterhouse was an early settler of Long Island, where he died June 6, 1880, at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a steady-going, quiet man, a member of the Baptist church, of which body his wife was also a member. Her death oc-

curred December 1, 1881, at the age of sixty-one years. She was visiting her daughter, Mrs. Willis, in Chicago, at the time of her death, which was very sudden and unexpected. Of their family of eight children seven are living: Amelia, widow of John Terry, residing in Long Island; William H., now residing in Florida, was a soldier in the late war under General Kilpatrick, was in the battle of Gettysburg, was later taken prisoner, and was ten months in Andersonville, from which he was discharged at the close of the war; Cynthia, wife of William H. Willis, of Woodlawn, Chicago; John L., a boat builder, residing in the east end of Long Island; George B., a resident of California; H. B., our subject; and Edward, residing on Long Island.

The subject of this sketch was reared at the village of Greenport, Long Island, New York, and in its public schools he received his education. He then began working on a farm, where he remained two years, then worked in a fish factory, and in 1881 came to Aurora, Illinois, and commenced work with an uncle at the mason trade. In the past eighteen years they have done some of the principal work in many of the large buildings in Aurora and vicinity.

On the 12th of September, 1893, in Aurora, Mr. Waterhouse was united in marriage with Miss Ella Crandall, daughter of D. V. Crandall, of Aurora. By this union there is one child, William Levi. Both parents are church members, and in the work of the church they have each been very active, Mrs. Waterhouse serving as pipe organist for some years. In politics Mr. Waterhouse is a Republican. As a business man he is thoroughly reliable, and is held in high esteem by all who know him.

Delos V. Crandall, the father of Mrs.

Waterhouse, is a native of Chenango county, New York, born March 21, 1829. His parents, Samuel and Ada (Goodrich) Crandall, were also natives of the same county and state, the father being a farmer by occupation. In 1854 he came west with his family and settled in Wisconsin, but later moved to Jones county, Iowa, and subsequently to a county near Sioux City, Iowa, where his death occurred. He and his wife were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They were the parents of nine children, of whom seven are still living.

Delos V. Crandall was a teacher in the public schools until after the opening of our Civil war, when, in June, 1862, he enlisted in Company A, Twenty-sixth Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and was appointed corporal. He was later assistant surgeon in a hospital. In 1864 he was in hospital No. 1, at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was then in charge of the gangrene ward under Dr. Rice. In June, 1865, at Washington, he was honorably discharged and mustered out of the service. While in the hospital he invented the twin spiral spring, on which he secured a patent on the close of the war. Four thousand dollars worth of these springs were purchased by the city of Chicago for the fire and police departments. Soon after his discharge from the service, he moved to Chicago, and in the great fire, October 9, 1871, was burned out, losing everything that he had. His health failing him, in 1872, he moved to Aurora, and since that time has been an invalid.

Mr. Crandall was married February 1, 1854, to Miss Esther J. Kyle, also a teacher of much experience for many years. She was born July 21, 1836. They have three living children, as follows: Delos V., Jr., who at the age of sixteen began teaching



violin music, which he still continues as a profession. He married a Miss Alice Bennett, by whom he has four children—Harry, Claude, Margaret and Herbert. They reside in Joliet. Ella, now Mrs. Waterhouse, is also a teacher of the violin, and is leader of the Urso Quintet, composed of Mrs. Waterhouse, the first violinist; Miss Hila M. Verbeck, Miss Florence Daily, Mrs. Frances Condon, violins; and Miss Lottie Spring, pianist. She is also a pipe organist, and has played in both the Methodist Episcopal and Baptist churches. Alice Amelia is a graduate of the East Aurora High School of the class of '98. She resides at home. Fraternally, Mr. Crandall is a member of the G. A. R. post of Aurora.

---

ALEXANDER REID, deceased, was a descendant of an old Scotch family, who lived many generations in Wigtonshire, the southwest county of Scotland, just across from the Irish coast. William Reid, the grandfather of our subject, lived to the advanced age of ninety-seven years, while the great-grandfather lived to be one hundred and three years old. William Reid married a Miss Gordon, of the famous clan of that name. His son, John Reid, who died about 1857, a very old man, married Martha Armour, a daughter of William and Margaret Armour. Alexander Reid was the son of John and Martha (Armour) Reid. He was born in 1823 near Aken Claurie, some thirty-five miles northwest of Glasgow, Scotland. In 1833 he came to America, and settled in Kingston, Canada, where he resided for many years. While residing in Kingston, he married Miss Catherine Abbott, a native of that city, and a daughter of James and Margaret (Hamilton) Abbott,

the former a native of London, England, born November 15, 1803, and died in Canada, near Kingston, October 31, 1871. The latter was born in the North of Ireland, of Scotch-Irish parentage, and was a daughter of Robert Hamilton, a soldier of the Irish rebellion of 1798. She died at the age of ninety years. Of the children of James and Margaret Abbott, the only ones residing in the west are Mrs. Reid and Archibald Abbott, who resides in Kansas.

To Alexander Reid and wife ten children were born, nine of whom are living as follows: (1) Margaret, who married Andrew Burroughs, by whom she had three children, Harvey, Catherine and Erwin. Mr. Burroughs is now deceased, and his widow is making her home with her brother William on the old homestead. (2) John, who resides in Shawnee county, Kansas, married Amanda James, by whom he has two children, Alice and Ethel. (3) Martha, who married George Titus, by whom she had two children, Ernest and Jennie. Mr. Titus is now deceased and his widow is living in Hampshire. (4) James, a farmer in Hampshire township, of whom further mention is made in this sketch. (5) Alexander, Jr., a merchant in Hampshire, married Lovina Lovell, daughter of Charles and Sarah (Perry) Lovell. They have one child, Bernice. (6) William, who lives on the old homestead in Genoa township, De Kalb county. (7) Emma, who married Joseph Corson, a farmer of Genoa township, De Kalb county, by whom she has one child, Vernon J. (8) Alice, wife of Edgar Dittmer, of Hampshire township. She was for seven years a successful teacher in Hampshire township. (9) May, who is a teacher in the public schools of Hampshire township, and who resides with her mother.

In 1868 Mr. Reid sold his property in Canada and came west, settling in the north-east corner of De Kalb county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres, which was his home until his death in 1890. He was a man of excellent moral qualities, of sterling honesty and worth, and was for many years a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he was a Republican. In his death the community lost one of its most valuable citizens, and the family a loving husband and affectionate father. Mrs. Reid now resides in the village of Hampshire, where she is held in the highest esteem. She is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**J**AMES F. REID, who was fourth in order of birth in the family of Alexander and Catherine (Abbott) Reid, is engaged in farming on section 7, Hampshire township. He was born near Kingston, Canada, April 3, 1858, and attended school in his native country until coming west in 1868. He then attended the district schools in De Kalb county until the age of eighteen years, working during the summer seasons on the farm. He remained at home until 1883, when he began life for himself, renting the Lyons farm in Hampshire for two years. He then worked in a tile factory in Hampshire for four years, after which he rented the farm which he now occupies, for several years. On the 14th day of May, 1896, he purchased the farm, which consists of three hundred acres of well improved land, with good house and barns and fine old trees, forming a grove about the place. The farm is well drained with seven miles of tiling; and is what is known as a stock farm, Mr. Reid giving his attention principally to

the raising of stock, raising sufficient grain for his own use.

Mr. Reid was married in De Kalb county, Illinois, April 27, 1883, to Miss Ella W. Waters, a native of Lycoming county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of James V. Waters, who was born in the same county, and who married Elizabeth Carson, who died in November, 1894, at the age of fifty-six years. Mr. Waters was a miller by trade, and came to De Kalb county, Illinois, in the spring of 1869. Of his family of eleven children, Ella W. is tenth in order of birth.

To James F. and Ella W. Reid three children have been born—Lizzie, Winnie and Buelah. The first named died at the age of nine years. Fraternally, Mr. Reid is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and in politics, he is a Republican. As a farmer he is thoroughly enterprising and up to date in every respect, his farm being well supplied with all kinds of agricultural implements, and is kept in the very best order, making of it a model farm.

**P**ETER KLEIN, editor and proprietor of the "Aurora Volksfreund," of Aurora, Illinois, was born in Nusbaum, Rhenish Prussia, Germany, September 1, 1849. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kessler) Klein. His father was a native of that section, born November 2, 1811. He served in the Prussian army for a long time, and in 1862 came to the United States, locating in Chicago, and later removing to Aurora, where he died July 3, 1878. In politics he was a Republican. His wife died in the old country August 26, 1860. They were members of the Evangelical Protestant church, and their only child is the subject

of this sketch. Mrs. Klein had been previously married, and by her former husband, Fr. Niebergall, had three sons, Fred, John and Henry, all of whom are now living in Chicago.

The subject of this sketch attended school up to the time of coming to the United States. On arriving here his first employment was in a dry-goods store, where he remained five years, and he then engaged in life insurance business for a short time. In 1868 he started the "Volksfreund," at Aurora. It was then a seven-column folio, published weekly, and was Republican in politics. In June, 1895, he started the "Daily Volksfreund," a four-page paper. The weekly has been increased in size to an eight-page sheet. In connection with the paper Mr. Klein has a large and complete job office, and does all kinds of commercial and job printing. The "Volksfreund" is one of the oldest German papers in the State, and both editions have a large circulation. It is a wide-awake sheet and is engaged in building up the best interests of Aurora and in advocacy of the principles of the Republican party.

Mr. Klein was married in February, 1876, to Miss Harriet Wilson, daughter of Ulmer and Sarah (Russ) Wilson. She is a native of Belfast, Maine. Her parents were old settlers of Maine, of English and German ancestry. The Russes came from England in 1634. Ulmer Russ, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Kline, took an important part in the Revolutionary war. Mr. and Mrs. Klein are the parents of two children, Ulmer and Clio Kessler. Fraternally, Mr. Klein is a member of the Masonic order. He has been a member of the school board for several years and has taken special interest in educational affairs. He has also

been a member of the board of public works, and has served as city treasurer. For some years he has been a director in the German-American National Bank, and is also a director in the building and loan association of Aurora. In every position, public or private, which he has been called upon to fill he has discharged its duties faithfully and well.

---

ALEXANDER P. THOMS is a leading representative of the business interests of Elgin, and as a dealer in sewing machines and bicycles, he now carries on operations at No. 166 Chicago street. Of excellent business ability and broad resources, he has attained a prominent place among the substantial citizens, and is a recognized leader in public affairs. He has won success by well-directed, energetic efforts, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well deserved.

Mr. Thoms is a native of Scotland, born near Glasgow, July 9, 1842, and is a son of Robert and Jane (Patrick) Thoms. The name was originally spelled Thom. The paternal grandfather, George Thom, spent his entire life in Scotland, where he reared his large family of children, and died at an advanced age. Rev. Alexander Patrick, the maternal grandfather, was a prominent Methodist minister of that country, where he conducted many large revivals. He was also the founder of the Methodist church at Wallace Stone. He died in Scotland at the age of sixty.

In 1850 the parents of our subject left their old home in Scotland and came to the United States, first locating on a farm of eighty acres in Cook county, Illinois, east of Elgin. After a short residence there, the



father sold the place, and bought another farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres three miles west of that city, which he improved and cultivated until 1884, when he rented the place. He then made his home in Elgin until called from this life in March, 1895, at the age of eighty-seven years. His wife had departed this life one year previous, aged seventy-two. They were faithful members of the Methodist church, and had the respect and esteem of all who knew them. The father was a very industrious man, and strictly honorable in all his dealings, and his fellow-citizens, appreciating his sterling worth, elected him to various local offices.

In the family of this worthy couple were twelve children, ten sons and two daughters, and with the exception of one, all are still living. Three of the sons are prominent Baptist ministers. They are as follows: George, deceased; Alexander P., of this sketch; Robert E.; Rev. James P., of Chicago; Rev. John C., of Titusville, Pennsylvania; William A.; Rev. Craigie S., of Des Moines, Iowa; George B. and David D., twins; Charles M., who, in connection with his brother George, is engaged in the real estate and loan business in Rochester, New York; and Mary C. and Maria J., both of Elgin.

Mr. Thoms, whose name introduces this sketch, was seven years old when he arrived in Kane county, and under the parental roof he grew to manhood, acquiring his education in the district schools and the Elgin Academy, under Prof. Brydges. Feeling that his adopted country needed his services during the dark days of the Rebellion, he joined the army at the age of eighteen, enlisting in September, 1861, and becoming a member of Company D, Eighth Illinois (Farnsworth's) Cavalry. He enlisted as a

private and was on detached duty with Generals Keyes, Casey and Peck. With the Army of the Potomac he participated in the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, the seven-days fight, the engagements at Poolsville, South Mountain, Antietam, Martinsburg, Fredericksburg, Minoxy, Bevelry Ford and many skirmishes in Virginia and Maryland. After over three years of faithful service he was mustered out at Chicago.

After spending a short time in Elgin Mr. Thoms and his brother, James P., embarked in the commission business in Chicago, conducting the same for three years. Our subject then traveled for different sewing-machine companies, establishing agencies in thirty-three different states, and on his return to Elgin in 1883 he purchased his brother William A.'s interest in the sewing-machine business here. He now handles machines for five different companies, and for the past fourteen years has done an extensive business as a dealer in sewing-machines, and is now also dealing in bicycles.

In September, 1869, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Thoms and Miss Isabella, daughter of Deacon D. L. Jacobus, of Chicago, and they have become the parents of eight children, six sons and two daughters, namely: Lawrence D., who assists his father in the store; William S., who is employed by an electric light company in Chicago; Alexander P., who is attending the Chicago University; and John C., Florence Belle, Ethel May, who are all at home and attending school; and two who died in infancy.

Socially, Mr. Thoms affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and Veteran post, G. A. R.; while religiously both he and his wife are active and prominent mem-



bers of the First Baptist church of Elgin, of which he has been one of the trustees for three years. He is one of the leading and influential members of the Republican party in the city, takes an active part in campaign work, and was elected captain of the largest cavalry company ever raised in Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Thoms have an elegant home at No. 624 South street, in West Elgin, surrounded by an acre of ground. Being great lovers of flowers and shrubbery they have spent considerable time in beautifying and ornamenting their place and have converted it into one of the prettiest places of the city. Here hospitality reigns supreme and the many friends of the family are always sure of a hearty welcome.

**D**AVID W. SHOLES is one of the leading and enterprising citizens of Hampshire. He is of English descent, the first of the name coming to America in colonial times. John Sholes, the grandfather, from one of the New England states, came west in 1846, and took up land in Burlington township, and here resided until his death at the age of ninety-four years. He was a pensioner of the war of 1812. His father was a minister of the gospel and died in the east. John Sholes married a Miss Hammond, who died in Burlington township in the early '50s. Their son, David Sholes, the father of our subject, was born in Vermont about 1820. He left his native state in the '30s, and after living a few years in Ohio, came to Illinois, locating first in Galena, where he lived one year, and in 1844 settled in Burlington township, Kane county, where he secured a tract of fifteen hundred acres of good land. An energetic, hard worker, and a good manager, he was

very prosperous. He married Mary J. Young, a native of Chemung county, New York, a daughter of Simon Young, also a native of that state. She died in 1890 at the age of sixty-two years. They were the parents of five children, as follows: Stephen, who died at the age of eighteen years; Ernest C., a brick manufacturer of Hampshire; Esther, wife of William Smith, of Elgin; David W., our subject; and Vernon, who died in infancy.

David W. Sholes was born in Burlington township, Kane county, Illinois, April 24, 1854, and after attending the district schools completed his education when seventeen years old at Jennings Seminary, Aurora, Illinois. In 1871, in company with his brother, Ernest C., he bought a cheese factory in Burlington township, and after one year purchased his brother's interest, and a year later sold out and went to Elgin, where he embarked in the grocery business with A. E. Archibald. In six months he bought his partner's interest and continued the business one year. He then sold and moved to a farm of four hundred and forty acres belonging to his father, and commenced farming, in which he continued until 1882, when he moved to Hampshire and engaged in the coal business, and also in buying and shipping stock. He soon sold the coal business, but continued in stock trading until 1892. He was appointed postmaster of Hampshire, July 1, 1893, and served four years, since which time he has been in the commission business in Chicago, going into the city every morning and returning on the afternoon train.

Mr. Sholes was married in Elgin, June 17, 1876, to Miss Nancy J. McClellan, born in Burlington, Illinois, and a daughter of John M. and Nancy (Wilson) McClellan,

the latter born near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob Wilson, whose wife was a Miss Fitzpatrick, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. John M. McClellan, also born in Pennsylvania, was the son of John McClellan. To John M. McClellan and wife five children were born as follows: Mary Jane, wife of E. K. Allen; George, who died in Greene, Iowa; Margaret, who married William Stone, but is now deceased; Nancy J., wife of our subject; and Geneva, who married Joseph C. Wall, of Watertown, South Dakota.

To our subject and wife two sons were born. Thomas F. is a fine machinist, and makes his home in Hampshire. He married Anna Scott, daughter of Walter and Charlotte (Scott) Scott, natives of England. David J. is the cashier in the Kane County Bank.

Mr. Sholes lately built a fine cottage in the eastern part of Hampshire in the midst of a beautiful natural grove. Politically, he is a Democrat and has served in various official positions, among them being collector, school director and member of the village board. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Knights of the Maccabees and Knights of the Globe. Socially he and his wife are members of the Wednesday Club.

**S**ARSON L. JUDD, of Sugar Grove township, has been actively engaged in farming for many years, and has been a stock dealer for about twenty years. He is a native of New York, born in Warren county, March 4, 1849. His father, Dexter C. Judd, was a native of Connecticut, born in 1825, while his grandfather, Sarson L. Judd, was also a native of Connecticut. The family

are of English descent, and originally settled in Connecticut. Early in the present century Sarson L. Judd removed from his native state to New York. He was a blacksmith and axe-maker by trade, which occupation he followed for many years. About 1834 he came to Kane county, and built the first blacksmith shop in what is now the city of Elgin. He there carried on business for a year or two, sold out and returned to New York, where his last days were spent.

Dexter C. Judd grew to manhood in New York, and learned the blacksmith trade with his father, and carried on business at Bolton, on Lake George, up to 1850, when he came to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased a farm of twenty acres in Sugar Grove township. He also built a blacksmith shop and worked at his trade in connection with farming for a number of years. As his means increased he purchased more land, until he had a farm of two hundred and seventy-six acres adjoining the present village of Sugar Grove. While residing in New York he married Eliza C. Brown, also a native of that state, where she was reared and educated. They were the parents of five sons, all of whom grew to mature years and all living and heads of families. Asel T. is a farmer of Sugar Grove township; Samuel B. resides in Aurora; Sarson L., of this review; Charles D., of Aurora; and Smith C., of Chicago, Illinois. Dexter C. Judd was quite a prominent man in Sugar Grove township, and held a number of local offices of honor and trust. Later in life he removed to Aurora, where his death occurred in June, 1893. His wife passed away two years previously, dying in 1891, and their bodies were laid to rest in Sugar Grove township.

The subject of this sketch grew to man-



SARSON L. JUDD.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



hood on the old home farm, and was educated in the Sugar Grove schools. He remained with his parents until after attaining his majority. On the 25th of November, 1870, in Sugar Grove township, he was united in marriage with Miss Mary Gillett, a daughter of Lewis H. Gillett, a pioneer of Kane county, and later removed to Iroquois county, where he purchased a farm and remained six years, then returned to Kane county, bought the old homestead on which he has since resided, and where he has engaged in general farming and also in the stock business. In 1897 he also engaged in the farming-implement and coal business at Sugar Grove, where he has just completed a large and substantial residence, one of the best in the township. Mrs. Judd died in 1894, leaving two sons—Lewis Dexter, married and now running the old home farm, and Clarence, a student in the Sugar Grove Normal Institute. Mr. Judd was again married April 2, 1895, his second union being with Miss Susie Kauth, who was born and reared in Kane county, and a daughter of Michael and Audesia Kauth, of Sugar Grove township.

Politically Mr. Judd is a life-long Republican, the liberty-loving principles of which he inherited from his father, who was a strong anti-slavery man. He cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868, and has voted for every presidential nominee of the party up to William McKinley, for whom he voted in 1896. He has always taken an active interest in political affairs, and has served as a delegate in many conventions, county, congressional and state, and has given his services to his county as supervisor for nine years. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. As a citi-

zen he is enterprising and progressive, and never fails to be found in the front of those advocating any measure that will advance the interest of his town or county. Well known throughout the entire county, as well as in the adjoining counties of Kendall and De Kalb, he is held in the highest esteem by all.

---

J. F. COLSON.—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 idomitable spirit of the west. Mr. Colson, now one of the leading merchants of St. Charles, is a worthy representative of this class.

J. F. Colson was born in Sweden, January 20, 1853, a son of John P. and Christine S. Colson, who during his infancy came to the United States, and, after a short time spent in Chicago, they located in St. Charles in the summer of 1853. The father was a shoemaker by trade and continued to follow that trade until incapacitated by age. He died in St. Charles in 1892, but his wife is still living and now finds a pleasant home with our subject.

The public schools of St. Charles afforded J. F. Colson his early educational advantages, but to a large degree he is self-educated, obtaining through his own exertions a good, practical business knowledge. He began his business career as a clerk in the store of L. C. Ward, with whom he remained for twelve years, obtaining a thorough training in business methods, which

has been of great benefit to him in later years. In 1885 he formed a business partnership with Charles A. Anderson, with whom he had clerked for five years, and together they engaged in merchandising until the latter's death in 1888. He was succeeded by Charles H. Haines as silent partner, and business has since been conducted under the firm style of Colson & Company. They carry a large and complete stock of dry goods, notions, boots, shoes, clothing, hats, caps, carpets, etc., and have built up a large trade, having early gained a reputation for good goods and fair dealing. When Mr. Colson started out in life for himself he had no capital, but by perseverance, industry and economy he has steadily worked his way upward and has become quite well-to-do. He is an enterprising, progressive business man of sound judgment and excellent ability, and the success that he has achieved is certainly well deserved. He has not only secured a comfortable competence, but has made for himself an honored name in the land of his adoption.

In Geneva, Illinois, in January, 1882, Mr. Colson was united in marriage with Miss Anna Johnson, a native of Sweden, who was born and reared in Geneva. They now have five children—Winfield, Leroy, Ruth, Harold and Robert—and the three oldest are attending school in St. Charles. The Republican party finds in Mr. Colson an ardent supporter of its principles, having cast his first vote for General Grant in 1872. Fraternally, he is a master Mason, belonging to the blue lodge of St. Charles, and is a member of the Modern Woodmen. He is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he is past grand; has filled all the offices in the encampment up to the chief patriarch, and he and his wife be-

long to Rebekah lodge. Mr. Colson has spent almost his entire life in St. Charles, and since attaining to man's estate he has been identified with its business interests, materially aiding in the advancement and prosperity of the city.

**B**AXTER O. SKINNER, a farmer residing on section 22, Plato township, was born five miles from Westport, Essex county, New York, November 15, 1834. His early life was spent in his native state, and his education was received in the public schools at Brainard's Forge, five miles from Pleasant Valley. He came west with his parents in May, 1853, and assisted his father in opening up and developing a good farm. His father, Oren Skinner, was born in Langdon, New Hampshire, in 1804, and died in Plato township, Kane county, January 13, 1861. He was a clothier and draper by trade, his principal work being in finishing broadcloth. On the 5th of May, 1853, he left his New Hampshire home for the west, going by rail to Buffalo, thence by lake to Toledo, then by rail to Chicago. Severe storms were encountered on the lakes, and about ten or twelve days were spent in making the trip to Chicago. He had two brothers then living in Chicago, and with them he remained a short time before coming to the farm where the family has since resided. At the time they came there was much government land open to entry, and there was plenty of wild game in the country. Oren Skinner took up one hundred and sixty-five acres, and later purchased forty acres more. Of the original tract our subject now owns one hundred and twelve acres, where he conducts the stock farm, raising horses prin-

cipally. He has a good house upon the place, rebuilt in 1897-8, with a beautiful grove surrounding the house and barns.

The paternal grandfather, Baxter Skinner, was born in New Hampshire or Vermont. He was descended from one of two brothers, who emigrated from England, settling in Connecticut and Massachusetts. By trade he was a blacksmith. Oren Skinner married Charlotte Cady, who was born in Rutland, Vermont, and a daughter of Oliver Cady, a soldier of the war of 1812, born September 20, 1781, and died April 30, 1841. He was married October 12, 1805, to Abigail Brainard, born June 10, 1786. He moved to the town of Reading, Vermont, in 1803. As early as 1804 he was a choir leader in the Congregational church. Abigail Brainard was a daughter of Deacon Timothy Brainard, a drum major of the war of 1812. The Cadys are a musical family, one of the number being a partner of George F. Root, and they were the largest dealers in musical instruments in Chicago before the great fire of 1871. Our subject has a fine old violin, which came into his possession forty-five years ago, and which is over three hundred years old and has been in the family for many generations. Timothy Brainard was in the battle of Plattsburg, moved to Westport, New York, in 1814, and some years later to Kane county, Illinois, and died in Plato township at the age of eighty-three years. Oren Skinner and wife were parents of four children, as follows: John, who preceded the family to Chicago, in the fall of 1852, and died April 24, 1888, at the age of fifty-eight years; Martha, wife of A. W. Hall, resides on a farm near our subject, and which is part of the old homestead; Baxter Oliver, our subject; and Armenia S., who married William

J. Fisher, and lived in Essex county, New York, died in July, 1881.

For forty-five years Baxter O. Skinner has been living upon his present farm, and is well known throughout Kane county. He is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and was a member of the Grange during its existence. Politically he is a Republican, casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and has voted for none but Republican presidential candidates ever since. He is now serving as deputy sheriff, a position which he has filled for some twelve or fourteen years. His interest in the public schools has always been great, and for twenty-one years he has served as school director. He has been township trustee since 1873, and has been president of the board for many years. During the war he was a member of the state militia. Always loyal he has made a good representative citizen of the township.

MORRIS P. BROWN, of Aurora, Illinois, was for many years one of the most active and enterprising farmers of Kane county. He dates his residence in this county from October, 1845. A native of the Empire state, he was born in the center of the town of Watertown, Jefferson county, July 25, 1827, and is the son of James Brown, who was an early settler of that county, and whose father built a tavern for the entertainment of the traveling public, which they carried on for many years. The paternal grandfather, Aaron Brown, was a native of Massachusetts, from which state he removed to Jefferson county, New York. The mother was of English and Scotch ancestry.

James Brown was married in Jefferson



county, New York, to Fannie Scott, a native of Connecticut and a daughter of Abel Scott, who was also a pioneer of Jefferson county, New York, moving from Connecticut. After marriage, James Brown and wife commenced their domestic life on a farm in Jefferson county, where they remained until 1843, when the father came to Kane county, Illinois, where he remained a short time, and then removed to De Kalb county with Morris P., who came in 1845. The mother came in 1846 and joined the family in De Kalb county. After twenty years spent in De Kalb county, they returned to Kane county, and located in Sugar Grove township, where she died January 26, 1875. He survived her about two years, dying February 13, 1877. He was a man of good education, studied for the ministry, and was an active member of the Presbyterian church.

Morris P. Brown is the only survivor of a family of two sons and three daughters, all of whom grew to mature years, but are now deceased. In his native state he spent his boyhood and youth, and a few weeks during the winter months was enabled to attend school, the remainder of his time being given to hard work upon the farm. When nineteen years of age, he came west and settled in De Kalb county, where he entered eighty acres of land, and commenced its improvement. He later entered two hundred and forty acres, giving him a farm of three hundred and twenty acres. As his means increased he purchased more land, and owned at one time one thousand acres. In 1865, he came to Kane county, and purchased two improved farms, in Sugar Grove township, comprising three hundred and forty acres. While commencing life in this state a poor boy, success

has crowned his efforts, and he is to-day regarded as one of the substantial men of Kane county. In addition to the three hundred and forty acres he owns in Kane county, he has also a valuable farm in Nebraska, and residence property in Aurora. He is likewise a stockholder in the First National Bank of Aurora.

On the 22nd of November, 1855, Mr. Brown was united in marriage in De Kalb county with Miss Sarah E. Hyde, born in Grand Island, Vermont, and a daughter of James W. Hyde, also a native of Vermont. James W. Hyde, in that state, married Ruth Corbin, a Vermont lady, whose father, Warren Corbin, was one of the first settlers of Grand Island. James W. Hyde removed to New York, located first in St. Lawrence county, after which he removed to Franklin county, and in 1846 came to Illinois, settling in Kendall county, where he opened up a farm, and later removed to De Kalb county, but later went to live with a son in Iowa, where he died. Mrs. Brown was reared in New York state, and in Kendall county, Illinois, and here participated in the hardships and privations of pioneer life. To Mr. and Mrs. Brown four children were born: Ella G. grew to womanhood, married P. B. Quinn, settled in Kane county where she died, leaving one daughter, Mary E., now residing with her grandparents. May H. died at the age of sixteen years. Grace M. S. is the wife of Daniel J. Gordon, a substantial farmer of Sugar Grove township. Fannie R. is the wife of Leonard Hall, also a substantial farmer of Sugar Grove township.

In 1881 Mr. Brown built a residence in Aurora, to which he removed with his family in 1882, and here resided three years. They then returned to the farm, and seven



years later came back to Aurora, where he has since lived a retired life. On the organization of the Republican party, Mr. Brown became an adherent, casting his vote for John C. Fremont, since which time he has been a staunch advocate of its principles. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the blue lodge, council, chapter and commandery. As a citizen he is held in high esteem, and in the growth and development of the county he has borne his part.

ANNAS HATHAWAY, a well-known and honored citizen of Elgin, whose home is at No. 645 North Spring street, was born on the 13th of October, 1827, in Steuben county, New York, a son of Joel and Anna (Babbitt) Hathaway, natives of Massachusetts. Five children were born to them, four sons and one daughter, but our subject is the only one now living. During his early life the father worked at the stone mason's trade, but later turned his attention to farming. Coming west in 1850, he and his wife made their home with their eldest son, E. T. Hathaway, in Wayne, Du Page county, Illinois, where the father died in 1870, aged eighty-six, and the mother, who survived him five years, died at the age of eighty-one. Both were Universalists in religious belief and were held in high regard by all who knew them. During the war of 1812 the father was captain of a company, and while living in Steuben county, New York, he served as supervisor and also as county superintendent of the poor for some years.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was born in Massachusetts, of English parentage, was a farmer by occupation, and

was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, taking part in the battle of Bunker Hill. He reared a family of seven sons and three daughters, and died at the advanced age of one hundred years. Edward Babbitt, the maternal grandfather, was also a native of the old Bay state, and died in middle life leaving a family of three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Hathaway, of this review, obtained his education in an old log school-house near his boyhood home, and at the age of fourteen left the parental roof and entered upon his business career as a clerk in a store, where he was employed for four years. On the 4th of May, 1845, he first set foot in Elgin, where he had stopped to visit friends while on his way to St. Louis, Missouri, and after spending eighteen months here he proceeded to that city, where he made his home for four years. He then returned to Elgin, and in partnership with W. C. Kimball, opened a store in Union, McHenry county. On selling out two years later he removed to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he engaged in merchandising one year; later he moved to Chicago and gave his attention to bookkeeping. Subsequently he went to Pike's Peak in 1859 and on to California, where he engaged in mining. He returned to Chicago in 1860 and remained there till 1861; he then went South and engaged in mercantile business until 1866. Returning he engaged in the commission business in Chicago for one year, and then became interested in railroading, having charge of the freight department of the Chicago & Northwestern road for one year. He was next ticket and freight agent for the Chicago & Pacific railroad, and later had charge of the out-going freight for the Lake Shore & Michigan

Southern railroad for six years. The following year he was connected with the pool line under George H. Daniels, but at the end of that time the pool line was dissolved and he came to Elgin, where for seven years he served as freight and ticket agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. Going to Tacoma, Washington he became manager for the Tacoma Trading Company, furnishing coal and building supplies. He then returned to Elgin in 1890, and three years later was appointed chief clerk and secretary of the state board of trustees of the Illinois Northern Hospital for the Insane, a position he acceptably filled for four years. In the spring and summer of 1892, he built his present beautiful home in that city, where he expects to spend his declining years.

On the 22d of February, 1853, Mr. Hathaway was united in marriage to Miss Sylvira M. Bartlett, a daughter of Edmund and Naomi (Babcock) Bartlett, who located in Kane county as early as 1834, making their home upon a farm near Wayne for over half a century. Mr. Bartlett died upon that place, but the death of his wife occurred in Elgin. Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway have two children. Carrie, the older, is now the wife of D. W. George, of Jacksonville, Illinois, and has three children—Sylvira, James and William. Herbert is employed in the watch factory in Elgin.

Mr. Hathaway is a prominent Mason, having belonged to that order since joining Unity lodge, F. & A. M., in St. Charles, Illinois, September 20, 1852, and he is now a member of Loyal L. Munn chapter, R. A. M.; Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T.; Oriental Consistory and Medinah Temple, both of Chicago. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party. Since 1845 he

has made his home almost continuously in Chicago or Elgin, and his wife has been a resident of Kane county for sixty-three years, so that they have witnessed almost the entire development of this section of the state, and deserve to be numbered among its honored pioneers, as well as its highly respected and valued citizens.

WILLIAM W. NEWMAN, of Aurora, Illinois, is a native of the Empire state, which has contributed to the great state of Illinois many of its best and most enterprising citizens. For many years he was one of the leading farmers of Sugar Grove, township, Kane county, but is now living a retired life. He was born in the town of Butternuts, Otsego county, New York, December 7, 1812. His father, Abraham Newman, was born in Connecticut, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. When a young man he moved from Connecticut to New York, and at Granville, that state, he married Lucinda Crippen, a native of New York. By trade he was a tailor. After residing for a time in Granville, he then went to Otsego county, and later he moved to Jefferson county, New York, where he cleared and opened up a farm in the heavy wilderness, and in the town of Alexander spent the last years of his life, dying at the age of eighty-three years.

William W. Newman is one of a family of six sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, married and reared families. Of the number, our subject and one brother are all that survive. One brother, J. D., who resided in Chicago, died at the age of eighty-eight years. The other brother, A. D., also retired,

is living in Wooster, Massachusetts. In Jefferson county, New York, our subject grew to manhood, his education being received in its common schools. In his youth he learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for some years, after arriving at manhood's estate. Being always handy with tools, he could work at any mechanical trade.

On the 17th of January, 1839, in Lewis county, New York, Mr. Newman was united in marriage with Miss Laura L. McCoy, a native of Vermont, who came to New York when a child, with her father, William McCoy, who was a pioneer of Lewis county. To Mr. and Mrs. Newman, four sons have been born—James D., who grew to manhood, engaged in railroad work, married and resided in Chicago, where his death occurred; W. C. is a stock dealer and shipper, married and resides in Nebraska; L. A., now deceased; and J. B., who resides at home, and assists his father in the business.

After marriage Mr. Newman bought the old homestead in Jefferson county, New York, where he carried on a general farming and dairy business, continuing there until 1853, when he sold out and came to Kane county, Illinois, locating in Sugar Grove township, where he purchased a partially-improved farm of two hundred and twenty-two acres, and at once resumed farming. He brought the farm under a high state of cultivation, made extensive improvements upon it, and there resided until 1868, when he purchased residence property in Aurora, to which he removed, and where he has since continued to reside. Later he sold the farm and invested in city residence property, buying lots and erecting dwelling houses, principally on the west side. He now owns several valuable resi-

dences in the city. Being a carpenter, he took charge of the erection of the buildings, thus making a great saving in the expense. In early life Mr. Newman was a Whig, which party he supported until after its defeat in 1852, and, on the organization of the Republican party, gave adherence to its peculiar views, and has since been a staunch advocate of its principles. While residing in the country, he served as assessor, school director, and in other positions of honor and trust. Commencing life in very limited circumstances, he has, by honest industry, strict integrity, and the practice of economy, secured a competency, which enables him to live at ease and enjoy the fruits of a life well spent. While not numbered among those who profess to be pioneers, he is yet among the early settlers of the county, and has witnessed the greater part of the changes made in transforming this section into the most productive part of the great state of Illinois. In this work he has done his part and is entitled to all honor and credit.

---

ORLANDO DAVIDSON is one of the leading and influential citizens of Elgin, who has taken an active part in promoting its substantial improvement and material development. For many years he was one of the most active and enterprising business men of the city, identified with its industrial, commercial and banking interests, but is living retired at his pleasant home, known as Stone Cottage, No. 157 South Chapel street.

Mr. Davidson was born May 3, 1825, in Windham, New Hampshire, a son of James Nutt and Lucy (Lancaster) Davidson, also natives of that state, the former born in



Windham and the latter in Acworth. The grandfather, who also bore the name of James Davidson, was born in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, January 12, 1752. When the Colonies resolved to throw off the yoke of British oppression, he joined the Continental army at Cambridge and remained in the service until the war ended, witnessing the surrender of General Burgoyne. He gained a comfortable living by his occupation of farming. That he was held in high esteem by his fellow citizens was evidenced by the number of offices he was called upon to fill from time to time, being one of the prominent officials in his town for a period of more than thirty years. Social, genial and very kind in disposition, he made friends easily, and could as easily retain them. He was a man of strong convictions, was firm and self-reliant, noted for his candor and exemplary Christian life. He died in Windham, New Hampshire, July 3, 1837. From infancy he had resided in that state. In early manhood he married Miss Hannah Hemphill, and to them were born nine children, namely: Nathaniel, Margaret, Sarah, Anna, Samuel, James Nutt, Mary, James Nutt and John Hemphill.

Of these James Nutt Davidson (second), the father of our subject, was born July 12, 1797, and in early life was a butcher, conducting a slaughter house in the east. He was also interested in hotel keeping for a time. In 1835 he removed to Sandusky, Ohio, and ten years later located in Chicago, where he was engaged in the commission business for some years. Several years prior to his death he became an inmate of the home of our subject, in Elgin, where he passed away in August, 1873, at the age of seventy-six years. He was

known as Deacon Davidson, being for many years a deacon in the Congregational church in the east and in Chicago. Before the war he took considerable interest in the operations of the underground railroad, and assisted many a poor darky on his way to Canada and freedom. His wife, who was a member of the same church, and a most estimable woman, died in Chicago, in 1855, at the age of sixty years. In their family were eleven children, ten of whom reached years of maturity, but only three are now living: Orlando; Cynthia A., wife of J. H. Stead, of Salida, Colorado; and Jennie, widow of Gilbert G. Edgerton, of Fremont, Ohio. Those deceased are Amintor, Nathaniel, Daniel, Charles, James, Mary and Elizabeth, wife of S. M. Moore, of Chicago.

The first ten years of his life Orlando Davidson lived upon a farm in his native state, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Sandusky, Ohio, making the journey partly by wagon and the remainder by way of the lakes. There he acquired a good education in the common schools, and after coming with the family to Chicago, he taught a country school where Evanston now stands. He and an older brother, as well as their father, took an active interest in the underground railroad at that time. For a time he held a position in a bank in Chicago, and in 1850 came to Elgin to settle up the estate of James T. Gifford, "the father of Elgin," whose sketch is given in connection with that of his daughter, Mrs. Preston, on another page of this work. Having accomplished this task, Mr. Davidson returned to Chicago, and resumed his duties in the bank, but in 1854 removed his family to Elgin, where he has continuously resided since, making the "stone cottage" built by his



father-in-law, Mr. Gifford, his home. On locating there his yard covered an entire block.

In Elgin, Mr. Davidson opened a private bank in 1854, which successfully passed through the stringency of money matters in 1857, and in 1866 was converted into the Home National Bank, of which he was the first president, serving as such until 1878. Since then he has practically lived retired, though he has been interested in other enterprises, being secretary of the Elgin Packing company, until the time of his sickness in December, 1895. He was instrumental in bringing the watch factory to Elgin, and was a resident director of the same for several years; took an active interest in locating the Northern Hospital for the Insane in Elgin, and was its treasurer for six years, during which time the building was erected; and has always taken an active interest in the Elgin Academy, a classical institution of learning, of which he was the leading supporter for over thirty years, acting as secretary of the board of trustees during that time. Mr. Davidson was also one of the organizers of the Elgin Scientific society, of which he was president and secretary for some time, and was also president of the Elgin Bible Society.

On the 26th of May, 1848, Mr. Davidson was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Amelia Gifford, a daughter of James T. and Laura (Raymond) Gifford, prominent and honored pioneers of Elgin. Six children were born of this union: (1) Lucy died in infancy. (2) Jay Gifford, born January 19, 1851, was an expert accountant of Chicago, who graduated from the Chicago University in 1872, and was an officer and prominent member of the Plymouth Congregational church of that city. He died July 31, 1885.

(3) Laura, a graduate of the Elgin Academy, and also studied at Vassar, is the wife of Judge Nathaniel C. Sears, of the Appellate court, residing at Edgewater, Chicago. (4) May C. is a graduate of the Elgin Academy, and for ten years has been one of the most successful and popular teachers in the primary department of the schools of this city. (5) Jennie Elizabeth graduated from both the Elgin Academy and Oberlin College, Ohio, and is now the wife of Arthur L. Warner, mechanical superintendent of the Illinois Iron & Bolt Works of Carpentersville. They have two children: Orlando Davidson and Florence May. (6) Stella Amelia was also educated in the Elgin Academy and Oberlin College, and is now the wife of Harry Ainsworth, of Moline, Illinois, a member of the manufacturing firm of Williams, White & Co., and secretary of the same. He is also a graduate of Oberlin College and the Harvard Law School. Their children are Caroline Davidson, Sarah Andrews and Dorothy Sears.

Mrs. Davidson, who was born May 26, 1827, in Sherburn, New York, died October 24, 1890, while visiting her daughter in Moline. At the age of eight years she came with her parents to Elgin, and was married while the family were residing in Wisconsin. She was a life-long and consistent member of the Congregational church, and always took a leading part in all church work. Her death was widely and deeply mourned, for she made many friends, and had the respect of all who knew her.

Mr. Davidson and his wife were charter members of the Plymouth and New England Congregational churches of Chicago, and assisted in supporting both. For forty years he has served as deacon in the First Congregational church of Elgin, and for

thirty years was superintendent of the Sunday-school. A true and earnest Christian gentleman, the world is certainly better for his having lived, and both by precept and example he has led many to become nobler men and women. On attaining his majority he voted with the Whig party, but since the organization of the Republican party he has been one of its staunch supporters. For a time he served as secretary of the the Old Settlers Association of the Fox River Valley, and to all enterprises calculated to advance the moral, intellectual or material welfare of his adopted city he has given a hearty support.

ARVIN T. HAWLEY, a dealer in agricultural implements, residing at No. 617 South street, Elgin, is but a recent acquisition to the goodly array of progressive business men in that thriving city, but his ability, enterprise and upright methods have already established for him an enviable reputation. Although he is still a young man comparatively, his popularity is established on a firm basis—that of his own well-tested merit.

His father, the late Theodore Hawley, was born in Canajoharie, Montgomery county, New York, July 4, 1815, a son of Aschiel and Lavina (Parde) Hawley, the former a hatter by trade and quite prominent in religious circles, being a deacon of the Presbyterian church. The family was founded in this country during the seventeenth century by English emigrants. In the county of his nativity, Theodore Hawley attended the public schools until sixteen years of age when he began learning the watch maker's trade, working at that occupation for eight years. On first coming to Illinois he lo-

cated in Lake county, where he purchased a farm of two hundred and forty acres, and after living upon that place for several years, sold and removed to Algonquin, McHenry county, but only remained there one year. He next engaged in mercantile pursuits in Rome, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, until 1862, when he removed to Batavia, Kane county, Illinois, where he made his home for three years, during which time our subject was born. In 1865 he purchased a good farm of one hundred acres in Burlington township, where he resided until coming to Elgin, in the spring of 1897. Politically, he was originally a Whig, but on the dissolution of that party became a staunch Republican, and for four years under President Johnson's administration he served as postmaster of East Burlington. He was a man of character and sterling worth, and he well merited the high regard in which he was uniformly held. After a long and useful life he passed away at the home of our subject in Elgin, February 19, 1898.

On the 26th of December, 1847, Theodore Hawley was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Cramp, who was born in Sussex, England, March 20, 1826, and when three years old was brought to America by her parents, William and Sarah (Morton) Cramp, locating first in Oneida county, New York. In 1847 the Cramp family removed to Algonquin, McHenry county, Illinois, where the marriage of the parents of our subject was celebrated. Both lived to witness the fiftieth anniversary of that happy event, and the mother is still living, finding a pleasant home with our subject. To this worthy couple seven children were born, namely: Marcus A., a resident of Kansas; Helen L., who died in 1896; Annie, wife of S. G. Conners, of Plato township, Kane

county; Sarah E., who died in infancy; Emily H., wife of Henry Buzzell, now a resident of Iowa; Cora E., wife of August C. Bird, living near Belvidere, Illinois; and Arvin T., of this sketch.

In Batavia, Kane county, Arvin T. Hawley was born October 5, 1864, but when only six months old his parents removed to the one-hundred-acre farm on section 25, Burlington township. Upon that place and an adjoining section in Plato township he made his home until his removal to Elgin in the spring of 1897. He acquired a good practical education in the public schools, which he attended until eighteen years of age, and then assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, taking entire charge the following year, when his father retired from active labor, though he made his home with our subject until his death. Mr. Hawley still owns the homestead of one hundred acres and also leases fifty-five acres, which are now operated by a tenant, and upon the place keeps thirty-five cows, shipping the milk to Chicago. His country home was destroyed by fire October 23, 1896, but the following spring was rebuilt. Mr. Hawley also owns his pleasant residence in Elgin. In the spring of 1898 he embarked in his present business at the corner of Standish and Jewett streets, Elgin, dealing in Champion mowers and binders and a full line of farm implements. He is already meeting with excellent success in this undertaking.

In Belvidere, Illinois, Mr. Hawley was married December 18, 1890, to Miss Elveretta Morrison, a native of Sycamore, De Kalb county. Her father, Joseph Morrison, was born in Ontario, Canada, and about 1868 removed to De Kalb county, Illinois, where he followed the occupation of farm-

ing. He wedded Mary McCarthy, daughter of George McCarthy, of that county. Mr. Morrison died in June, 1888. To Mr. and Mrs. Hawley were born two children, namely: Edna Pearl, who died at the age of two years, and Erma Ethelyn, who was born in February, 1898. Edna Morrison, the sister of Mrs. Hawley, makes her home with our subject, and attends the Elgin public schools.

The Republican party has ever found in Mr. Hawley a staunch supporter, and from the time he attained his majority until his removal to Elgin, he was a member of the school board of his district. He also served as township assessor one year and tax collector two years. Socially, he formerly belonged to the Knights of the Maccabees. He is an energetic, wide-awake and enterprising citizen, and in both business and private life commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact.

---

HENRY G. OHLS, M. D.—In the last half century it has been rare for a man to win prominence in several lines. It is the tendency of the age to devote one's entire energy to a special line, continually working upward and concentrating every effort towards accomplishing a desired end. Dr. Ohls, although well qualified for general practice, has made a specialty of the diseases of the nose, throat and chest, and along these lines has made an enviable reputation in the medical world. He resides in Elgin, has an office in the Elgin Bank block, and he is also engaged in practice in the Venetian building, Chicago.

The Doctor was born in Chicago, October 27, 1860, a son of John and Augusta G.



(Garnsey) Ohls, natives of Ohio, in whose family were two children, the other being Effie L. For thirty-five years the father was connected with the American Express Company, being assistant superintendent of the Illinois division the greater part of the time. He died at Hinsdale, May 23, 1894, aged fifty-eight years. The Doctor's mother passed away in 1880, at the age of forty years. Both were active and prominent members of the Episcopal church, Mr. Ohls serving Grace church in Hinsdale both as vestryman and warden for several years. In common with every member of the Ohls family, he was a Republican from the formation of the party, but not an office seeker.

Early in the eighteenth century the Doctor's ancestors removed from Germany to Philadelphia, and many members of the family reside in Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio to-day. During the Revolution the family furnished its quota to the patriot army, and throughout the last war members of the family served with distinction in the armies of the north. The Doctor's maternal grandfather, Daniel E. Garnsey, lived for many years at Piqua, Ohio. At an early date he invested largely in Chicago realty, but, lacking the confidence of others in the city's prospects, removed to Michigan City, and sold his holdings in Chicago, which later became very valuable. His death occurred at Rives Junction, Michigan, in his sixty-fifth year. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Phillips, of the well-known New York family.

Reared in Hinsdale, from the age of six years, Dr. Ohls began his education in the public schools of that place, later attended the Aurora high school, and in 1883 graduated at the University of Michigan with the

degree of Ph. B. After a business experience of one year in the employment of the American Express Company, he entered Rush Medical College, where he served as assistant in chemistry to Professor Walter S. Haines, graduating at that institution with the class of 1887. For three years thereafter he engaged in practice in Clinton, Iowa, but in 1890 returned to Chicago and pursued special studies in the Polyclinic. He continued to reside in Hinsdale until 1896 when he removed to Elgin and has since built up a good practice at this place. For several years he has confined his practice to the diseases of the nose, throat and chest, and has served as professor of laryngology and rhinology in Jenner Medical College in Chicago. He has also been medical director of the Expressman's Mutual Benefit Association for a number of years. For two years past he has been associated with Professor E. Fletcher Ingals as editor of the department of laryngology and rhinology in the American Year Book of medicine and surgery, in which are recorded all the important discoveries of the year in medicine and the best results in surgery, taken from medical journals, monographs and text books.

On the 20th of June, 1894, Dr. Ohls married Miss Anna Elizabeth Oden, of Benton Harbor, Michigan. August 1, 1895, a daughter, Katharine Augusta, was born to them. The Doctor is a member of the Episcopal church, and his wife is a Methodist in religious belief. They have made many warm friends since coming to Elgin and occupy a prominent position in social circles.

Dr. Ohls is a member of Michigan Alpha Chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, the Royal Arcanum and the Knights of the



Globe, and is also a member of the Fox River Valley Medical Association. His offices are equipped with the most modern appliances needed in his practice, and he keeps abreast of the latest discoveries and theories. His skill and ability is attested by the liberal patronage accorded him.

**W**ILLIAM L. MESSENGER, a veteran of the war for the union, now holding a position with the board of warehouse commissioners, Chicago, resides at No. 457 South Lake street, Aurora, Illinois. He is a native of Massachusetts, born in Norfolk county, March 4, 1839, and is a son of Fisher Messenger, born in 1806, in the same town, county and state. Fisher Messenger married Roanna White, a native of Massachusetts and a daughter of Leonard White, a direct descendant of Perigrine White, one of the pilgrim fathers, and also a descendant of Governor Bradford, of Massachusetts. He was a weaver by trade and followed that occupation until he came west in 1857. He also learned the manufacture of baskets, and on his removal to Aurora, in 1857, engaged in that business, finding sale in Chicago for his product. He made Aurora his home until his death in 1879. He was married three times, his first, wife who was the mother of our subject, dying in Massachusetts in 1843. His third wife survives him; and is yet residing in Aurora.

Of the five children born to Fisher and Roanna Messenger, Ellen married George W. Barker, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, but is now deceased; Sarah, widow of Rev. James W. Searle, resides in Foxboro, Massachusetts; Mary married William Johnson, and both are now deceased; Ly-

dia married Albert Pettee, but is now deceased; and William L., our subject. By the third marriage of Fisher Messenger, there is one daughter living, Mrs. Emma F. Carnes, of Aurora.

William L. Messenger was eighteen years of age when he came with the family to Aurora. While yet residing in his native state, he acquired a good common-school education, and also acquired a knowledge of basket manufacturing, in which he assisted his father, after coming to this place. On the 1st of December, 1860, he was united in marriage with Maria Wagner, born at Fort Plains, New York, and a daughter of John J. Wagner, also a native of New York, and a pioneer of Kane county, Illinois, locating here in 1838, on land which now is nearly all comprised within the corporate limits of Aurora. Here he opened up a large farm, reared his family and spent the last years of his life, dying about 1867. To William L. and Maria Messenger four children were born: the oldest, Elnora M., is now the wife of P. G. Lincoln, of Aurora; William F. married and resides in Aurora; Frank C. married and also resides in Aurora; and Earl, residing at home.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Messenger commenced their domestic life in Aurora, and he continued to assist his father in business. But the war clouds were gathering and soon the proclamation of President Lincoln was issued for men to aid in the defense of the union. The first call was for three-months' men, and Mr. Messenger was one of the first to respond, and joined the Seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the first regiment sent from this state. He was, however, assigned to an artillery company, and was first in active

duty at Cairo. After the expiration of his term of service he returned home, and in July, 1862, again enlisted, and was assigned to the First Arkansas Calvary, and was commissioned adjutant, serving in that position until, in 1863, when the organization was changed, and he was commissioned second lieutenant of Company D of the same regiment, and served as such until the close of the war, when he was mustered out at Fayetteville, Arkansas. He participated in many engagements in and around Fayetteville, and also at Prairie Grove, Arkansas. For about a year he was on detach duty, serving as provost marshal of Fayetteville.

After his discharge Lieutenant Messenger returned home, where he engaged in the clothing trade for a short time, and later was in the fruit business. He then moved to Salem, Illinois, where he remained for a few years, going from thence to East St. Louis, where he engaged in railroading. In 1877 he returned to Aurora, since which time he has been engaged in various lines of business, including real estate and insurance. He now holds a position in the office of the grain and warehouse commissioners at Chicago, a position which he is well qualified to fill.

Lieutenant Messenger has been a staunch Republican during his entire life, his father before him being an Abolitionist of the rankest kind, and was connected with the underground railroad, assisting many a poor colored person to his liberty. For two terms our subject served as alderman from his ward, a part of which time he was chairman of the fire and water committee, of the public buildings and grounds committee, and of the judiciary committee. He cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham

Lincoln, and has since supported every presidential nominee of the Republican party. Fraternally, he is a member of the Masons, and also the Knights of Pythias. As a citizen, he stands high in the estimation of his fellow men, and is ever progressive and enterprising, doing all in his power to advance the material interests of his adopted city, of which he has been an almost continuous resident for forty-one years.

---

HON. EDWARD C. LOVELL, ex-county judge and a well-known attorney of Elgin, occupies a suite of rooms in the Spurling block. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, July 18, 1842, a son of Vincent S. and Lucy (Smith) Lovell, the former a native of Yorkshire, England, and the latter of Whites town, Oneida county, New York.

Vincent Lovell, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Yorkshire, England, and came with his family to the United States after the war of 1812, because of his admiration of American institutions. Unlike many others, he was the possessor of considerable means. By occupation he was a farmer, both in his native land and in this country. In his family were twelve children. His death occurred in Whitestown, New York, when he was about seventy years of age. Several of the children came west, among whom were the late John Lovell and William Lovell, of Elgin. The maternal grandfather of our subject was Daniel Smith, a native of Columbia county, New York, of Welsh ancestry. He was also a farmer. His death occurred in Oneida county, New York, when he, too, was about seventy years of age.

Vincent S. Lovell, our subject's father, was about fourteen years old when he came

with his parents to the United States. His youth and early manhood were spent upon a farm in Oneida county, New York, and he there married Miss Lucy Smith. By this union two children were born: Edward C., our subject; and Vincent S., who died in December, 1892. The latter was a graduate of the University of Michigan, and was a journalist for several years after leaving college, being for some time on the editorial staff of the Albany "Argus," and later on the Chicago "Post" and "Mail." After his marriage, in 1876, to Miss Eliza A. Hadwen, of England, he made his home in Elgin, where he was associated in business with his brother during the remainder of his life. His modest worth and sterling character were universally recognized, not more by his election at different times to the offices of director of the public library and mayor of the city, than by the affectionate regard and respect in which he was held by all with whom he had either social or business relations.

In 1837 the father came with his young bride to Elgin, where he bought about one hundred and fifty acres of land, the southern line of which was some distance north of where Jefferson avenue is now located. This farm he cultivated until about 1841, when he leased the same and removed to Chicago, and there engaged in mercantile trade for three years. He then returned to Elgin and remained here until his death in September, 1852, when in his forty-third year. Reared a Methodist, he later embraced the Swedenborgian faith, and was one of the organizers of the new church in Chicago. While his business interests commanded the greater part of his time, he yet served in several local offices, and was one of the first town clerks of Elgin.

On the death of her husband, Mrs. Lovell took charge of the estate and handled it with ability and was enabled, though largely through her own exertions, to keep the family together and provide handsomely for her boys. A woman of good education, she taught for some time a private school in Elgin, and gave her sons their first lessons. Later they attended the public school, then the Elgin Academy, and finally entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. The mother accompanied them to that place, rented a house and remained with them until graduation. Her death occurred in Elgin in June, 1894, at the age of nearly eighty-eight years. Her memory is cherished not alone by the family but all who knew her in this life. Kind-hearted, benevolent and affectionate, her friends were among all classes of society. Among her benefactions was a handsome gift to the Elgin Academy of its manual training building, and a liberal donation to Sherman hospital.

Since early childhood Edward C. Lovell has been a citizen of Elgin. His life has been an open book, read of all men. During the dark days of the Civil war he enlisted and was commissioned adjutant of the One Hundred and Forty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry and a few months after the expiration of that service was made captain of Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the autumn of 1865, when the regiment was mustered out. The greater part of Captain Lovell's time while in the regiment was spent on detached service, chiefly as inspector-general on the staff of Gen. N. A. M. Dudley, and later on the staff of Gen. John E. Smith.

Before entering the service Mr. Lovell



taught school for a time, and after his return he again took up school work, and in all gave the greater part of his time to teaching for about five years. Re-entering the University of Michigan in 1865, he pursued the prescribed course and in 1868 was graduated from the literary department. Years before this he had determined to enter the legal profession, and to that end read law with General John S. Wilcox, and after completing his college course in 1868 entered the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1870.

Returning to his home in Elgin immediately after his graduation, Mr. Lovell at once opened an office and engaged in practice. From the beginning he has been successful in securing clients and retaining their patronage. His merits as a lawyer secured for him the nomination for the office of county judge in 1882, and he was duly elected. Four years afterwards he was renominated and again elected, filling the position in all eight years in a most satisfactory manner. Leaving the bench in 1890, he resumed the active practice of law, in which he is now busily engaged.

On the 30th of June, 1885, Judge Lovell was united in marriage with Miss Carrie G. Watres, of Scranton, Pennsylvania, daughter of Lewis S. and Harriet Gertrude (Holister) Watres. Four children were born of this union—Gertrude Caroline, Lucy Coultas, Margaret Louise and Vincent Watres. The last named died in infancy, February 2, 1896. Subsequently the wife and mother departed this life, and was laid to rest beside her infant son. She was a woman of fine attainments, and was a member of the First Congregational church of Elgin.

Politically, the Judge is a Republican, and with that party has acted since attaining his majority. In its principles he firmly believes, and for its success he has given of his time and money. He has served as city attorney of Elgin, also its mayor, and in 1879 was elected and served a term in the legislature of the state. A friend of education, he is at present serving as president of the school board. As a lawyer his merits are recognized at home and abroad, and he is now local attorney for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company. His interest in army life has never been lost, and he is a member of Veteran post, No. 49, G. A. R., and the Illinois commandery of the Loyal Legion at Chicago. As a citizen he stands high in the estimation of the people.

---

CAPTAIN ALEXANDER C. LITTLE, one of the leading attorneys of Aurora, was born in January, 1838, in Rome, Oneida county, New York, and is the son of John and Nancy (Rae) Little, both of whom are natives of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and who are related to Thomas Carlyle and Edward Irving. They were married in Scotland, and came to the United States in the '30s, locating in Oneida county, New York, where the father purchased a farm near Rome, and carried on farming. In 1851 he came to Illinois, locating in Kane county, where he was engaged in farming. He died at Big Rock, in July, 1860. In religious belief he was a Presbyterian and in politics a Republican. He was the son of John Little, who was the son of John Little, a member of an old Scotch family of substance. Nancy Rae was the daughter of Benjamin and Agnes Rae, and also a member of the Pres-





CAPT. A. C. LITTLE.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

byterian church. She died at her son's home in 1879. They were the parents of nine children, of whom our subject was the youngest son.

Alexander C. Little, our subject, attended the common schools until he was eighteen years of age and then began studying medicine with Dr. W. Danforth, of Joliet, a friend of the family. Later he entered the medical department of the Iowa College, at Keokuk, Iowa, from which he was graduated in 1858. For a year before he graduated he was a partner of Dr. Danforth. After he left college he spent his time in the seminary in Aurora until 1862, when, the war being on, he enlisted in July of that year. He organized a company, but it was not mustered in and was disbanded. With fifteen of his men he went to Plano and enlisted there, joining Company K, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry. His first service was at Camp Douglas, and Dr. Little was appointed orderly sergeant. The regiment remained in camp until November 20, when it was ordered to Memphis, Tennessee, and assigned to General Sherman's division, and with it remained until the close of the war.

From Memphis he went with the Chickasaw Bay expedition, and was in the fight in December. Later his command went to Arkansas Post, and was in that battle in which about five thousand prisoners were captured. From there they went to Vicksburg, and were under Grant at Young's Point. He was in that vicinity and in the siege until the surrender. While at Arkansas Post the captain of the company was taken sick and resigned, and our subject was appointed to his place. After Vicksburg they were ordered to Chattanooga, and were all through that campaign. After the relief

of Chattanooga they were sent up to relieve Burnside, at Knoxville, from which place they returned to Larkinsville, and went into camp, while Sherman was organizing his Georgia campaign. At the battle of Kennesaw Mountain he was in command of the regiment; the colonel pleading sickness and the major withdrawing, he was put in command by General Giles A. Smith, and with his command was in the hottest of the fight. After the day was won he received the compliments of the general for his gallant services. From then on he was in the campaign until the fall of Atlanta. In the engagement of August 3, 1864, at Atlanta, he was wounded while in command of the left wing of the regiment. Colonel Curtis lay back with his regiment and would not come out, so Captain Little, in whose valor and capacity to lead there was no question, was called to take charge, and as the regiment was marching out for battle he was wounded. The colonel of this regiment was finally reinstated through political pressure and joined his regiment at Goldsboro, North Carolina.

After he was wounded Captain Little went north, and later returned to Chattanooga, where he was ordered to organize, among the detachments of the Fifteenth Army Corps, a command and go to the relief of General Ammen at Knoxville. His command consisted of six hundred men. He then returned to Loudon and took command there, guarding the bridge. From there he went to Cleveland, Tennessee, and was assigned to the staff of General Baughton, where he remained until he rejoined his regiment at Goldsboro. He was aide-de-camp on General Baughton's staff. On their way they had a fight with General Bragg, at Kingston, North Carolina. After he arrived at Goldsboro the provisional divi-



sion was disbanded, and he was put into the Second Missouri Engineer Corps, Army of the Tennessee. In this position he served until he arrived in Washington, when, on the 5th of June, 1865, he was mustered out.

After his discharge Captain Little returned to Aurora, and feeling rusty in literary matters, after his long service in the army, he entered Antioch College to review his studies. He entered the senior class, and remained there for about one year, when he returned to Aurora and began the study of law with the Hon. Charles Wheaton. He was admitted to the bar in 1867, and began at once his practice by opening an office at Aurora, where he has since continued. He soon came to the front, and is one of the successful attorneys of the Kane county bar. His first partner was Hon. B. F. Parks, who remained with him in 1873-4. His next partner was L. Isham White, who was with him about one year, and was succeeded by G. W. Avery, that partnership continuing five years. Then came Ira S. Smith, who is his present partner. Captain Little is a close student of law, and is regarded as an able counselor and pleader.

Captain Little was married January 18, 1877, to Miss Bonnie B. Snow, daughter of Prof. Snow, who was a Massachusetts man by birth. They have an adopted son, Leonard Rae. Mrs. Little is a member of the Episcopal church, in which she takes an active part. In politics Captain Little is a Republican, and in 1869 served as alderman of the Eleventh ward. In 1874 he was elected mayor of the city, serving one term, and during his incumbency he organized the public library, which has become one of the beneficial institutions of the city. Previous

to his election as mayor he served as city attorney, and has served one term subsequently. Fraternally, he is a member of Aurora post, No. 20, G. A. R. As a citizen he is progressive, and is ever ready to do his part for the best interests of the community in which he lives.

---

THOMAS W. LEAKE, senior member of the well-known firm of Leake & Gulig, of St. Charles, is one of the most active and enterprising business men of that place. He is a native of Illinois, born in DuPage county, September 25, 1851, and is a son of Rawson H. Leake, and grandson of William Leake, who spent his entire life in New York. The father was born October 27, 1820, in Dutchess county, New York, where he grew to manhood and married Mary Ann Gorham, a sister of J. R. Gorham, of St. Charles, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this volume. In 1850 they emigrated to Illinois and located in DuPage county, where Mr. Leake first purchased one hundred and sixty acres and later two hundred and fifty-five acres, operating the same until 1875. He soon transformed the wild land into highly cultivated fields, and the fine farm which he developed is still in the possession of the Leake family. Removing to St. Charles in 1875, he bought residence property here and lived retired until his death, which occurred May 30, 1893. His estimable wife still survives him and is a resident of St. Charles. In their family are only two children—Thomas W.; and Emogene, wife of F. P. Haviland, a resident of St. Charles and a business man of Chicago.

On the home farm in DuPage county Thomas W. Leake passed his boyhood and

youth, and his education, which was begun in the public schools of the neighborhood, was supplemented by a course in Wheaton College. After his father left the farm he took charge of the place, and was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits—general farming, stock raising and dairying—for fourteen years. At the end of that period he rented the farm and moved to St. Charles, where he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, F. P. Haviland, buying out an established hardware business. Together they conducted the business for three years, and then Mr. Leake purchased the other's interest, being alone for the same length of time. The present partnership was then formed, and the firm disposed of the hardware business in 1898, and now conducts a general machine shop. They have established an enviable reputation for good goods and fair dealing, and this fact has insured their success.

On the 15th of December, 1875, in DuPage county, Mr. Leake married Miss Almira L. Gorham, who was born, reared and educated in that county, and is a daughter of J. R. Gorham, now living retired in St. Charles. Two children grace this union: Bertie and Myrtle, who are both attending the east side school, of St. Charles.

Reared a Democrat, Mr. Leake supported the men and measures of that party until the fall of 1896, when he voted for McKinley. He has never aspired to office. Socially, he affiliates with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Knights of the Globe; and, religiously, he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, of St. Charles, with which he is officially connected. They have a pleasant home in St. Charles, where they delight to entertain their many friends.

FRANK H. BERNER is a young and enterprising farmer, residing on section 26, Hampshire township. His grandfather, Ludwig Berner, was a native of Germany, a farmer by occupation, a Lutheran in religion, and there lived and died January 12, 1853, at the age of sixty years. He served in the German army against the great Napoleon. His wife, was Mary Dabor, also a native of Germany, who there died in 1888, at the age of seventy-two years.

John Frederick Christian Berner, the son of Ludwig and Mary Berner, was born in the village of Dorov, near the city of Mueringen, Prussia, January 8, 1837. He attended the public schools until the age of fourteen, when he engaged in farm work until he came to America. Previous to leaving his native country he was united in marriage April 26, 1863, in the church of Nuering, to Minnie Groth, born in the village of Wonetak, and daughter of Peter and Rachel (Mueller) Groth. The young couple started the next day for America, sailing from Hamburg, May 1, 1863, in the good ship, Sonna, Captain Bull, and landed at Quebec, Canada, June 20, following. From Quebec, they came directly to Illinois, locating at Huntley, McHenry county, where he secured work on the railroad, continuing that occupation two and a half years. He then rented a farm in McHenry county, near Huntley, which he operated one year, then rented another farm for the same length of time, after which he moved across the line into Hampshire township, Kane county, and purchased eighty acres of land on section 26, which he at once began to improve. Later he bought forty acres on section 34, and one hundred and forty acres on section

35. He rebuilt the house, erected a barn and spent five hundred dollars for a good well. He has now two hundred and sixty acres, divided into two farms, both of which are under a high state of cultivation, and which he rents to his two sons. In 1892 he built a neat brick house in the village of Hampshire, planted shade trees and vines, and has a most comfortable, homelike place. He is a member of the Lutheran church, of which his wife is also a member, and in politics is a Republican. While residing in the old country, he served three years in the German cavalry. To John F. C. Berner and wife seven children were born, as follows: Mary, wife of William Kruse, a prosperous young farmer of Elgin township; Fred, who married Emma Thies, a daughter of Fred Thies, a prominent farmer of Plato township; Frank, our subject; Emma, who married John Getzelman, a farmer in Hampshire; George, who died at the age of eight months; Helen, living at Burlington, Illinois; and Christian, employed on the farm with his brother, Frank. Frank H. Berner was born on the farm where he now resides, June 14, 1869. He attended the public schools of Hampshire township, until about sixteen years of age, during which time he assisted in the cultivation of the farm. He continued to reside with his father until the latter retired in 1892. On the 22nd of March, 1892, in Hampshire township, he married Anna M. Getzelman, a daughter of Michael J. Getzelman, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. By this union there is one child, Edna May, born January 25, 1893.

On his marriage, Mr. Berner took charge of the home farm, which he rents from his father, and which comprises one hundred

and twenty acres of splendid farming land. He engages in general and dairy farming, and milks thirty cows, the product of which he ships to Chicago. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and, politically, he is a Republican. An energetic, progressive and industrious young farmer, he is highly regarded in the community of which he has been a life-long resident.

---

REUBEN TUCK, a retired coal merchant of Elgin, is of foreign birth, but Kane county has no more patriotic or loyal citizen. For many years he was prominently identified with her business interests, first as a farmer, and later as a coal dealer, and having met with excellent success in his undertakings, he is now enabled to lay aside all business cares, spending his declining years in ease and retirement.

Mr. Tuck was born in England December 13, 1818, a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Molton) Tuck, who spent their entire lives in that country, the father, a farmer by occupation, dying when our subject was only two years old. The mother survived him many years, passing away in 1848. Both were devout members of the Methodist church, and their home was the stopping place of the itinerant preachers. The father erected the church where they attended service, and his wife took an active and prominent part in all church work, regularly attended services, and was a grand, good woman. Our subject is the only survivor in their family of ten children, and, outside of his own family, he has only one nephew and one niece now living. The latter had three children, Nellie, Mollie, and a son, who formerly lived in London, but



now live in South Africa. The mother, Mrs. Harriet Crispe, visited her children in that country with the hope of benefiting her health, and there died in the arms of one of her daughters. Her husband, Thomas Crispe, is a jeweler of London. In 1837 our subject and his sister Mary came to America, but subsequently she returned with her husband to England, where she died in 1877.

The only opportunity Reuben Tuck had of attending school was when between the ages of five and seven years, after which he worked on a farm in his native land. He is, however, a well-informed man of good business qualifications. At the age of fourteen he began learning the tailor's trade, which he successfully followed in England until nineteen, when he bade good-bye to home and friends and sailed for the New World, which he reached after a long and stormy voyage of forty-one days. He located in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, where he engaged in tailoring and later at farming. In 1841 he returned to England on a visit, making the voyage both ways on the same vessel, being thirty-one days in going and twenty-five days in returning.

In 1845 Mr. Tuck emigrated to Kane county, Illinois, by wagon, and the journey of eight hundred miles occupied thirty-one and a half days, while the expenses were about a dollar a day for himself, wife and three children. He landed in Kane county October 23, 1845, with seventy-five dollars in silver, and in Plato township pre-empted one hundred and sixty acres of government land, which he later purchased, and to which he subsequently added until he had three hundred and sixty acres of valuable prairie land, and forty acres of timber. This he sold on coming to Elgin, in 1865,

and the following year embarked in business as a coal dealer, conducting the first coal office in that city. He was thus engaged until 1883, when he retired from active business life and is now enjoying the fruits of his former toil.

In December, 1838, Mr. Tuck was united in marriage with Ellen Fletcher, who was born in England, November 25, 1816, a daughter of William Fletcher, a weaver, in England, who emigrated from that country to the United States and took up his residence in Pennsylvania, and followed farming. The children born of this union were as follows: Elizabeth, born in 1839, died January 31, 1875; William H., born March 20, 1841, enlisted as a private, during the Civil war, in Company K, Fifty-second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in the fall of 1861, and was wounded at the battle of Shiloh. He never recovered, dying in the hospital at St. Louis April 26, 1862. George Elmer, born January 5, 1844, married Mina Perry and engaged in business until his death, which occurred May 2, 1883. He left two children, Bertha N. and Myrtie B. Sarah Emma, born September 3, 1847, is the wife of J. G. Tuttle, of Elgin, and has one child living, Amy; Joanna, born January 12, 1851, died October 4, 1854; Charles Reuben, born December 29, 1854, died September 11, 1855; Charlotte, born April 4, 1857, died October 2, 1857. The mother of these children, who was a consistent member of the Congregational church, died March 10, 1881. Mr. Tuck was married September 18, 1883, to Miss Ann Gimbert, an English lady, who was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Elgin, and died April 23, 1886. On the 4th of November, 1886, Mr. Tuck married, for his third wife, Mrs. Lucinda

B. (Savory) Rose, widow of P. T. Rose, of Lake county, Illinois, by whom she had three children, namely: Mary, now the wife of E. J. Locke, of Hampshire, Kane county, and the mother of two children, Leslie and Inez; Grant E., of Chicago, who married Bessie Mann, and has one son, Le Roy Mann; and Carrie C., a milliner, who lives with her mother and our subject in Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Tuck are both earnest and faithful members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Elgin, and take a prominent part in its work. Socially, he at one time affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while politically he was originally a Whig, and is now identified with the Republican party. He is one of Elgin's honored and valued citizens, his upright and honorable career having won for him the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life.

JACOB E. SALFISBERG, junior member of the firm of Spiker & Salfisberg, manufacturers of artificial stone, sidewalks and paving, is a representative of the younger business men of Aurora. He was born in Naperville, Illinois, January 18, 1872, and is the son of Jacob and Anna (Salfisberg) Salfisberg, both of whom are natives of Switzerland, born near Berne, the capitol. About 1849, when a young man, his father came to this country, in company with what was later his wife's parents. He was a miller by trade, and on coming to this country worked for Mr. Parker, in his mill at Oswego, Illinois. After being thus employed for some years, he came to Aurora, and burned lime for his brother, Christian.

In 1867, he moved to Naperville, where he remained until 1889, when he sold his interest there, and returned to Aurora, where he has since lived a retired life. To Jacob and Anna Salfisberg, ten children were born, of whom eight are living. In order of birth they were as follows: Fred, who died at the age of two years; Emma, wife of John Nicholas, by whom she had two children, John and Frank, died in 1889, at the age of twenty-seven years; Amanda, wife of W. C. Daniels, by whom she has one child, Viola May now resides at South Evanston, Illinois; Charles A. married Clara B. Hair, and has three children—LeRoy L., Gracie E. and Nellie M., and they reside on a farm in Kendall county, Illinois; Edith E., wife of Thomas Harding, by whom she has one living child, Donald J., now resides in Aurora; Annie E., wife of Richard Hair, by whom she has two children, Ralph R. and Flossie F.; Jacob E., our subject; Edwin A., a fireman on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, residing at home; Frank O. and Maude May, at home.

The subject of this sketch was educated at Naperville, and there took a business course in the college, from which he graduated in the class of '88. After leaving school he worked for a short time in his father's quarry, and later was employed in the general office of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company. After passing an examination, he was employed as a mail carrier in Aurora for several years. He was then in the shoe business for a short time and later in the dress goods department of the wholesale house of J. V. Farwell, Chicago. In March, 1896, he purchased an interest in his present business, in which he has build up a good and substantial trade. His work is of the very best, and he

tries to give satisfaction in every respect. Much of the artificial stone work of Aurora and neighboring towns is made by the firm of Spiker & Salfisberg, whose reputation is of the very best. The fact that the work has been done by this firm is a guarantee of its good quality. As a business man, he is recognized as among the most progressive in the city. Fraternally, he is a member of Ben Hur lodge, No. 870, I. O. O. F., Aurora, and is a trustee of the lodge and has held other offices. He is an attendant of the Congregational church.

**H**ENRY BRIGHAM ADAMS, a representative of one of the old families of Aurora, and the leading coal dealer in the city, was born at Fort Ann, Washington county, New York, March 21, 1857, and is the son of Charles Henry and Harriet (Coleman) Adams, the former being a native of Washington county, New York, born June 17, 1816. Charles Henry Adams was the son of Wright Adams and Catherine (Rainey) Adams, who were the parents of Wright, Guerdon, Anna and Margaret. Wright Adams and wife died in Washington county. Henry B. Adams is the tenth descendant through the Coleman branch from Elder William Brewster, who came over in the Mayflower.

Charles Henry Adams, the father of our subject, was at one time a farmer in his native state, and also engaged in merchandising and various other pursuits. For a time he was captain of a packet line, was station agent at Fort Ann, and at another time served as deputy sheriff of Washington county. While residing in Troy, New York, to which he removed, he served as consta-

ble. He was a member of the Baptist church, and was a consistent believer. In the summer of 1867, he came to Aurora, and purchased a home at the corner of New York street and Lincoln avenue, which is still in the family. After locating in Aurora, he was engaged in the real estate business, and was justice of the peace for about twelve years. In early life he was a Whig, and later a Republican. He was one of the leaders of the Park Place Baptist church, and took a great interest in church matters. He superintended the construction of that edifice. A man of firm disposition, social nature, and benevolent, his death, which occurred March 18, 1897, was mourned not alone by his family, but by the community as well. His wife was also a native of Fort Ann, New York. Her father, Noah Coleman, was a farmer by occupation, and he and his wife, Mary Ann, spent their last days at Fort Ann. They had four children, Edward, Horace, Ruth and Harriet, all living except Ruth. Edward is living at Fort Ann, and Horace on the old family homestead, where Ruth died unmarried. Mrs. Harriet Adams is living in Aurora, on the place first purchased by her husband on their removal to that city. She was born February 19, 1826. Religiously she is a member of the Baptist church. Her children are as follows: Eudora, now the wife of Dr. H. G. Gabel, of Aurora; Roma L., now the wife of J. O. Mason, of Aurora; and Henry B., of this sketch. Fraternally Charles H. Adams was an Odd Fellow, and was a member of that organization for over fifty years. The Rebecca degree was conferred upon him by Vice-President Colfax, in Ohio, and he was one of the first who took this degree.

Our subject was ten years of age when



he accompanied his parents to Aurora. In the public schools of that city, he received his education, and at sixteen began the study of bookkeeping and telegraphy and as soon as he was proficient in these branches, he engaged with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, at Hinsdale, where he remained about one year, was then sent to Galesburg, in the supply department, and there remained about three years, when he was transferred to the Iowa division, at Albia and Osceola. He quit the railroad business on account of his health, and went west for a time, but on his return he engaged with the Iowa Central Railroad Company, with which he was connected about one year at Dillon, Iowa, as station agent. He went then to the Chicago & Alton Railroad Company, for a while at Brighton Park, when he returned to Aurora, and went into the supply department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, but only remained with the company about one year. He then engaged in the manufacture of brooms for about two years, when he sold out and later went into the office of the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal Company, as bookkeeper. The old agent of that company, Mr. Wood, died about one year later, and Mr. Adams succeeded him as agent. This was in 1889, and he has since continued as such agent. The company carry a full line of hard coal and wood, together with the soft coal, which is the product of their own mines. They sell at wholesale to dealers and manufacturers. By his attention to the business Mr. Adams has increased the sales of the company from year to year, and has a large and increasing trade. The office of the company is at 146 Spring street, near the viaduct.

On the 23d of November, 1880, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Mr. Adams was united in marriage with Miss Minnie B. Walker, daughter of Harry D. and Belle (Redman) Walker. She is a native of Mt. Pleasant, and was married in the house where she was born. She was one of four children, the others being Charles D., Hattie and William; the latter died when about nineteen years of age. Charles married and engaged in the hardware business at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Hattie married H. J. Laubenfels, and is also living in Mt. Pleasant, where the parents are also living. The father has been the grand keeper of records and seal of the Knights of Pythias of Iowa for twenty-four years and still holds this important position. Mr. and Mrs. Adams have one child, Roma Hattie, born August 26, 1881. The family are all members of the Park Place Baptist church, of which Mr. Adams is treasurer.

Fraternally, Mr. Adams is an Odd Fellow, being a member of Waubansie lodge, No. 45, and of Aurora lodge, No. 390, Knights of Pythias. Socially, he is a member of the Aurora City Club, and in politics is a Republican. Mr. Adams has a comfortable home at No. 459 New York street, corner of State street, where he prefers to spend hours, not devoted to business in the enjoyment of life. By strict attention to business, and by the conscientious discharge of all duties imposed upon him, he has been successful in life, and has won the respect and esteem of all.

---

FRANK B. TAZEWELL is one of the young and enterprising farmers of Plato township, residing on section 25. He is a native of Kane county, born in Rutland

township, January 23, 1865, and there grew to manhood, receiving his education at the country schools and Elgin Academy, supplemented by a business course at Drew's Business College in Elgin. He remained at home assisting his father in the cultivation of the farm until twenty-seven years of age, when he married, and later bought his present farm, the northeast corner of section 25, Plato township. It is a well improved place, with all the modern conveniences for dairy farming, including windmill and large barn sufficient to shelter about forty head of cattle. All the milk produced in the place he ships to Chicago.

James B. Tazewell, the father of our subject, who is engaged in farming on section 26, Rutland township, was born in London, England, January 12, 1838, and came to America in 1844, with his parents, James and Rachel (Brewer) Tazewell. He was the eldest of three children. In Rutland township, he married Mary Jane Moore, born in Chicago, January 28, 1838, and a daughter of William and Margaret (Cochran) Moore. By this union there were six children as follows: James M., farming on section 26, Plato township; Elizabeth, wife of William R. Fuller, a retired farmer of Elgin; Margaret, wife of Henry P. Kenyon, of Elgin township; Frank B., our subject; David, engaged in farming with his father; and William H., farming on section 7, Elgin township.

After remaining at home, as already stated, Mr. Tazewell was united in marriage in Hampshire township, April 10, 1895, to Miss Lou E. Doty, born in that township, and a daughter of Edward Doty, born in Chautauqua county, New York, March 8, 1838, and who came west about 1853, and later purchased a farm on section 23, Hamp-

shire township. He was the son of Elijah Doty, who attained the age of seventy years, and who married Polly Hodges, a native of New York, whose mother was Mary French of the same state. Edward Doty married Betsey Pingree, born at Pingree Grove, and daughter of Francis Pingree, who married Lydia Patchen. Her father settled first in Illinois, afterwards went to Iowa, where he died at an advanced age. The Pingree family are descended from Moses Pingree, a native of England, who married Abigail Clement, and died at Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1641. His son, Moses Pingree, Jr., married Sarah Converse, and their son, Aaron, married Ann Pickard, and their son, John, married Faith Jewett, and to them Andrew was born, and to him and Abiah Straw, his wife, Francis Pingree was born. He was the father of Mrs. Doty. Mrs. Tazewell is the eldest of three children born to Edward Doty. To our subject and wife one child has been born, Lynn Edward, born August 27, 1896.

**SIDNEY U. SPENCER**, now living a retired life in the city of Aurora, but who for many years was engaged in farming and dairying, is numbered among the old settlers of 1844. He was born in Wyoming county, New York, January 5, 1825. His father, Chauncey Spencer, was born and reared in Vermont, and when a young man settled near Genesee Falls, Wyoming county, New York, and there married Milly Smith. Both the Spencer and Smith families were early settlers of Wyoming county, the first of the name to settle there being the paternal grandfather, Stephen Spencer, and the maternal grandfather, Whiting Smith, both of

whom made their home in the wilderness, where they engaged in farming for many years. Chauncey Spencer improved several places in that county, but in 1844 moved with his family to Kane county, Illinois, locating in Sugar Grove township, where he engaged in farming for a few years, then moved to Plainfield, Will county, but later returned to Kane county, where his death occurred some years ago.

Sidney U. Spencer was second in order of birth, and the only survivor of a family of eight children. George married and settled in Kane county, later moved to Iowa, where his death occurred; Cornelia married Jonathan Mason, settled in Kane county, and both are now deceased; Dwight died unmarried; Henrietta married Philo Seavey, located in Kane county, and both are now deceased; Edwin also died unmarried; James married and settled in Kane county, but is now deceased; Eunice married Charles Roberts, settled in Du Page county, but both are now deceased.

The subject of this sketch in his native state received a fair common-school education, and, a young man of eighteen, came with his parents to Kane county and assisted his father in opening up a new farm. After arriving at his majority he worked by the month for some years, principally on farms. On the third of June, 1854, he married Anna M. Willis, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of John Willis, also a native of that state. She came to Kane county with her uncle, John Thompson, when a mere child and here she was reared and educated. By this union were four children, the oldest, Roscoe M., married and is a farmer of Kane county, but also owns a farm in Nebraska; Ralph, who is married, resides in Albany, Wisconsin, where he is engaged in the mer-

cantile trade; Luella, who died at the age of eleven years, and Mabel, wife of Wilford Wyatt, a farmer of Clay county, Iowa.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Spencer commenced their domestic life on a farm of eighty acres near Plainfield, which he had purchased. After remaining there some twelve months he sold that place and purchased a farm of one hundred and ten acres in Sugar Grove township. He later built a large and substantial residence, barn and other outbuildings, and otherwise improved the place. He remained on that farm a number of years, then rented it to his son, and built a nice residence at Sugar Grove Station, to which the family removed. While yet residing on the farm his wife died, in 1877, and he was again married, in Sugar Grove, August 28, 1878, to Miss Julia Wilde, who was born in Sidney, Delaware county, New York, and who came to McHenry county, Illinois, when but three years of age with her parents, Robert and Eleanor M. (Vandervoort) Wilde. Her father was English by birth, and came to America when but eight years of age, and remained in New York, where he was married, until his removal to McHenry county, Illinois, in 1855. Mrs. Spencer is a woman of more than ordinary ability, and since her marriage has taken a course in metaphysics, under the direction of Dr. Charles, Mrs. Grover, Dr. Edward Arns and Mrs. Baker Eddy. After a thorough and complete course Mrs. Spencer opened an office in Aurora, and for five years was engaged in the active practice of her profession of scientific healing. She was then compelled to give up her office, and now practices in a quiet way.

Politically Mr. Spencer is a Republican, and has always taken an interest in political affairs, but not as an office-seeker. Having



an interest in the cause of education, for some nine years he was a member of the school board at Sugar Grove, and of the Normal Industrial School at that place. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church in Aurora, and was one of the most active official members of that church at Sugar Grove. His residence of fifty-four years in Kane county has brought him in contact with his fellow citizens in all parts of the county, and wherever known he is greatly esteemed.

ORA L. PELTON, M. D., has been a resident of Kane county for more than a quarter of a century, and in that time has built up a practice and reputation second to no other physician. He was born in Sherman, New York, July 29, 1851, and is a son of Charles and Martha (Sparkes) Pelton, both of whom were natives of New York, and the parents of eight children: Charles J., who resides on the old homestead in Chautauqua county, New York; Amarette, wife of Alvin Seymour, of Chautauqua county; Ora L., of this sketch; Lucy, who makes her home with the Doctor; Josephine, who died at the age of ten years; William and Frank, who live in New York; and George, who lives in Chicago.

Charles Pelton, the father, was a farmer in Chautauqua county, where he died in 1890 at the age of seventy-one years. He was a member of the Baptist church, and for many years served as a deacon. His wife still survives him and is living with her son, Charles J. She is also a member of the Baptist church, and a conscientious, Christian woman.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Rural Pelton, was a native of Oneida coun-

ty, New York, and was a blacksmith by trade, which he generally followed in connection with farming. He cleared the farm on which our subject's mother yet resides. In his family were fourteen children, nearly all of whom grew to maturity. The Pelton's were originally from England. The maternal grandfather, Rev. Mr. Sparkes, was a Baptist minister, and was about sixty-five years of age at the time of his death. He also had a large family of children, of whom three sons—Nathan, Thomas and Elisha—were in the Civil war, the first two dying while in the service, the other after reaching home.

Ora L. Pelton was reared on the home farm in Chautauqua county, New York, and in the schools of the neighborhood his literary education was obtained. Later he entered the medical department of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, from which he was graduated in the spring of 1872. In June of that year he came to Kane county and located at Elburn, where he commenced the practice of his profession. From the beginning he met with good success, and, while such was the case, he was not content to rest with the knowledge acquired. Accordingly, he entered Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, from which he took the addendum degree in 1874. One year later, in quest of still higher knowledge in his profession, he visited Europe, took a year's course in the University of Edinburg, Scotland, and then visited a number of noted hospitals, including those of London and Paris.

On the 17th of July, 1882, the Doctor removed from Elburn to Elgin, that he might have a wider field for usefulness. His success has been equal to his most sanguine anticipations and his practice has at all

times been a large and fairly profitable one. As one of the staff of surgeons in Sherman hospital he has performed some very difficult surgical operations with most gratifying success. One of his specialties is abdominal surgery, and some of his operations in that line of practice have won for him distinction. He is often called in consultation in important cases of surgery and medicine with other physicians, with whom his skill and judgment are held in high degree.

On the 7th of May, 1879, Dr. Pelton married Miss Anna L. Frary, daughter of Noble D. and Mary (Kendall) Frary, and by this union there are three children, Ora L., Mary Frary and Lura Adella, all of whom are at home. Noble Danforth Frary was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1823, and was the son of Zenas and Keziah (Pomroy) Frary, natives of South Hampton, Mass. In his native state he grew to manhood and there married Mary Kendall, who was born in Connecticut in 1824. Early in the '50s they came west, locating in Elburn, Illinois, where Mr. Frary worked at his trade of wheelwright. He was a member of the Christian church, and politically was a Republican, a thorough believer in the principles of that party. His death occurred in Elburn, October 11, 1878, his wife preceding him to their heavenly home some seven years, dying October 1, 1871. She was also a member of the Christian church. They were the parents of four children: Adella D., now the wife of J. A. Freeman, of Portland, Oregon; Ossian D., of Chicago; Herbert K., who died in childhood; and Anna Louise, wife of our subject.

Noble D. Frary was one of the "brave boys in blue" who, at their country's call, offered their services in behalf of the Union. He was a member of Company I,

Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and faithfully served until the close of the war. Returning to his home at the expiration of his term of service, he settled down to his life work as though the storms of battle had never been heard. The Frarys were among the early settlers of Elburn, where he served for many years as justice of the peace.

Dr. Pelton was thrown on his own resources early in life and has worked his way upward in his profession, aided only by his perseverance, energy and indomitable will power. He is not content with knowledge obtained in the past, but every year makes a tour, visiting the leading hospitals of the country with a view of appropriating whatever is new in the science of medicine and surgery. He is a member of the Chicago Medical Society.

Fraternally Dr. Pelton is a member of Monitor lodge, No. 117, F. & A. M., and of Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T. At present he is surgeon for the Elgin, Carpenterville & Aurora railway, and is also a member of the staff of Sherman hospital. Politically, he is a Republican, and although his extensive practice will not permit him to give much attention to political affairs, he takes a great interest in the success of the party, contributing of his means to that end. Socially he is a member of the Century Club, of Elgin.

As a citizen the Doctor takes an interest in everything calculated to build up his adopted city and county. As a physician there are none in Kane county having a better reputation and his success in the treatment of disease has been remarkable. Financially he has prospered and to-day he is numbered among the well-to-do citizens of Elgin, and is a stockholder and director

in the Home National Bank, a stockholder in the Home Savings Bank, and in the Elgin, Aurora & Carpentersville Electric railway, and has landed interests consisting of a fine farm in Kansas.

The home of Dr. Pelton is at No. 214 South State street, and is one of the finest and most attractive houses in Elgin, erected after plans made by himself and wife, and there, when he can get away from the arduous labors of his profession, he spends the time with his family, and they delight to entertain their many friends.

---

**JAMES LITTLE.**—In the history of a country much is said of the warrior that goes forth to battle for his country, and it may be given his life for its defense. The lawyer, too, is mentioned and praise is given him for the composition of its laws and their interpretation. The minister of the Gospel is praised for the efforts put forth in behalf of public and private morals, and for the salvation of the human race. Due credit is given the physician for his skill in alleviating the physical ills of man. But little, however, is said of the artisan that plans the building and erects the homes of the people. Here is where the historian is at fault and more credit should be given to the one who constructs our homes, giving man a place in which the greater part of his life has to be spent.

The subject of this sketch is one of the leading contractors and builders of Aurora. He was born in Somerset county, New Jersey, April 19, 1855, and is the son of Abraham D. and Maria V. N. (Quick) Little, both natives of Somerset county, where the father was engaged in farming until his death, which occurred May 17, 1893. The

wife and mother survived him two years, dying August 20, 1896. Four generations of the Little family were born and reared on the old homestead farm in New Jersey. The great-grandfather of our subject, Robert Little, lived to the remarkable age of one hundred and one years, and participated in the Revolutionary war. His eldest son, John Little, married Johanna Dumont, by whom he had two children: Abraham D. and Samuel. Abraham D. Little, who was the father of our subject, had seven children—Garrett, of Corning, Iowa; Johanna Isabel died September 17, 1859; Sarah Jane, a resident of Jersey City, N. J.; Mary Elizabeth, of Corning, Iowa; John Newton, operating the old homestead at North Branch, New Jersey; James, and Anna Caroline, who died December 17, 1893.

Gaining an education in the public schools and afterwards learning the trade of a carpenter in his native state, under Andrew Huff, of Plainfield, New Jersey, James Little came to Fairview, Fulton county, Illinois, in 1875, where he entered into partnership with William Stines, and carried on contracting and building, under the name of Little and Stines, which was continued seven years, and the partnership was then dissolved. In 1882, Mr. Little came to Aurora, where he has since carried on his business in a very successful manner, having at times as many as twenty men in his employ. A number of the finest residences in this city were erected by him, among them the residences of Hon. John Murphy, Nick Abens, and Henry Riser.

Mr. Little was married December 27, 1877, to Rebecca Van Nostrand, of Fair View, Illinois, daughter of Wycoff and Phebe (Eldert) Van Nostrand, formerly of Somerset county, New Jersey. By this



union two children have been born, Rita and Pearl, the last named dying in November, 1897, aged eight years. Fraternally, Mr. Little is a Mason, and has passed all the degrees up to and including the thirty-second degree. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican, and though taking an active interest in political affairs, has not been an office seeker. He has held the office of chairman of the board of trustees in the Park Place Baptist church for the past ten years, of which church himself and wife are members.

**H** MCCHESNEY, a resident of Geneva, was for years one of the active, enterprising business men of Chicago. He was born in Troy, New York, June 23, 1825, and is the son of Joseph S. McChesney, born in the same state. His father, Samuel McChesney, was a native of the north of Ireland, who came to the United States a young man, and was one of the pioneers of the Mohawk Valley. He there married Jane Morrison, and opened up a farm in Rensselaer county, where he reared his family.

Joseph S. McChesney, the father of our subject, grew to manhood in Rensselaer county, and there married Hannah Morrison, a daughter of Rufus Morrison. They were the parents of four sons and one daughter, as follows: David H. settled in Janesville, Wisconsin, where he engaged in milling, and there died about 1891; James, a resident of Troy, New York; Hiram, of this review; Mrs. Katherine Carrier, a widow residing in Chicago; and Israel, who moved to Colorado in 1889. Joseph McChesney resided on the old homestead until his death, after which his widow made it her

home until she, too, was called to a better world.

Hiram McChesney grew to manhood in his native county, and after receiving his primary education in the public schools, attended the Polytechnic at Troy, New York, from which he was graduated. He then went to work on the Erie railroad as civil engineer, and assisted in its construction for more than one year. He then went to Chicago, where he engaged in teaching for six years, and was then in the wood, coal and lumber business for several years. In 1862 he engaged in the cattle business, buying and selling cattle to the Government for the use of the army during the war. In that business he was quite successful. After the close of the war he engaged in the furniture business until 1871, when he experienced heavy loss in the great fire, having his store, house and barn burned. He rebuilt his residence, and later engaged as a detective in the Union Stock Yards at a time when there was more or less stealing of cattle and hogs. He was connected with that position until 1895, a period of more than twenty years.

Mr. McChesney has been twice married. By the first union was one child, Frances, a well-educated lady, now a successful teacher in the Englewood schools. His second union was with Miss Isabella Mackey, a native of Michigan, by whom he has one son, John Sherman, a student in the Geneva schools.

In the spring of 1883, Mr. McChesney purchased sixty-four acres of land, lying within the corporate limits of Geneva, remodeled the house, built two large barns, and otherwise improved the place, making it one of the neatest and most attractive in Geneva township. In early life, Mr. Mc-



Chesney was a Whig, but since 1856 has been an avowed Republican. In 1885, he was appointed by Governor Oglesby, as a member of the board of live stock commissioners, and was twice re-appointed, serving eight years, when he was removed by Governor Altgeld. In 1885 he was elected president of the town board of Geneva, and served one term. Office holding has never been to his liking, preferring to give his time and attention to his business interests. For a full half century, he has been a resident of Illinois, the greater part of which time his home has been in Chicago. On locating in that city, its inhabitants numbered but a few thousands, and he has witnessed its growth, until it has become the second city in population and wealth in the United States, and in its development he has borne his part. Personally he is a man of good business capacity, of upright character, and is well-known in Chicago, and throughout Kane and adjoining counties.

---

JOHN FORREST BELL, M. D., is a popular and successful physician of Elgin, whose office is located at the corner of Raymond and National streets. He was born on the 26th of February, 1863, near Claysville, Washington county, Pennsylvania, and is a son of Thomas J. and Elizabeth J. (Dunn) Bell, also natives of the Keystone state. Of their five children, the Doctor is the only one now living. The father engaged in teaching for a number of years, but now follows farming near Claysville. Being one of the prominent and influential citizens of his community, he was called upon to serve as county commissioner for several years, and during the

Civil war was a recruiting officer, but was never in active service. Both he and his estimable wife are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Samuel Bell, the Doctor's paternal grandfather, was born in Ireland, and on coming to America located in Pennsylvania, where he followed farming and reared his family of seven children. He died at the ripe old age of eighty-five. The maternal grandfather, Joseph Dunn, always lived in Pennsylvania, where he died in middle life, leaving a large family. By occupation he, too, was an agriculturist.

On the home farm near Claysville Dr. Bell passed the days of his boyhood and youth, while his elementary education was obtained in the district schools of the neighborhood. Later he attended the State Normal at California, Pennsylvania, graduating at that institution in 1884. For eight years he successfully engaged in teaching, either in the graded schools or in the State Normal, and for two terms conducted a normal school of his own, preparing teachers for their profession. While thus employed the Doctor began the study of medicine, and in 1890 graduated at the Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. In May of that year he opened an office in Elgin, where he has since successfully engaged in practice.

Dr. Bell was married May 20, 1891, the lady of his choice being Miss Ethel, daughter of Edward F. and Abigail (Johnson) Gooding, and to them were born two children: Vincent G., now deceased, and Doris Elizabeth. The Doctor is a member of the Congregational church, and socially is a member of the Odd Fellows society and the Knights of Pythias. Politically he is an ardent Republican, and he served as city

physician from 1891 to 1895, and is at present a member of the school board, his term extending from 1897 until 1900. He is an honored member of Fox River Valley and the American Medical Associations, and is quite prominent among his professional brethren.

FRANCIS L. YOUNG is one of the most active and enterprising business men of Kane county, of which he has been a resident for fifty-five years. He is a native of Vermont, born at Strafford, Orange county, December 1, 1828. The Youngs are of Scotch ancestry, three brothers emigrating from that country to the United States in the early part of the eighteenth century, one of whom located in Rhode Island, from whom descended the family of which our subject is a member. The paternal grandfather, Rev. Jacob Young, was a native of Rhode Island, born in 1758. He was a Universalist minister, the first of that denomination to locate in the town of Strafford. On locating there he was given a minister's grant of land in the town. He was a man of more than ordinary ability as a minister and theologian. His son, Nathan Young, was born at New Grantham, New Hampshire, in 1792. He there grew to manhood, and married Hannah Smith, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Frederick Smith, a large landholder, and of an old family of the Green Mountain state. Nathan Young followed the mercantile business for many years, and was a very prominent man in Orange county, Vermont, serving his county as a member of the state legislature. During the war of 1812, he entered the service, and was orderly sergeant of his company. Later he was commis-

sioned brigadier general of the state militia of Vermont, and served a number of years.

Nathan Young left his native state in 1844 and came to Kane county, Illinois, joining his son, Peleg Young, who located here some years previously. The family first located in Blackberry township, on a claim which Peleg had purchased some time previously. He at once commenced the improvement of the claim, and there resided some seven years. In 1846, however, in company with our subject, he took up a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Kaneville township, and in 1849 built a residence and removed to the place where he spent a number of years. Later he removed to Batavia, where he lived a retired life, his wife there dying in 1866. After her death he returned to the farm, and there resided with our subject until called from this world, in 1868. Both were laid to rest in the Batavia cemetery.

The subject of this sketch was sixteen years old when he came to Kane county, and here he has since continued to reside. In March, 1857, he returned to his old home in Strafford, Vermont, and there married Miss Betty Patterson, also a native of Strafford, Vermont, and a daughter of James and Polly Patterson, and a cousin of United States Senator Morrill. After marriage he returned with his young bride to Kane county, and they began their domestic life on the farm in Kaneville township, where Mr. Young engaged in agricultural pursuits for fourteen years, and then moved to the village of Kaneville, where Mrs. Young died, in November, 1871. She was the mother of three children, one of whom died in infancy. Jenny Mary grew to womanhood, and married Charles L. Cary, of Geneva, Illinois; she is now deceased. Frank P. is



F. L. YOUNG.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

married and is engaged in farming in Kaneville township. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Young married her sister, Mrs. Ann Annis, nee Patterson, the widow of Eli Annis, by whom she has one daughter, Lou, wife of Charles D. Ames, of Kaneville township.

Politically, Mr. Young was a Whig in early life, casting his first presidential ballot for Zachary Taylor. Being a believer in the freedom of all men, and that no man had a right to hold his fellow men in bondage, he naturally affiliated with the Republican party on its organization, and has since continued to be an advocate of its principles. He has taken quite an active part in local politics, and has held various positions of honor and trust. He was first elected overseer of highways, and, later, township assessor, clerk of the township, and justice of the peace. In 1879 he was elected county treasurer, and was re-elected at the close of his first term, and by change in the constitution he held over, serving seven consecutive years, the longest term of any man in Kane county. On retiring from that office he was again elected township clerk, and has served in that office for twenty-seven years. He also served two years as supervisor of Kaneville township, and was chairman of the county board, of Kane county.

Mr. Young has always been interested in all enterprises calculated to subserve the interest of his adopted county and state. He was one of the originators of the County Line Creamery, which operates two creameries, and was elected manager of the same, serving as such up to the present time. The creamery was incorporated November, 1890. He is a stockholder in the Old Second National Bank of Aurora, and has served as

one of its directors for some fifteen years. Fraternally, he is a Mason, and was formerly quite active in the lodge at Kaneville, continuing his active membership in it until it ceased to exist, after its lodgeroom was destroyed by fire. For more than half a century his face has been a familiar one to the citizens of Kane county. He is well known throughout its length and breadth, and his friends are many in every part of the county.

**SAMUEL H. LEE**, one of the leading and substantial citizens of St. Charles, was born February 2, 1843, near Belfast, county Tyrone, Ireland, a son of William and Anna (Mooré) Lee, who spent their entire lives in that county, where the father was engaged in agricultural pursuits as a life work. He died at about the age of eighty, and the mother, after surviving him three years, also passed away and now sleeps by his side in a cemetery of their native land. Our subject was the youngest of their eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, the others being as follows: William, who came to the new world and died in a hospital during his service in the Mexican war; Maggie, now the widow of John Warford, and a resident of Sycamore, Illinois; Mrs. Nancy Ann Allen, a widow residing in St. Charles; Henry, who owns and occupies the old homestead in county Tyrone, Ireland; Silas A., a retired farmer of Sycamore, Illinois; David and Isaac, both residents of New Zealand; Jennie, who died when a young lady; Vestina, who died at the age of twelve years; and a son, who died in childhood.

During his boyhood Samuel H. Lee attended the common schools of his native

land, but is mostly self-educated. In 1859 he bade adieu to home and friends and sailed for America. On reaching the shores of this country, he came at once to St. Charles, where he had a brother and two sisters living. He began life here as a farm hand, receiving ten dollars per month, and was thus employed for two years, at the end of which time he obtained a position in a paper mill at St. Charles, remaining there for sixteen years, when the plant was destroyed by fire. Going to Chicago, he then learned the blacksmith's trade, and after serving a three-years' apprenticeship, he worked in the shops of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad for five years. On his return to St. Charles he rented a farm which he operated for five years, and then bought eighteen acres near St. Charles, to which he added from time to time as his circumstances would permit until he owned two hundred acres of valuable land. Until he had accumulated the entire amount he rented his property, while he operated other land, but in 1880 he removed to his own farm, which adjoins St. Charles on the north.

For a few years he continued to actively engage in farming, while his son carried on the farm, for six years. It is one of the best improved places in Kane county, the land is under a high state of cultivation, and in 1896 he erected thereon a fine residence and excellent barn, both of which cost over two thousand dollars.

On the 25th of July, 1861, in St. Charles, Mr. Lee was united in marriage with Miss Jane Kirk, who was born in Scotland, and when a young lady came to the United States. They began their domestic life in the house which is now their home. To them were born two children. W. J. is

married and now owns and occupies a large farm in Alabama, where he removed in the spring of 1897. He has two sons, Harris S. and Charles Lee. The only daughter, Annie, is now the wife of C. S. Pollard, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who is an engineer on the Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad. They have one daughter, Dora Lee.

Mr. Lee cast his first presidential ballot for General U. S. Grant in 1868, and has continued an earnest supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party up to the present time, casting his last vote for William McKinley, who was born on the same day and year as our subject. In religious belief Mr. and Mrs. Lee are Congregationalists, and for several years he has served as trustee of the church. As a lad of sixteen 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 of success have been realized, and in their happy fulfillment he sees the fitting reward of his earnest toil. Success has crowned his efforts and he enjoys a comfortable competence.

---

LEWIS B. JUDSON, SR.—Among those who are justly entitled to the name of pioneer is the one whose name heads this sketch, and who was a pioneer in two states, Michigan and Illinois. He was born in Westfield, Hampden county, Massachusetts, November 13, 1806, and is the son of Lucius B. and Sallie B. (Loomis) Judson, both of whom are natives of the same state. The Judson family trace their ancestry back to one of four brothers who settled in Connecticut, long prior to the Revolutionary war. The paternal grandfather of our sub-



ject, John J. Judson, was born in Huntington, Connecticut, and after serving as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, moved to Southwick, Massachusetts, where Lucius B. Judson was born. Like his father before him, he was a patriot and served in the war of 1812. By occupation he was a farmer during his early life, but later was for many years a manufacturer of gunpowder. Previous to the war of 1812 he removed to Stratford, New York, where he was residing at the outbreak of the war, from which place he enlisted. After the war he returned to Massachusetts and died in the town of Westfield about 1827. For his services in that war his widow secured a pension from the general government. She survived her husband many years, dying at the age of eighty-four years. Of their family of twelve children all grew to mature years, though but three are now living. Those yet living are Lewis B., our subject; De Lafayette, who resides in Dakota, and Dr. Don Carlos, of Omro, Wisconsin. The deceased are: George W., Isaac B., Noah Clark, Lucius C., David Wells, and Sallie S. The latter married, reared a family of four children, moved to Omro, Wisconsin, and there died.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, where he received a fair common-school education. When but eleven years of age he hired out to work on a farm, and was employed by different farmers until seventeen years of age, in the meantime attending school during the winter months. When seventeen years old he was engaged as a traveling salesman for a manufacturing company, and was on the road for six years. He then came west, locating at White Pigeon Prairie, Michigan, where he took up a tract of three hundred

and twenty acres, which he at once began to improve, building on the place a fair frame house and making other improvements.

On the 26th of December, 1830, Mr. Judson was united in marriage with Miss Catherine P. Mudgett, a native of New York, born July 8, 1811. By this union there were six children, three of whom are yet living, as follows: Mary J., now the wife of William H. Hills, residing in Fresno, California; Albert E., married and residing in Wellsford, Kansas, and William H. H., residing in Bessemer, Alabama, where he is engaged in editorial work and in the real-estate business. For some years he was business manager for the "Times Democrat" in New Orleans, and was chief of the printing department during the cotton exhibition held in that city.

Mr. Judson was one of the founders of White Pigeon village, Michigan, and was one of the surveyors who made a plat of the town. While residing there the Blackhawk war commenced in Illinois, and Mr. Judson was commissioned paymaster by Governor Cass, of the regiment commanded by Colonel Stewart. They were ordered to the western part of the state, and for about twenty days were stationed in Chicago. While there he was sent out on a scouting expedition in company with some twelve or fourteen others, and came west as far as the present village of Oswego, Kendall county. Mr. Judson was so pleased with the beautiful country that he determined, if possible, to make this his home. On the arrival of General Scott at Chicago with the regular troops Colonel Stewart's regiment was disbanded, and Mr. Judson returned to his home at White Pigeon. Two years later he sold out and moved with his family to

Kendall county, Illinois, where he made claim to about six hundred acres of land, part of which is included in the present village of Oswego. He built the first house in the village and laid off a portion of his farm in town lots.

In 1840 Mrs. Catherine P. Judson departed this life, and on the 13th of March, 1843, Mr. Judson married Miss Diana E. Stafford, a native of Willoughby, Ohio, who came to Oswego, Illinois, with her parents, James B. and Roxanna (Mentor) Stafford, who were also pioneers of Kendall county. Of the eight children born of this union seven yet survive: James A., a soldier of the late war, residing in Aurora, Illinois; Julia M., wife of M. V. Bennett, a civil engineer; Ella C., wife of Martin L. Ashley, of Norwich, Kansas; Charles L., a farmer of Kane county; Lewis B., a lawyer of Aurora; George F., a commercial traveler residing in Aurora; Harry C., who was killed and robbed in Kansas, when but eighteen years of age; and Fred C., a machinist in the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops. Mr. Judson has now some twenty-three grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

In 1873 Mr. Judson sold his farm and moved to Aurora, where he has since continued to reside. Since coming to the place he has been actively engaged in various enterprises and has erected some of the finest blocks and residences in the city, among which are the Sinsenbaugh building, the Judson block, his own fine residence on Galena street, one store building on Galena and five residences, the Scott & Pease building, and a large business block on the corner of Downer Place and River streets. It is probable that no man in Aurora has done more towards building up and im-

proving the city than has Mr. Judson. He is a stockholder and assisted in the organization of the Silver Plate Factory, the cotton factory and other like institutions in the city. He is also a stockholder in the First National Bank, the Aurora National Bank and the Merchants' National Bank.

In early life Mr. Judson was an old-line Whig, the principles of which party he strongly advocated, and the leaders of which he greatly honored. On the organization of the Republican party, he became identified with it, and has since been one of its staunchest advocates. While residing in Kendall county he served as coroner, assessor, school director, justice of the peace and for some years was chairman of the board of supervisors of the county. Since coming to Aurora he has declined all official honors, giving his time exclusively to his extensive business interests. He was a charter member of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Oswego, in which he filled all the chairs, including that of noble grand.

For sixty-four long years Mr. Judson has been a resident of Illinois, and is one of the few living pioneers who have witnessed its change from a vast wilderness to the most productive state in the Union, and third in wealth and population. In the great changes that have been made he has taken no inconsiderable part, and is justly entitled to all the honors that can be conferred upon one who has endured the trials of pioneer life.

---

MICHAEL BURNS, a practical farmer residing on section 26, Hampshire township, is the only son of John and Elizabeth (Lawler) Burns, both of whom were natives of Ireland, born in county Carlow. The paternal grandfather, John Burns, Sr.,



was born in county Wicklow, Ireland, and was a shoemaker by trade. During the Irish rebellion in 1798, he took cold while in the service and contracted rheumatism, from which he never recovered and died at about the age of sixty years. He married Mary Murphy, who was born at Castle Moore, and a daughter of Michael Murphy, all of whom are natives of Ireland.

John C. Burns was born in the village of Tullough, county Carlow, Ireland, in 1813, and there learned the shoemaker's trade with his father. He married Elizabeth Lawler, and in 1852 moved to Sheffield, England, where he remained seven years, working at his trade. In 1859 he emigrated to America, sailing from Liverpool in the ship "Clipper," and landing in Boston. Finding no work in the shoe factories near Boston he came to Kane county, Illinois, and settled on the farm of his brother-in-law, John Lawler, on section 23. He soon bought forty acres back from the highway, and began farming for himself. He built a small house on the tract and later bought the rest of the Lawler farm, consisting of one hundred acres. Subsequently he bought sixty acres, which gave him an outlet to the road, and to the new purchase he removed with his family. The location of the farm is an attractive one, and on it is a comfortable house, with barns and other outbuildings, together with a good orchard. The farm is now leased by our subject, who is engaged principally in dairy farming, milking fifty head of cows, the product of which he ships to Chicago.

The subject of this sketch began his education in the schools of Sheffield, England, and completed his school life in the public schools of Hampshire township. Since coming to the United States he has

made his home only on the present farm. He farmed with his father for many years and later took full charge and has now for some years engaged exclusively in its cultivation. He is an industrious, hardworking man, and he has placed the farm under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Burns married Miss Ellen Kelly, a native of Kane county, born on her father's homestead on section fifteen, Hampshire township. She is a daughter of Timothy and Mary (Ryan) Kelly, natives of Ireland, and granddaughter of Timothy and Ellen (Eagan) Ryan. Timothy Kelly, the paternal grandfather was born in Tipperary, Ireland, March 25, 1818, and died on the home farm in Hampshire township, June 6, 1889. He came to America in 1840, lived in New York one year and in 1841 came to Hampshire township as blacksmith in the employ of the stage company, running a line of coaches from Chicago to Galena. He was the first blacksmith in the township and became a prosperous man, accumulating a fine property. To our subject and wife seven children have been born—John, Mary, Eliza, Thomas, Ellen, Annie and Michael, Jr. In politics Mr. Burns is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. Religiously he and his wife are members of the Catholic church.

---

JAMES SKINNER, who has been a citizen of Aurora, Kane county, Illinois, since the autumn of 1871, and who resides at No. 342 Spring street, comes of an old and honored family, who settled in the American Colonies in the early part of the seventeenth century. He was born in Winchester, New Hampshire, November 19,



1824, and is a son of Alanson and Mary (Woodward) Skinner, both natives of New Hampshire. His father followed the trade of a blacksmith, and in connection therewith owned a small foundry, and carried on a remunerative business in Winchester until our subject was five years old. At this time he moved with his family to Brownville, New York, and continued in the same line of business.

James Skinner assisted his father during his youth and gained a rudimentary education in the public schools at Brownville. In his father's shop he learned the trade of a tinner, but at the age of eighteen he was sent to Mount Cæsar Seminary, West Moreland county, New Hampshire, where he completed his education. Returning home he resumed work at his trade. The family of Alanson Skinner consisted of four children—Horace, Mary, James and William T. In 1861 the father retired from active business life, and the business was carried on by his three sons in partnership. The partnership was dissolved in 1867, by the retirement of James. December 15, 1853, he was married to Helen Munn, of Champion, New York, and three children were born to them. James, the first born, died in early youth. William F., the second son, married Della Houston, and at the present time is one of Aurora's efficient mail carriers, and has two children, Hazel Dell and Ruth. Jenny M. married John Hull, is now a widow, and resides with her parents. The children of our subject were all born in New York state. The mother died December 26, 1862. January 22, 1870, he was married to Eliza Brown, of Brownville, New York.

The first of the Skinner family to appear in the New World was one who brought his

family from Essex county, England, to the American Colonies, about 1620. Of his seven sons, four settled in the eastern and three in the southern colonies. From this family, it is believed, sprang all or nearly all of that name now inhabiting the United States.

In "Burk's History of the Commons," a work still extant in the state library at Albany, New York, there is a brief sketch of the Skinner family in England, wherein the ancestry of our subject is traced to Sir Robert Skynner, as the name was originally spelled, a Norman knight who accompanied William, Duke of Normandy, called the Conqueror, and assisted in the conquest of the Saxons at the battle of Hastings, A. D. 1066, and the family of Skinners who first landed in America were undoubtedly descendants of Sir Robert. An interesting book in manuscript which bears the coat of arms of the Skinner family, is in possession of our subject, and gives a clear genealogical record of the family for many generations. Alanson Skinner, the father, participated in the war of 1812.

In 1871, James Skinner brought his family from New York state to Illinois, and settled in Aurora, soon afterwards becoming a partner in the city flouring mills, with James Robinson and Ira T. Curtis, under the firm name of Robinson, Curtis & Co. Mr. Skinner eventually bought out his partners, then rented the mill, and finally sold it to Jamieson, Sheets & Co., since which time he has lived retired from business cares and enjoys a restful life in his pleasant home at 342 Spring street, but in the heat of summer he and his wife annually seek the woods of Wisconsin, and pass three months on the banks of Kelly's lake, where he owns a cottage and boathouse, and the recreation

of bathing, shooting and fishing are indulged in to their hearts' content. Mr. Skinner never sought for office, but was prevailed upon to accept the position of alderman for one term only.

**WILLIAM SCOTT.**—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 homes within her borders in the early days. To their inspiration and work is due her progress in agriculture, manufacturing and the arts. They transformed the wilderness into fertile farms, established churches and schools in the savage wilds, laying the foundation for the grand institutions of philanthropy and learning which are the glory of the state at the present day. Among these brave and far-sighted pioneers, the Scott family, of Kane county, deserves prominent mention.

The subject of this sketch was born February 1, 1844, in Virgil township, Kane county, a son of John Scott, a native of Scotland, who was born in 1809, and, in 1820, came to the new world with his father, Hugh Scott, settling in Utica, New York, where John grew to manhood. There he wedded Mary Atkinson, June 15, 1828. She was born in England, where her father died during her early childhood, and when only nine years old she came to the United States. John Scott, an active and enterprising man, was in early life a contractor on the old New York & Erie canal, and later engaged in the hotel business. In 1836 he came to Illinois, and after a few months spent in Chicago, located in St. Charles,

Kane county. Subsequently he bought a claim and opened up a farm of four hundred acres in Virgil township, making it one of the most desirable places in the locality, improved with a good residence, substantial barns and outbuildings. In connection with agricultural pursuits, he embarked in merchandising at Elburn in 1856, carrying on that business for three years. He still continued to engage in farming for several years and then sold the place to our subject, living with him in St. Charles until called to his final rest October 17, 1877. His wife died September 11, 1882. As one of the leading citizens of his township, he was called upon to serve as justice of the peace for several years, and was at one time a member of the county board. He was also an active and prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and assisted in organizing the church in Camp-ton township.

To John and Mary (Atkinson) Scott were born the following children: Sarah is now the widow of Charles Shirtliff, and is a resident of Neodesha, Kansas; John H., a business man of Kaneville, now resides in Aurora; Alexander died in infancy; Elizabeth died at the age of sixteen years; Robert was a member of Company I, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and died in 1863, soon after his return from the war; William is the next of the family; Mary E. died at the home of our subject in 1893; A. J. is a business man of Denver, Colorado; and George F. died in infancy.

Upon the home farm William Scott was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys of that day, acquiring his education in the schools of Elburn and Sycamore. After reaching man's estate he bought the



old homestead and actively engaged in farming for some years, making many valuable and useful improvements upon the place. In connection with general farming, he was also engaged in buying, feeding and shipping stock, and even after selling the farm and removing to St. Charles, in 1874, he continued the latter occupation, making a specialty of the shipping of horses. He was also interested in haling and dealing in hay. In St. Charles he bought property and erected the fine large residence he still occupies. He has also bought, improved and sold other city property and stimulated the industries of the place by loaning money.

On the 11th of November, 1874, Mr. Scott was married in St. Charles to Miss Hattie E. Pike, a native of New York, who, in 1856, during her childhood, was brought to Illinois by her father, Cornelius Pike. He spent his last days in St. Charles, where he was engaged in business for some years. Here Mrs. Scott was reared, and in Wheaton College she completed her education. For several years prior to her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have one daughter, Jennie Maude, who graduated from the East Side High School of St. Charles, and was also a student for a time in the Elgin High School.

Politically, Mr. Scott has been an ardent Republican since casting his first presidential ballot for Gen. U. S. Grant, in 1868. Although he has never cared for official honors, he most acceptably served as a member of the school board for some years, rendering effective service in its interest. Both he and his wife are consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in the community where they have so

long made their home their circle of friends is only limited by their circle of acquaintances.

LEWIS H. GILLETT, who for thirty years was prominently identified with the agricultural interests of Kane county, but is now deceased, was born in Sullivan county, New York, October 23, 1820, and there grew to manhood, receiving a good common-school education. He was married in Sullivan county January 22, 1850, to Rachel Harmes, a daughter of Charles Harmes, also a native of Sullivan county, New York. By trade Mr. Harmes was a blacksmith, and was three times married. His second wife, Mary Smith, was the mother of Mrs. Gillett, and died when her daughter was but three years old. He later married again, and, after the death of his last wife, he came west, and spent his remaining years in Illinois, dying at the residence of a daughter in Sycamore, De Kalb county. Mrs. Gillett grew to womanhood in Sullivan county, New York, and there gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Gillett.

Directly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Gillett started for the west, coming by railroad to Buffalo, New York, where they took a boat to Detroit, and thence by rail to Chicago and St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois. From St. Charles they came by ox team to Sugar Grove township. Mr. Gillett had secured three land warrants, for which he secured land in that township. He first purchased two hundred and sixty acres, which he improved, and from time to time added to his original possessions until at the time of his death he was the owner of one thousand acres, all of which was under cultivation. He was a very active





L. H. GILLETT.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

and progressive farmer, and prospered in all that he did. On the farm he erected two good substantial residences, one of which was of brick, and also erected good barns and other outbuildings. On one of his farms in De Kalb county he erected a barn at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars.

Mr. Gillett was liberal and public-spirited, and gave to all laudable enterprises which were calculated to build up his township and county. He was one of the promoters of the Sugar Grove Normal School, and for the erection of its building donated the sum of five hundred dollars. He was originally a Democrat in politics, but on account of the slavery question and the position his party took with regard to it, he cast his lot with the Republican party on its organization, with which he continued to be identified until his death. He was elected and served as commissioner of highways, and some other local positions, although he never asked for official position. It was his aim to be a good farmer, and that he succeeded is attested by all who knew him.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gillett seven children were born, as follows: Mary, who grew to womanhood, married S. L. Judd, of Sugar Grove, died in 1895; Franklin died at the age of six months; Eugene died at the age of four months; Eddie Grant, a very bright and intelligent young man, met his death by accident when twenty years old; Arthur L. is a prominent business man of Aurora; and Rachel May is the wife of M. C. Schoop, of Sugar Grove.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Gillett took charge of the business, and assisted in the settlement of the estate. In 1884 she built a good, neat and substantial residence in the village of Sugar Grove, where she has since resided. Like her

husband, she gives liberally in support of various public enterprises. Toward the erection of the Methodist church she gave two hundred dollars. While not a member of any church organization, she attends the different churches, and endeavors to have her life conform to the golden rule. She is well known as a woman of good business ability, and is esteemed and loved by all who know her.

**C**HARLES ALLEN, section 35, Hampshire township, is one of a pioneer family, to whom is given the credit of being the first settler of Hampshire township. Zenath Allen, a native of Rutland county, Vermont, took up a claim on section 24, in September, 1836, and built a log house and at once commenced the improvement of the land. He arrived in Chicago, June 5, of that year, when it was a collection of huts in a quagmire. Seeing nothing of promise in those marshes, he came further west and became a permanent resident of Hampshire township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a very prominent man in the early day, one of brains and energy, and made his influence felt in the new settlement. A member of the first board of school trustees of the township, he assisted in organizing the school district. His wife was Lucretia Gibbs, a native of Canada. His death occurred February 5, 1848, at the age of sixty-three. He served in the war of 1812.

The Allen family comes of fighting stock, being descended from a common ancestor with Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame, the famous captor of Ticonderoga. Ethan J. Allen, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, in 1812,



and came in the regular army to Chicago in 1835. During the smallpox epidemic there he wrote for his parents to come and secure his discharge. This done, the family moved to Kane county and remained. Ethan J. secured a farm on section 35, and occupied the land until his death in 1887. He was also a prominent figure in public affairs in the early day, and in 1844 served as deputy sheriff of the county. Later he occupied the office of sheriff, and from 1860 was for many years a member of the board of supervisors. He was also a justice of the peace for years, his first commission being signed by Governor Madison. During the early days of the war for the union, he served as adjutant of the Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, his commission being dated September 14, 1861. He resigned November 12, 1862. For several years he was a mail route agent on the railroad between Chicago and Dubuque. He married Miss Harriet Smith, and to them were born four children—Henry, deceased; David A., father of our subject; Marian married George McClelland, deceased, and she now lives in Elgin; and Hiram, who died quite young.

David A. Allen was born on the family homestead, section 35, Hampshire township, October 15, 1842, and until the age of sixteen attended the subscription schools of the neighborhood. He remained upon the home farm until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted in Company A, Seventh Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Joslyn. He enlisted April 22, 1861, his regiment being the first to enter the service from Illinois. From Elgin he went to Springfield, Illinois, where the regiment was mustered into service, and from thence to Alton and Cairo, serving un-

til discharged at Mound City, Illinois, July 25, 1861, at the expiration of their term of service. Returning home he re-enlisted in Company K, Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, the date of his enlistment being September 6, 1861. He served until September, 1862, when he was discharged for disability. During this year's service, with his regiment he was stationed at St. Joseph, Missouri; Bird's Point, Kentucky; Smithland, Kentucky; and Fort Donelson. After the battle of Fort Donelson, he was with the force that was sent with prisoners to Chicago. He returned to his regiment by way of St. Louis, and joined it at Pittsburg Landing.

After being at home for about a year and fully recovering his strength, on December 30, 1863, he re-enlisted the second time in Company H, Fifteenth Regiment, Illinois Cavalry, known as the Kane County Cavalry, with which he served until its reorganization, at Little Rock, Arkansas, when the company of our subject was merged into Company L, Tenth Illinois Cavalry. This was done January 26, 1865, and the regiment was engaged in service in the west and south until its discharge, January 6, 1866, being one of the last regiments of the volunteer army to be mustered out of the service.

On receiving his final discharge, David A. Allen returned home and bought the farm on section 35, consisting of one hundred and twenty acres, since which time he has added eighty acres, forty of which lies in section 27, and which makes a tract of two hundred acres of the very finest land. At first the farm was used for grain, later, stock-raising, and at present for dairy purposes, there being upon the place about fifty head of milch cows. David A. Allen was mar-

ried in Hampshire township, February 20, 1867, to Miss Caroline Coon, first in a family of four children born to Hildah and Maria (Parker) Coon, the latter being a daughter of William and Rachel (Retchie) Parker. Hildah Coon was by occupation a farmer, which he followed during his entire life. He was born in the state of New York, and came to Hampshire township in 1839, and died at the age of forty-eight years. Mary Ann Coon, their second child, was the second white child born in Hampshire township. She married Henry J. Allen, now deceased, who was a brother of David A. Allen, and she became the mother of one daughter, Martha A. The other two children of Hildah and Maria Coon are Calvin M., living in Joliet, and William S., who resides at New Lebanon, De Kalb county, Illinois. To David A. Allen and wife four children were born, as follows: Chloe, who died at the age of thirteen years; Hattie, who married Leonard Ewing, of Burlington township; Charles, our subject; and Elizabeth, who married Frank Ritz, of McHenry county, Illinois. In politics David A. Allen was a Republican, and for four years was deputy sheriff of Kane county, highway commissioner nine years, and a school director for many years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Charles Allen, our subject, was born on the farm where he now resides, February 20, 1872, and his home has always been under the one roof. He attended the district school until the age of thirteen, and then worked for his father on the farm until 1890, when he went west and spent some time at Sioux City, Iowa, in the employ of a land firm, although he did a little farm work a part of the time, and also engaged in trad-

ing horses. Returning home, and on his father's retirement, he took charge of the farm and has since been operating the same.

Charles Allen was married February 6, 1895, in the village of Hampshire, to Miss Libbie Haines, born in Madison, Nebraska, and a daughter of J. L. Haines, a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio, born January 29, 1841, and who came west with his parents, David and Emily (Burns) Haines, about 1844. J. L. Haines married Mary Garner, born near Albany, New York, and a daughter of Lorenzo and Ellen (Boyce) Garner, the latter being a daughter of Ethan Boyce. Lorenzo Garner went to California in the early days of the gold fever there, and was shortly afterward drowned. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Haines, Mrs. Allen is fourth in order of birth. To our subject and wife, one daughter has been born, Hazel.

In politics, Mr. Allen is a Republican, having inherited the liberty-loving principles of that party. The only office which he has held is that of school director. Fraternally he is a member of Hampshire camp, Modern Woodmen of America. He is a prosperous and energetic young farmer, one who has doubtless a bright future before him.

JAMES PEARL PRINDLE, a leading and influential citizen of Batavia, is the son of Abijah Legore and Caroline Miriam (Pearl) Prindle, was born March 9, 1841, at the home of his grandparents, James and Lydia (Tobey) Pearl, who settled not far from 1811, on the Holland Purchase, later called Bennington, in Western New York, where four days chopping was required to clear a space in the heavy timber, large

enough to build a log house, in which the family lived until 1849, then moved into a frame house on the opposite side of the road where the grandmother died April 18, 1855, and the mother, October 17, of the same year, when nearly forty-two years of age.

The following November, the balance of the family, consisting of James Pearl, grandfather, born May 23, 1786, Abijah L. Prindle, father, born February 25, 1808, and his children, Lucy R. Prindle, born April 11, 1838; Jason Richard Prindle, born December 20, 1843; Legore Prindle, born January 8, 1846; and James P. Prindle, moved to Batavia, Illinois, where Jane C. Colton, *nee* Prindle, born March 2, 1833, and Mary M. Newton, *nee* Prindle, born June 3, 1835, were then living, and where the father resumed his position as superintendent of the Hoyt Barrel Factory. The three brothers attended the public schools in Batavia until the family was broken up by the marriage of Mrs. Colton to Rev. Elijah H. Gammon, and Lucy R., to Elisha Foote, Jr., May 5, 1856, after which the boys were scattered.

The life of James P. Prindle, until moving west, having been spent on a farm with his invalid grandfather, with but little time in the winter to attend the district school, which was usually open about three months, he felt, when thrown on his own resources, that he must have an education, and with this determination started for Chicago, July 4, 1856, where he found a situation and worked until the opening of school at the Batavia Institute, where the winter and following spring were spent, as were his accumulated earnings. This round was followed until qualified to teach, where, by teaching winters and working vacations, it

was an easy matter to get quite a part of the year in school. With the exception of time enough spent in Nebraska to secure two hundred and forty acres of government land near Nebraska City, the above mentioned plan was followed until the Civil war broke out, when he, with his father, brother-in-law, D. C. Newton, and two brothers, sought service in the army, and September 10, 1861, enlisted in Company D, Fifty-Second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, camped in Geneva, Illinois.

As soon as the regiment was organized orders were received to report at St. Louis, and from there the work of guarding the Hannibal & St. Joseph railroad was taken up, with regimental headquarters at St. Joseph, while Companies B and D were stationed at Stewartville, Missouri. Early in 1862 the regiment moved to Cairo, camping in February at Fort Holt, without tents or covering. Colonel I. S. Wilson having resigned, Colonel Sweeney, of the regular army, afterwards brigadier-general, and later a leader in the Fenian movement, was appointed colonel in this regiment, which moved in a day or two up the river to Smithland, Kentucky, and from that point the battle of Fort Donelson was the next work, followed by a trip to Chicago with prisoners, and from there going direct to Pittsburg Landing, where a large number of the regiment was either killed or wounded.

Just before the battle of Fort Donelson Mr. Prindle was taken down with measles, followed by mumps and fever, and, going from the hospital in Paducah, joined the regiment Monday, April 7, at Pittsburg Landing, where he took the position of orderly sergeant of Company D, under Captain Newton, and was sent back sick from the third breastworks, in front of Corinth, reach-



Batavia, July 3, an invalid, unable to walk for months, and for years a victim of chronic diarrhœa.

School work at the Clark Seminary at Aurora was taken up as soon as strength would permit, but poor health prevent earning money to continue, so a position with Easter & Gammon, implement dealers in Chicago, was secured in the summer of 1863, which was followed, in 1866, by a partnership with E. H. Gammon, under the firm name of Gammon & Prindle, 46, 48 and 50 West Lake street. Contracts were made for handling Pitt's thresher, Dodge's self-raking reapers and mowers, with a general line of implements, and the manufacturing of Marsh harvesters for part of the western states.

In 1869 a change was made by the discontinuance of the Gammon & Prindle firm, and an interest taken with A. E. Bishop, making the firm of Bishop & Prindle, manufacturers of wagons, which relation was continued until 1874, when an interest was purchased in the Newton Wagon Company, of Batavia, where, as superintendent of the works, twenty years were spent. Health failing, active work was given up, and relations changed to that of vice-president.

In 1891 the position of director in the Plano Manufacturing Company, of Plano, Illinois, later of West Pullman, was accepted, and after the death of E. H. Gammon, July 3, 1891, he was elected to fill the position of vice-president, and still retains that connection with the company, which has for years annually supplied this country with thousands of Plano & Jones' harvesters, headers, mowers, reapers, hay-rakes, etc., and in late years has opened a large foreign trade, covering quite a portion of Europe and South America. On the 24th of Sep-

tember, 1867, Mr. Prindle married Mary A. Cornell, in Evanston. She was born August 18, 1841, in Spring Creek, Pennsylvania. The children born to them are: Albro Bishop, April 22, 1869; Martha Caroline, July 3, 1872; James Pearl, June 27, 1876; and Carl, October 10, 1882, who died August 10, the following year.

The politics adopted by Mr. Prindle at an early age were that of Abolitionist Whig, probably because of living where runaway slaves were helped toward Canada, but his first vote was Republican; although never an aspirant for office, yet an earnest worker for keeping the best men in office, and in the community in which he lives considered no effort too great when made in the interest of temperance, morality and necessary improvements. The public schools have always been a subject of vital interest to him. Born at the stopping place and headquarters of the Methodist circuit riders, in the old log house, it was not strange that, in early life, he should become interested in religious matters. The early records of the Methodist church of Batavia show him on the active list. On reaching Chicago, he joined the Jefferson Street Methodist Episcopal church, and became identified with Sabbath-school work, and on the society moving to their new centenary church, was a steward and class leader in the church, and as time passed, teacher, librarian and assistant superintendent in the Sunday-school of twelve hundred members, where, under the pastorate of such brilliant preachers as Drs. C. H. Fowler, R. M. Hatfield and J. O. Peck, active church work became the rule, and on returning to Batavia, in 1874, he fell into line there, and is still an earnest, faithful worker in the beautiful new Methodist Episcopal church.

**WILLIAM W. MERRILL.**—Wherever there is pioneer work to be done, men of energy and ability are required, and success or failure depends upon the degree of those qualities that is possessed. In wresting the land from its native wilderness, in fitting it for the habitation of men; in developing the natural resources of the community in which they live, few if any have contributed more largely than Mr. Merrill, who is now living retired in Elgin, and it is mete and proper that for the arduous and important labor he has performed he should receive due reward.

Born in Oxford county, Maine, March 16, 1815, he is a son of William and Charity (Davis) Merrill, who were of English descent. Both grandfathers were soldiers of the Revolutionary war, Mr. Merrill entering the service at the age of eighteen, Mr. Davis at the age of seventeen, and both fought under General Warren at the battle of Bunker Hill, as well as in other engagements. The grandfather Davis was aid de camp to that general. He died when our subject was about sixteen years of age, and the grandfather Merrill when he was fourteen, both passing away upon their farms in Maine. Throughout life they engaged in farming, lumbering and shipping.

William Merrill, Sr., father of our subject, was also a farmer by occupation, and was one of the men who assisted in founding the town of Brownfield, Oxford county, Maine. He died on the old homestead there, in 1836. He was one of the leading members of the Congregational church at that place, was a Whig in politics, and for the long period of twenty years served as foreman of the grand jury. His wife, who was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, died in the spring of

1860, at the home of her daughter Harriet in New York City. In their family were nine children, namely: Louisa, who married John Small, and both are now deceased; Irene, who married John Campbell, of New Orleans, Louisiana, and both are deceased; Harriet, who married John Kelsey, of New York, and both are deceased; William W., of this sketch; Nicholas, a resident of Maine; Bradbury, deceased; Martha, who married A. S. Carr, and died in Nebraska; Mary, who died when young; and Alvin, who died in New York City.

The early life of our subject was spent on the home farm at Brownfield, and in private schools he acquired his education. He early became familiar with every department of farming and lumbering, and at the age of seventeen started out in life for himself as his father had lost much of his property. The first season he worked upon a farm, and with the money he earned, he purchased a yoke of oxen. The following winter he was employed at a tavern in Oxford, and the next summer again worked at farming, taking a colt for pay. This he put on the home farm with the oxen and went to Portland, where he was in the employ of a stage company during the winter. For the following two years he was with a lumber company on the Penobscot river, and then, having accumulated some capital, he engaged in lumbering on his own account until the panic of 1835, which was one of the worst ever experienced in this country.

Having lost everything, Mr. Merrill started westward in the spring of 1837, with the hope of retrieving his fortune. On the 1st of June of that year he arrived in Terre Haute, Indiana, and from there proceeded to Paris, Edgar county, Illinois, where he



stopped with a Mr. Archer for about two weeks. Alone and on foot he followed the army trail to Springfield, the houses along the way being from fifteen to twenty miles apart. There he found employment with a stage company, but owing to ill health, he soon had to abandon his position. On his recovery he went to Tazewell county, and the following spring to Ottawa, where he found employment with the Frink Stage Company, having known John Frink in the east. For several months he was connected with that company, after which he was variously employed for some time. Finally locating in Chicago, he engaged in merchandising on the South Side from 1838 until 1840, and from there came to Elgin, where he followed both carpentering and farming for some time. In 1843 he bought a claim of one hundred and thirty-two acres of Mr. Kimball, paying him one dollar and a quarter per acre. This land extended along the south road to the forks, from there to Larkin's corner, north to McClain's farm, and from there to the Hamilton farm, now owned by W. H. Wing. Upon that place Mr. Merrill lived until 1850, giving his attention to agricultural pursuits, and then came to Elgin, where he was engaged in the market business until 1864, and subsequently in the grocery business until 1878. Since that time he has lived retired, enjoying a well-earned rest at his comfortable home in Elgin, surrounded by the care and attention of an affectionate wife and daughter.

In Chicago, April 27, 1848, Mr. Merrill married Miss Ellen Flin, by whom he had seven children: Eugene, deceased; Helen, at home; Amelia, wife of Frank Schuller, of Elgin; Irene, who died when young; Martha, who died in infancy; Charles W., a resident of Traverse City, Michigan; and

Hattie, the wife of William Wood, of Kansas City, Missouri. For his second wife Mr. Merrill married, May 16, 1869, Mrs. Jane Earl, a daughter of Andrew and Jane (Hollow) Longstaff, of Ottawa, Canada. She was the widow of Edward Earl, who died at McHenry, Illinois, January 30, 1868. Her father was a native of England, while her mother was born in Scotland.

Politically Mr. Merrill was first a Whig, and later a Democrat. He was a great friend of Lincoln, and corresponded with him during the exciting campaign of 1860, but told the martyr president that he would not vote for his death warrant, which he believed he would be doing if he assisted in electing him president. In the early development of Kane county Mr. Merrill bore an important part, and he was especially active in the erection of the first Methodist Episcopal church in Elgin, assisting in getting out the timbers for that edifice. His career has ever been such as to warrant the trust and confidence of the entire community, and his friends are many throughout Kane and surrounding counties.

---

ROBERT PIERPONT was for many years actively engaged in the grocery business at Aurora, but is now living a retired life. He was born in Nottinghamshire, England, November 23, 1822. His parents, George and Mary (Bemont) Pierpont, were also natives of England, where their entire lives were spent, their deaths occurring many years ago. The father was a boatman on the river and was a hard-working but trusty man. The mother was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church, one who took an interest in the Master's work. They were the parents



of three children, our subject being the only one to come to America. The others are William, who resides in England at the age of seventy-three years; and Ann, who died many years ago.

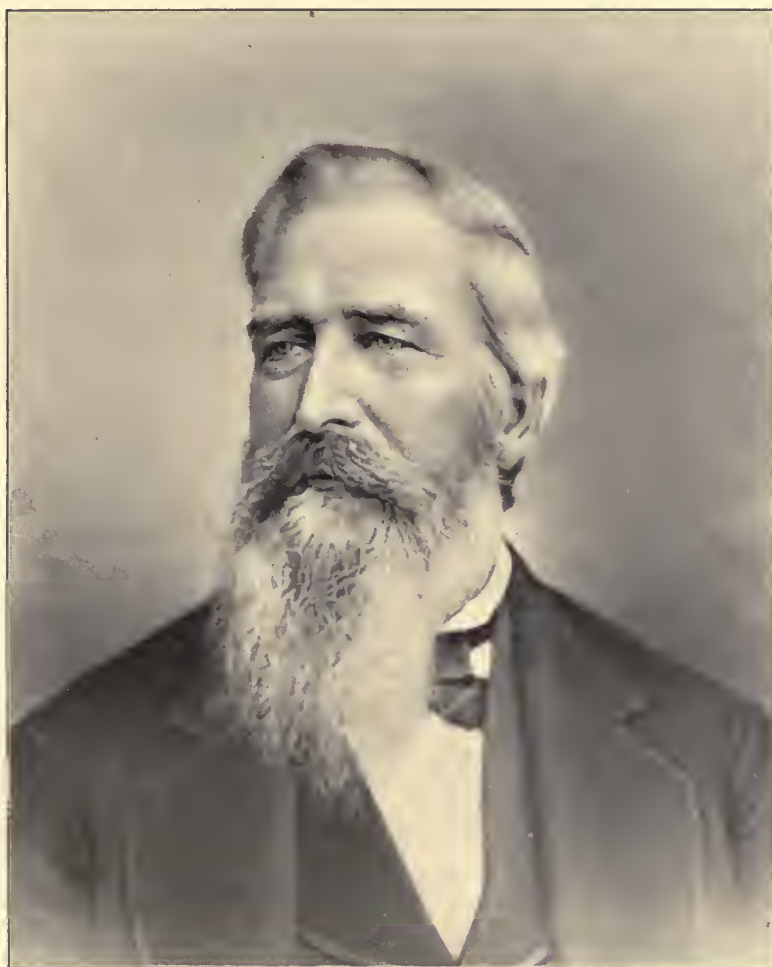
Robert Pierpont grew to manhood in his native country and in early life commenced work on a farm, in which occupation he was employed for some years. He was married June 27, 1850, to Miss Mary Ashling, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Ashling, also natives of England, the father being a large and prosperous farmer. Both parents died in the '40s. They were members of the established church. Of their twelve children, three are still living: Mary, now Mrs. Pierpont; Margaret, widow of George Payne, residing in Aurora; and Sarah, widow of Charles Curtin, residing in England. She has a family of four living children, all residents of England. Mr. and Mrs. Pierpont have two living children: Sarah is the wife of Henry Mohle, chief train dispatcher at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on the Wisconsin Central railroad, and the mother of three children: Charles Earnest, Mary and Robert Pierpont. Their second child was Charles Hay, a grocer in Aurora, who married Mary A. Clark, by whom he has four children, Mabel, Robert, Harry and Helen.

In 1854 Mr. Pierpont, with his wife and two children, left their native land in a sailing vessel, and although they were five weeks on the ocean, encountered no storms, and each enjoyed the trip fairly well. They came almost directly to Aurora, by advice of a brother of Mrs. Pierpont, who was a farmer of Du Page county, and who came four years earlier. Our subject commenced work in the mill of Gill, Gifford & Company. He worked for that firm ten years, and when Mr. Gill purchased the interests

of his partners he continued working for him, ten years altogether, part of the time acting as manager, buying the grain, paying the bills, and attending to all other duties pertaining to the work. Leaving the mill he went into the grocery business in Aurora, in company with a Mr. Damon. Later Warner Wright purchased the interests of Mr. Damon, and in turn sold to a Mr. Dickens. After continuing a while as the firm of Pierpont & Dickens, Mr. Pierpont purchased his partner's interest and conducted the business alone for a time. He then admitted to the firm James W. Battle, and under the firm name of Pierpont & Battle the business was continued. Later Mr. Johnston bought out the interest of Mr. Battle, and his interest was in turn purchased by our subject. Although he retained an interest in the store, he has turned its entire management over to his son, and he is practically living a retired life. The store is located on the corner of Denton and La Salle streets, and is one of the best appointed establishments in the city. By strict attention to business, fair and square dealing, Mr. Pierpont made a success of the business, and has secured a competency which enables him to lay aside all business cares. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which his wife is also a member. In politics he is a Republican

---

PECK BROTHERS, residing on section 7, Geneva township, own and operate farms of two thousand one hundred acres, lying in Geneva and Blackberry townships. They are members of a pioneer family, which located here in the fall of 1843. Eli Peck, their father, was born in the town of Sandgate, Bennington county, Vermont,



ELI PECK.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



June 25, 1816. Thomas Peck, their grandfather, and George Peck, their great-grandfather, were both natives of Connecticut. The family are of English descent and early settlers of Connecticut, two brothers coming from England at a very early day. George Peck, the great-grandfather, moved from Connecticut to Vermont when Thomas Peck was a child of two years. He was a pioneer of Bennington county, and there spent the remainder of his life.

Eli Peck grew to manhood in Bennington county, Vermont, and there married Jerusha Sherman, a daughter of Evi Sherman, of that county. At an early day her father came west to Illinois and located near Belvidere, and later moved to Wisconsin, where his death occurred. Soon after his marriage Eli Peck came to Kane county, Illinois, settling there, as already stated, in the fall of 1843. He started to come west with the team, but losing one horse on the way, he sold the other and came by boat to Chicago. From there he came direct to Kane county and purchased eighty acres of land for a farm and also a small tract of timber land. Erecting a small frame house upon the place, he there resided until 1869, when he built the present large and commodious house, which is now occupied by his sons. From time to time he added to his original purchase until he was the owner of thirteen hundred acres, all of which were well improved. In 1866 he commenced the sheep industry, purchasing a small flock of merino sheep, and increasing the number year by year until his flock numbered two thousand head. He was a very active and enterprising man, and, coming to this county with but little means, by his industrious habits and wise executive ability and forethought, he secured

a large estate and was numbered among the wealthiest farmers of the county. After a long and useful life he died on the old homestead February 9, 1892. His wife survives him, and is in the enjoyment of fairly good health at the age of eighty-one years.

George E. Peck is the oldest of the four sons, which, with four daughters, comprised the family of Eli and Jerusha Peck. He was born in Bennington county, Vermont, January 18, 1842, and came to Kane county with his parents in infancy. The other sons of the family are Albert Sherman, born in Kane county, April 21, 1848; Frank B., born December 6, 1849; Seth E., born September 27, 1853. All were born upon the farm in Kane county and here grew to manhood, being educated in the common schools. The daughters are Sarah C., Julia E., Mary E. and Ettie L. The first named was born in Vermont but reared in Kane county. She married Thomas Fitzpatrick, who passed away in Littleton, Colorado. They had one daughter, Mary. The second and third daughters, Julia and Mary, yet reside on the old farm, while Ettie L. is housekeeper for her brother Albert at Fargo, Kane county. He is the inventor and patentee of the first successful corn harvester, which he sold to the McCormick Harvesting Company.

The Peck Brothers have carried on the farm since 1875, and have since added several hundred acres to the tract left by the father. One tract of two hundred and fifty acres, adjoining the city of Geneva, is one of the best improved places in the township. The brothers have been extensively engaged in the breeding of merino sheep, and have built up a large trade, shipping through the states, and to Australia, South Africa and

Mexico. In the spring of 1898 they had on hand a flock of two thousand, three hundred sheep. In all their farming operations they have been quite successful, and are noted for their enterprise and business sagacity. They were chiefly instrumental in securing the location here of the Appleton Manufacturing Company, which gives employment to several hundred men. No enterprise calculated for the public good, but finds in them friends. All are staunch Republicans in their political views. In 1894, George E. Peck was elected supervisor of his township, and served one term of two years, being chairman of the almshouse committee. He was re-elected in 1896, and in 1898, and during the past year was chairman of the courthouse committee. That he is a valued member of the board is attested by his term of service and by the various committees on which he has served. In political affairs he has taken an active interest and usually serves as a delegate to the various conventions of his party. Few men are better known in Kane county than the Peck brothers, and their reputation is not confined to county or even state lines.

---

GEORGE M. CREGO, now residing in the city of Aurora, has been a resident of Kane county since 1851, since which time he has been one of its truly representative citizens, one who has done much to make the county occupy its present proud position. From the very beginning he has been very active and enterprising and the result is shown in his extensive business interests, he now being the owner of much valuable property in the city, including the Hotel Bishop Block. He is a native of New York, born in Oneida county, July 1, 1831. His

ancestors in this country he traces back to his great-grandfather, who emigrated from Holland and located in Dutchess county, New York. Adam Crego, the grandfather, was born in Dutchess county, and was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His son, Daniel S. Crego, was born in Herkimer county, New York, April 4, 1801. He remained in his native county until after attaining his majority, and then moved to Oneida county, where he married Ann Kelley, a native of Oneida county and a daughter of Michael Kelley, who was a professional educator, and who for fourteen years was engaged in one school. Daniel S. Crego was a substantial farmer in Oneida county, but in 1836 moved to Chenango county, New York, where he engaged in farming until 1852, when he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Sugar Grove township. Four years later he moved to De Kalb county, where his death occurred in the fall of 1893 at the age of ninety-two years and six months. His wife died about three years previous, when about eighty-four years of age.

Of the three sons and four daughters born to Daniel S. and Ann Crego, our subject is second in order of birth. The others are: Sallie Ann, who married Alva Bolster, and located in Sugar Grove township, where her death occurred; Polly J. now makes her home with our subject; O. C. is married and resides in Kane county; Lewis H. resides in De Kalb county, Illinois; Nancy married Eli Barnes, and they now reside in Grand Island, Nebraska; Ellen married Herman Skells, moved to Nebraska and has since died.

On the farm of his father in Chenango county, New York, George M. Crego remained until nineteen years of age. Like

the great majority of American youths, his education was obtained in the common schools. In 1851 he came to Aurora, Illinois, where he spent the winter of 1851-2, then returned to New York, and later in the spring came back, accompanied by his parents, and located in Blackberry township, Kane county, where he purchased a farm of two hundred acres and at once began its improvement. He later added one hundred acres, making a fine farm of three hundred acres, all of which was placed under cultivation. In 1882 he purchased another farm, a well-improved place of three hundred and sixty acres, in Sugar Grove township, and carried on both farms for some years. In the spring of 1892 he moved into Aurora, where he bought a residence, which he remodeled, and where the family yet reside. He also bought or traded for business property, including the Bishop Hotel Block, which yet remains in his possession. Since coming to Aurora, he has been quite active in the improvement of his property.

Mr. Crego was married in Kane county, February 21, 1855, to Miss Jane Reynolds, a native of Ulster county, New York, born near Poughkeepsie, and a daughter of Silas Reynolds, who became a resident of Kane county, in 1836, locating in Sugar Grove township. By this union there were nine children, seven of whom are living, as follows: Porter, who is a veterinary surgeon in Aurora; Millie grew to womanhood, married Albert Seavey, of Sugar Grove township, and is now deceased; Celia, now residing in Omaha; Silas married and resides on a farm in Blackberry township; Belle married Clarence Humeston, and resides in the town of Kaneville; Joseph, living in Aurora; Gideon and Irvin, living at home, the latter now attending the State University at

Madison, Wisconsin, taking a course in the law department.

Mr. Crego is a lifelong Democrat and cast his first presidential ballot for Franklin Pierce. For twenty years he served as a member of the school board. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the blue lodge at Kaneville and of the chapter at Aurora. He has ever been a friend of the temperance cause, and while not supporting the Prohibition party, has been a prohibitionist in principle. Mrs. Crego died at their home in Aurora, November 14, 1897. She was a faithful wife and mother, and for forty-two long years with her husband she trod life's journey. Her remains were laid to rest in the beautiful Spring Lake cemetery. In the growth and development of the southern part of Kane county, few men have done more than the subject of this sketch. While in limited circumstances on his arrival here, he has by his industry and temperate habits placed himself in comfortable circumstances for the remainder of his days.

---

MRS. RUTH ANN THIERS, now residing at No. 306 West Chicago street, Elgin, is a representative of one of the first families to locate in that city. She was born in Plymouth, New Hampshire, September 28, 1821, and is the daughter of Joseph and Nancy (Currier) Kimball, also natives of the Granite state.

Joseph Kimball was born in Hopkinton, New Hampshire, September 1, 1783, and at Plymouth, that state, he married Nancy Currier, who was born September 26, 1787, the marriage ceremony being performed November 28, 1804. To them were born nine children: William Currier,



who married Caroline Willard and moved to Elgin in 1837, where his death occurred; Mary Carter, who married Bartlett Adams; Samuel Jewett, who married Clarinda Jane Hill, and in 1835 came to Elgin, where he served as mayor in 1856 and 1857; Susanna Clement, who married Hiram George; Nancy Currier, who married Alden V. Hills; Laura Ann, who married Asa Smith; Elizabeth Howe, who married George R. Dyer; Ruth Ann, of this sketch, and Harriet Tamsen, who died in infancy.

In the summer of 1834 Joseph Kimball came to Illinois and spent two months, stopping for a time in Du Page county. Returning east, he made the second trip west, starting in February, 1835, and arriving at Elgin in April, soon after the Giffords, who located on the east side of the Fox river. Mr. Kimball chose the west side. On the Fourth of July, 1835, he wrote to his son, William C. Kimball, the letter being still preserved. In it he says of his new location: "We have plowed and planted nearly thirty acres with corn and other things. We are well suited with our prairie land, although not so much timber as we would like. Our land is so situated that we will have a first rate chance for a grain farm and the keeping of cattle and sheep, being beautifully situated on the west bank of the Fox river, so that we can drive a team about over it equal to any old cultivated farm in an old country. We have made and reserved a location for you, and very much need your help and influence." He writes about the need of a "store on a small scale," and then adds: "James T. Gifford, from New York, near Utica, has a location on the east side of the river. We have agreed to build a dam together, he having the privilege of improving equal

share of the water. Mr. Gifford is to build a flour mill, and we are to build a sawmill and improve equal to one-half of the water in other machinery, such as timber works, shingle machines and clapboard, etc. We think that Chicago will be one of the most important places in all the western country; also Galena, on the Mississippi river, where the great mining country is situated, is fast increasing and will soon be a great place. We have taken considerable pains to ascertain what chance there is for making a road in direct line from Chicago to Galena, and find that we are on the direct line between these two important places. I presume that Samuel has written to you that I expect to return and move out our family the 1st of September, and it would be pleasing to me to have you come with us."

The letter also gives a description of his journey from New Hampshire to Illinois. At Washington, where, he stopped he viewed the capitol, "the most magnificent building I ever saw. The Hon. Mr. Hill and Hubbard gave me an invitation to ride in a coach with them and call on the president and vice-president of the United States. I accepted the invitation and was much pleased with those good men." The Galena road seemed to be the most important thing to occupy his mind, and its building was the concern of many. "But the thing must be postponed on account of Mr. J. Gifford being gone to New York after his family. I think if you mean to come to this country, the sooner the better."

Soon after writing this letter from which the extracts given were taken, Mr. Kimball started east for his family, accompanied as far as Chicago by his son Samuel. He traveled by water to Cleveland, Ohio, and thence by canal to Perry, Ohio, where he

died from cholera morbus, after an illness of five days, July 25, 1835. He was a good man, a member of the Baptist church, and had a very good idea of the future of this middle west. In his native state Mr. Kimball served as captain in the state militia, took some interest in politics, and was an ardent admirer of General Jackson. He served as collector of taxes in 1823, and filled other local offices from time to time, serving as a member of the New Hampshire legislature. He was the son of Samuel and Susanna Kimball, whose children were as follows: James, born October 23, 1767; Samuel, January 30, 1771; Rebecca, 1773; Jonathan, 1775; Phineas, 1777; Mehitable, 1779; Ruth, 1781; Joseph, 1783; Benjamin and Moses, twins, 1785; and Susanna, 1789. The mother of these children died, and Samuel Kimball married again, and by his second union had one son, Amos Clement, born in 1798.

Soon after the death of her husband, Mrs. Nancy Kimball came with her family to Elgin, where the remainder of her life was passed. One of the most noted events in Elgin was the celebration of her one hundredth birthday, September 26, 1887. On that occasion she was in splendid health and entertained a large number of friends who called to pay their respects. The Baptist church of Elgin, of which she was a charter member, was represented by a large delegation. They brought and presented to her a very handsome bouquet, containing exactly one hundred flowers and the figure "100" worked in immortelles. Flowers were also sent her from friends in New York and Chicago. Within three days of one year after this event, Mrs. Nancy Kimball was called to her heavenly home, her death taking place September 23,

1888. She was the eldest, the best known, and one of the most highly respected women that ever lived in Elgin.

Ruth Ann Kimball spent the first fourteen years of her life in New Hampshire, where she received her education. In 1837, in company with her mother and brother William, she came to Elgin, where she has since made her home, a period of sixty-one long years. On the 4th of July, 1840, she was united in marriage with Edward E. Harvey, an attorney at Elgin who was postmaster in the early '40s and who was commissioned captain in the Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry, in the Mexican war, and who died at Pueblo, in 1847, while returning from the city of Mexico, being stricken with fever. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey two children were born. (1) Isabel J. married Sherwood Raymond, of Elgin, but they now reside in Chicago. They are the parents of six children—Edward H., George B., Anna B., Ruth A., Benjamin W. and Frank. (2) Florence Annette died at the age of nineteen months.

The second union of our subject was consummated June 15, 1851, when she married Chauncy C. Thiers, who was born in Tompkins county, New York, April 26, 1821. By this union there were two children: (1) Henry K. died May 29, 1878, at the age of nearly twenty-four years, from injuries received in a railroad accident. (2) William C., a resident of Elgin, married Nellie A. Powers, and has three children—Raphael H., Ruth M. and Orrel M.

Chauncy C. Thiers was a man of marked ability, and for some years was a notary public. He did not, however, believe in litigation, and often advised the settlement of claims and disputes out of court. In the arbitrament of cases he tried to have

men act in accordance with the golden rule. He was a man in whom the people confided. His death occurred October 31, 1861, while attending a political convention at Geneva, he being a candidate for county clerk, and his loss was mourned not alone by the family but by a large circle of friends. A consistent Christian man, he served his master faithfully as a member of the Baptist church.

Mrs. Thiers, who resides with her son at No. 306 West Chicago street, is now one of the oldest members of the Baptist church in Elgin. She is a woman universally esteemed, and her friends are legion. A citizen of the county for sixty-one years, she has witnessed many important changes. From a vast wilderness she has lived to see the county one of the first in all the one hundred and two counties of the state. In all this time she has ever retained the love and respect of all with whom she has been brought in contact.

**W**ILLIAM ROCHE, who is engaged in dairy farming on section 29, Hampshire township, is a native of Ireland, born in the village of Claughhannon, near Newton Barry, County Wexford, March, 1834, and is the son of Martin and Margaret (Rice) Roche. The father, who was a lease holder in Ireland, died at the age of about fifty years. After the death of the father, the mother and children left the farm and lived in the village of Claughhannon and remained there for five years before coming to the United States. She died in Chicago, Illinois, in 1881. They were the parents of four boys and four girls.

In 1853, when but nineteen years old, our subject came to the United States, taking a boat at Wexford for Liverpool, and

there a sailing vessel, the Robert Kelly, for the new world. After thirty-two days on the water, he landed at New York and went directly to Augusta, Maine, where he worked one year in a cotton factory, having learned that trade in Ireland. From Augusta, Maine, he came to Kane county, Illinois, and found employment in a distillery at South Elgin, where he worked for a time. He then engaged at farm work and various other employments for other parties until 1878, when he rented a farm in Rutland township, on which, together with another farm, he spent four years. In 1882 he came to his present farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty acres of rich land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation and on which he has about thirty head of cows.

Mr. Roche was married in Elgin July 10, 1864, to Julia Kelly, fourth in a family of six children born to John and Bridget (Doghoney) Kelly, the latter being a daughter of Dennis and Mary Doghoney. A brother of Mrs. Roche, John Kelly, lives in Aurora, and has served as sheriff of Kane county. John Kelly, Sr., was born in Tipperary, Ireland, about 1820, and came to America about 1840. Like his brother, Timothy Kelly, who also settled in Hampshire township, he was a thrifty, energetic, and industrious farmer, and acquired a fine tract of land, which is now occupied by our subject. He was always a stanch Democrat, and was a member of the Catholic church.

William Roche and wife have been blessed by fourteen children as follows: Annie L., who married Patrick Sullivan, by whom she has six children, William, Arthur, John, Anabel, Safford and Stanley, the family now residing in Chicago; Mary



T., an experienced attendant at the home for incurable insane in Chicago; Michael F.; Catherine; Martha L.; Agnes R.; Julia A.; John; Elizabeth C.; Margaret A.; William A.; Charles; James; and Ralph De Witt. Of these, Martha L., Agnes R. and Elizabeth C., are teachers in the public schools, while John is deceased. In national and state politics Mr. Roche is a Democrat, but in local affairs he is independent. For six years he served as school director. Religiously he and his family are members of the Catholic church.

---

**I** S. STEPHENS, who resides in Batavia, Illinois, but who is actively engaged in business in Aurora, Illinois, came to Kane county in 1847, and has since made it his home. He was born at Stephensburg, Morris county, New Jersey, March 25, 1841. The family are of Welsh descent, two brothers coming from Wales prior to the Revolutionary war, one locating in South Carolina, and the other in New Jersey. From the latter he traces his descent. The great-grandfather of our subject, Samuel Stephens, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, holding a captain's commission. His son, Daniel Stephens, was the father of Joseph C. Stephens, born in 1813, in Morris county, New Jersey. The latter married Sarah C. Shipman also a native of New Jersey. The Shipman family had a grant of land from King George, on which they located at a very early day, and the old stone house erected by the first of the name who came to America, is still standing. After his marriage, Joseph C. Stephens engaged in farming and in milling at Stephensburg, where his father, who was a millwright by trade, had erected the first mill

in Morris county. He remained in that business until 1847, when he moved with his family to Illinois. In 1846, in company with three other men, he visited northern Illinois, and spent the whole season in looking over the country. He was at Nauvoo when Joseph Smith, the Mormon prophet, was killed. On coming to Kane county he located in Geneva, and there, in connection with two brothers, built a paper mill, and engaged in the manufacture of paper. In 1853 he moved to Mill Creek, south of Batavia, and settled on a farm on which he continued to reside until his death, December 1, 1858. His wife survived him many years, dying March 29, 1891.

I. S. Stephens is the oldest of three children, the others being Edgar, who has been in business in West Chicago for more than twenty years, and Ella C., wife of Dr. James Bradley, of West Chicago. When the family came to Kane county our subject was but six years old. He here grew to manhood, and received his education in the Batavia schools and in the Beloit High School. On the death of his father he was in his eighteenth year, and with his mother, he took charge of the farm and engaged in its cultivation. Later he purchased the interest of the other heirs and succeeded to the whole place, to which he subsequently added more land, making a fine farm of two hundred and seventeen acres, located about a mile and a half from Batavia. In 1869 Mr. Stephens formed a partnership with J. W. Randall, who owned a stone quarry on the Fox river, and engaged with him in the business until 1875, when Mr. Randall was killed. He then purchased the interest of the heirs and continued the business. In 1870, however, with Mrs. Randall, he commenced business in Aurora, building some

kilns and burning lime. Later he engaged in the coal business in connection with the lime, and still later added charcoal, fire-brick and Batavia stone. His business has always been quite an extensive one and fairly profitable.

As his means increased, Mr. Stephens has made other investments, and to-day owns stock in the cotton mill, ice plant and barrel factory, in Batavia and in Aurora creameries. Has been identified with the dairy interests as director and president of Batavia Creamery. He is also a stockholder in the bank at Batavia, and in the Merchants' National Bank, of Aurora. Attaining his majority after the war for the Union had commenced, he cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1864. He has since been an earnest supporter of the principles of the Republican party. He has been an active member of the Congregational church of Batavia since 1858, and for the greater part of that time one of its official board. For nearly forty years he has served as superintendent of a Sunday-school, and for fifteen years was one of the members of the choir. Always devoted to the church, he has given of his time and means towards its upbuilding. For fifty-one years he has been a resident of Kane county, and for forty years actively engaged in business. He is well known and highly respected throughout Kane and adjoining counties.

---

JACOB N. HOYT, who resides on section 11, Kaneville township, is one of the active and enterprising farmers of Kane county, owning and operating a farm of four hundred and twenty acres, which was long

known as the Livingston farm. He is a native of New Hampshire, born in Concord, December 15, 1831. His father, Hon. Jacob Hoyt, was also born in Concord, his birth occurring March 28, 1772, while his grandfather, John Hoyt, was likewise a native of the Granite state. The family are of English ancestry, and originally settled in New Hampshire prior to the Revolutionary war. Abner Hoyt, a brother of Jacob, was a soldier in that war.

Jacob Hoyt, who was a farmer by occupation, grew to manhood in his native state, and there married Fannie Tucker, who was born in Canton, Massachusetts. They became the parents of five sons and five daughters, of whom our subject and one brother, J. T., are the only survivors. The latter now resides in California. The father was a prominent man in his county and state, and was elected and served several terms in the legislature, and held other positions of trust and honor, being one of the three selectmen of his town. As an occupation he followed farming his entire life, and was quite prosperous. His death occurred on the old farm April 17, 1864, at the ripe old age of ninety-two years. His wife survived him a few years, dying at the age of ninety-five years.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Concord, and was educated in the common schools and in Andover and other academies. For several terms, after leaving school, he engaged in teaching in his native state. In 1853, when a young man, he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, and there engaged in the lumber business for a time, and later was in the Cleveland postoffice ten years, having charge of the registered letter department. Leaving that position, he was engaged with his brother at Castalia,



J. N. HOYT.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Ohio, in the manufacture of paper for several years.

At Delaware, Ohio, May 20, 1862, Mr. Hoyt was united in marriage with Mary A. Latimer, who was born and reared at that place, and who was a daughter of Sylvester Latimer. She died at Castalia, December 21, 1866, leaving three children, as follows: William L., who is married and is residing in Nebraska; Robert T., married, and residing in Chicago, where he is engaged in business; and Harry M., who is assisting his father in operating the farm.

In 1868 Mr. Hoyt came west and located in Macon county, Illinois, where he bought and also leased a section of land, and engaged in farming. In 1869 he returned to Concord, New Hampshire, and was there married, April 7 of that year, to Mrs. Eunice N. Thayer, nee Brown, who had one son by her former marriage, Charles G., who is now married and engaged in business in Chicago. Immediately after their marriage, Mr. Hoyt returned with his bride to Macon county, Illinois, where he was successfully engaged in farming until 1884. He then sold his farm and moved to Kane county, Illinois, having previously purchased the farm on which he now resides, and which he has greatly improved since it came into his possession. He has built several barns and outbuildings, tiled much of the land, and has made of it a model farm. Mrs. Hoyt died on this farm, February 19, 1888, leaving two sons, Edward L. and J. Walter, the former married and is residing on the home farm, and an adopted daughter, named Belle, resides at home.

Politically Mr. Hoyt is a Democrat of the old school, and cast his first presidential ballot for James Buchanan, in 1856. While residing in Macon county, he took quite an

active part in politics, and served seven consecutive years as a member of the county board of supervisors. In the spring of 1898 he was elected supervisor of Kaneville township, and is now faithfully discharging the duties of that office. For some eight or ten years he was township trustee, and being a friend of education and the public schools, he served some years as a member of the school board. During the war he contributed largely towards its vigorous prosecution. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of Blackberry lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Elburn, and of Sycamore commandery, K. T., of Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois. He has served as worshipful master of Blackberry lodge, and has represented the lodge in the Grand Lodge of the state. While not numbered among the pioneers of the state, Mr. Hoyt has given thirty of the best years of his life to its growth and development, and in every enterprise which has a tendency for the public good, he is willing to give of his time and means. He is an enterprising and successful farmer, and is worthy of the esteem in which he is held.

DE WITT CLINTON PRATT, the oldest photographer in Aurora, was born in the town of Homer, Cortland county, New York, August 14, 1823, and is the son of David and Electa (Alexander) Pratt, the former a native of Connecticut, and the latter of Vermont. By occupation he was a farmer, and in the war of 1812 was a fifer in a New York regiment. He served only a short time, and although the regiment was anxious to go into battle it did not have a chance on account of the war being brought to a sudden close. Both he and his wife

were members of the Presbyterian church. His death occurred at Homer, New York, at the age of sixty-five years. His wife survived him, dying at the age of sixty-seven years. Of their family of ten children, six still survive. One son, Francis M., lives in Lake Forrest, Illinois, while a daughter, Mrs. H. Wood, resides in Aurora. The subject of this sketch remained upon the home farm until thirteen years of age, then went to learn the painting and cabinet maker's trade, finishing all kinds of furniture. Having no particular taste for cabinet making, but having a strong liking for painting, he discontinued cabinet making, and devoted his attention exclusively to painting. In 1845 he came west to Chicago, where he remained one year, working for a firm, doing ornamental painting on furniture. From Chicago he went to Waukegan, then called Little Fork, where he remained until 1849, working at his trade. Having painter's colic, by the advice of his physician, he quit working at his trade, although in after years he did a little in that line. At that time the making of daguerreotypes had assumed some importance, and Mr. Pratt determined to learn to make them. From a lady who understood the business he received instructions, giving in exchange work at his trade. After learning the business Mr. Pratt in the fall of 1849 removed to St. Charles, and set up an establishment. He there remained until 1853, although he established himself in business in Aurora in 1851, while still making his home in St. Charles. In 1853 he moved his family to Aurora, which has since been his home, with the exception of one year spent in Boston. Beginning with the daguerreotypes, he soon learned to make ambrotypes and later photographs, and has been in the business from that time

to the present, almost fifty years. He is now the oldest photographer in Aurora, and is called the veteran portrait man of the city. His work has always been rated as A No. 1, and he has carried off many prizes for the excellency of his work. The gallery is now run by his son, Edmund Clinton, who has inherited the artistic taste of his father.

In July, 1848, Mr. Pratt was united in marriage with Miss Mary Burdick, daughter of Paul Burdick, of Scott, New York. By this union there were six children, as follows: Flora, now the wife of Col. De Witt C. Sprague, who was for eight years minister to Germany, and is now in the auditor's office of the treasury department at Washington; Evlelyn E., who married Frank H. Vick, of Rochester, New York, but is now deceased; Frances, wife of Don D. Miles, a machinist engaged in the manufacture of fine tools in Aurora, and Edmund Clinton, of whom mention has already been made. Two children died in infancy. The mother of these children, who was a member of the Baptist church, dying in 1889, our subject, for his second wife, in 1894, married Mrs. Charlotte A. Newcomb, a widow of Rudolphus Newcomb, and daughter of James White, of Homer, New York. Both Mr. and Mrs. Pratt are members of the Congregational church. In politics he is thoroughly independent, voting for the man and not the party.

---

PROFESSOR WALTER H. CALLOW, principal and proprietor of the Elgin Business College, of Elgin, Illinois, was born April 4, 1866, in Linden, Wisconsin, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Glasson) Callow, the former a native of the Isle of



Man, and the latter of Mineral Point, Wisconsin. The paternal grandfather, who was a miner by occupation, spent his entire life on the Isle of Man. He had a large family of children. John Glasson, the maternal grandfather, was also a miner, who was born in England and at an early day came to America. He met his death in middle life, being lost in the gold mines at Grass Valley, California.

In 1860, William Callow, our subject's father, crossed the Atlantic to the United States, and four years later took up his residence upon his present farm near Linden, Wisconsin. Both he and his wife are earnest, consistent Christian people, faithful members of the Methodist church, and he is now serving as trustee. To them have been born nine children, namely: Walter H., Ulysses Grant, Forrest H., William L., Herman R., Clarence L., Gussie P. and Wesley H., all living; and Roxie L., deceased.

Professor Callow was reared upon the home farm, and after attending the district schools, he was a student for some time in the high school in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Subsequently he worked for two years in a creamery, and then attended a business college for one year, while for two years he pursued the teacher's course at Valparaiso, Indiana. He then came to Elgin where he taught in Drew's Business College for four years, and in 1893 opened the Elgin Business College, which he has since successfully conducted. The course of study includes book-keeping, shorthand, arithmetic, typewriting, commercial law, correspondence, penmanship, business forms, spelling and business practice, and it is the object of the school to thoroughly prepare young men and women for business careers. The teach-

ers are experienced and competent, and the school is meeting with a well-deserved success, having an average attendance of one hundred and thirty scholars.

On the 21st of August, 1890, Professor Callow was united in marriage to Miss Alvina Holman, a daughter of Matthew and Elizabeth (Batten) Holman, and to them have been born a son and a daughter—Alvah O., and Cora M. The family have a pleasant home at No. 555 Douglas avenue. The Professor and his wife are both active and prominent members of the Methodist church, in which he is now serving as steward, and politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

**W**ATERMAN R. SUNDERLAND, now living retired in St. Charles, where he has made his home since September, 1869, was born in Shoreham, Addison county, Vermont, April 21, 1829, and is a worthy representative of an old and honored New England family of English origin. The first to come to the new world were three brothers, John, William and Samuel Sunderland, who were among the early settlers of Massachusetts. Samuel Sunderland, our subject's grandfather, was a soldier of the Revolutionary war, and in recognition of his services he was granted a pension by the government. He was one of the pioneers of Addison county, Vermont, and in the midst of the wilderness developed a farm and reared his family.

There his son, Waterman Sunderland, Sr., grew to manhood, and for his services in the war of 1812 he was given a land warrant. He married Lydia Haynes, who was born and reared in Middletown, Vermont, a daughter of Kiah Haynes, also a represent-

ative of an old family of that state. After his marriage, Mr. Sunderland continued to reside on the old homestead, caring for his father, while he successfully operated the farm, upon which he lived until called to the world beyond. In his family were four sons and four daughters who reached years of maturity, Waterman R. being the youngest of those to reach maturity. The others were as follows: Volney lived for many years in Addison county, Vermont, and then removed to the northern part of the state, where he died at the age of eighty years; Charlotte Sophia married Ezekiel Prescott and first settled in Addison county, whence they later removed to Faribault, Minnesota; Cordelia Maria married Ambrose Hemenway and is now deceased; Jonathan married and resides on the old homestead, caring for his parents during their declining years, and there his death occurred; Marcia Amelia is the wife of Elijah Grosvenor and a resident of Addison county; Lydia Fidelia is the wife of O. V. Munn, of Freeport, Illinois; and Aaron died at the age of seven years. Rev. Byron Sunderland, a cousin of our subject, was chaplain of the senate during President Lincoln's administration. He is a very able man and has been pastor of one of the Presbyterian churches of Washington, District of Columbia, for half a century. He it was who performed the marriage ceremony of President Cleveland and Miss Frances Folsom.

Until nineteen years of age Waterman R. Sunderland, of this sketch, remained on the old homestead, and his early education obtained in the common schools was supplemented by three terms' attendance at the Shoreham Academy. On leaving the parental roof he began life for himself as a peddler, selling tinware for

nine years in Addison and adjoining counties, and for four years he sold jewelry in the same way. In the spring of 1861 he removed to a farm in Port Henry, Essex county, New York, but two years later we find him en route for Illinois. Locating in Freeport, he entered the employ of a mercantile firm in June of 1863, traveling over the country with a wagon and selling notions at wholesale for six years. He then came to St. Charles and successfully engaged in the same business on his own account until 1893, when he laid aside business cares. His route extended over several counties and he enjoyed an extensive and profitable trade. Upright and reliable in his dealings, he made many friends and secured the confidence and high regard of all with whom he came in contact.

In Rochester, Vermont, Mr. Sunderland was married in July, 1855, to Miss Laura Rowley, who was born in Addison county and reared in Shoreham, that state. She died in St. Charles in October, 1887, leaving one daughter, Ida, now the wife of William Sunderland, of Elgin, Illinois. Our subject was again married in Franklin county, Vermont, March 7, 1889, his second union being with Miss Mary E. Sunderland, who was born, reared and educated in that county, and is a daughter of U. M. Sunderland, a native of Vermont and a second cousin of him whose name introduces this sketch. Our subject owns a comfortable and pleasant home in St. Charles, where he expects to spend his declining years. In August, 1897, he and his wife returned to Vermont, and after spending six enjoyable weeks in visiting the friends and scenes of their youth they returned by way of Canada, stopping at Montreal, where they also had friends living, and they

took in the sights of that great and interesting city.

Mr. Sunderland was reared a Whig, and has been a staunch Republican since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, in 1864. Public office has never had any attraction for him, but he has ever faithfully performed all duties of citizenship. His wife attends the Congregational church of St. Charles, and is one of its most active workers.

---

CHARLES W. WATSON, who is engaged in general farming on section 29, Hampshire township, is well known in the northern part of the county. As his father died while yet a young man the facts of his remote ancestry that might have been known are lost. Benjamin F. Watson, the father of our subject, was born in the town of Greene, Chenango county, New York, April 4, 1837, and came west when a boy. His father, William Watson, who married Submit Mack, came to northern Illinois seeking a home for his family and died at Naperville before their arrival. With a sister, Benjamin F. Watson came to Illinois, and for a time lived with her at Woodstock, McHenry county, Illinois. Colonel Julian, of that county, took a fancy to the boy and taking him to his home when but ten years of age, learned him the blacksmith trade. In five years and at an age when most boys are just beginning to think of choosing a trade or profession, he was an expert mechanic. After about three years at Elgin, doing the fine iron work on carriages and buggies for a factory at that place, he married and moved to Allen's Grove, Wisconsin, where he conducted a shop until his enlistment in the army. He

enlisted in the Fourth Wisconsin Battery in September, 1861, serving in all the engagements of his command until stricken with typhoid fever, from the effects of the impure water, heat and dust incident to summers in the south. For twenty-two months he had been stationed at Fortress Monroe, where he was stricken with the fever. After but two days in the hospital at Yorktown, Virginia, so violent was the fever that he died August 4, 1863. He was married December 9, 1857, to Miss Helen Bell, born on the old homestead on section 29, Hampshire township, March 16, 1840.

The Bell family is one of the oldest and most respected in Kane county. Henry G. Bell, the grandfather of our subject, was born at Ogdensburg, New York, September 13, 1808. He was the son of Ralph Rudolphus Wheelock Bell, a native of Vermont, who was the son of Ralph Bell. Ralph R. W. Bell married Desire Reynolds, a native of Vermont, who lived until about 1876. Henry G. Bell spent his boyhood in Ogdensburg, New York, and in 1824 moved with the family to Detroit, Michigan, where he remained until March, 1837, and then came to Kane county, Illinois, taking up a claim in Burlington township. This claim was jumped and he was wrongfully deprived of his rights. He then came to Hampshire township, secured three hundred and twenty acres on section 29, and made a home here for his family, and on which he resided until his death, December 26, 1897. Owing to the wrong done him in Burlington, he seldom ever went there on business of any kind, doing his trading elsewhere. At the time of making his claim in Hampshire township, there was but one house between his place and Sycamore, De Kalb county, that of Mr. Shurtliff.



Henry G. Bell was of a genial, sunny disposition, always happy. His only tribulation was getting the boys up in the morning. Sometimes, after repeatedly calling them, he would become provoked and angrily start up the stairs, but after mounting a step or two, would stop and reflect that anger was not conducive to longevity, and come down singing, leaving the boys to sleep. He was revered by all who knew him, and sincerely mourned when called to rest at the age of almost four score years and ten. Henry G. Bell married Charlotte R. DeWitt, who was left an orphan at the age of eight years. To them were born ten children, as follows: Martinette, who married Henry Phelps, of Charles City, Iowa; Helen, the mother of our subject; Prudence, widow of Dennis Remington, of Kansas; George, who lives in Elgin; Charlotte, who married Melvin Poor, and resides in Nebraska; John, who lives in Genoa township, DeKalb county; Mary, who died in infancy; Frank, living in Elgin; Charles, living in Genoa township, De Kalb county; and Candice, living in Sycamore, and who married a Mr. Gillett.

Charles W. Watson was the only child of Benjamin F. and Helen Watson. He was born at Allen's Grove, Wisconsin, February 26, 1860, and was reared in Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois. His education was obtained in the schools of that township, and at Madison, Wisconsin, and Sycamore, Illinois. At the age of seventeen, he commenced to learn the trade of a machinist and engineer in Chicago, and after working for the City railway two years, he entered the employ of the Illinois Central railroad, remaining thirteen years, becoming one of its most trusted engineers. He resigned that position in 1894, and with

his mother moved back to the farm in order that she might care for her aged father. He is now conducting a general and dairy farm, and being an expert machinist, has a shop on his place, doing his own repairing, which is, in fact, better than it could be done at most regular repair shops. Mr. Watson was married in Chicago, January 1, 1896, to Miss Carrie Smith, a native of Galesburg, Illinois, but reared in Chicago, and a daughter of Frederick L. Smith, Jr., a native of Mercersburg, Franklin county, Pennsylvania, born September 25, 1825, and who died August 13, 1893. He was the son of Frederick L. Smith, Sr., and Rebecca (Shafer) Smith, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. Frederick L. Smith, Jr., who was a commercial traveler for a wholesale drug house in Chicago, married Anna Benton, born at Quincy, Illinois, and a daughter of Erastus and Caroline (Cook) Benton, who were from Hartford, Connecticut.

To our subject and wife one child has been born, Charles Frederick, born December 19, 1897. While engaged in railroading, Mr. Watson was a member of the Fireman's Brotherhood, and also of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. In politics he is a Republican, and fraternally is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

---

ALFONSO A. SMITH, who resides at 119 North Root street, Aurora, Illinois, has held a responsible position in the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company for more than twenty-five years. He was born in Burlington, Illinois, March 31, 1852. He is an adopted son of U. M. Smith, who was born on Caldwell's Manor, Canada, November 23, 1818,

and who died in March, 1897, but who was an early settler of Kane county, emigrating from Pennsylvania. His own father, James Shanks, was of Scotch parentage, and was also an early settler of Illinois. Shortly after the discovery of gold in California he made a trip to that new Eldorado, and died on the homeward voyage.

Our subject grew to manhood in Kane county, and received his education in the public schools of Aurora. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade and for ten years was a journeyman in the carpenter shops of the Burlington road, and since 1881 has been foreman of a gang of workmen, and is now one of the oldest employes here of that road.

Mr. Smith was married May 17, 1874, in Aurora, to Miss Laura Bradshaw, a native of Canada, born and reared in Prince Edwards county, and a daughter of James Bradshaw, who located in Aurora in 1885, where his death occurred in 1897. His wife survived him, dying March 2, 1898. By this union are four children—Pearl, Pansy, Adra and Gladys. The first named is an artist in water colors and oils, and has developed a decided talent for painting and drawing.

Politically, Mr. Smith is a Republican, and has advocated the principles of that party since attaining his majority, and has at all times voted his party's ticket. Fraternally he is an Odd Fellow, and has served in nearly every official capacity in his lodge. He is also a member of the Home Forum. While not members, Mr. and Mrs. Smith are attendants of the Methodist Episcopal church. They reside in a neat and comfortable home on Root street, which is ever open for the reception of their many friends. A lifelong resident of Kane county, Mr.

Smith has gone in and out among the people, doing the work at hand cheerfully and well, and not only enjoys the respect and confidence of the community in which he lives, but the great company in whose employment he has so long been, which is attested by his years of faithful service.

---

GEORGE BYRON REED, engaged in farming on section 32, Plato township, was born near Wayne, Du Page county, Illinois, January 22, 1838. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and attended district schools during the winter terms until twenty-one years of age. He remained at home until August, 1862, when he enlisted in Company F, One Hundred and Fifth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, enlisting at Wheaton, from which place he was sent to Dixon, Illinois, thence to Chicago, where the regiment remained one week. From there it was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, from which place it marched to Tunnel Hill, near Nashville. With the regiment he participated in the battle of Resaca, in the Atlantic campaign, and with Sherman on his march to the sea. While on the way north, at Milledge, North Carolina, he first heard of the surrender of Lee. He was present at the surrender of Johnston, and was in a grand review at Washington. With his regiment he was mustered out at Washington, and was discharged at Chicago, June 15, 1865. Returning home he rented a farm some eight or ten years, and then purchased some two hundred and fifteen acres, lying in Camp-ton township, which four years later he sold, and then purchased his present farm of two hundred and forty-two acres, which lies partly in Plato and Campton townships.

George W. Reed, the father of our subject, was born in Franklin county, Vermont, February 22, 1806, and died in Du Page county, Illinois, February 22, 1888. He lived in Vermont until he was twenty-five or thirty years old, and after marriage emigrated to Ohio, where he lived two years. He then came west to Chicago, and from there to Du Page county, settling near Wayne, where he took up one hundred and sixty acres. His father, Nathaniel Reed, was born in Massachusetts, and was the son of Horace Reed, a soldier of the Revolutionary war. George W. Reed married Miss Julia Ellenwood, a native of Vermont, born in 1816, by whom he had eight children, as follows: Rodney H., deceased; George Byron, our subject; William Thomas, who lives in West Chicago; Emily A., wife of Robert Benjamin, residing near West Chicago; Eldon, deceased; Julia, wife of James Campbell, a hardware merchant; Charles, living on the old homestead; and Ida May, who married Weldford Wagner, of West Chicago.

On the 19th of February, 1873, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Eliza A. Kline, born in the township of Wayne, Du Page county, and daughter of John and Clarrissa (Champion) Kline, natives of New York state. By this union three children have been born: Frank W., in charge of the store owned by his father at Lily Lake, Kane county; Mertie M. and Ray Harrison.

Mr. Reed was for some years a member of the South Chicago post, G. A. R. In politics he is a Republican, and for fifteen years served as school director, always taking a commendable interest in educational matters. His fine farm, which is under a high state of cultivation, is devoted chiefly to grain and dairy purposes. The dwelling

house is a substantial structure, and there is a beautiful grove of evergreens about the place. Mr. Reed is regarded as one of the most enterprising business men in Plato township, and his fine property has been accumulated by his own exertions.

HIRAM LASHER, a retired farmer, living on section 5, Big Rock township, has been a resident of Kane county since 1855. He was born in Columbia county, New York, November 8, 1815. His father, George G. Lasher, was also a native of that county. The family are of German ancestry, and were among the pioneers of Columbia county. In that county George G. Lasher grew to manhood and married Elizabeth Kiselbergh, also a native of Columbia county. After their marriage he engaged in farming in Columbia county for some years, and later removed to Rensselaer county, New York, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying in 1872, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife preceded him many years, dying in 1848.

Hiram Lasher grew to manhood in Columbia county, and during his boyhood and youth had the opportunity each winter of attending the public schools. During the remainder of the year he assisted his father in farm work. When a young man he accompanied his parents to Rensselaer county, and remained with them until thirty years old. He was married in Rensselaer county, July 4, 1846, to Miss Fannie Maria Williams, born in Warren county, New York, and a daughter of W. W. Williams, also a native of New York, but whose parents were from Connecticut.

After his marriage Mr. Lasher worked his father's farm on shares for two years,



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



HIRAM LASHER.



MRS. HIRAM LASHER.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

and after the death of the mother rented the farm for six years. In 1855 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Kaneville township, where he purchased a farm of ninety acres, eighty acres of which had been broken and some improvements made on the place. He there resided for eighteen years, during which time he made many valuable improvements, including the building of a barn and other outbuildings. Selling that farm at an advance over the original purchase price, he bought the farm where he now resides, on section 5, Big Rock township, consisting of one hundred and forty-eight acres, and which lies partly in Kaneville township. The farm was an improved one at the time of his purchase, but he has since made other improvements, tiling the place, erecting a good barn, and building cribs and sheds for the storing of grain and the shelter of stock.

Mr. and Mrs. Lasher became the parents of two children. Sarah Olivia is now the wife of J. H. Meade, a farmer of Kaneville township. Melvin grew to manhood, was educated in the common schools of Kaneville and Big Rock townships, and later married Harriet Bailey, a native of Peoria county, Illinois, but who grew to womanhood in Kane county. They have three children: Fannie, Alice and Ida, who are students of the home schools.

After a happy married life of fifty-two years, Mrs. Lasher died May 2, 1898, and was laid to rest in the Kaneville cemetery. Her death was mourned by a large circle of friends in Big Rock and Kaneville townships. Politically Mr. Lasher has been a Republican since the organization of the party, but cast his first presidential ballot for Martin Van Buren, after which he supported the Whig party until it ceased to

exist. A residence of forty-three years in Kaneville and Big Rock townships has made for Mr. Lasher many warm friends, by whom he is held in the highest esteem. He is a man of upright character and exemplary habits, and this sketch of him will be read by many friends.

**WILLIAM W. EVANS**, a well-known publisher of maps and directories living at No. 260 Villa street, Elgin, was born in Quebec, Canada, February 13, 1839, a son of James and Mary (Carpenter) Evans. The father, a native of county Galway, Ireland, served for some time as lieutenant in the British army, and as a retired officer he received half pay for forty years, from the time Napoleon was sent to St. Helena. After his emigration to Canada he married Mary Carpenter, who was born in Pennsylvania, of English and German descent, but was reared in Canada. There the father died in 1859, when in his sixty-fifth year, and the mother passed away April 8, 1888, aged eighty-seven years. Both were earnest, consistent Christians, members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and Mr. Evans was a local preacher for that denomination, in which capacity he was known throughout the greater part of the province of Ontario.

Of the twelve children born to this worthy couple, seven are still living, namely: Frances, wife of Richard Wood, of Toronto, Canada; Louisa, widow of William G. Stephens, and also a resident of Toronto; Elizabeth, wife of Henry L. Boss, of Caro, Michigan; James C., a resident of East Saginaw, Michigan; Henry T., an editor living in Texas; William W., of this sketch; and Robert F., who is a clerk in

the auditor's office of the Michigan Central railroad at Detroit, Michigan.

William W. Evans commenced his education under the able direction of his father, who was a classical scholar and a teacher for many years. Subsequently he attended the high school at Simcoe, Canada, where he studied the languages and higher mathematics. During early life he learned the printer's trade, at which he worked in many places until finally locating in the Canadian oil regions, where oil was first discovered during our Civil war. Here he was employed on "The Oil Springs Chronicle," the first paper of the kind published in Canada, and subsequently he purchased the paper, remaining there two years. On selling out he removed to Watertown, New York, in 1865, where he worked on a daily paper for a year and a half, and then entered the service of Hamilton Child, a directory publisher at Syracuse, acting as compiler and superintendent for ten years, during which time he assisted in the publication of directories of forty-two counties in New York and three in Pennsylvania. On leaving that firm he returned to the province of Ontario, Canada, where, on his own account, he published directories of many counties and some cities, remaining there for ten years and meeting with good success in the undertaking. In 1888 he came to Elgin and got out the first gazetteer and directory of Kane county, and since then has compiled a second edition and also two editions of the city directory for the publishers, Lowrie & Black. Our subject has also published a map of Kane county.

In Watertown, New York, Mr. Evans was married to Miss Nellie Waters, of Loughborough, Canada, a daughter of Bulkley Waters, a farmer and tanner of that

country. Three children bless this union, namely: Hamilton, a machinist, of Elgin; and Eva and Dora, who are both employed in the watch factory at this place. The parents and children are all members of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Elgin, and are the center of a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Politically Mr. Evans is in sympathy with the Republican party.

---

DANIEL B. MOORE.—This age is not wholly utilitarian. On all sides we see some earnest souls laboring devotedly to bring about a recognition of some higher principle in life than selfish greed, and stimulating in the hearts of others a desire for spiritual progress. The friends of Mr. Moore will see in his years of faithful work in all forms of religious endeavor a source of present good to the community, and long after he has entered into his final rest his influence will continue in everlasting circles.

Mr. Moore, who is now a highly respected citizen of St. Charles, Illinois, was born January 7, 1829, in the town of Leroy, Genesee county, New York, and belongs to a family that was established in New Jersey at a very early day in the history of this country. His grandfather, John Moore, was a native of that state, and successfully engaged in the occupation of weaving throughout his active business life. He was a well-educated man, and held numerous public positions of honor and trust.

John C. Moore, our subject's father, was born in New Jersey, in 1796, and about 1804 removed with his father to Seneca county, New York, becoming a pioneer of that region, where, in the midst of the wilderness, he grew to manhood. There he was married to Elizabeth Bovee, who was



born on the Mohawk river, in Schoharie county, New York. He was also a weaver by trade, and after following that occupation in Seneca county for some years, he removed to Genesee county, locating on a farm. Subsequently he lived for a time in Monroe, Niagara and Livingston counties, but returned to Genesee county, where he died in January, 1877. His wife, who survived him for some time, passed away at the age of seventy-eight years, and her remains were interred by his side.

All of the children born to this worthy couple reached man and womanhood. Maria is the wife of Edwin Ward, of Batavia, New York. Rachel Ann married William Adkins, and died in Michigan. Catherine is the widow of Abram Bovee, and resides in Monroe county, New York. Daniel B. is next in order of birth. Jane first married Matthew Spitzer, and after his death wedded Horace Freer, and died in Portage, New York. Sarah married Alexander Culverson, and some years later came to St. Charles, Illinois, where her death occurred. Jacob enlisted in the Ninth New York Artillery during the Civil war, but was afterward transferred to the infantry, and was killed at the battle of Winchester, giving his life in defense of the Union. Matthew, who was also one of the boys in blue during the Rebellion, now resides on the old home farm in Genesee county, New York. Mary E. is the widow of James Cooper, who was killed in a railroad accident at Batavia, New York, in August, 1897.

On the old homestead in Genesee county, New York, Daniel B. Moore passed his boyhood and youth, acquiring his elementary education in the common and union schools of that section. In early life he learned the blacksmith's trade, serving four and a half

years' apprenticeship, and then worked at the trade for a time, saving his wages to pay his expenses while attending Oberlin College of Ohio, where he completed his literary training.

In 1853 Mr. Moore went to Delavan, Walworth county, Wisconsin, where he taught school, and also worked at his trade for a short time. In Elkhorn, that state, he was married November 29, 1853, to Miss Harriet Jane Culverson, who was born in Vermont, but was principally reared and educated in Delavan, Wisconsin. Her father, James Culverson, was one of the pioneers of that state. In 1854 Mr. Moore located on a farm, and though he engaged in agricultural pursuits through the summer season, he taught school during the winter months. Removing to Iowa, in 1855, he bought a farm in Fayette county, but at the end of a year sold his place and returned to Wisconsin, living in Walworth county until coming to St. Charles, Illinois, in November, 1862. Here he conducted a blacksmith shop from 1863 until 1886. His first wife died in St. Charles in 1872, and of the six children born to them, two died in childhood. In order of birth they are as follows: Alice passed away at the age of eight years; James is a business man of Elgin; Charles is engaged in business in Aurora; Edwin died in childhood; Carrie J. is engaged in the millinery business in Chicago; and Mary E. is the wife of James H. Furman, who holds a responsible business position in Chicago.

Mr. Moore was again married in St. Charles, April 4, 1889, his second union being with Mrs. Kate A. Chapman, a native of New York City, and a daughter of James P. Furnald, an honored pioneer of St. Charles, who removed here from Genesee

county, New York. By occupation he was a merchant tailor. From St. Charles he removed to Chillicothe, Missouri, where he lived some years, after which he returned to St. Charles, and here died at the age of sixty-eight years. He was a stanch Republican in politics and was a faithful member of the Congregational church.

In 1887 Mr. Moore removed to Chicago, but after a residence there of one year, he returned to St. Charles, buying back his old business. A year later, however, he again sold, and was engaged in business for some time in Chicago, though he continued to reside in St. Charles. He subsequently conducted a grocery store for two or three years in the former city, and on disposing of that he embarked in the tea and coffee business, during all this time continuing to reside in St. Charles. When he sold the latter store he again engaged in blacksmithing for two or three years in Chicago, and made his home in that city, but in April, 1896, he returned to St. Charles, where he has since lived. After disposing of his blacksmith shop in Chicago, he engaged in the tea and coffee business, in which business he is still engaged. Upright and reliable in all things, he has gained the confidence and respect of all with whom he has come in contact either in business or social life, and through his own industry, enterprise and good management has accumulated a comfortable competence.

Mr. Moore's father was first an old-line Whig in politics, later was a stanch Abolitionist and afterward a Republican. Our subject also supported the Abolition party on attaining his majority, voting for John P. Hale, and in 1856 he cast his ballot for John C. Fremont, since which time he has been a pronounced Republican. Being a

warm friend of our public school system, he most efficiently served as a member of the school board for a number of years, and for four years he also served as trustee of St. Charles before the incorporation of the city and assisted in changing it from a village, laying out the wards as they stand to-day. He was a candidate on the temperance ticket, and although he never solicited a vote, he received a large majority at each election.

During his youth Mr. Moore joined the Congregational church in New York, was a member of the old Plymouth church at Oberlin, Ohio, while attending college, and afterward belonged to the church in Delavan, Wisconsin. In 1863 he became identified with the church in St. Charles, and four years later was chosen deacon, which office he filled continuously until 1887. On his removal to Chicago he united with the Union Park church, and for some time was a teacher in that Sunday-school and in the Oakley Avenue mission. On his return to St. Charles he was again elected deacon of the congregation there, and when he again removed to Chicago he was chosen deacon of the Warren Avenue Congregational church, of which he became a member. He was also a teacher in the Sunday-school and chairman of the relief committee. Since his return to St. Charles in 1896 he has been re-elected deacon, and is still serving in that capacity, being one of the most faithful and untiring workers in the church there. Since a child he has taken great interest in the Sabbath-school, was a teacher in Oberlin, superintendent of surrounding schools, and also superintendent of a Sabbath-school in Iowa while living there. For nineteen years, at different times, he has filled the same office in St. Charles. An earnest,

conscientious Christian gentleman, charitable and benevolent, the world is certainly better for his having lived.

JAMES D. McDONALD is one of the best farmers of Plato township, and resides upon section 36, on the farm known as the Otter Creek farm. He was born on a farm in Elgin township February 26, 1851, and is the son of John and Rebecca (Denmark) McDonald, the former a native of Scotland and the latter of England, of whom further mention is made in the sketch of William Wallace McDonald. Until he was sixteen years of age he attended the district schools a portion of each year, but confesses at that time he had no love for the school room, and frequently played truant, much to his present sorrow. At the age of nineteen he began working in the creamery at East Plato, but after the death of his father he took charge of the home farm for his mother until he attained his majority. She then gave him a team of horses and a wagon. He then worked one year for his mother, for which he received three hundred dollars in money, with which to commence life for himself.

For several years after leaving the parental roof Mr. McDonald rented land, which he cultivated with some success, but in 1879, in partnership with his brother, William Wallace, he bought fifty acres of land, which was part of his father's first purchase in Kane county, and built a creamery. This they operated until 1885, when they sold out. Four years previously, however, our subject purchased his present farm of four hundred and ten acres, lying in section 36, Plato township, and section 1, Campton township. Until 1890 he ran a

dairy farm, but has now a stock farm, raising principally Holstein cattle. For many years he was engaged in raising horses, continuing in that business until prices got too low to raise at a profit. During a part of the years 1897-8 he lived in Elgin, that his children might have the benefits of its public schools, but in the spring of 1898 he returned to the farm.

Mr. McDonald was married in Geneva, Kane county, to Miss Frances Sovereign, a daughter of George P. and Agnes (Windsor) Sovereign, the former a native of Canada and the latter of England. The latter, who was born May 27, 1820, was a daughter of George Windsor, who came to America in 1834. George P. Sovereign, who was a natural general mechanic, and had at various times followed the occupations of a carpenter, painter and wagon-maker, was a son of Richard and Betsy (Plumber) Sovereign. His father served in the war of 1812. They were the parents of eight children—Mary A., Harriet E., Frances, Ella E., George, Harriet, Myra and Daniel. Of this number, Harriet E. died in early childhood, and there was one who died in infancy. To our subject and wife four children have been born—Walter Alton, who married Mina Grady, by whom he has one child, Ralph W., is now living on a farm in Plato township; Lily Luella, deceased; James Elmer, who is assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm; and John P., a student in the schools of Elgin.

Politically Mr. McDonald is a Republican, and has served in various offices, including those of road overseer, school director and trustee. His farm is one of the finest in the county, well drained and watered, good dwelling, and good barns and other outbuildings. In the yard are many



fine old trees, which also line the roadside in front of his residence. He is a genial, whole-souled man, and a general favorite throughout the community in which he resides.

**H**ORACE GILBERT was for many years an honored citizen of Aurora, and one of its most active, enterprising business men. He was born in Otsego county, New York, August 1, 1819. His parents were natives of Connecticut. His father was by occupation a farmer and blacksmith, and for a time conducted a general store, in connection with his other business. Religiously he was a Congregationalist, and for years was a deacon in that church. He was quite influential in the community in which he resided, and was well and favorably known throughout the county. His wife, also a member of the Congregational church, was a most worthy woman, and for many years was an invalid. They never came west except on a visit.

The subject of this sketch was fourth in a family of nine children, of whom all are deceased save three sisters: Adaline, wife of Clark Smith, residing in New York; Caroline, an honored resident of Aurora; and Elizabeth, wife of Charles Hyde, residing in New York. Of the sons, William was a clothier. His son Doctor Rufus, was a surgeon in the late war, and was the inventor of the elevated railway in New York. Another son of William was a noted physician, an eye and ear specialist. Another of his sons, William, was a tobacconist in New York. His second son, Harry, was a farmer by occupation, and came west, dying at Paw Paw, Lee county, Illinois. Jay also came west and settled in Wayne county,

Illinois, on a farm. Delos, was a druggist in New York state.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm, and as soon as able to run around, was usefully employed, his father being an extensive dairyman. His education was obtained in the district schools of his native state. In 1851 he came west, and spent a year on a farm, and then married Miss Minerva Fitch, daughter of the late Ira Fitch, who built the Evans hotel and other large buildings in Aurora, and was quite a successful business man. Soon after his marriage, Mr. Gilbert came to Aurora, formed a partnership with his father-in-law, and engaged in the harness trade on Broadway, between Fox and Main streets, continuing there for many years. They were burned out at one time, and also lost much by the sudden rise of Fox river. They did a large business in buying hides, which at one time during a freshet, went down the river incurring great loss. Later Mr. Gilbert went across the river and engaged in the same business on the site of the present Merchants' Bank. His partner was John Kemp, with whom he continued for perhaps thirty-five years, and doing a very extensive business. Their goods went to many of the states of the union, and were in great demand before and during the war. He remained in the harness trade, until his health began to fail, when he retired and gave his time and attention to his other property.

To Horace and Minerva Gilbert, two children were born, both of whom died in infancy. The mother passed away about 1857. She was a consistent member of the Congregational church and died in the faith. On the 3rd of January, 1871, Mr. Gilbert was again married, his second union being with Miss Mary Spalding, daughter

of the late Joseph A. and Julia A. (West) Spalding, the former a native of Windsor county, Vermont, and the latter of Strafford, Orange county, same state. She was a cousin of Justin Morrill, the oldest senator, and the longest continually in the office, of any person in the United States senate. They were from the same town, Strafford, Orange county, Vermont.

Joseph A. Spalding came to Kane county in 1849, and settled on a farm near Elgin. His children were all born in Vermont, and came west in their childhood. On the farm near Elgin they grew to mature years. In 1861, he moved with his family to Aurora, and engaged in teaming and farming on land which he had leased just south of the city. In Vermont, Mr. Spalding was an influential man, having served as captain of the militia and justice of the peace. He was a devout member and at times held the office of steward, class leader and trustee, in the Methodist Episcopal church, having a wide and excellent influence, which was always effectual in the right direction. His death occurred in 1884, at the age of eighty-four years. His wife, who was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, died in 1878, at the age of seventy years. Of their eight children, Charles West, who is a well educated man, with experience as editor of both papers and magazines, now resides in Florida; Jane Amelia, who married Asa Merrill, an early settler of Elgin, and both are now deceased, she dying August 6, 1878, at the age of forty-four years; Hannah A. is the wife of Frank Besse, a soldier of the late war, and they now reside in Osage City, Kansas; Mercy B., died in 1841, at the age of four years; Mary A., widow of our subject; Joseph Albert, a commercial

traveler, residing in Lawrence, Kansas; Sarah E., who first married Fred James, of Aurora, and after his death, married Herman Tetzlaff, of Clinton, Iowa; Henry U., a railroad engineer, at Tacoma, Washington; and Wilber Fisk, connected with the State street railway of Chicago, residing in Englewood, Illinois.

Three children were born to Horace and Mary A. Gilbert, as follows: Jennie, wife of Hartwell Staples, a native of Boston, now doing business in Chicago, but they reside with Mrs. Gilbert in Aurora. They have one child, a daughter, Jane Gilbert; Mary Elizabeth, wife of William Hills, in the express business at Galesburg, Illinois, and Edna Morrill, who resides at home. Mrs. Gilbert is a member of the Congregational church, is vice president of the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society of the church, and is in every way a most worthy lady of pleasing presence, good culture and Christian character.

Mr. Gilbert was a thorough business man, one who was willing to do all in his power to build up the manufacturing and other interests of this city. He did much in securing the Silver Plate Manufactory in Aurora, and for several years gave it his best attention. He was very progressive and modern in his views, his great delight being in seeing all industries of the city in a prosperous condition. When he came to Aurora, in the early '50s, he bought the place where his wife's pleasant home is now located, and which was then at the edge of the city limits, a large wheat field covering that part of the city which is now located on the south. The city now extends far beyond the boundaries of the wheat field. Mr. Gilbert was much of a home man, preferring home to any other place. He was

a wonderfully kind man, as is shown by the following incident: A man had borrowed from him a sum of money, for which he gave as security a mortgage on his farm. The time for payment and foreclosure had arrived, and the man, feeling his inability to pay, was for relinquishing and giving up the farm. Mr. Gilbert would not hear to this, and told him to hold on another year. The next year was no better and he was determined to give up, but through hard persuasion he was induced to try another year, when fortune turned in his favor and he paid off the mortgage, and was ever afterwards thankful to Mr. Gilbert for his kindness and patience. This was but one of many incidents that might be related of how he strove to help others, especially those he considered honest and were trying to help themselves. Although not a member of any church, he was strict to observe the Sabbath day, and showed a preference for the Congregational church. His death, which occurred July 9, 1894, was mourned alike by family and many friends, who esteemed him for his true worth and excellent character.

---

**L**EWIS C. CLYNE.—Success in any line of occupation, in any avenue of business, is not a matter of spontaneity, but is a legitimate offspring of the proper use of the means at hand, the improvement of opportunity, and the exercise of the highest functions made possible in any case. To trace the history of a successful life, be it in the electrical world of business, in which competition is rife; in the intellectual field, where devotees open up the wider realms of knowledge; in a public sphere, where is directed the course of government, and the

policies formed that sway nations; or in the calm and peaceful pursuits which have to do with the source of all supplies, must ever prove possible and satisfying indulgence, for the history of an individual is the history of a nation; the history of a nation the history of a world. The subject of this sketch has made a success, although his life has not been under the most favorable circumstances.

Lewis C. Clyne was born in county Longford, Ireland, March 22, 1862, and is the son of Thomas and Ann (Martin) Clyne, both natives of Ireland, and who were the parents of fourteen children, of whom our subject is the youngest. He remained in his native country until seventeen years of age, and there received his education in the common schools. With that laudable desire to better his condition in life, he came to the United States, coming direct to Maple Park, Illinois, where for four year's, he clerked in the general store of his brother, during which time he had a good business training. In 1884, he engaged in business for himself, in the general mercantile trade, in which he has since continued, and in which he has been very successful. His abilities were soon recognized by his fellow citizens, and in 1885 he was elected a member of the village board, and by re-election has continued until the present time. He has served as township treasurer for eight years, and in 1892 was elected supervisor of his township, and in that office has since continued to serve. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster of Maple Park, and filled that position for four years, to the satisfaction of all the patrons of the office.

On the 18th of February, 1890, Mr. Clyne was united in marriage with Miss





LEWIS C. CLYNE.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Hannah Keenan, a native of Kane county, and to them have been born two children, Kathleen and Rose. The parents are members of the Catholic church, and politics he is an ardent Democrat. Although the township is largely Republican, his popularity has been such as to give him the election whenever nominated for any office. Fraternally he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**F**RANKLIN WEBSTER, proprietor of the leading livery stable of Elgin, Illinois, is one of the native sons of Kane county, born in Geneva, September 12, 1849, and is a worthy representative of one of its honored pioneer families. His father, William Gaylord Webster, was born at Westmoreland, Oneida county, New York, April 6, 1811, a son of Gaylord and Lucy (McMoran) Webster, who were natives of Connecticut, and were farming people.

William G. Webster was among the first settlers of Kane county, Illinois, coming here in 1840 and locating on a farm of one hundred and sixty acres at Nelson's Grove, near Bald Mound, to the improvement and cultivation of which he devoted his energies for some years. On selling out he removed to Geneva, where he opened the Webster Tavern, which he successfully conducted until it was destroyed by fire in 1865. During a part of this time he carried the mail from the depot to the postoffice and also carried on a livery business, being thus engaged at the time of his death, which occurred April 6, 1887. Prior to engaging in the livery business he conducted a grocery store for a time, buying his stock at St. Louis, and hauling it across the country from Lyons, Iowa. At one time he served as deputy

sheriff of Kane county, and as a stalwart Republican, he took quite an active interest in political affairs. He was six feet in height, well built, and was a man who commanded the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact.

In 1841 William G. Webster was united in marriage with Miss Margaret E. Pierce, who was born January 6, 1811, in Vermont, of which state her parents, Dr. Joseph K. and Hannah (Kenyon) Pierce, were also natives. From there they removed to Jefferson county, New York, and in 1839, with their family of four children, they emigrated to Kane county, Illinois, each taking up claims and locating at Nelson's Grove and Bald Mound. The children were Eveline, who married Samuel Wood; Margaret E., mother of our subject; George and Kenyon. In early life Mrs. Webster was a successful teacher and taught the first school ever conducted in Geneva. She was a lady of culture and refinement and was a member of the Episcopal church. She departed this life at Geneva, April 14, 1887. Her children were as follows: Henry died at Geneva when about thirty-eight years of age. Elizabeth is the widow of T. W. Herrington, who died in Aurora in 1868, and she now lives at Geneva on the lot where the first house was built at that place, and where a spring is constantly flowing. Mary E. is also a resident of Geneva. Franklin, of this sketch, completes the family.

The early life of our subject was spent at Geneva, attending the public schools and assisting his father. On starting out in life for himself he was employed as clerk in a grocery store in Chicago at the corner of Canal and Judd streets for about six months during the year 1864. He then returned home and the following winter attended



school at Batavia. The next two years he again worked for his father, and during the winters of 1867 and 1868 he pursued his studies in the Jennings Seminary of Aurora, where his literary education was completed. Accepting a clerkship in a grocery store at that place, he remained there for three years and a half, or until 1871, when he and his brother Henry purchased his father's livery business, which they successfully conducted for four years. After selling his interest to his brother, Franklin Webster came to Elgin in April, 1882, and embarked in the same business on Milwaukee street. Two years later he built stables on Grove avenue, where he continued in business until 1893, when he removed to his present location on Chicago street. His stables are supplied with good horses and a fine line of vehicles for the accommodation of his large patronage, and he is doing a profitable business, which is certainly well deserved.

On the 27th of September, 1882, Mr. Webster was united in marriage with Miss Marian E. Conklin, a native of Kane county, and a daughter of William G. and Sarah A. (Ingersol) Conklin. At an early day her parents came from Buffalo, New York, to Kane county, and the father erected the first mill at St. Charles, operating it for many years. He was a veteran of both the Mexican and Civil wars, and in the latter rose to the rank of major, serving as such in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry. He was one of the most distinguished and honored citizens of St. Charles, where he died in 1895. At that place his widow is still living.

Politically Mr. Webster is a stanch Republican, and fraternally is an honored member of Jerusalem Temple lodge, No. 90, A. F. & A. M., and Aurora chapter, No. 22, R. A. M., both of Aurora; Bethel com-

mandery, No. 36, K. T., of Elgin; and Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, M. W. A. Being a public-spirited, enterprising citizen, he most efficiently served as alderman from the Fourth ward of Elgin in 1895-6. With the Methodist Episcopal church his wife holds membership.

---

GEORGE ALEXANDER, who is one of the oldest conductors on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, has been in the employ of the company for forty-two years. He resides with his family at No. 242 New York street, Aurora, Illinois. He is a native of Massachusetts, born in Franklin county, February 15, 1827, and is the son of Fordyce Alexander, also a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of Sunderland, in 1796. The paternal grandfather, Elisha Alexander, was a native of Massachusetts. He moved to Irving, Franklin county, from Sunderland, which was afterwards his home. The Alexanders are of Scotch descent, and were among the very early settlers of New England.

Fordyce Alexander grew to manhood in his native state, and there married Thankful Whitehead, also a native of Massachusetts, born in Phillipston, Worcester county. Her father, Gadd Whitehead, was likewise a native of the Bay state. Fordyce Alexander was for many years engaged in merchandising, in his native state, and was a manufacturer and dealer in lumber, and also engaged in agricultural pursuits. Later he moved to Wrightsville, Warren county, Pennsylvania, and there engaged in lumbering during the remainder of his life, dying in 1860, at the age of sixty-four years. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1882, at the residence of a daughter in

Boston, Massachusetts, at the age of eighty-three years. Of their family of nine children, all grew to mature years, save one daughter who died in early childhood. Three sons yet survive—James H., a business man residing in Los Angeles, California; Elisha M., with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, residing in Aurora; and George our subject.

George Alexander grew to manhood in his native town and county, where he received his education in the common schools. He remained with his father until twenty-one years of age, assisting him in the store, and on the farm. He commenced railroad-ing in Massachusetts, when a young man, and in 1851 went to New York, where he engaged with the New York & Erie Railroad Company, and assisted in the construction of the telegraph line of the western division. He remained there about one year, then came west to Detroit, Michigan, where for one year he engaged in the wholesale notion business selling to the trade from a wagon. He then went to St. Louis, where he was engaged in construction work on the Missouri Pacific road, for about eight months, assisting in grading and laying the first thirty-five miles of track. In 1854, he returned to Massachusetts, and there engaged with the Boston & Albany railroad, where he remained about a year, and in 1855 came to Chicago, and commenced work for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, at breaking on a freight train. In the fall of the same year, he was promoted to conductor on the freight train, and ran a freight and construction train until 1861. He then took a passenger train from Mendota to Chicago, continuing on that run about eight months, and was then given a through train from Chicago to Bur-

lington. He continued on that run until the summer of 1873, when he was made train master at Chicago, where he resided until the following season. In June, 1874, was transferred to Aurora, where he was trainmaster, in charge of the Chicago division, until 1878, when he was made master of transportation. Later he was appointed division superintendent, a position that he held until 1888, when he was transferred to the claim department, settling all classes of claims against the road, which position he held for three years. He then returned to the road and took charge of a passenger train from Aurora to Streator.

Mr. Alexander was married in Aurora in January, 1859, to Miss Mattie Baldwin, a native of Indiana, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Pollard Baldwin, who was a native of Windsor, Vermont, and who removed from that state to Ohio, where he married, and later moved to Indiana, locating in Warren county, and from thence to Montgomery county, where his death occurred. By this union were three children, all of whom died in infancy. After their marriage, Mr. Alexander built a residence in Aurora, which he sold on his removal to Chicago. On returning to Aurora, he rented for a year, then bought the neat and substantial residence where he now resides on New York street.

Politically, Mr. Alexander is a Republican, though of late years he has been independent, supporting the best men regardless of party. Fraternally, he is a member of Jerusalem Temple lodge, No. 90, F. & A. M., with which he united in 1859. He is also a member of the Aurora City Club, a social organization. On coming to Aurora in 1855, he found but few miles of railroad in the state, single track extending from

Chicago to Mendota only was complete. To-day there is a complete network of roads extending through every part of the state, and it requires hundreds of telegraph wires to transact the business of the country. As a railroad man he has done his part in the development of the state. Wherever known he is held in high esteem, and has always been popular on the road.

JAMES F. BELL resides upon section 30, Hampshire township, where he is engaged in dairy farming. He was born in Batavia, New York, January 22, 1830, and is the son of Charles Bell, a native of Vermont, born October 8, 1794, and who well remembered Washington's funeral. After living for a time in Batavia, New York, Charles Bell removed with his family to Java, and later to Aurora, in the same state. In 1838 he moved to Michigan and settled in the town of Redford, Wayne county, where he lived until 1865. For a time he was a sailor on the lakes, and while at a point of bay near Toledo he was stabbed by an Indian. The weather was hot, and before medical aid could be secured at Detroit, gangrene set in and it became necessary to amputate the leg. While yet living in New York he taught school for a time. Before leaving the state he learned the tailor's trade, at which he worked in his native state and in Wayne county, Michigan. During the war of 1812, he gave his services to his country. At the commencement of the war he and his father were in rafting on the St. Lawrence, and he was pressed by the British to take a raft over the rapids, and he ran it on the American side of the river after passing the rapids, into the hands of the Americans. After

being held about twelve days, he escaped and joined the Vermont volunteers. Charles Bell was the son of Ralph Rudolphus Wheelock and Desire (Reynolds) Bell, both of whom were natives of Vermont, and the father of Irish descent.

At Aurora, New York, our subject began his education in the public schools, and, after his arrival in Michigan, continued to attend school until eighteen years of age, when he secured a position in a rake factory, where wooden hay rakes were manufactured. After working four years in the factory he worked as a farm hand and at anything his hand found to do until 1854. On the 14th of February, of that year, he left home for California, sailing from New York February 20, on the steamer *Star of the West*, which was afterward made famous in trying to carry provisions to Fort Sumter before hostilities commenced between the states. After crossing Nicaragua, from Greytown, he sailed from San Juan to San Francisco, on the steamer *Brother Jonathan*, arriving about April 10. On the trip a boiler blew out, which necessitated slow speed. The vessel was soon afterward condemned for sea duty, and was confined to coast trade. On arriving in California Mr. Bell went into the mines, sometimes making one hundred and fifty dollars a day, and sometimes making no more in one hundred and fifty days. For four years he was at Murphy's Camp and Gaston Hill, near Cave City. Having enough of California, he returned home by way of the Isthmus of Panama, leaving Aspinwall in the steamer *Illinois*, which was wrecked on the north coast of Cuba, twelve hours' run from Havana. Our subject here lost everything. The vessel, however, was got off the reef, repaired and reached New



York September 8, 1858. On his way west he stopped at Niagara, and a few days later reached his home in Wayne county. He then worked on farms in Wayne county until he came to Kane county, Illinois, in April, 1865. On arriving here he worked for his uncle, Henry G. Bell, for a time, and then rented farms for six years. In 1871 he bought his present farm of forty acres, and is now engaged in dairy farming, manufacturing his own butter.

Mr. Bell has been twice married, his first union being with Mrs. Mary McIogan, nee Harme, a native of Sullivan county, New York. By this union there are four children as follows: Jessie and China, the latter living in Elgin, while Jessie is a teacher in the public schools in Oregon; Georgia, a teacher living in California; and Mary, who married Blucher Remington, by whom she has one child, Merrill Vernon, and they reside in Kansas. The mother of these children died March 16, 1877, and Mr. Bell, April 18, 1880, in Hampshire township, married Lucy D. Babcock, who was born near Warsaw, Greene county, New York, who was but two and a half years old when her parents came west in 1854. She is the daughter of William H. Babcock, a son of Abiram and Susanna (Lee) Babcock, the latter being a cousin of General Robert E. Lee. William H. Babcock, who was born October 10, 1816, married Cornelia E., widow of Evan Soules, and a daughter of Andrew and Julia (Diston) Hogeboom, who were among the earliest settlers of De Kalb county, and who also owns land in Hampshire township. William H. Babcock came to Kane county in 1854, and died on his old homestead, September 12, 1884. By this second union there is one child, a daughter, Albertine.

Politically Mr. Bell is a Republican, and while believing in the principles of the party, from the time of its organization, yet cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant, in 1868, having missed his vote at every preceding election, in consequence of being away from home at election time. He served as school director several years. Mrs. Bell has likewise served as school director, discharging the duties of the office in a satisfactory manner. Our subject remembers hearing his parents talk of the fall of stars in 1832. People then thought the world was coming to an end, the falling stars being a fulfillment of prophecy. His mother's sister, "Aunt Gurney," took down her Bible and began reading the account of the falling stars and the moon which should be turned into blood.

---

HENRY M. CRAWFORD, M. D., of St. Charles, has rounded the Psalmist's span of three-score years and ten, but is still actively engaged in the practice of his profession, having for forty-nine years devoted his life and services to the alleviation of human suffering. It is a record probably almost unparalleled in the history of the state. He came to Illinois when the northern district was but sparsely settled and rode for miles over the prairies administering to those who needed medical aid, and his kindness and generosity, as well as professional skill, endeared him to the hearts of many. His has been a life of peculiar usefulness and its record forms an important chapter in the history of Kane county.

A native of Ireland, Dr. Crawford was born in the city of Belfast in 1820 and is of Scotch ancestry. He acquired a classical education and then took a course in the

Royal College of Belfast, an affiliated college of the London University. He was also a student in educational institutions of Dublin and Edinburg, and after completing his medical studies began the practice of his profession, which he continued for four years in Europe. He had built up a very extensive business when in 1848, he finally yielded to the importunities of some friends who wished him to accept a position as surgeon on an emigrant ship bound for New York. On arriving at New York he was induced by an eminent physician of that city to remain for a few days, which period was ultimately extended until he had remained in the eastern metropolis for nearly a year.

The Doctor then resolved to make a trip through the west to see the country and in the course of his travels arrived at the village of St. Charles, Illinois, in October, 1848. While here he, with other members of the party, was overtaken by a severe snow storm, which compelled him to remain until the roads could be opened. While here he was repeatedly urged to remain and engage in the practice of his profession, and finally yielding to this persuasion, St. Charles became his home. He soon had a large patronage that came from a territory extending one hundred miles westward from Lake Michigan and up into Wisconsin. Frequently on making these long trips he would have relays of horses stationed at various points in order to take him with all possible speed to the bedside of a sufferer. He was often called long distances to take part in a consultation and such a practice in those early days involved many hardships, occasioned by the long drives through the storms of winter, or over almost impassable roads in the rainy season of spring and fall.

In 1861 Dr. Crawford was induced by Col. William Lynch to accept a surgeon's commission for the Fifty-eighth Illinois Infantry, and in that capacity served until the close of the war. He was in the active practice of his profession during six pitched battles and a great many lesser engagements, serving as regimental and division surgeon of the Sixteenth Army Corps. He was chief of hospitals at LaGrange, and faithfully did his duty toward the sick and wounded until the close of the war and the return of the soldiers to their homes relieved him of all further effort in this direction. On his return he resumed practice in St. Charles, and in a short time opened an office in Chicago, where he remained for about a year, when he was burned out in the great fire which devastated that city in 1871. He lost therein a large and valuable library and all his surgical instruments to the value of several thousand dollars. Then again he returned to St. Charles and has since actively been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery. He has been surgeon for the Great Western or Maple Leaf railroad, and also acted as surgeon for the Northwestern road in years past. He has successfully performed some very difficult surgical operations, and his professional efforts have been attended with a uniform success that is very gratifying and won him an enviable prestige.

Dr. Crawford was married in St. Charles, in 1855, to Miss Margaret P. McWilliams, a native of Ireland, born and reared in Ulster, near Belfast. They have three children: Henry M., a man of good education, most exemplary habits and excellent business ability, who assists his father in managing the business and estate; Minnie E. and Margaret Hypatia at home.

The Doctor is independent in his political convictions, supporting the men and measures in which he believes, regardless of party affiliations. He is a believer in free trade or a retaliatory tariff, and also advocates a gold standard monetary system, and on this issue gave his support to President McKinley in 1896. In his religious views he is also liberal. He does not use the term religion in its common acceptance, and would prefer the use of the term conscientious obligations, to implying an obedience to the sense of right as gained from the best experience and practice of those whose lives are most worthy of emulation. He believes in leaving every individual free to form their own opinions and feels that there is an inner consciousness whose promptings will lead in the path of virtue and duty if only followed out. His own life is an exemplification of this belief, and St. Charles has no more worthy, honorable or respected citizen than Dr. Crawford. He has always been active and liberal in support of the measures which have contributed to the upbuilding, advancement and improvement of St. Charles, and has left the impress of his individuality indelibly on the best interests of the city and of the country through half a century.

---

**F** W. BLOSS, a leading hardware merchant doing business at No. 25 South Broadway, is a native of Aurora, born March 20, 1858, and is the son of Daniel and Telina (Davis) Bloss, who at one time owned the property from Spring Lake cemetery clear to Jackson street. He came from New York to Aurora about 1844, and engaged in carpentering and contracting, which occupation he followed for a few

years. In company with Russell C. Mix he worked on the Blackhawk mill, and also on many other buildings. Strange to relate, the two were buried on the same day, February 21, 1871, Mr. Bloss dying on the 18th of February, from congestion of the lungs. His marriage with Miss Telina Davis occurred about 1845. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, but took no especially active part. His wife is still living at the age of seventy-three years, and a resident of Emporia, Kansas, is also a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Of their family of five children, our subject is the youngest. Of the others, Henry, who was first a farmer and later a telegrapher, died at the age of forty years; Mary J. is the wife of L. Titsworth, of Aurora; Bertha is the wife of C. B. Sims, of Emporia, Kansas.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Aurora, and spent his boyhood and youth engaged in farm work. In 1878 he became a clerk in a hardware store in Aurora, and with the exception of one year as postal clerk and one year as clerk in the offices of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, he has been in the hardware business, either as clerk or proprietor. In 1889 he purchased the establishment of his employer, and has since conducted a profitable business. His stock of hardware, stoves, ranges and agricultural implements is always full and complete, and he has his full share of trade of both city and country.

Mr. Bloss has been twice married, his first union, in 1884, being with Miss Belle Elliott, daughter of W. F. and Sarah Elliott, of Oswego, Illinois. Two children were born of this union as follows: Daniel Elliott and Belle. The mother died June



22, 1892, at the age of thirty-two years. She was a member of the Presbyterian church, and for some years was a teacher in the schools of Oswego, Illinois, and in other parts of Kendall county. The second marriage of Mr. Bloss was celebrated September 21, 1894, when he was united with Miss Clara Fickensher, a daughter of Henry Fickensher, one of the old settlers of Aurora. She is a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church. Politically, Mr. Bloss is a Republican, and although never aspiring to office himself, he has been quite active in the interests of his friends. A lifelong resident of Aurora and a representative of one of its pioneer families, he takes especial interest in everything calculated to promote the growth and prosperity of his native city, and is therefore numbered among Aurora's most enterprising citizens.

**A**SAHEL T. JUDD is engaged in farming on section 10, Sugar Grove township, and is well known as one of the most enterprising and progressive farmers of the township. He is a native of New York, born in Warren county, on the banks of Lake George, March 21, 1844, and is the son of Dexter C. and Eliza (Brown) Judd, the former a native of Massachusetts, born March 11, 1822, and the latter a native of New York. Sarson L. Judd, the grandfather of our subject, was also born in Massachusetts, from which state he moved to New York about 1830, locating in Warren county on the banks of Lake George, where he reared his family and spent the remainder of his life.

In 1850, Dexter C. Judd came to Kane county, Illinois, and joined his uncle, Thomas Judd, who settled here about 1836.

On coming to Kane county, Dexter C. Judd purchased about twenty acres in Sugar Grove township, on which he built a dwelling and also a blacksmith shop, and there resided a few years, engaged in working at his trade of blacksmith, and also in farming. Selling his original purchase, he bought a farm of two hundred and seventy-five acres, on which were some improvements. Repairing the house and building a shop, he began work and in due time became a successful and prosperous farmer. He later sold the farm to his son, Sarson L., and removed to Aurora, where he lived retired and where his death occurred in 1893. His wife passed away one year previous.

The subject of this sketch was but six years old when he came with his parents to Kane county. He received his education in the common schools of Sugar Grove township, and remained at home assisting his father until eighteen years of age. In the fall of 1862, he enlisted in Company H, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and joined Grant's command at Jackson, Tennessee. He participated in the battle of Champion Hills and in the siege and surrender of Vicksburg. Later he did provost duty there for several months, and while there was commissioned second lieutenant, and assigned to the Third United States Heavy Artillery, which was retained on garrison duty at Vicksburg, until the close of the war. He was discharged in August, 1865, although at home on a sick furlough. For nearly two years he was an invalid, due from exposure while in service.

On the 12th of November, 1868, Mr. Judd was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Reynolds, daughter of Silas Reynolds, whose sketch appears in this work.



ASAHEL T. JUDD.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



She was reared on the farm where she now resides. By this union there is one son, Ira R., who is married and resides in the village of Sugar Grove, where he is associated with S. L. Judd in the agricultural implement business. He is a young man of good business ability and is quite popular in the community where he resides. Soon after marriage Mr. and Mrs. Judd located on a farm in Sugar Grove township, of one hundred and eighty acres, which he purchased and improved. They there resided two years, and then came to their present farm, which comprises a part of the old Reynolds homestead. Here they remained for six years and then moved to Aurora, where Mr. Judd engaged in the lumber business, in which he continued five years. In 1883 they returned to the farm, Mrs. Judd having inherited a part of the estate. In addition to that inherited by Mrs. Judd, he purchased two hundred and twenty acres of other heirs, and now has five hundred and thirty-six acres of well improved and valuable land. He has remodeled the house and built a good barn, and made other valuable improvements to the place. In the winter of 1897-8 he fed some fourteen hundred head of sheep, which he prepared for the market.

Politically, Mr. Judd is a Republican, and has voted for every presidential nominee of the party since 1868, when he cast his ballot for Gen. U. S. Grant. By his fellow citizens he has been honored with a number of local offices, including township collector, which he held two or three terms, commissioner of highways, township trustee, and has served as a delegate to various conventions of his party. In 1865 he became a Master Mason, and is now a member of both the blue lodge and chapter of Aurora. He

is a well known man in Kane county, having been identified with its interests almost half a century.

---

AUGUSTINE H. HUBBARD, Esq., who is now serving as justice of the peace, with office at No. 19 Chicago street, Elgin, was born on the 17th of March, 1850, in Salem, Michigan, a son of Harvey and Emily (Hamilton) Hubbard, natives of New York state. Four children were born to them: Mary, wife of J. H. Cooley, of Trinidad, Colorado; Martha and Eva, who are also residents of that city; and Augustine H. Throughout the greater part of his active business life the father engaged in the real estate business and, in farming. For many years he made his home in Minnesota, locating in Winona, that state, at an early day, later lived some time in Elgin, Illinois, and then with his family removed to Trinidad, Colorado, where he died in 1885, at the age of seventy-two years. His estimable wife still makes her home in that city, and is a consistent member of the Congregational church. He belonged to the same church, and served as deacon for many years. While living in Winona, he filled the office of supervisor for one term, and was also school trustee for many years.

The grandfathers of our subject, Mr. Hubbard and Isaac Hamilton, were born in New York, of English ancestry, and reared large families. The former died in Salem, Michigan, when well advanced in years, and the latter, who was a farmer by occupation, passed away, when living in the same state, at the age of seventy.

Mr. Hubbard, whose name introduces this sketch, was ten years old when his parents left their old home in Michigan and

removed to Minnesota, where he spent the following quarter of a century in Winona, St. Paul and Lake City. He attended the Normal School in Winona, and at the age of seventeen began clerking in Lake City, where he remained for several years. During the Indian wars, he served as special messenger for General Sibley for two years, after which he attended a commercial college in Chicago. After about three years spent in dairy farming in McHenry county, Illinois, Mr. Hubbard came to Elgin in 1871, and for some time was employed in the city clerk's office. For twenty years he has now acceptably served as justice of the peace, and has also successfully engaged in the life and fire insurance business.

On the 25th of October, 1870, Mr. Hubbard led to the marriage altar Miss Martha L. Hatch, a daughter of Lewis and Mandana (Cole) Hatch, and to them have been born two sons—Frederick, who married Beyrl Burns, and is now a special agent for the Hanover Fire Insurance Company for Illinois and Michigan; and Roy, who is clerking in Elgin. The wife and mother, who was an active worker and faithful member of the Baptist church, was called to her final rest in February, 1897. Mr. Hubbard is also a prominent member of the same church, and is now serving as trustee. His political support is always given the men and measures of the Republican party, and he is thoroughly interested in whatever tends to promote the moral, intellectual and material welfare of the community. His home is at No. 145 Hill street.

---

**RURIC A. FRENCH**, an energetic farmer and stock trader, residing on section 32, Hampshire township, was born in East

Java, Wyoming county, New York, January 13, 1862. His father, Martin French, was born in Pennsylvania, and is a successful mechanic, now living in Wyoming county, New York. He is the son of Nathaniel French, also a native of Pennsylvania. Martin French married Diana Thornton, a native of East Java, New York, and a daughter of Oben Thornton, who is still living at the age of one hundred and four years, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. French. He married Clarissa Lord, long since deceased. To Martin and Diana French the following named children were born: Jay, a physician of Chautauqua county, New York; Ruric A., our subject; Myron, who lives on the old farm in Wyoming county; and Fred, deceased.

The subject of this sketch attended the district school until the age of eighteen, but remained with his father until twenty-two years old. For one year he worked for a stock trader in Wyoming county, and then began business for himself, renting a farm for two years and engaging in agricultural pursuits. He was then in the produce business for one year, buying through the country and shipping to New York and Philadelphia. In 1885 he came west on a visit, and September 3, of that year, he married Miss Anna Gage, born on the farm where they now reside, and a daughter of John and Evaline (Rich) Gage. Her father was born in East Java, New York, and was reared on a farm. In 1846 he came west with his parents, driving from Wyoming county to Buffalo, New York, and from thence coming west by lake to Chicago and by teams to Kane county. The family first settled on section 29, with the Guernseys. John Gage later purchased the farm on section 32, where he resided until his death,

which occurred August 20, 1897. During the excitement with reference to gold in California he went to that New Eldorado, and spent the years 1853 and 1854.

John Gage was the son of Solomon and Mary (Guernsey) Gage, the former a native of New Hampshire, born in 1788, and dying in Hampshire, October 21, 1851. The latter was a daughter of Cyril Guernsey, born in New Hampshire in 1786, and dying in Hampshire township, December 17, 1866. Eveline Rich, wife of John Gage, twin sister of Evelyn E. Rich, was born on the old homestead, in Rutland township, Kane county, April 26, 1839, and is the daughter of Elijah Rich, who was born in Massachusetts, June 10, 1795, and who moved to the town of Benson, Rutland county, Vermont, about 1810, and who came to Illinois in the spring of 1836, and settled on sections 30 and 31, Rutland township, shortly after his nephew, E. R. Starks, made the first permanent settlement. He took up a claim south of Starks', and the two kept "bach" one year. The following year he brought out his family, and here resided until his death, November 10, 1871. The first time he came to the country, he drove through from his eastern home with a horse and buggy. Illustrative of the lack of convenience in those days, it is said that Mr. Rich on one occasion walked to the residence of Mr. Stone, near Elgin, to grind his axe, no grindstone being near. Their mail was received at Chicago. Elijah Rich was the son of Elijah Rich, Sr., who died in Vermont in 1835, before his son came west. The Rich family in America descended from four brothers, who emigrated from Wales. Elijah Rich first married Triphosa Fowler, by whom he had four children. His second marriage was with Anise Meacham, by

whom five children were born, of whom Eveline was one. To John and Eveline Gage six children were born, as follows: Frank E., who died in infancy; Frank E., the second, residing at Starks Station; Anna, wife of our subject; John S. living at Starks Station; Perry Hart is an employee of the Chicago & Alton railroad, at Chicago; Clara V., wife of Perry Hart, of Chicago; and Pearl, residing on the old homestead with her sister.

After marriage, Mr. and Mrs. French went east to the old home of Mr. French, where he engaged in the produce business, but the climate not agreeing with his wife, they returned to Kane county in 1886. From 1886 to 1888 Mr. French was in the stock business in Elgin, and then commenced farming on two hundred acres of the estate of the father of Mrs. French, in which he has continued to the present time, while also engaging quite extensively as a dealer in stock. Like many other farmers in this region, he is engaged principally in dairy farming, milking from fifty to seventy-five cows, and shipping the product to Chicago. Mrs. French received her education in the schools of Burlington and Hampshire townships, and has spent her entire life on the homestead where she now resides, with the exception of the years spent in Wyoming county, New York, immediately after her marriage. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Hampshire, and is a woman who delights in doing good. Mr. and Mrs. French have one child, Earle, born December 11, 1887, at 444 South street, Elgin, Illinois, who is attending the Hampshire schools. Politically Mr. French is a Republican, and is an energetic, hustling farmer and stock trader, a good neighbor and excellent citizen.



GEORGE FITCH RUGGLES, deceased, was of English descent, whose lineage can be traced back to William the Conqueror, of England, while his more immediate ancestors for several generations were natives of Rutland, Vermont. He was born December 12, 1818, at Rutland, Vermont, and is the son of Major John and Pollie (Gould) Ruggles. His early education was obtained at Castleton Seminary, Vermont, supplemented by a course at Middlebury College, Vermont, where he graduated in 1848. On account of his health being delicate, he went to Virginia after leaving college, and gave instruction to pupils in a private family, after which he clerked in a furniture store at Boston, Massachusetts, where his brother had an interest in the business. But before proceeding further with the personal history our subject, we give briefly a record of his illustrious progenitors:

(1) William the Conqueror, king of England, 1066, married Lady Matilda, daughter of Baldwin V., count of Flanders, and great-granddaughter of Hugh Capet, king of France. (2) Princess Gundred, died 1085, married William Warren, earl of Surrey. (3) Lady Editha de Warren married Gerard de Gournay. (4) Hugh de Gournay, died 1180. (5) Hugh de Gournay, lord of Beverstan, Gloucestershire. (6) Anselme, Baron de Gournay, died 1240. (7) Robert de Gournay, died 1268. (8) Anselme de Gournay, died 1285. (9) John de Gournay, lord of Beverstan. (10) Lady Elizabeth de Gournay, married Sir John ap Adam, 1291. (11) Sir John ap Adam. (12) William ap Adam. (13) Sir John ap Adam, knight. (14) Thomas ap Adam, married Lady Jane, daughter of Sir John Ing, knight. (15) Sir John ap Adam, married Lady Millicent,

daughter of Sir Matthew Besylls. (16) Sir John Adam, married Clara, daughter of Roger Powell. (17) Roger Adams, married Jane Eliot. (18) Thomas Adams, married Marie Upton. (19) John Adams, married Cathering Stebbing. (20) John Adams, married Margary Squier. (21) Richard Adams, married Margaret Armager. (22) William Adams, married Miss Borington. (23) Henry Adams, of Braintree, Massachusetts, died in 1646. He was also ancestor of Presidents John and John Quincy Adams, and the Revolutionary patriot, Samuel Adams. (24) Edward Adams, of Medfield, Massachusetts, died 1716. (25) Henry Adams, of Medford, Massachusetts, and Plainfield (now Canterbury), Connecticut, born October 29, 1663. (26) Ruth Adams, married Amos Kingsley. (27) Isaiah Kingsley. (28) Phineas Kingsley. (29) Eunice Kingsley, married Major John Ruggles, who fought in the war of 1812. (30) George Fitch Ruggles, the subject of this sketch.

George Fitch Ruggles, our subject, was married April 25, 1856, to Louise Gould, whose parents, John and Theodosia (Nichols) Gould, was one of the old and honored families of Essex county, New York. She was the youngest of a family of seven, and was educated at the Miss Lees Seminary, Burlington, Vermont. Major John Ruggles was an extensive land owner and was twice married, the first time in 1800. His second wife, Eunice Kingsley, he married in 1807. This lady was a descendant of John Alden, who came over in the Mayflower. George F. Ruggles is the eighth in direct descent from John Alden.

In 1860, our subject and wife and his daughter, Theodosia, now Mrs. W. T. Reeves, came to Galesburg, Illinois, by way of Chicago, but soon afterwards went to

Milwaukee, where Mr. Ruggles started a linseed oil factory, which soon afterwards was destroyed by fire. The family then moved to Chicago, where Mrs. Ruggles' mother and three brothers were living, her father having died in the east. Mr. Ruggles then became engaged in the life insurance business, at which he continued until 1868, when he came to Aurora to act as superintendent of the foundry work of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad shops. The company doing the work for the railroad at that time was N. S. Bouston & Co., Chicago. A severe attack of the grip caused retirement from the shops in 1791, and he was an invalid for two and a half years, dying December 4, 1893. His only child, Theodosia, is the wife of Dr. W. T. Reeves, D. D. S., doing business in Chicago. They have four children—Helen, Allen, Marjorie and Louise. During his life Mr. Ruggles was a member of the Congregational church, and for many years a deacon in the same.

---

**G**RANT GOODRICH, D. D. S., one of the leading and popular dentists of Elgin, was born in Iowa, near Clinton, November 23, 1861, and is a son of Herman and Emily (Duncklee)-Goodrich, natives of Pottsdam, New York, and Du Page county, Illinois, respectively. The mother died July 1, 1874, at the age of thirty-six years, leaving six children, namely: Carrie, now the wife of C. P. Dandy, of Los Angeles, California; Grant; Walter, of Elgin; Harry and Herman, of Chadbourn, North Carolina; and Mame, wife of John Way, of Los Angeles. For over twenty years the father was a successful dealer in sewing machines and attachments, but since 1882,

has engaged in farming in North Carolina. After the death of his first wife he married Miss Frances Brewster, by whom he has two sons—Charles and Monroe. The Doctor's paternal great-grandmother lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and six years, but his grandfather, Ebenezer Goodrich, died at the age of forty. He was a native of Pottsdam, New York, and had two sons. The maternal grandfather was a farmer by occupation and died at the age of fifty.

From the age of two years Dr. Goodrich was reared in Chicago, and acquired his early education in the public schools of that city. Later he attended the Elgin Academy, and for seven years was his father's bookkeeper in Chicago. He studied dentistry and graduated from the Chicago College of Dental Surgery with the class of 1888, and the same year opened an office in Elgin, where he has since successfully engaged in practice.

On the 4th of June, 1884, Dr. Goodrich led to the marriage altar Miss Kittie Truesdell, a daughter of Dr. W. H. and Jane (Burritt) Truesdell. They have a pleasant home at No. 565 Park street, which the Doctor built in 1888. He is a member of the Northern Illinois Dental Association, and also belongs to Monitor lodge, F. & A. M., and the Royal Arcanum, while politically he is identified with the Republican party.

---

**F**REDERICK J. MARSHALL, section 10, Plato township, is numbered among the young and progressive farmers of the township. His father George P. Marshall, was born at Ryther, Yorkshire, England, May 9, 1817, and died on his old homestead

in Elgin township, Kane county, October 3, 1881. In his native land he learned the carpenter's trade which occupation he followed for some years. In 1842, he emigrated to Canada, and two years later came to Kane county, and for two years rented a farm in Plato township and then purchased seventy-seven acres, in sections 27-8, Elgin township, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death. He was a man highly respected by all who knew him, and left to his descendants a good name, of which they are justly proud. He was the son of James and Ann (Parker) Marshall, whose entire life was spent in Yorkshire, England. While yet residing in Canada, in 1842, George P. Marshall married Mary Burton, born in Sharrington, near Montreal, Canada, August 14, 1825, and a daughter of John Burton and Jane (Stringer) Burton, the former a native of North Burton, Yorkshire, England, born in 1792, and the latter in Hull, Yorkshire, England, in 1794.

Frederick J. Marshall was ninth in a family of ten children, and was born October 4, 1860. Until sixteen years of age he attended the public schools a portion of each year and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. From sixteen to twenty-one he worked by the month on various farms. On the 7th of March, 1883, in Elgin township, he married Miss Mary McKinnell, the fourth in a family of nine children born to Peter and Jesse McDowell McKinnell. By this union four children have been born—Maude M., Roy I., Elma M. and George P.

Immediately after his marriage Mr. Marshall rented the old homestead one year, then the farm of George Stringer one year, and then spent one year at Udina, engaged in carpentering, after which he oc-

cupied the old homestead two years. He then moved to Elgin and followed the carpenter's trade for three years, after which he rented a farm near Pingree Grove, Plato township, for two years, and in 1893 leased his present place, known as the Cornell farm, consisting of two hundred and fourteen acres, and is engaged in dairy farming.

Politically Mr. Marshall is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. Fraternally he is a member of Pingree Grove camp, No. 655, M. W. A. In religion he is liberal in his views.

---

SAMUEL S. BRILL, dealer in general merchandise, St. Charles, Illinois, is one of the young, active and enterprising business men of the place. He was born in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 19, 1869. His father, Israel Brill, is a native of Prussia, where he grew to manhood and married. Emigrating to the United States, he located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a few years later removed to Chicago, and has since been an active business man of that city.

Samuel S. Brill grew to manhood in Chicago, and was educated in its public schools. He is one of seven children born to his parents, all of whom are living: Lena, wife of M. Davidson, a business man of Milwaukee; Joseph, a civil engineer, married and residing in New York; Samuel S., of this review; Charles, who is married and in business in Chicago; Isaac, holding a responsible position in Chicago; Simon, who is clerking for our subject at St. Charles; and Anna, at home.

When quite young, our subject began clerking in a mercantile establishment in



Chicago, and for about ten years was thus employed, receiving a thorough and practical business training. In 1891, he came to St. Charles, put in a stock of general merchandise and commenced business for himself. He was soon, however, burned out, meeting with a severe loss, but with true Chicago grit, within ten days he was again selling goods. By fair dealing, he has built up an extensive trade, and carries one of the largest and most complete stocks of general merchandise in St. Charles. In the seven years that he has been engaged in business, in this place, he has built up a trade second to none, and as a reputable business man, he is respected and honored by all.

Mr. Brill was united in marriage in Chicago, March 18, 1893, to Miss Jennie Winsberg, a native of Germany, but who was reared and educated in Chicago. They have one son, Leon L., a bright little lad of three years, and a daughter, Blanche.

Politically, Mr. Brill is independent, taking no active part in political affairs, his taste and inclination running in the direction of business, rather than politics. An almost lifelong resident of Illinois, he is now thoroughly identified with the interest of St. Charles and Kane county and by its people is held in the highest esteem.

**P**HILIP SCHICKLER, the leading tobacconist and cigar manufacturer of Aurora, Illinois, was born in Obendorf, Bavaria, June 5, 1837, and is the son of John and Anna (Bolei) Schickler. The father was a native of the same country, where he lived and died. By occupation he was a farmer. The mother died since Philip came to the United States. They were the par-

ents of five children, as follows: Henry, yet residing in the old country; Christopher, now living in Aurora; John, who died in the old country in 1897; Philip, our subject; and Peter, who died in Aurora.

Philip Schickler left Bavaria for the United States in the spring of 1851, when but sixteen years of age. Landing in New York City, from there he went to Syracuse, New York, where he remained five years, and was engaged in the tobacco and cigar business. He then came to Aurora, arriving here in the fall of 1856 where his brother, Christopher, had settled. For a time he worked for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company, and in 1864 started up in the tobacco and cigar trade in company with C. Hoffman. This partnership was dissolved in 1877, Mr. Schickler selling out. However, he soon opened up business again, at 89 Fox street, where he has since remained.

Mr. Schickler was married at Aurora to Miss Augusta Eitegeorge, a native of Germany. By this marriage six children were born—Emma, now the wife of Fred Weisenger, living in Aurora; Louise, at home; Phillip, now in the cigar and tobacco business at Elgin, and who married Clara Eichborn, of Aurora, by whom he has one child, Paul; Carl, who married Gertrude Trautan, of Aurora, is now assisting his father; George, who married Maud Moore, of Aurora; and Rosa, a teacher in the public schools, residing at home. Religiously, Mrs. Schickler is a member of the Lutheran church. In politics, Mr. Schickler usually supports the Democratic party, but 1896 supported the Republican ticket.

For his trade, Mr. Schickler carries a full line of tobacco and cigars, manufacturing most of the latter. He employs on an

average about nine men, and has built up a prosperous business. His brand of cigars are widely known and much sought after by those who want a choice and reliable article. Mr. Schickler has also a house in Elgin, which is managed by his son who is having a good trade. He has a good farm in Banner county, Nebraska, and some real estate in Aurora. By correct business principles and integrity of purpose he has acquired a competency, and by his pleasant manners and genial disposition, he has made hosts of friends, and is a credit to the country of his adoption.

---

**T**HOMAS McCORMICK, a representative farmer of Virgil township, Kane county, Illinois, owns and operates a farm of two hundred acres on section 26, where he is engaged in general and dairy farming. He is a native of Du Page county, Illinois, born January 26, 1856, and is the son of Thomas and Ann (Mulvihill) McCormick, both of whom were natives of County Longford, Ireland. They became the parents of six children—Bridget, Thomas, Katie, Mary A., Maggie and Tressie.

Thomas McCormick, Sr., spent his boyhood and youth in his native country, and, when a young man, came with his parents to America. After looking the country over to some extent, his father finally settled in Du Page county, Illinois, where he engaged in farming. Later the father of our subject came to Virgil township, Kane county, where he purchased forty acres of land and commenced its improvement. From time to time he added to his original purchase until he had two hundred acres, all of which he placed under cultivation, and supplied the farm with a good dwelling house and various out-

buildings, making it a number one farm. Here he spent the last years of his life, dying December 14, 1893. He was a man well respected in the community where he so long resided. Religiously he was a member of the Catholic church, of which body his wife and family are also members.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the farm, and was early learned the use of farm implements, and was required to do his share of farm work. After attending the public schools he entered the academy at Naperville, Du Page county, Illinois, where he finished his school life. Since the death of his father he has been living with his mother and sisters, Katie and Tressie. The mother is now seventy-six years old. Farming has been his life work, and he has had little desire to make a change. In this work he has been quite successful, and he is a thorough, practical farmer. In politics he has been a life-long supporter of Democratic principles, in all general elections casting his vote for the nominees of that party.

---

**C**HARLES H. FISHER, a member of the firm of Fisher & Mann, is one of the ablest lawyers practicing at the Kane county bar, and is also corporation counsel for the city of Elgin. A man of sound judgment, he masters his cases with masterly skill and tact and is regarded as one of the best jury advocates in Elgin. He is a logical reasoner and has a ready command of English.

Mr. Fisher was born in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, February 22, 1864, and is a son of Herman and Elizabeth (Blair) Fisher, the former born in Baltimore, Maryland, of German parentage, and the latter in Pennsyl-



THOMAS McCORMICK.



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

vania of Scotch ancestry. In their family are four sons—Elmer, a druggist of Port Angeles, Puget Sound, Washington; Charles H., of this sketch; Frank, inspector of the port at Port Townsend, Puget Sound; and Morris, an attorney of Port Angeles. From the age of twelve the father was employed as a canal boatman for many years, and then conducted a boat supply grocery in Newcastle, Pennsylvania, for some time. In 1887 he removed to Port Angeles, Washington, where he is now living retired, enjoying a well-earned rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. He has filled various local offices of honor and trust and is now serving as county trustee. The mother is a consistent member of the Baptist church.

George Fisher, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was a native of Saxe Coburg, Germany, where he learned the shoemaker's trade. On coming to America in 1838, he first located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he spent some years, then removed to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, and later to Rochester, Pennsylvania, engaging in the boot and shoe business at these places. He died at Wampum, Pennsylvania, at the age of seventy-four years. In his family were three sons and three daughters. The maternal grandfather of our subject, Robert Blair, was born near Pittsburg, was a farmer by occupation, and served as a soldier in the war of 1812. During early manhood he was killed by a horse. He had received a farm on Chartier's creek in compensation for his services during the war. His wife, who was born near Pittsburg in 1800, died at Puget Sound in 1891.

Charles H. Fisher was about four years old at the time of the removal of his parents to Newcastle, Pennsylvania, where he later

acquired a good common-school education. After working in the machine shops at Titusville, Pennsylvania, for a time, he came to Elgin in the spring of 1883, and for eighteen months was in the mail service, running between Chicago and Minneapolis. He then studied law in the office of the late Robert M. Ireland and was admitted to the bar in 1886. He has won an enviable reputation as a successful lawyer, and most creditably served as city attorney for two terms, and is the present corporation counsel.

On the 15th of August, 1889, Mr. Fisher was united in marriage to Miss Mary, daughter of George and Mary (French) Bayliss, and to them have been born three children—Elizabeth, Marian and Stella. They have a pleasant residence at No. 338 St. Charles street. Mr. Fisher belongs to the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America, and his wife holds membership in the Congregational Church. Politically he is independent. The firm of Fisher & Mann owns considerable real estate in Elgin and vicinity, and, as attorneys, they are doing a large and profitable business. Upright, reliable and honorable, their strict adherence to principle commands the respect of all.

---

ROBERT CHILVERS, a popular conductor on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, residing in Aurora, has been in the employ of that company for twenty-seven years. He dates his residence in Illinois since 1852. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, April 27, 1850, and is the son of John T. and Alice (Garrod) Chilvers, both of whom were also natives of England. In 1852 the family came to

America, and made their home in Downer's Grove township, Du Page county, Illinois, where the father bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, which he at once commenced to improve and which in due time became one of the most valuable farms in that locality. He continued to engage in agricultural pursuits until his death, August 29, 1882. His wife survives him, and yet resides on the old homestead with her youngest son. John T. Chilvers came to this country a poor man, but he was enterprising and industrious, and honest, and his death was a loss to the community.

Robert Chilvers is the oldest of the family of seven sons and one daughter who grew to mature years. He was but two years of age when the family came to Du Page county, and on the old farm he grew to manhood, assisting his father when old enough to hold the plow, working in the summer months, and attending the district school during the winter months. He remained with his father until he attained his majority, and coming to Aurora, engaged with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, first as brakeman on a freight train, at which he worked for about three years, and was then promoted conductor on a freight train, and held that position some twelve or thirteen years. In 1887 he was given charge of a passenger train, on which he has been conductor until the present time. In all the time passed he has never had a bad wreck, and no accident worth mentioning since placed in charge of a passenger train. His first run was from Aurora to Streator, and he continued on that run until 1889.

Mr. Chilvers was married at Naperville, Illinois, in December, 1874, to Miss Susan Ann Mackinder, a native of Illinois, born in

Fullersburg, and the youngest of a family of five living children born to John and Lydia Mackinder, both natives of England, and who were among the early settlers of Du Page county, Illinois. By this union are four children—Alice Lydia, now the wife of George Davey, of Du Page county, Illinois; Cyrus M., now in the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company; Charles Robert and Mabel S. V., at home.

Politically, Mr. Chilvers was formerly a Democrat, casting his first presidential vote for Grover Cleveland, but of late years has supported the men and measures of the Republican party. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, and also a member of the Order of Railway Conductors. In her religious belief, Mrs. Chilvers is a Christian Scientist. Both are held in the highest esteem.

---

VIGO VALDEMAR CHRISTIANSEN, who has for many years been connected with the Elgin Watch Factory, was born at Ribe, Jutland, Denmark, February 4, 1853, and is a representative of a prominent and honored family of that country, his parents being Christian and Josephine (Veis) Christiansen. The father was a native of Schleswig-Holstein, but removed to Jutland after the war of 1848. His grandfather, Christian Christiansen, took part in the Napoleonic wars, being a member of the Danish army under Napoleon. The father of our subject was also an officer in the Danish army, enlisting as drummer boy and rising to the rank of captain by personal merit. He took part in the war of 1848 against Schleswig-Holstein, and



also in the war of 1864. He was a man of medium height, well built, of mild temperament, good humored and of a gentle disposition. In 1892 he died in Ribe, Denmark, but his widow is still living, residing on the old homestead there, the house being one of historical interest. It once belonged to Anders Sorgensen Wedel, who was the first to establish a printing press in Denmark. This building is quite noted and is often visited by tourists. Ribe was formerly the capital and is a historical town of much interest. The maternal grandparents of our subject were Andreas and Jenssine Veis, extensive farming people.

The children born to Christian and Josephine (Veis) Christiansen were as follows: Peter, now a resident of Toledo, Ohio; Maria Christina, wife of a Mr. Sverdrup, a civil engineer in the employ of the British government at Cape Town, Africa; Andreas, a dealer in books and stationery at Copenhagen, Denmark; Vigo V., of this review, and Ida Wilhelmina, wife of Carl Hoffman, a native of Holland, who was a trader, sailing his own vessel, and is now a farmer in Cape Town.

Mr. Christiansen, of this sketch, attended the public schools of Ribe until his graduation at the age of fourteen years, and then served a five and a half years' apprenticeship to the watch-maker's trade. He then went to Hadersleben, Schleswig, where he worked for three years, and from that place went to Copenhagen, where he was in the employ of the successors of Urban, Jørgensen, celebrated watch makers, remaining with them until he came to the United States. He was drafted for service in the Danish army, but avoided the enrollment, and succeeded in leaving the country before the officers could muster him, sailing

in November, 1873, and making the voyage in three weeks on the Gellert-Inman line.

On reaching the shores of the New World, Mr. Christiansen proceeded to Toledo, Ohio, where his brother was living, and there worked at his trade for about six months. Coming to Chicago, he was in the employ of Hamilton & Rowe for one year, and then went to Galesburg, Illinois, to take charge of the watch department of Trask & Gentry, Mr. Trask being a silent partner of the firm of Hamilton & Rowe. After three years spent in Galesburg he came to Elgin, and has since been employed in the finishing department "A" of the Elgin Watch Factory. He also conducts a private school at his home, instructing his pupils in horology. He is an expert watch maker, being thoroughly fitted for his work by long experience with the most skilled workmen in that line in his native land.

In Chicago, Mr. Christiansen was married May 25, 1880, to Miss Helen McCuthen, who was born in Galesburg, January 12, 1857, her parents, John P. and Caroline (Miller) McCuthen, being early settlers of Knox county, Illinois. They are now living in Kansas City, Missouri. Mr. and Mrs. Christiansen have two very bright and pretty daughters—Carrie Jane and Helen Marian. The parents hold membership in the Universalist church.

In political sentiment Mr. Christian is a stalwart Republican. Possessing a splendid tenor voice, he has become a very popular singer in Elgin, and is much sought after in musical circles. He has ever taken a great interest in musical affairs, has been leader of the Universalist and Congregational church choirs, and is now the leading tenor in the Baptist church. He

is also a prominent member of the Philharmonic Society of Elgin, and in social as well as musical circles has gained a host of warm friends.

---

JOHN A. HASLER, engineer and electrician of the village of Hampshire, occupied a position, the responsibility of which is recognized by few people. The safety and comfort of dwellers in cities, and the occupants of skyscraping office and apartment buildings, depends on the engineer. Lives of these millions, who are each year safely carried on railroads and steamships, is due to the watchful care of the engineer. Too little thought and credit is given to this vocation; upon which so much depends.

John A. Hasler was born in Brookfield township, Waukesha county, Wisconsin, May 1, 1857, and is the son of John Hasler, who was born at Ulm, Wurtemberg, Germany, who married Lucy Kreider, also a native of Ulm. They were married in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and to them were born three children—John A., our subject; Lucy, wife of Charles Huber, a farmer of Cortland township, De Kalb county; and George, who is engaged in farming, lives in Genoa, De Kalb county. In 1862, the family moved to Elgin, and four years later to Sycamore, Illinois. His education, began in the public schools of Elgin, was completed in the schools of Sycamore, when sixteen years of age. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the trade of an engineer, under the instruction of an uncle in Sycamore. For three years he was fireman for his uncle, during which time he studied the theory and practice of steam engines, in books on the subject, to fit himself for passing examination.

In 1883, Mr. Hasler came to Hampshire, and took full charge of the engines of the brick and tile works, and for seven years and seven months filled the position to the satisfaction of employers. Desiring a more active outdoor occupation, he resigned his position with the tile company, and went into the well and windmill business, sinking wells and erecting windmills, over portions of the four counties, commencing near Hampshire. He was in this business from 1890 to 1897. On June 8, 1897, he again accepted a position as engineer for the tile works, and electric plant, which they had added to their business.

Mr. Hasler was married in Genoa, Illinois, November 28, 1878, to Eliza Heath, born in Genoa township, a daughter of John Heath, a native of Argyle, Washington county, New York, born February 16, 1817, and who died in September, 1893, at the age of seventy-six years. He was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth (Alger) Heath, natives of New York. John Heath was fifth in their family of nine children. At the age of twenty, he became a deck hand on a sloop on the Hudson river, in which occupation he was engaged for two years. He then went to New Orleans and there worked for a time, then came to Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois, in the fall of 1846, where he bought eighty acres on section 34. He was first married May 24, 1846, to Elizabeth McQuarie, in Chatham, Ontario, who was a native of the state of New York. By that marriage three children were born, Webster, who married Maggie Dano, and lives in Sac county, Iowa; Eliza, wife of our subject; and Diana, deceased. Mrs. Elizabeth Heath died July 24, 1859. Mr. Heath again married, January 24, 1860, in Genoa, De Kalb, Miss Hannah Shurtliff,

born in Canada. By the second union were five children, as follows: Libbie, who married Oscar Davis, and resides on the home farm on section 34; Mabel married M. LeFevre, and lives in Iowa; Lillian married D. H. Moore, and lives in Hampshire; Emily married Alfred Moore, and lives in Genoa, and John, who died at the age of sixteen.

In 1893, our subject built an unusually neat cottage, in the village of Hampshire, which is nicely furnished, and is comfortable and homelike. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, and Royal Neighbors. Mrs. Hasler is also a member of the latter order. In politics he is a Republican.

---

**M**O. SOUTHWORTH, judge of the county court of Kane county, and a practicing attorney of Aurora since 1870, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, April 1, 1841, and is the son of George A. and Cornelia B. (Bowen) Southworth, both New England Pilgrim families. They came to Illinois in 1835, residing first at Aurora, then Chicago, and in 1837 removed to La Salle county, where the family resided until 1870, when they returned to Aurora, where George A. Southworth died in 1871. His widow is still living and in excellent health, spending her time alternately with her son, and a daughter, Mary, wife of A. D. Southworth, of Northfield, Minnesota, the oldest of their two children.

M. O. Southworth obtained his education in the public schools of La Salle county, at Batavia Institute, and then entered Beloit College, where, after pursuing the regular classical course, he graduated in

1863. Afterwards he took up the study of law and graduated from the law department of Michigan University. He came to Aurora in 1870 and has been in active practice since that time. Was city attorney for three terms, and in 1894 was elected judge of the county court, which position he still fills, and has recently been renominated by the Republican party for a second term.

Mr. Southworth was married in 1866 to Miss Gabrielle Mills, daughter of Joel Mills, an old settler of Will county, Illinois, and they reside on Fox street, Aurora. The family has been Congregational in religious sentiment from Puritan times, and M. O. Southworth, though not a member, is a trustee of the First Congregational church of Aurora. It is fair to say that he has been a careful and successful attorney, and is respected by his neighbors.

---

**W**ALTER S. FRAZIER is one of the men who have given name and fame to the city of Aurora. He was born in the village of Tully, Onondaga county, New York, August 31, 1835. His father was William J. Frazier, a native of Saratoga county, New York, who moved at an early day to Tully, then to Fabius, conducting a profitable business in the clothing trade. William J. Frazier was one of the original old time abolitionists, way back in 1840-44, and was active in the organization of the party and in the support of its candidates when there were but little signs of success. He was a strong temperance man, and for a long time was a member of the Baptist church of Fabius, but withdrew from it because the deacon who passed the communion cup was a liquor dealer. The Frazier family dates back to 912, when a Bourbon



nobleman, Julian de Berry by name, having presented some fine strawberries to King Charles of France, the latter knighted him and substituted the name Fraize, meaning strawberry, for that of de Berry. As the family spread to other countries the name was written in other forms. In Scotland, from which the branch to which the subject of this sketch belongs, the members were known as Fraser, Frasier, Frasure, Frazer, Frisel, Fresel and Frezel, which were used interchangeably according to the fancy of the writers. These varied spellings, some of them very old, are preserved in the public documents of those times, and there are instances where the same individual, a lord, appears as Simon Fraser and again as Simon Frizel. The French dictionaries give "Fraisier" for a strawberry plant. The Frazier family was planted in Scotland about the time of the invasion by William the Conqueror, and became a numerous and powerful clan in Inverness-shire. At this day, it is said, fully one-eighth of the total population of the town of Inverness, a city seventeen thousand, bear the name of Fraser. There is an authentic record of the family dating from 1165. The clan Fraser took part in many of the bloody wars waged on Scottish soil, and were especially active under the banner of King Charles when he led his army into England against Cromwell. At the battle of Worcester, September 3, 1651, the Scottish army was routed, and the following year nearly five hundred of the prisoners taken by Cromwell's troops, doubtless including Frasers, were transported to Boston. At about this time, and perhaps from this event, dates the founding of the family in America. The direct ancestor in this country of our subject was James Fraser, who, it is

thought, eluded capture at the time of the defeat of King Charles and escaped to America, arriving in Boston in 1652, when he was about twenty-six years old, living at what is now called Jamaica Plain until his death. The land he acquired was in the possession of the family for one hundred years. In order to avoid arrest and perhaps execution by the emissaries of Cromwell, he changed his name to Frissell, by which some of the clan had previously been known. He died February 6, 1716, aged ninety years, leaving five sons and three daughters. It is from his second son, Samuel Frissell, that the Fraziers descend. The genealogy is as follows: James Frissell settled in Boston in 1652 and died in 1716. Samuel Frissell, his second son, born in 1663, died in 1718. Samuel Frissell, the second, born in 1700, of whom there is no record of death. Reuben Frizel, born in 1742, died in Leyden, Massachusetts, October 31, 1822. Michael Frazier (who was the first to return to the former name), born in 1770, died in 1848. William J. Frazier, born in 1809, now in his eighty-ninth year, is living in Aurora, Illinois. Walter S. Frazier, born in 1835, now living in Aurora. The family name was restored to its original form of Frazier in 1806 by Michael, who had moved from Leyden, Massachusetts, to Fulton county, New York, with his father-in-law, David Page, Sr., of Bernardston, Massachusetts, whose wife was Sally Cunnebell. The mother of Walter S. Frazier was Matilda (Winegar) Frazier, daughter of Stephen and Sally (Tuttle) Winegar, among the early residents of Fabius. Stephen Winegar was a son of John Winegar, a mill owner of Lee, Massachusetts, a noted soldier of the Revolutionary war.

The boyhood of Walter S. Frazier was passed at Fabius, where he attended the district schools, afterward receiving an academical education at the Homer and Pompey Hill Academies. When he was eighteen years old, he took a position as clerk in a dry-goods store at Syracuse, New York, and served five years, being then promoted to a bookkeeper's place. In 1857 he came to Chicago, light in purse, and secured a clerkship in the office of the city comptroller. He was soon made the chief clerk, and retained the position about five years, when he resigned to accept the office of clerk of special assessments, to which he had been appointed by the board of public works. He was the Republican nominee in 1863 for clerk of the recorder's court of that city, but was defeated, all the candidates on the Democratic city ticket being elected by small majorities. In 1865 he was elected clerk of the house of representatives of the state of Illinois, and was given the credit by members, state officers and the press of being the most efficient clerk that branch of the legislature had ever had. On his retirement he was presented with a handsome gold watch and chain by the members of the house. See House Journal, 1865, page 1202.

In 1866, being apprehensive as to his health, Mr. Frazier bought a fine farm on the river road between Batavia and Geneva, in Kane county, Illinois, and, after making extensive improvements in the way of new buildings, etc., moved his family there. His brother, William Page Frazier, had moved to Chicago in 1862, and, in 1869, he also settled near Batavia, where his father had gone in 1864, with the main object of being near his sons.

Walter S. Frazier sold his farm in 1870

and located in Aurora, where he soon attained deserved prominence as a man of integrity, ability and great executive force. He had no active business, but bred and developed trotting horses, as an aid to health and a means of recreation. In this he was very successful, and one of the horses of his training, called "Brother Jonathan," was given a fast record and sold for twelve thousand dollars. It was while thus engaged with horses, in 1878, that Mr. Frazier invented the road-cart, which has since given him wide-spread reputation as a manufacturer. He made the first one for his own use, but its merit was so quickly appreciated by the public, that in 1880 he secured letters patent and began to manufacture them for the market. In connection with his sons, he now has a large manufacturing establishment in which two hundred hands are employed in the manufacture of all kinds of road vehicles, and which has become one of the most prominent industries in Aurora. In 1855 Mr. Frazier was married at Syracuse, New York, to Miss Mary Stevens, daughter of Jacob Vanderbilt Stevens and Hannah (Tallman) Stevens. Mrs. Frazier died in 1880, leaving a family of four sons—Walter S. and Edward S., twin brothers, born in 1863; Lincoln B., born in 1870; and Floyd, born in 1873,—and two daughters, Anna and Hattie. Of the sons, Edward S. married Mary Dunbar Holbrook, daughter of Rev. Doctor Holbrook, of Aurora, by whom he has two children: Walter S., Jr., married Clara Pfrangle, daughter of C. A. Pfrangle, of Aurora, and a son has been born of this union Walter S. Floyd married Maud Harris, daughter of Hon. A. B. Harris, of Aurora. Lincoln B. married Bertha Plum, daughter of the late Samuel Plumb, of Streator.

Mr. Frazier has done a great deal to beautify and improve Aurora, and his efforts in this line are recognized and appreciated by his fellow townsmen. He has erected some fine business buildings in the city, and has been active in securing many public improvements. In political matters he is prominent and influential, and has to a large degree directed the shaping of political events, not only in the city of Aurora, but in Kane county and the congressional district as well. For several years he was chairman of the congressional district Republican committee, the district being composed of the counties of Kane, De Kalb, Lake, McHenry and Boone. He was chosen a member of the state central committee by the state Republican convention of 1888, being one of the executive board of that body during the presidential campaign of that year, giving to the work the full benefit of his ripe experience, pre-eminent sagacity and managerial ability. He was re-elected in 1890 and in 1892, serving three terms, six years in all. In the spring of 1891 he was asked to become a candidate for mayor of Aurora on the citizens ticket, and was elected by a large majority, serving a two-years' term. His prominence in political affairs has given him a large and pleasant acquaintance with public men throughout the state. On the 16th of March, 1897, his excellency, Governor Tanner, appointed him one of a board of three trustees of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, at Elgin, containing some twelve hundred patients, and at the Governor's request he was chosen president of the board. The term expires in 1903. On August 21, 1891, Mr. Frazier became the owner of the "Aurora Daily News," the oldest established daily newspaper in Au-

rona, now an influential paper of large circulation, a property which he still owns. Soon after he purchased the paper he erected the Daily News block, in which it is domiciled. He is also a director in the Merchants' National Bank, of Aurora, and has been since its organization in 1888.

---

JONATHAN S. DAUBERMAN, an enterprising and successful farmer, owning and operating a farm of three hundred acres, south of the village of Kaneville, has been a resident of Kane county since 1856. He was born in Center county, Pennsylvania, June 16, 1850. He traces his ancestry back to Phillip Dauberman, a native of Germany, who emigrated to the United States on the ship Edinburgh, commanded by Captain Russell, and landing in Philadelphia, September 30, 1754. From Philadelphia he went to Centre county, Pennsylvania, and was numbered among the pioneers of that county. His son John Dauberman was born in Center county, and George Dauberman, the father of our subject and the son of John Dauberman, was also born in that county. George Dauberman there married Matilda Spangler, also a native of Centre county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jonathan Spangler. In 1856, they came west, and located in Kaneville township, Kane county, Illinois, where he purchased a partially improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, and to the further development of which he bent his energies, in due time erecting a fine dwelling, barns and other outbuildings, and there his death occurred in March, 1873. His good wife passed away in 1857, leaving three children: Jonathan S., our subject; Ellen, who makes her home with her brother and sister; and





J. S. DAUBERMAN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Ira Sterling, who is the present county clerk of Marion county, Kansas, which has been his home for some years. After the death of his first wife, George Dauberman later married Anna Harter, a native of Pennsylvania, who is now deceased. She was the mother of three children—John W., a merchant of Kaneville; McClellan, who grew to manhood, but is now deceased; and Mary, who died in young womanhood. McClellan Dauberman started a store in Kaneville, which he continued to run until his death, when he was succeeded by his brother, John.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the farm, and was educated in the schools of Kaneville. He remained with his father and assisted in carrying on the farm until the latter's death, when he took full charge of the place, and later purchased the interest of the other heirs, since which time he has materially improved the place, remodeled the house, and built three good barns, erected a windmill pump, with feed-mill attachment, on which he is now placing an engine for more power, and has made the farm one of the best in the township. His success as a farmer has been good, and he has not only engaged in general farming, but in dairying and stock raising as well.

In March, 1873, Mr. Dauberman was united in marriage with Miss Mary Merrill, a native of New Hampshire, who came to Illinois when a child, with her father, Thomas Merrill, who was one of the settlers of 1855. By this union there are three children—George, Bertha and Clarence. The first named is assisting his father in management of the home farm. Bertha is a well-educated young lady, who received her education in the Kaneville public school and graduated in the class of 1896, review-

ing her studies in the Normal School of Valparaiso, Indiana.

Mr. Dauberman is a lifelong Democrat, and supports the men and measures of that party in all general elections, but on local issues gives his support to men rather than party. His business interests have always been such as to demand his time and attention, and he has therefore never held office, save that of being a member of the school board. In her religious faith, Mrs. Dauberman is a Baptist, holding membership in the church of that denomination at Kaneville.

Coming to Kane county when but six years of age, Mr. Dauberman has here spent almost his entire life, and in the development of his township has done as much as almost any other man. He is industrious and energetic, and no man stands higher in the estimation of his fellow men.

---

JOHN W. GOODALE, who is engaged in farming on section 30, Aurora township, came to Kane county, Illinois, in 1844. He was born in Washington county, New York, June 28, 1822. The family are of English descent and were among the early settlers of Massachusetts, of which state Josiah Goodale, the grandfather of our subject, was born. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and fought for the American independence. From Massachusetts he moved to Vermont, and subsequently to Washington county, New York, where he remained some years engaged in farming and later returned to Vermont, where his death occurred. His son, David Goodale, was born in Vermont, and from there went to Washington county, New York, where he married Betsy Welsh, a na-



tive of Washington county, New York, and a daughter of John Welsh, who was born in Ireland, and came to the new world when a child and here married a German lady. David Goodale was by trade a mason, which occupation he followed in New York. After his family were grown, and some of them had come west, he also followed them and located on the farm of his son Josiah, in Sugar Grove township, where his iast days were spent. Of his family of five sons and two daughters, all grew to mature years. Maria married Luke Nichols, one of the first settlers of Aurora, and both are now deceased. Josiah came to Kane county in 1844, and located a tract of one hundred and sixty acres in Sugar Grove township, where he engaged in farming for some years, then returned to New York, and there died. John W. is the subject of this sketch. Lockwood resides at Bristol Station, where he was engaged in the hotel business. Elizabeth, the widow of William Yeldham, resides in Aurora. George is a farmer residing in Oklahoma.

John W. Goodale was reared upon the farm in Washington county, New York, and received a limited education in its public schools. He came to Kane county in 1844, and here joined Mr. Nichols, his brother-in-law. He soon purchased a small tract of land in Sugar Grove township, which he sold at an advance, and then entered eighty acres in Big Rock township. On that tract he located and began its improvement. From time to time he bought and sold other tracts in Big Rock township and there resided a number of years. Selling his original farm, he bought one hundred and sixty acres in De Kalb county, and there spent the winter; selling the same at one thousand dollars advance, he re-

turned to Big Rock township and purchased the old Gardner Mill property, which included seventy acres of land, and engaged in milling, continuing in that business for eight or ten years. During that time he bought the place where he now resides, comprising one hundred acres, on which some improvements had been made. He has since built a good residence, large barn, and made other valuable improvements. Mr. Goodale was united in marriage in Big Rock township, March 1, 1849, with Miss Elizabeth Brackett, a native of Vermont, and a daughter of Cyrus Brackett, who located in Big Rock township about 1847. By this union there are ten children, six sons and four daughters, as follows: Frank, married and engaged in business in Aurora; Fred, deceased; Don, married and engaged in farming in Sugar Grove township; Ella, wife of Orin Robbins, a livery man of Plano, Illinois; Lizzie, wife of George F. Hadden, of Aurora; Cyrus, married and residing near Fort Scott, Kansas; Webb, who is assisting in carrying on the home farm; Emma, at home; Katie, residing in Aurora, and Bert, at home.

Mr. Goodale relates some hard experiences of pioneer life. During the first years in Kane county, he suffered very much with the ague, which was very prevalent at that time. He has seen many large herds of deer, and flocks of wild pigeon, and other game. Politically Mr. Goodale is a life-long Republican, and his sons follow in his footsteps. He is well known and respected, having many friends throughout Kane and adjoining counties. Coming to this county a poor man, by his industry and thrifty habits he has acquired a valuable property, and has contributed his full share toward the development of Kane county.

GAIL BORDEN, whose fame is world-wide, stands pre-eminent as one of the benefactors of mankind. While naturally of a modest and retiring disposition, his inventions have been such as to bring him prominently before the people, and those who knew him best in this life hold him in the highest honor and esteem. A native of New York, he was born in Norwich November 6, 1801, and was descended from New England ancestry. Being the eldest of seven children, he was at an early age made to realize the nature and necessity of hard work, and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. His educational advantages were limited, but he profited by those within his reach, and by self-study and the reading of the better class of literature became a well-informed man.

In December, 1814, the father emigrated with his family from New York to Covington, Kentucky, and upon the site of the present city hall in that place our subject cultivated a field of corn. In the spring of 1816 they removed to the territory of Indiana, locating on the banks of the Ohio river, ten miles below Madison, where Mr. Borden resided until 1822. On account of impaired health, he then went to Mississippi, where he engaged in teaching school, and also filled the position of county surveyor and United States deputy surveyor. In 1829 he went to Texas, where he engaged in farming and stock raising. His ability was soon recognized by the citizens of that country, and in 1833 he was elected a delegate from the Lavaca district to the convention in San Felipe to define the position of the colonies and to petition the Mexican government for separation from the state of Coahuila. He was also in charge of the official survey of the colony, com-

piling the topographical map of Texas, and had charge of the land office at San Felipe up to the time of the Mexican intervention.

In 1835, with his brother, Thomas H. Borden, he established a newspaper called the "Telegraph and Texas Land Register," at San Felipe, which was later transferred to Houston, and was the first and only newspaper issued in Texas during the war for the independence of that colony. He had its chief management and directed his efforts toward resisting the establishment of the central government by Santa Anna. From this time on Mr. Borden was prominently identified with the history of the Lone Star state, and was an important factor in its development and progress. Upon the establishment of the republic of Texas he was appointed by President Houston as the first collector of the port of Galveston. This was in 1837 and the city had not been laid out, and the first surveys were made by Mr. Borden. His first dwelling there was a rough board structure located on the bay shore and erected by two carpenters in half a day, and his office was in a room in what was known as the Mexican custom house.

During the exciting events attending the establishment of the republic of Texas and its subsequent annexation as one of the states of the American Union, Mr. Borden was quietly making investigations which led to one of the most important and beneficial discoveries of the present century of great discoveries. In 1849 his attention was drawn to the need of a more suitable supply of nourishment for emigrants crossing the plains, which then required several months, and after some experiments produced the pemmican, which Dr. Kane carried with him on his Arctic expedition. The meat biscuit, an efficient form of portable concentrated

food, was also invented by him. This article gained for him the "great council medal" at the London fair in 1851, and he was elected an honorary member of the London Society of Arts.

In the manufacture of this food he was unsuccessful, in consequence of the opposition of army contractors, and therefore discontinued its production in 1853, having sacrificed in it his entire fortune. He then removed to the north and turned his attention to the study of a method for preserving milk. The result of his investigation and labors is known in the condensed milk so widely used to-day. He applied for a patent for "producing concentrated sweet milk by evaporation of same," but it was three years after his application was first made before it was granted him. His first patent bears date of August 18, 1856, while other patents were granted him May 13, 1862; February 10, 1863; November 14, 1865, and April 17, 1866.

While Mr. Borden was aware of the fact that numerous attempts had been made to preserve and solidify, milk as well as to find acceptable substitutes for it, he believed that all had proven failures more or less, and he certainly found no products which made a near approach to such excellence as he believed to be attainable. He gave the question much study and at length took out seventy-five per cent. of the water, and with the milk added a sufficient quantity of pure granulated sugar to preserve it.

The first works for the condensing of milk were established at Wolcottville, Connecticut, in 1856, and the following year a factory was put in operation at Burrville. The business grew rapidly during the Civil war, when large quantities of the condensed milk, preserved with refined sugar, were re-

quired by the Union armies. So quickly did it develop that it necessitated the establishment of two other factories, one at Livermore Falls, Maine, and the other at Winsted, Connecticut. The Gail Borden Eagle brand of condensed milk soon became widely known, and has continued to grow in public favor with every nation. In 1861 the most important plant of the New York Condensed Milk Company was located at Wassaic, Dutchess county, New York, while another factory was established at Brewster, New York, in 1863; one at Walkill in 1881; one at Millerton in 1892; one at Deposit in 1894; and one at New Berlin in 1895.

In 1860, in Connecticut, Mr. Borden was united in marriage with Mrs. Emeline Eunice Church, nee Eno, and widow of Hiram Church, one of the early settlers of Kane county. On the death of her first husband, she returned to her old home in Connecticut, where she formed the acquaintance of Mr. Borden, which resulted in their marriage. From his wife he learned of the famous Fox river valley, and was not long in perceiving that this region offered exceptional facilities for the extension of his wonderful discovery. After making one or two trips of investigation, in 1865, he had erected at Elgin a modest factory, which from time to time has been rebuilt and extensive additions constructed, until it is now one of the largest and most complete plants owned by the New York Condensed Milk Company, known as the Illinois branch of that company. Here is prepared on a most extensive scale the Gale Borden Eagle brand of condensed milk, of which millions of cans are distributed throughout the western and southern sections of the country.

The growth of the western business of



the company was quite rapid, and it was soon demonstrated that the Elgin factory would not be able to supply the demand for the company's product in the west, and a plant was, therefore, established at Carpentersville, one of the most complete factories operated by the company. Another was later established at Algonquin and one at Belvidere. The offices which control this immense business are located at New York City, Jersey City, Newark and Chicago, and each place has one or more branch offices. The extent of his business can scarcely be realized. From a small business in 1856 it has grown to be one of the most important branches of the dairy industry. Nearly five hundred million pounds of milk are annually used by this one company in its various factories, and thousands of persons are interested directly and indirectly in the feeding of cattle, care of milk the process of manufacture and the distribution of the product. That factories at Elgin and Carpentersville, in the Kane county, have contributed largely to the growth and prosperity of the county is unquestionable. The stimulus given the milk industry by the establishment of the condensed milk factory at Elgin has been the chief instrument in the development of the butter trade, and to-day Elgin butter is the standard throughout the entire country. The Gail Borden Eagle brand of condensed milk is known in all countries and is the leading brand used in the majority of them, having stood the test of all climates.

Mr. Borden also experimented with condensed meat juices, and produced an extract of beef of superior quality, which was first manufactured in Elgin, but later an establishment was erected especially for the purpose in Borden, Texas, where the industry was continued after his death. Subse-

quently he produced an excellent preparation of condensed tea, coffee and cocoa. In 1862 he patented the process by means of which the juice of fruits, such as apples, currants and grapes, could be reduced to one-seventh of its original bulk. His labors were conducted with the utmost care and perseverance, and his success was obtained only through long, tedious and expensive experiments, but his intense energy, unyielding tenacity and great ingenuity enabled him to perfect his inventions, which have so largely contributed to the good of humanity. While Justus Von Liebig, surrounded with the elaborate apparatus of his well-appointed laboratory at Giessen, was experimenting and prosecuting those researches into the nature of flesh and animal juices, which culminated many years later in the production of "Extractum Camis," Gail Borden, in the wilds of Texas, was independently investigating the same problem without scientific apparatus, and his labors resulted in bringing him the great council medal at the London fair in 1851.

Up to the time of his death Mr. Borden gave personal supervision to his business, and he is entitled to the entire credit of establishing the great industry of condensed milk, prepared milk and pure fluid milk, so invaluable to mankind. In the fall of 1873 he came Elgin and purchased an elegant home on Division street, with the intention of here passing the remainder of his life. His health being somewhat impaired, he went south to spend the winter, and, at Colorado, Texas, January 11, 1874, was called to the upper and better world. In a brief period he succeeded in amassing an immense fortune, but it was ever used for the good of humanity, and his charity and liberality were among his most marked traits. He pos-

sessed an earnest Christian character and a noble generosity and devotion to the welfare of others, which has made his memory cherished and revered by friends and acquaintances. A companionable gentleman, broad-minded and sincere, his life abounded in kindness and courtesy to all, and in active philanthropy and hearty co-operation in every good work.

---

**G**EORGE A. BEITH is a prominent farmer residing on section 28, Campton township. He was born in the town of St. Charles, Kane county, Illinois, January 7, 1848. His parents, William and Mary (Allen) Beith, were natives of Scotland, the former born February 13, 1818, in the town of Large, Ayrshire, Scotland, a few miles from Greenock, and in young manhood learned the trade and business of contracting and building, with his father, Robert Beith, who all his life carried on that line of business in Scotland and in Kane county, Illinois. Robert Beith and his wife, Margaret (Patton) Beith, with their family of ten children, left their native land in 1844, settling in St. Charles, Illinois, where they passed the remainder of their lives as highly respected and honored citizens. She died in 1871, while he survived her three years, dying in 1874. Both were buried in the St. Charles cemetery.

William Beith came to the United States one year previous to the arrival of his father's family, and his first contract in America was for the erection of the Congregational church at St. Charles, Illinois, in 1843. He subsequently erected many of the prominent structures at that place and in other parts of the county. His operations also extended to Chicago, and at that

time and for many years after, he was the most prominent contractor and builder in Kane county. About 1863, he partially retired and has since resided on section 28, Campton township, and occupied his time in farming. With his life companion he is now enjoying the rest and quietude so well earned by a long and active business life, he at the age of eighty-one years and she aged seventy-seven years. He was largely interested in introducing and starting the manufacture of tile in Aurora, and has been active in all enterprises of a public nature calculated to benefit his vicinity or the county of his adoption. In early life he was a stanch Abolitionist and has always been a firm believer in Christianity. His marriage with Mary Allen was celebrated at Glasgow in 1841. She was born at Dillry, near his native place.

Our subject received his education in the public schools of St. Charles, Illinois, which was supplemented by a term in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, Chicago. He assisted his father on the home farm from the age of fourteen until reaching maturity, when he took full charge and worked it on shares until 1884, at which time he purchased the entire place, consisting of four hundred acres of arable and pasture land, and has since added an acreage of seventy-two acres. He almost exclusively confines his attention to dairy farming, growing only a sufficiency of oats and corn for the consumption of his cows, which number about one hundred and which he replenishes annually with a car of new stock. The milk he ships direct from Elburn to Chicago. He secures bran from the Minneapolis mills, which mixed with the home products, corn and oats, forms the staple food of his cattle during the year. The barns,

sheds and facilities for grinding the food for the cattle are all one might expect to find on one of the finest improved and best managed farms of Kane county.

Mr. Beith was married September 28, 1878, to Miss Lucinda Richmond, daughter of Almond and Hannah (Smith) Richmond, natives of Vermont, who came to Kane county at an early day and settled in Camp-ton township, where they resided until their deaths, the mother dying in March, 1895, the father in November, 1895. Both are buried in the Garfield cemetery, of Camp-ton township. To Mr. and Mrs. Beith have been born a family of six children—Robert, Elizabeth, Mary, William A., Rachel and Lucinda, twins. The last named died when an infant, while the others are living and all receiving good educations.

Our subject has two sisters. Mrs. Rachel Day is the wife of Rev. W. F. Day, a minister of the First Congregational church of Los Angeles, California. She has one son, a minister of the same denomination, located at Aurora, Illinois. He is a graduate of Amherst College, Massachusetts, and has traveled extensively in Europe. The other sister, Priscilla, married Daniel Wheaton, by whom she has two children—Mary, wife of Adolphus Moody, of Judsonia, Arkansas, and William, who lives with his mother. Daniel Wheaton died in 1896, and Priscilla is now the wife of David Anderson, of St. Charles, where she now resides.

Since the age of twenty-one years Mr. Beith has held the office of school director. In politics he is a Republican. With his wife and three eldest children, he is a member of the Congregational church of Elburn, in which he has been treasurer and trustee since 1891. As a citizen he has ever shown

a willingness to do his part in advancing the material interest of township and county.

WARREN S. LEE, justice of the peace, Kaneville township, is one of the best known men in the township, which has been his home during his entire life. He was born in the town of Kaneville, March 24, 1860, and traces his ancestry back to Elijah Lee, of Connecticut, who was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving under General Israel Putnam. His son, Asahel Lee, was also a native of Connecticut, as was his grandson, Russell W. Lee, who was born in Middletown, that state, June 20, 1822. The last named grew to manhood in Middletown, and there married Sophronia Spencer, also a native of Connecticut. They were the parents of two sons and three daughters, as follows: Isadora, who died a young lady of eighteen; Mary A., who died when about twenty years old; Grace R., now the wife of T. P. Flanders, of Kaneville township; Warren S., of this review; and Brainard, who is married, and owns and operates a farm in Kaneville township.

About the time he attained his majority, Russell W. Lee came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Kaneville township, where he entered a tract of land, which he fenced and at once began its cultivation. After remaining here for about four years, he returned to his old home in Connecticut, where his marriage was solemnized. Coming back with his bride, he here made his home until his death in April, 1896. His wife survives him, and makes her home with her son, Brainard. Russell W. Lee was a man of good education and was one of the pioneer teachers of Kane county.



By teaching in winters, and working on farms by the month the remainder of each year, he secured the means to make his first purchase of land. He was a very active and enterprising farmer, and at the time of his death owned two farms, one of which he himself improved. He was elected and served in various positions of trust and honor, serving as supervisor, assessor and commissioner of highways. His death was mourned by a large circle of friends throughout the county.

Warren S. Lee grew to manhood on the old home farm in Kaneville township, and was educated in the common-schools. He remained with his father, assisting in farm work, until after he had attained his majority. After the death of his father, he succeeded to a part of the estate. For some years he was actively engaged in farming, and later rented the place, since which time he has engaged in various occupations. While operating the farm he was also engaged in buying and selling stock and dealing in farm lands, his operations extending over Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. In these operations he was fairly successful, confining himself principally to unimproved lands, which he held for an advance. He has always been a very busy man, and was one of the original stockholders in the County Line Creamery Company.

Politically, Mr. Lee has been a lifelong Democrat, the principles of which party was instilled in his youth. He has been quite active in local politics, was elected and served two years as assessor, and in 1897, was elected justice of the peace, which office he is now filling in a satisfactory manner. In the conventions of his party, he usually serves as a delegate, ex-

erting a good influence in its councils. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America of Kaneville, and is the present consul. Religiously he is a Baptist, a member of that church in Kaneville, where he has served in the choir for a number of years. A lifelong resident of the county, he has for years been identified with various enterprises, calculated to advance its material interest, and is widely and favorably known throughout Kane and adjoining counties.

---

DAVID ANDERSON, who is now living a retired life on his farm adjoining the corporate limits of St. Charles, Illinois, was for years one of its most enterprising and successful farmers. He dates his residence in Illinois since 1849, and in Kane county since 1860. A native of Scotland, he was born at Bell's Hill, near Glasgow, May 6, 1823. His father, John Anderson, was also a native of Scotland, and could trace his ancestry back through a long line of men and women prominent in the history of Scotland. John Anderson married Isabella Bissett, also a native of Scotland. By occupation he was a farmer, in which line he continued during his entire life. He never left his native country, but there reared his family and passed to his reward.

David Anderson grew to manhood in his native land, and there married Elizabeth Ray, also a native of Scotland. In 1849, with his family, he emigrated to the United States, first locating in Chicago, where he found employment as a stationary engineer, running an engine for a planing mill, and later for two years was with a publishing company. He made that city his home until 1860. However, in 1854, he came to

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



DAVID ANDERSON.





MRS. DAVID ANDERSON.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Kane county and bought a tract of land, which place comprises a part of his present homestead. Locating on the place in 1860, he at once began its further improvement, making it a pleasant and attractive home. While yet residing in Chicago he purchased a number of city lots, on which he later built several residences, and which he owned for a number of years, finally disposing of the same at a handsome profit.

After locating in Kane county, Mr. Anderson purchased more land from time to time until he now owns three hundred acres, lying in St. Charles and Geneva townships, but all adjacent to the city of St. Charles. This property is finely improved, having on it a substantial stone residence, fronting the river, together with large barns and other outbuildings. In this residence he makes his home, but has another fine house on the west part of the farm, which has also good barns and other outbuildings. A part of the place he some years ago sold, and the same was platted as an addition to St. Charles. It is now covered with good residences and comfortable homes. In the improvement of his adopted city he has done very much, at one time deeding to it eleven acres of land, a strip one hundred feet wide, which has been converted into a boulevard from Geneva to St. Charles. He also gave the Electric Light Company one acre of land, on which to erect its power house and other necessary buildings. He has been connected with various enterprises which were supposed to be of benefit to St. Charles. In the old condensing factory he took shares to the amount of ten thousand dollars, which later he lost, as the factory was burned and never rebuilt. He was also connected with the West side Creamery. During all the years

in which he has resided in Kane county, he has been engaged in the dairy business in connection with general farming. He began the dairy business while yet residing in his native country, for two years engaging in it at Glasgow. Mr. Anderson lost his first wife in Chicago, where she died in 1858. She was the mother of two children, that are yet living—David R., of the firm of Hack & Anderson, publishers of Chicago; and Jennie S., wife of William Hack, senior member of the firm just mentioned. In 1861 Mr. Anderson was united in marriage in St. Charles with Miss Mary Beith, a native of Scotland, born at Larges, and a daughter of Robert and Margaret Beith, both natives of Scotland. Robert Beith and his son, William, were pioneers of Kane county, Illinois, locating in St. Charles. They were stone masons by trade, and many of the stone buildings in and near St. Charles, were constructed by them. Mrs. Mary Anderson died April 13, 1896. She was the mother of five children, four of whom are yet living. Margaret is the wife of Frank Hitchcock, who is engaged in the livery business at Dundee, Illinois. John J. died in infancy. Robert is unmarried, and is carrying on the home farm, together with the dairy business. William M. and George N. are business men residing in Chicago.

In October, 1897, in Elburn, Kane county, Illinois, Mr. Anderson was united in marriage with Mrs. Priscilla Wheaton, widow of Daniel Wheaton, and a daughter of William Beith, of Kane county. She was reared and educated in St. Charles, and in Blackberry gave her hand in marriage to Daniel Wheaton, January 5, 1869. They settled in White county, Arkansas, where Mr. Wheaton bought several large



tracts of land, and where he was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits and business until his death. He left a large estate to his family. Mr. and Mrs. Wheaton were the parents of five children, two of whom are now living. The eldest, Mary, is now the wife of Alpheus P. Moody, of Judsonia, Arkansas, whose father, Rev. Moody, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church at Judsonia for some years, the family being among the most prominent people of White county. They have two sons, Julius Clark and Powell Clayton. William Wheaton, who makes his home with Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, is a student in the schools of St. Charles.

Politically Mr. Anderson is a staunch Republican, a firm believer in the principles of that party. He has never desired, nor would he ever hold office, giving his time and attention to his extensive business interests. He has been connected with the Congregational church at St. Charles for many years, being one of its most active official members. He has ever contributed liberally for the support of the church and has given much to other benevolent purposes. His wife is a devout member of the Methodist Episcopal church. For forty-nine years Mr. Anderson has been a resident of Illinois, thirty-eight years of which time he has resided in Kane county. On locating in Chicago he found a small city, and in the years that have passed has witnessed its growth, until it is to-day the second city of importance on this continent. The changes in Kane county have been no less marvelous. Few men are better known in northern Illinois than the subject of this sketch. He is a man of unblemished character, and he and his estimable wife are held in the highest esteem wherever known.

JOHN HENRY RICHARDSON, who resides on section 26, Dundee township, is recognized as one of the best farmers in the township. His father, James Richardson, was born at Springtown, County Donegal, Ireland, in 1828, and died in Dundee in 1873. He was reared in his native country, but lived for a time in Scotland. About 1849 he sailed for America, and settled in Pennsylvania, first living for a time in Philadelphia. He lived in Pennsylvania until 1857, when he came to Dundee, where the remainder of his life was spent. An honest, industrious laboring man, he secured a little home and a six-acre tract near the village of Dundee, where he reared his family. He married Katherine Raser, a native of Pennsylvania, born May 6, 1831, by whom he had nine children—Mary Ann, wife of John Rose, of Dundee; Robert W.; John Henry, our subject; William James, partner of our subject, residing in Chicago; Isabella, living with her mother in Dundee; Henrietta, wife of Charles Swyner, an employee of the watch factory in Elgin; Ann, wife of Fred Wolaver, of Chicago; Anthony, a milk dealer of Chicago; and Kittie May, with her mother in Dundee.

James Richardson was a son of Anthony Richardson, who married Isabella Hilliard, and who owned a farm in Ireland, which is still occupied by William Richardson, a half brother of James. The mother of James died when he was three years old, and he was reared by an uncle until fourteen years of age. He then worked at what he could find to do, and for two years prior to coming to America worked in the mines near Glasgow, Scotland.

The subject of this sketch was born in Manayunk, Chester county, Pennsylvania, July 5, 1855, and was two years old when

his parents moved to Dundee. Since that time he has moved but once, when he came to his present farm. He attended school in Dundee until fourteen years of age, and was then engaged in farm work for others until 1875, when he rented for three years a farm on shares. He next rented for five years for cash rent. During this time the farm was sold and at the expiration of his lease in December, 1882, in partnership with his brother, he purchased his present farm of one hundred and seventy-eight acres, lying just south of Dundee, and later began the milk business in Chicago, his brother, William J., taking charge of the delivery there while he manages the farm. They retail from six to seven hundred gallons of milk in the city each day.

Mr. Richardson was married in Dundee, August 21, 1882, to Miss Ann Maria Richardson, a native of Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, and who came to America in 1880, followed by her parents two years later. She is a daughter of Johnson Richardson, a contractor and builder, who was born in Springtown, County Donegal, Ireland, in 1832. He there married Ann Jane Robinson, daughter of John Alexander Muldoon Robinson, whose wife was Miss Maria Beatty, her mother's maiden name being Earl. John James Robinson, brother of Ann Jane Robinson, served through the Civil war and was for a time in Libby Prison, from which he made his escape. Johnson Richardson and wife were the parents of four children—Isabel H., who married William A. Bingham, a shipping clerk for the Iron and Bolt Works at Carpentersville; Annie M., wife of our subject; John James, deceased; and Jane E., who married Charles Murray, a painter of Chicago.

To our subject and wife six children

have been born: Ethel Josephine, William James, Florence Luella, Stella May, Lillian Mildred, and John Alexander. The first named died at the age of two months. Mr. and Mrs. Richardson are members of the Episcopal church, and fraternally, he is a member of the Dundee tent, No. 17, K. O. T. M. Politically he is a Democrat and has served as highway commissioner and road supervisor. He is an excellent farmer, thrifty and energetic, and keeps his place under a high state of cultivation. Part of his land lies in the river bottoms while the remainder is on high ground, well watered and well drained.

**D**ORR BROTHERS, who are well-known citizens of Sugar Grove township, reside on a fine farm comprising about three hundred acres on section 8, which has been in the family for nearly sixty years. Marshall Dorr was born June 10, 1839, and his brother, Haskell Dorr, was born March 22, 1844. Sullivan Dorr, the father of Marshall and Haskell Dorr, was a native of West Moreland, New Hampshire, born in 1809. His father, Asel Dorr, was a native of New England and died when Sullivan was a child. The latter grew to manhood in his native town and state, and there married Elmira Gurler, who was born in Keene, New Hampshire. In 1837, with his family he came to Illinois by the way of the Erie canal and the Great Lakes to Chicago, which was then but a small village, giving little idea of the prominence which it has attained in the years that have passed. He located near Ottawa, in La Salle county, where he remained a short time and then came to Kane county, where he purchased the place in Sugar Grove township, on which

his sons and one daughter yet reside. He first entered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, to which he subsequently added other land. Building a log house in which the family could live, he then went to work and fenced the claim and commenced the development of the farm. For many years he hauled all his produce to Chicago, where he obtained the most of supplies for family use and also purchased lumber for building which in due time were erected. The trip, which was with ox teams, required two or three days going and coming. On this farm Sullivan Dorr passed the remainder of his life, dying May 22, 1888, at the age of seventy-nine years. His wife passed away in January, 1887. They were both highly respected people and he was regarded as one of the most progressive farmers in the township, and few men had more friends in Kane county.

Marshall Dorr grew to manhood on the farm and was educated in the common schools of the neighborhood, supplemented by one term in the seminary at Aurora. When the war for the Union commenced he had just attained his majority, and one year later, on August 12, 1862, he enlisted as a member of Company E., One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he went south into Kentucky and Tennessee. During his term of enlistment he participated in a number of prominent engagements, among which were Raymond, Mississippi, Jackson, Tennessee, Baker's Creek and the siege and surrender of Vicksburg. In the vicinity of the latter city the regiment remained about one year and then went to New Orleans and Mobile Bay, at which place it participated in the engagement. From Mobile the regiment was sent to Montgomery, Alabama, where

it remained until the close of the war, being mustered out at Vicksburg, August 16, 1865. From Vicksburg he went to Chicago, was there paid off and received his final discharge.

After receiving his discharge, Mr. Dorr returned to his home in Sugar Grove township, since which time he and his brother have been engaged in the cultivation of the home farm. They are considered good practical farmers and have been fairly successful in life. The brothers are staunch Republicans and each have supported the men and measures of that party since attaining their majority. They have never sought office of any kind and care nothing for official honors. Marshall, however, was elected and served one term as township collector. They are well known in Aurora and other parts of the county, and are men of exemplary habits and upright character. Their home is presided over by their sister, Filissa. Another sister, Imogene, is now the wife of William Baker, a farmer of Sugar Grove township. One sister, Ellen, grew to mature years, and died November 1, 1877, at the age of twenty-six years.

---

REV. GEORGE H. WELLS, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Hampshire, Illinois, was born at Fulton, Missouri, May 18, 1839. His father, Aaron Wells, was born in Nicholas county, Kentucky, at Lower Blue Licks, in 1805, and died in 1871, at the age of sixty-six years. Like most Kentuckians, he was tall and muscular. The old farm at Lower Blue Licks comprises eight hundred acres, and is now owned by a cousin of our subject who is six feet, six inches in height. The family are long lived, the mother of Aaron



Wells living to be one hundred and four years old. By trade Aaron Wells was a blacksmith in early life and for some years was a commission merchant at Mexico, Missouri, and Sterling, Illinois. He married Elizabeth Young, a daughter of Jacob Young. She was born in Kentucky in 1799, and died at the age of seventy-one years. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are now living. Three of their sons served in the Civil war; one was killed by Quantrell's men.

The subject of this sketch attended school at Fulton, Missouri, and colleges at Fulton, St. Charles and Fayette, all in Missouri. Later he attended the university at Evanston, Illinois. He began teaching in Missouri and spent some years in the schoolroom as a teacher. He taught in Missouri country schools during the war. For one year he was principal of the school at Praneville, Illinois, at Augusta, two years, El Paso, one year, and one year at Plymouth, and two years at Dixon seminary. He began theological studies when he began teaching, and pursued a four-years' course after he entered Rock River conference. He was licensed as a local preacher in 1861, and in the fall of 1873 united with the Rock River conference. His first charge was at La Salle, followed by Savanna, Council Hill, Dakota, Scales Mound, New Milford, Richmond, Nunda, Marengo, Rock Falls, Malta, and Hampshire, being appointed to the latter place in October, 1895.

Mr. Wells was married at Morrison, Illinois, March 30, 1868, to Miss Lou Seamon, who was born in River Phillips, Nova Scotia, and was a daughter of James S. and Cynthia O. (Johnson) Seamon, the former a native of Kings county, Nova Scotia, and the latter of Cumberland county, Nova

Scotia. Mr. and Mrs. Wells have two sons—Rev. George A., a Methodist Episcopal minister, at Stewart, Illinois, who married Maude Adell Smith, by whom he has one child, Verna Madge; and Harry S., who is now attending the Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois.

In politics Mr. Wells is a Prohibitionist, but was formerly a Republican, but voted for William McKinley and Hopkins. It is as a minister of the Gospel that he takes delight. His heart is in the work and his desire in life is to do good to his fellow men.

JOEL WAGNER is the owner of two valuable and well-improved farms in Big Rock township, but is now living a retired life in the village of Big Rock. He dates his residence in Kane county since 1851. A native of New York, he was born in Fort Plains, Montgomery county, November 11, 1834, and is the son of Truman Wagner, also a native of the same county and state. The Wagner family are of German ancestry, and trace their origin to Joseph Wagner, who came with his parents to the new world when a lad of four years. Charles Wagner, the grandfather of our subject, was likewise born in Montgomery county, and served his country in the second war with Great Britain, in which he held a commission. Some of the members of the family served in the Revolutionary war.

Truman Wagner was reared in Montgomery county, New York, and there married Katy Snyder, a native of the same county and a daughter of Lodowic Snyder, of German extraction. In 1837 Captain Charles Wagner came with his family to Kane county, Illinois, and located on a por-

tion of the present site of Aurora, and took up a claim and later entered the land. He was one of the first settlers of the village, where he died at the age of eighty years. Truman Wagner engaged in farming in St. Lawrence county, New York, and also in the manufacture of lumber. In 1851 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and bought land in Big Rock township, his first purchase being two hundred and forty acres, which was fairly well improved with a log house, a log stable and an orchard of bearing trees. He at once commenced the further improvement of the place, erecting a substantial brick house, with good barns and other outbuildings. He was a successful farmer, and here spent his last years, dying in 1871. His wife survived him a number of years.

Joel Wagner is the oldest of a family of three sons and three daughters born to Truman and Katy Wagner. All grew to mature years. The second in order of birth was Hiram D., who now resides in the village of Hinckley, De Kalb county, where he is engaged in banking, and also in the grain and lumber trade, being recognized as one of the most prominent men of the township. Kate M. is now the wife of W. H. Hall, a business man of Springfield, Illinois. Laura is the wife of Archie Miller, now living a retired life in the village of Hinckley. Lydia is the wife of J. F. Jackson, a farmer residing near Hinckley. Charles, who was a soldier in the war for the Union, a member of the Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was taken sick and removed to the St. Louis hospital, and there died.

Joel Wagner came to Kane county, Illinois, when sixteen years of age. In his native state he had good educational advan-

tages, and on his arrival in Kane county, he attended school at Aurora, and also at the Batavia Institute. He helped his father open up and develop the farm and remained with him until after he attained his majority. In August, 1861, he enlisted in Company E, Thirty-sixth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, with which he went to Rollo, Missouri, and was with General Seigel and Curtis through Missouri. The first battle in which he participated was at Pea Ridge; leaving Missouri, the regiment was sent into Kentucky, and was there in the engagement at Perryville. In the battle of Stony River, he was wounded, being shot through the face. The scar yet remains with him, a reminder of the time in which he went out in defense of the old flag. He was wounded December 31, 1862, and was taken to the hospital at Nashville, and was discharged from the service in March, 1863. Returning home, he suffered from the wound for nearly a year, and after his recovery he resumed farming. He was married in April, 1865, to Miss Anna Leyson, a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1841, and a daughter of Reese Leyson, who came to Kane county in 1852. By this union there were two sons, Willard S., married and carrying on the old farm, and Arthur Herbert, who married and died at the age of twenty-six years, leaving a wife and one son, Ira Glenn. He lost one daughter, Anna, who died at the age of seven months.

Soon after marriage, Mr. Wagner settled on a farm in Big Rock township, where he remained four years, and then removed to Kaneville township, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and seventy acres, on which he resided four years. About two years after the death of his father, he purchased the interests of the other heirs to the

homestead, which comprised three hundred and sixty-two acres, and on that farm he continued for twenty years. While residing there he purchased another farm of two hundred and forty acres, which is one of the finest farms in Kane county.

While residing on the old homestead, Mrs. Anna Wagner departed this life, June 7, 1879, and Mr. Wagner married in De Kalb county, Illinois, November 15, 1880, Miss Elizabeth Diedrich, who was born and reared in De Kalb county, and a daughter of Peter Diedrich, a native of Germany, and a pioneer of De Kalb county. By this marriage are two sons, Frank Leslie and Clarence F., both students of the home school.

In 1895 Mr. Wagner built a fine residence in the village of Big Rock, which is one of the neatest and best furnished residences in the place. There the family now reside. Mr. Wagner had ever been a public-spirited man, lending aid to various public enterprises, having a tendency to build up his town and county. He was one of the original stockholders, and assisted in the organization of the Big Rock Creamery, of which he was the first president, and manager for five or six years.

In politics Mr. Wagner is independent, giving his support to the men he considers best qualified for the place. He cast his first presidential ballot for the "little giant," Stephen A. Douglas. He also voted three times for Grover Cleveland. For fifteen years he served as road commissioner, and twelve years as justice of the peace, the latter office he declining to longer fill. He has been assessor of the township, trustee, and treasurer of the school funds. In his religious views Mr. Wagner is liberal, believing in the teaching of the Golden Rule.

He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and for some years was quite active in the lodge at Kaneville. A residence of forty-five years in Kane county has brought him prominently before the people, and he is well and favorably known and universally respected.

---

CHARLES M. CROUSE, of Big Rock, Kane county, Illinois, is now living a retired life. He was born in Dutchess county, New York, August 26, 1841. His grandfather, George Crouse, was also a native of New York, a well-to-do and respected man, who for many years was engaged in the hotel business in Dutchess county, that state. His son, George Crouse, Jr., was born in Dutchess county, in 1808. He there grew to manhood and married Persis Emeline Amnermon, also a native of Dutchess county, New York. He was by trade a tanner, but for some years was engaged in the butcher business prior to his coming west. In 1843 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and, after residing here a few months, returned to his native state, driving back with teams. Three times did he make the trip back and forth in that way. After coming to Kane county and remaining a while, he would become homesick, return to New York, and would again come to the Prairie state. He finally made a permanent settlement in Big Rock township, first purchasing eighty acres, which he improved, and to which he later added sixty-seven acres, which he converted into a fine farm. After the death of his wife in 1857, which was caused by being thrown from a wagon, the team running away, he sold the old place and located in the northern part of the township, where he pur-



chased one hundred and sixty acres in one farm and forty acres of timber. On the place was an old log house, which, in due time, he replaced with a better one, and, improving the farm, he there resided until 1885. His family consisted of four sons and two daughters, of whom our subject and one sister, Ellen, now the wife of William Knickerbocker, of Aurora, are the only survivors. One daughter, Julia, married Elias Carpenter, and located in Big Rock, but both are now deceased, leaving nine children and a fine estate. Egbert grew to manhood and married Ellen Seavey, and died in 1887. For some years he lived with our subject, the two being in partnership in their farming operations, but finally dividing the estate, each taking one hundred and twenty acres.

Charles M. Crouse came to Kane county when a child, and here grew to mature years, receiving very limited school privileges. From the time he was old enough to hold the handles of a plow, he engaged in farm work, becoming a practical farmer in every respect. In 1868, he married Miss Anna Seavey, a daughter of Mark Seavey, and a sister of the wife of his brother Egbert. After living upon the farm until 1892, he rented the place, built a large and substantial residence in the village of Big Rock, to which he removed, and is now living a retired life. Mr. and Mrs. Crouse have no children, their first born, Freddie, dying in 1884, at the age of seven years. They also lost two in infancy.

Politically, Mr. Crouse is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. A believer in free silver, he gave his support to William J. Bryan in 1896. For years he served as school director, the only local office that he

would ever accept. While not members of any church, Mr. and Mrs. Crouse are believers in Christianity and the golden rule. Both are well known and are highly respected in the community in which they reside, and are hospitable, generous people.

---

**M**cCLELLAN DAUBERMAN, deceased, was a well-known citizen of Kaneville. The following sketch was prepared by an intimate friend, Mr. F. L. Young, who knew him well, and is a well-deserved tribute to one who was cut off in the prime of life:

“McClellan Dauberman was born in Kaneville, March 1, 1862, and died at that place, which had always been his home, October 10, 1896, after an illness of less than five days' duration, of acute appendicitis. He was not married. He leaves three brothers and one sister as his nearest relatives, who deeply mourn his loss. His parents were George and Matilda (Spangler) Dauberman. [See sketch of J. S. Dauberman on another page of this work.]

“His early life was spent on his father's farm, which aided to give him what he possessed in a remarkable degree, a splendid and vigorous physical development, supplemented by fine mental and intellectual qualities. Since the age of twenty-one years he has been engaged in the mercantile business in Kaneville, leaving at the time of his death a comfortable fortune, largely the result of his business sagacity.

“He was a man of great business ability, always methodical and accurate, whether doing the same for himself, the public or his neighbors. In his death they all suffer



McCLELLAN DAUBERMAN.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



a personal loss, which is widely felt, and not easily replaced. At the time of his decease he was the treasurer of Kaneville township, the duties of which office he always performed with fidelity and accuracy. He was also an honored member of the Waltonian Club, of Elgin, many of whose members attended his funeral at Kaneville.

"In politics he was an ardent Republican, whose influence reached and was felt beyond his own town. He was also one of a trio of natives of Kaneville serving on the Kane County Central Committee in 1896, where his counsels were valued and appreciated in an eminent degree. Beholding him stricken down as he was in the bright glow of his manhood's prime, the great truth is again brought home to our hearts that we, too, are 'Passing Away.'

"It is written on the rose  
In its glory's bright array;  
Read what those buds disclose—  
    'Passing away.'

It is written on the brow,  
Where the spirit's ardent ray  
Lives, burns, and triumphs now—  
    'Passing away.' "

"His fine mental qualities shone strongly forth every day of his life. He was always neat in person and apparel. With him order was heaven's first law. His large store was always kept in perfect order, and the neatness of his private bachelor apartments were always the subject of approving comment by his many visiting friends. His funeral was one of the largest ever held in Kaneville. Nearly every town in the county was represented, showing the high esteem in which he was held outside his own town."

**C**HAMBERS D. CALHOUN, M. D., of Elburn, Illinois, is a physician and surgeon of acknowledged ability. He was born in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, August 17, 1858, and is the son of Samuel S. and Hannah (Sheridan) Calhoun, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio. By occupation Samuel S. Calhoun was a farmer. His father, John Calhoun, took up several sections of land in Armstrong county, coming in possession of it at an early day. He lived to be ninety-one years of age. The family descended from one of two brothers who came from Scotland, but who were really North of Ireland people.

Samuel S. Calhoun was a very prominent Democrat in his native state and was very active in political affairs, taking the stump during each campaign and delivering many speeches. He occupied many official positions in his town and county, and in his capacities of business man, citizen and public official, his actions were characterized by uprightness and sincere devotion to the best interests of his community, and he enjoyed the universal esteem of his fellow men.

During the dark days of the Civil war, Samuel S. Calhoun espoused the side of the Union, and organized a company at the beginning of the war, but on account of the illness of his wife could not leave home. About the close of the war another company was raised of which he was elected captain, and with which he started for the front, but only got as far as Pittsburg, when he was notified that the services of the company were not needed. The company was fully uniformed and ready for the fray. Later he organized two companies of militia. Few men in Armstrong county were better known. During the Grange movement, he was a

high official in that order. His death occurred the day before Christmas, 1896, at the age of seventy-four years. While preparing an address for the Christian Endeavor Society, he was called up higher and never spoke again after receiving a stroke of paralysis. For many years he was an elder in the Presbyterian church, of which he and his wife had been lifelong members. She is yet living, an honored resident of Pittsburg, living with her son, Rev. Joseph P. Calhoun, a noted divine of the Presbyterian church, whose services as a pastor of the church in Pittsburg is appreciated by all his flock. Of their ten children, nine are yet living: Rev. Joseph P., at Pittsburg; Rev. John, a Congregational minister at Mandeville, Wyoming; Doctor Grier O.; Doctor Chambers D., our subject; Rev. Harry, a Presbyterian minister, residing near Wellsville, Ohio; Doctor William J., residing in St. Charles, Illinois; Samuel C., an attorney in Pennsylvania; Cyrus Pershing, a farmer of Pennsylvania; and Herbert Bruce, a machinist of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and was educated in the district schools and finished a course of about three years at the Glade Run Academy at Dayton, Pennsylvania. He remained at home and assisted in the cultivation of the farm, also taught school for a number of years in Pennsylvania. He read medicine with his cousin, Dr. Franklin Calhoun, of Dayton, Pennsylvania, then attended the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1884. Coming west, he located at Earlville, Illinois, and commenced the practice of his profession with Dr. Vosburg, under the firm name of Vosburg & Calhoun. This partnership continued two years and was then dissolved,

Dr. Calhoun moving to Troy Grove, Illinois, where he remained two years, and then came to Elburn, where he has since continued to reside, and where he has built up a large practice in town and country.

Dr. Calhoun was married June 2, 1887, the same day on which President Cleveland was married. He wedded Miss Sophia Martin, a native of New York. She is a true Christian woman, and is especially interested in the work of the Christian Endeavor, being one of its officers and leaders, in the Congregational church of Elburn, of which she is a member. The Doctor is also a member of that church, and is now serving as deacon and trustee. Fraternally he is a member of the Masonic order, in which he has filled most of the chairs. In politics he is independent, choosing the man rather than favoring the party.

Dr. Calhoun is a member of the Fox River Valley Medical Association, and for a time was a member of the Central Illinois Medical Association. At present he is health officer of Elburn, and is examining physician for the Ætna Insurance Company, the New York Life, the Union Central, of Cincinnati, Ohio, the Michigan Central, the Western Mutual Life, of Chicago, and several others. He is a public spirited and progressive citizen, believes in keeping abreast with the times, and takes a deep interest in the welfare of the community in which he resides.

---

J. J. WILLIAMS, an enterprising farmer, residing on section 18, Kaneville township, where he operates a farm of two hundred and seventy-three acres, first came to Kane county, in 1866. He is a native of Ohio, born in Jackson county, July 15,

1840. His father, James Williams, was a native of Wales, where he grew to manhood, and married Hannah Thomas, also a native of Wales. In 1836 they emigrated to the United States, locating first in Jackson county, Ohio, where they remained four years, and then removed to Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he entered land, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was a prosperous farmer, but was cut off in the prime of life, dying in 1848. His wife survived him but one year, dying in 1849.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Iowa county, Wisconsin, where he had very limited educational advantages. His parents dying when he was a mere lad, he had to make his own way in the world. In 1860 he went to Idaho, and there spent four years in silver mining, with indifferent success. In 1864 he returned to Wisconsin, where he remained but a very short time, and then to came Big Rock township, Kane county, where for two years he worked on a farm, by the month. In 1867 he was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Whildin, a daughter of Jeremiah Whildin, now deceased, and a sister of John C. Whildin, whose sketch appears in this work. She was a native of New York, and came to Kane county, Illinois, with her parents, when a mere child. By this union there were four children, Gertie Ann, a young lady at home; Eveline, now the wife of William Johnson, a farmer of Kaneville township; Leroy and Otis, at home. The wife and mother died in 1882, mourned by family and a large circle of friends.

Immediately after marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Williams moved to Champaign county, Illinois, where he bought a farm in East Bend township, and there resided two

years. He then sold and located in DeKalb county, about two miles from Hinckley, where he engaged in farming for six years, then sold and returned to Kane county, and purchased the farm where he now resides. Since locating here, Mr. Williams has made some permanent and substantial improvements on the place, tilling it and making it a most valuable farm. Politically he is a staunch Republican, and while taking a commendable interest in political affairs, has never sought nor desired office. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, a member of the blue lodge at Elburn. For thirty-two years, with the exception of a short time spent in Champaign and DeKalb counties, Mr. Williams has been a resident of Kane county, and by its people is held in the highest respect. Commencing life with but little means, by his labor and enterprise, he has become the possessor of a large and valuable farm, and a comfortable home, where he may spend his declining years.

---

JOSEPH INGHAM, who resides on section 14, Sugar Grove township, is recognized as one of the leading farmers in the township. He is a native of Kane county, born on the farm where he now resides, October 18, 1839. His father, Colonel Samuel S. Ingham, was a native of Oneida county, New York, born in 1801, while his grandfather, Joseph Ingham, was born on the West India Islands. The latter was a sailor, and was master of a vessel for twenty-five years. Leaving the sea, he settled in the town of Steuben, Oneida county, New York, where his son Samuel, was born and reared.

Samuel S. Ingham married Nancy



Owens, also a native of Oneida county, New York, and whose father was a soldier in the Revolutionary army. In 1839, with his family he came to Kane county, Illinois, arriving here on the 17th of June, making the entire trip with a team. On arriving here, he purchased a claim from his brother Joseph, who came to the county in 1835. The claim consisted of about one hundred and thirty acres, on which Joseph had built a small shanty, but had made no other improvements. Colonel Ingham at once began the development of the farm and about 1858 erected a large and substantial brick residence. His barns and other outbuildings were of the best, and all improvements were in keeping with the times. As his means increased he bought more land until his farm consisted of over six hundred acres. In the early day he kept a hotel, which was the stopping place for many prospectors and the traveling public for some years. He was an active, enterprising man, and was well known throughout Kane and adjoining counties. While residing in New York he served as colonel of militia, and the title continued with him on his removal to this state. His death occurred on the home farm, March 17, 1864, while his wife survived him some fifteen years, dying in 1879, in Aurora, where she was then residing.

Joseph Ingham is the oldest of a family of eight children, of whom three are yet living. John, who owns an interest in the homestead, resides on the home farm, while his sister, Mrs. Adeline Spencer, resides in Aurora. Joseph spent his youth on the old farm, and received his primary education in the common schools and for two years was a student in Lombard University, Galesburg, Illinois. He enlisted September 20,

1861, in Company A, Thirty-sixth Illinois Cavalry, and went to the front, participating in the battles of Pea Ridge, Iuka, Corinth, Black River Bridge, the siege of Vicksburg, and with Banks on the Red River expedition. In February of 1864, he was veteranized, and came home on a furlough, after which he joined his regiment and continued in the service until August of 1864, when he was mustered out and returned home. Enlisting as a private, he was appointed corporal and later quartermaster sergeant. While in the service he lost no time by reason of sickness.

After his discharge Mr. Ingham returned home and took charge of the farm in 1865. In 1869 he married Elizabeth Sticklane, a native of Kane county, born in the town of Aurora, September 28, 1840, and a daughter of Robert Sticklane, a pioneer settler of the county. After his marriage he continued the cultivation of his farm until 1878, when he moved to Clay county, Illinois, and operated a large farm for two years. He then returned to the old farm, where he has since continued to reside. For about twelve years he engaged in the dairy business in connection with his farming operations and in that line met with success. For about twenty years he and his brother John have been extensively engaged in feeding cattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingham have three children living: the oldest, Samuel S., is a well-educated young man, a graduate of the West Side Aurora High School, and is now engaged with his father in the cultivation of the farm. Sarah is a well-educated young lady, and is principal of the Pennsylvania Avenue School, of Aurora. Millie is a graduate of the West Side High School, Aurora, and resides at home. Two of their children died in early childhood.

Politically Mr. Ingham is a staunch Republican, although his first presidential ballot was cast for Stephen A. Douglas in 1860. Since that time, however, he has been an advocate of the principles of the Republican party. For nine years he served as assessor of his township, and has also served as collector and in other minor official positions. In the fall of 1892 he was elected county recorder of Kane county, and filled the office in an acceptable manner, the term of four years. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, a member of the lodge at Aurora. Religiously Mrs. Ingham is a member of the Baptist church of Aurora. For fifty-nine years, with the exception of a short time spent in Clay county, Mr. Ingham has been a resident of Kane county, and is well known throughout its length and breadth as an enterprising man, one willing to do all in his power to advance its best interests.

---

**J**OSIAH A. FINK, who is now living a retired life in the village of Kaneville, but who for many years was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and who is the owner of a well-improved farm of two hundred acres adjoining the village of Kaneville, came to Kane county in 1851. He was born in Madison county, New York, November 16, 1814. His father, John I. Fink, was born in Montgomery county, New York, as was also his grandfather, John Fink, while his great-grandfather, William Fink, was a native of New York, but of German parentage. The latter was in the French and Indian war of 1755, and for many years there was in the family a sword which was carried by him in those wars. John Fink was a minute man of the Revolution, and was in the battle of Oristany, in which one

of his brothers was also engaged, and where he was wounded, from the effects of which he later died.

John Fink, the grandfather of our subject, moved with his family to Madison county, New York, in 1806, and was among the pioneers of that county, where he purchased land, which was covered by heavy growth of timber, and which he cleared and opened up a farm. His son, John I. Fink, there married Nancy Anguish, a native of Pennsylvania, who was also a pioneer of Madison county, where she removed with her parents. They became the parents of four sons and three daughters, of whom our subject and the three daughters alone survive. After engaging in farming for some years in Madison county, John Fink removed with his family to Onondago county, New York, and located on the Seneca river, near Baldwinsville, where he spent the last years of his life, engaged in agriculture. His wife survived him a number of years.

Josiah A. Fink grew to manhood in Madison county, New York, where he received a fair common-school education. He remained at home assisting his father in carrying on the home farm until after attaining his majority. He has been three times married, his first union being Nancy Norris, who died in Onondago county, New York, leaving two children, Marilda, now the wife of Azel Howard, of De Kalb county, Illinois, and Nancy, wife of Captain Wells, of Sabbona, Illinois. After the death of his first wife Mr. Fink returned to Madison county and married Mary Ann Norris, who was his first wife's sister. She came west with her husband and died in Kane county. By that union there were two children, one of whom died in childhood.

The other, Norris, married, and resides in Iowa, where he is engaged in farming. In 1859 Mr. Fink married Miss Louisa Coy, who was born in Chenango county, New York, where she was reared and educated. She was a successful teacher in New York, and also in Kane county, before her marriage. By this union there are two living children—Frankie, now the wife of William Frederick, a farmer of Kaneville township, who operates the old Fink homestead, and Julia M., who was educated at Sugar Grove and the Dixon Normal School, graduating from the latter institution. She is now a successful teacher in the public schools. One daughter died in childhood.

In 1851 Mr. Fink sold his farm in New York and came to Kane county, Illinois, where he joined his wife's father. He here bought a farm of two hundred acres, the present homestead, of which about one hundred acres was under cultivation, and on which was a small frame house. He at once began the improvement of the place, and has since built a good and substantial residence, good barns and other outbuildings. On that farm he continued to reside for thirty-two years, when he rented the place and moved to the village of Kaneville, where he purchased residence property, which he later repaired and remodeled, making a very comfortable home, and where he has since continued to reside. A life of industry and toil has enabled him to spend his declining days in ease and comfort.

Politically, Mr. Fink was originally a Democrat, but on account of his liberty-loving views he united with the Republican party on its organization, voting for its first presidential candidate, John C. Fremont. He was elected and served one term as supervisor, and also served four years as one

of the township trustees. He was once elected justice of the peace, but would not qualify. In the various conventions of his party he has often served as a delegate. For years Mr. Fink has been a member of the Baptist church, while his wife is of the Congregational faith. His residence of forty-seven years in Kane county has brought him prominently before the people, and he is well and favorably known throughout the county.

---

JOHN F. JANECKE, JR., dealer in hardware and tinware, Hampshire, Illinois, was born in Hanover township, Cook county, Illinois, near the city of Elgin, September 4, 1874, and is the youngest of four children born to John F. Janecke, who was born in the city of Lenzen, province of West Preugnitz, Prussia, November 4, 1830, and who came to America at the age of thirty-one years. He was the son of John G. and Elizabeth Janecke, both of whom were also natives of the same province.

John F. Janecke, Sr., sailed from Hamburg, January 1, 1852, on the English sailing vessel, Charles Clark, and was eight weeks in making the voyage across the Atlantic. The ship was wrecked on the coast of Newfoundland, and the passengers and crew were three days and nights without food or shelter on a bleak coast. He saw a friend and companion engulfed in the icy waves. The wreck was in daylight or all would have been lost. There was a heavy fog and land was not discovered until the ship was nearly on the rock. Fishermen from St. John came to their rescue, and they were taken to that city where they remained three days. From there they were sent to Quebec, and everything having been



lost, free transportation was provided to Chicago for those desiring it. On his arrival Mr. Janecke secured work on the railroad, at which he was employed for two years. He then engaged with an ice company in Chicago, with whom he remained ten years. In 1864, he went to Hanover township, Cook county, and purchased sixty acres of land, to which he added from time to time until his farm comprised two hundred and sixty acres. Success crowned his efforts and to-day, in addition to his farm property, he owns several business buildings in Elgin and also in the town of Hampshire.

John F. Janecke Jr., was reared on the farm in Hanover township and attended the district school, and also took a short course in Drew's Business College, at Elgin. At the age of seventeen he left home and began life for himself. He first secured a position in the tinshop of W. J. Meachem, in Elgin, where he remained eight months and then went to Hampshire, working for Chapman & Reid eight months. On the 1st of October, 1891, he purchased the interest of Mr. Reid and in February, 1896, bought Mr. Chapman's interest and is now sole proprietor of the store. He keeps a large stock of general shelf and heavy hardware, farming implements and machinery, barbed wire and wire fencing of various kinds, and has a large trade in a special pattern of milk cans, disposing of twelve hundred per year. He keeps two tinnerns busy the greater part of the year. His rapid increase in business has been such as to require additional room, and he now occupies a store building 28 x 125 feet, two stories in height. The building is owned by his father.

Mr. Janecke married Mary Melms, a daughter of Charles and Christina (Richter) Melms, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere

in this book. One child, Lavoy, has been born to them. Fraternally Mr. Janecke is a member of Hampshire lodge, A. F. & A. M., and of Elgin chapter, R. A. M. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights of the Maccabees. In politics he is a Republican. As a business man he is energetic and enterprising, and as a citizen is ever willing to do his part in building up and advancing the interest of his adopted city and county.

---

**RANDALL CASSEM.**—It is said that the poet is born, not made; but the successful lawyer has to be both born and made—made by close application, earnest effort, by perseverance and resolute purpose. The abilities with which nature has endowed him must be strengthened and developed by use. Only by merit can the lawyer gain a pre-eminent position. One of the successful lawyers of Kane county, whose name heads this sketch, resides at No. 75 South Fourth street, with an office in the Evans building, Aurora. He was born January 2, 1852, on his father's farm, four miles northwest of Newark, in Fox township, Kendall county, Illinois, and is the son of Nels O. and Margaret (Fritz) Cassem, the former a native of Norway, born June 5, 1829, and the latter of Grundy county, Illinois.

When a youth of seventeen, Nels O. Cassem left his native land for America, accompanied by some friends, and reached the point of his destination, Kendall county, Illinois, a few weeks later. He soon found employment, and on reaching maturity entered into contracts for grading the bed of the Rock Island railroad, then in course of construction from Morris to Seneca. He was entirely self educated, never

having attended school, but was possessed of strong common sense and natural ability. He had a strong body, possessed great power of physical endurance and knew how to work. He soon made money, and upon the completion of his contracts was enabled to purchase twelve hundred acres of land in Kendall county, for which he paid the government price of one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. To this he has added from time to time, and is now the possessor of estates in Kendall, Grundy, LaSalle and Livingston counties, aggregating more than four thousand acres. All these farms are well improved and rank among the best in the state. He has given great attention to stock raising for the markets, and is still residing on the old homestead, where he has lived for more than half a century. Possessed of keen business instincts and indomitable perseverance, he has accumulated great wealth.

The mother of the subject of this sketch died August 28, 1872, aged forty-five years, eight months and five days, when Randall Cassem was twenty years of age. As a slight token of the love and affection which he bore to his dearly beloved mother, and of his reverence for all her virtues as a mother and friend, he directs a special mention of her here. In remembrance of all the unbounded kindness to him in his younger days by his mother, he thinks of her and requests that space be given for this to be said in her behalf. Mr. Cassem of his mother said: "She left to me the memory of her love. She is the gentlest memory of our family. The memory of our mother is the strongest, tenderest tie that binds our hearts together."

The family of Nels and Margaret Cassem consists of five children, as follows: Ran-

dall, the subject of this sketch; Olive Jane, born September 10, 1853, the wife of O. E. Osmondsen, a stock-raiser and farmer of Seward township, Kendall county, Illinois, by whom she has two children now living—Emily, born September 27, 1888, and Enor Nesley, born January 11, 1891; Margaret, born March 16, 1859, the wife of O. M. Olson, a capitalist of Aurora, by whom she has two children—Mabel Edith, born October 12, 1887, and Hazel, born February 18, 1891; Margaret was named after her mother, and bears her name in token of her. One of the finest houses in Aurora, Illinois, now in the course of construction at 127 South Lake street, at this date, June 1, 1898, will be the home of Mr. and Mrs. Olson when completed.

Oscar Edwin, another son, was born March 18, 1857. He owns an extensive stock ranch of twelve hundred and thirty-three acres on the James river, three miles northeast of Mitchell, South Dakota. He married Dora Krom, of Ossian, Winneshek county, Iowa, who was born October 23, 1867, and they have three children. The oldest, a boy named Randall Nelson, who was named after and in memory of his uncle and grandfather, was born September 3, 1886. The next younger, a boy named Loren Clement, was born July 17, 1891. The youngest, a little girl named Thelma Dorine, was born October 13, 1897. All are living at home with their parents and attending the public schools of Mitchell. Anna, another daughter of N. O. Cassem, resides in Chicago, Illinois.

Randall Cassem spent his childhood and early youth working on the farm from the time he was able to handle an axe or hold the plow, and in the winter gathering what instruction the rude district school of the

period could afford, until he was fifteen years of age, then attended Fowler's Institute, an academy at Newark, Illinois, remaining there two years. Professor A. J. Anderson was principal of the school at first, and later Professor J. R. Burns. He then attended the State Normal School at Normal, Illinois, for one year, to which he was appointed through the influence of W. S. Coy, then county superintendent of schools of Kendall county. He taught school in this county for one year, then entered the law department of Michigan University, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, remaining there over two years, graduating March 25, 1874. Subsequently he passed a rigid examination at Detroit, Michigan, was admitted to the bar March 26, 1874, and was licensed to practice law in that state. He afterward read law in the office of John A. Gilliam, at Yorkville, Kendall county, Illinois, where he continued until he secured a license from the supreme court of Illinois to practice law in this state. This he obtained September 10, 1874. September 22, 1874, he settled down to practice his profession at Yorkville, Illinois, and carried on a general law practice there most successfully until April, 1887.

Removing to Aurora the same month, Mr. Cassem purchased his present elegant home, at No. 75 South Fourth street, and established a law office in the Schoeberlein Block. He afterwards removed to the Mercantile Block and became the law partner of Senator George E. Bacon, under the firm name of Bacon & Cassem. This partnership was continued until failing health caused the retirement of Mr. Bacon, who shortly afterwards died. Mr. Cassem then removed his office to the Evans Building, where he has since continued his practice alone. He practices in all the courts of

the state—circuit, appellate and supreme—and during all the years of his practice he has held the governor's commission as a notary public. While a resident of Yorkville he was city attorney three years, but apart from this he has neither held nor sought public office, his law and large property interests, including the legal management of his father's extensive estates, requiring all his attention.

Mr. Cassem was married April 11, 1882, to Miss Maggie Adelia Casler, daughter of Robert and Jeannette Casler, her father then being an extensive farmer near Plano, Kendall county, Illinois. Both parents are now deceased. Our subject and wife are attendants of the People's church, Aurora. In social circles they occupy a high position, and both are held in the highest esteem in the community. In all matters calculated to advance the best interests of his adopted city, Mr. Cassem is always found at the front. Politically, he is like all the members of his family, a stanch Republican, but is an independent thinker on all public questions, forming opinions of his own, which, as a rule, coincide with the party to which he has attached himself.

---

CHARLES AMES, Kaneville, Illinois, who, after a long and busy life, is now living in retirement, has been a resident of Kane county since 1855. He was born in West Rutland, Vermont, May 11, 1819, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock, his grandfather, Elijah Ames, a native of Connecticut, being a soldier in the war for independence. He removed to Massachusetts, where Avery Ames, the father of our subject, was born. From Massachusetts the family moved to Vermont when Avery



Ames was a child of eight years. He there grew to manhood, and succeeded to the old homestead, which comprised over four hundred acres of land. In due time he married Annie Ames, a daughter of Elijah Ames, who was also a pioneer of Vermont. Of their family of four sons and two daughters, who grew to mature years, Charles and his brother Avery are the only survivors. On the old farm he reared his family, and there remained until his death, at the age of eighty-eight years. His wife survived him about ten years, and passed away about her ninetieth year.

Charles Ames was fifth in order of birth, and grew to manhood on his father's farm, receiving a good common-school education. He remained under the parental roof until he attained his majority, when he began life for himself. He was married in Castleton, Rutland county, Vermont, March 8, 1843, to Adelia Ward, a native of Fairhaven, Rutland county, Vermont, and a daughter of Rev. Chauncey Ward, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, and also a pioneer of the Green Mountain state. Mrs. Ames was educated at Castleton Seminary, and was a teacher before her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames commenced their domestic life on the homestead of his father, and there remained for ten years. In 1855 they came to Kane county, Illinois, where some of their Vermont friends had preceded them. Soon after coming he purchased a farm of eighty acres, two miles north of the village of Kaneville, on which there was a small house, and about forty acres of the land having been broken. To the improvement of the place he bent his entire energies, and after a short time purchased forty acres adjoining. The old

house in due time was remodeled by additions, and became a modern building, and good barns and other outbuildings were erected. On the place he continued to reside for twenty-six years, and was reputed one of the most enterprising and successful farmers of the township. In 1882 he rented the farm and moved into the village, where he purchased residence property, and has since continued to reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Ames have five children. Annette is the wife of Dr. H. B. Osborn, of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Daniel C. was married and resides in Homer, Nebraska, where he is engaged in farming. Edward is a practicing physician and surgeon and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Charles S. is a successful business man residing in Iowa. Avery M. resides in De Kalb county, Illinois, where he is engaged in farming. The mother of these children passed away July 12, 1896. She was a noble Christian woman, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and died in the full assurance of faith. The family were patriotic during the war for the union. The son, Daniel C., served as a soldier in the Fifty-second Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry; Dr. Osborne was a surgeon in the army, and served as post surgeon at Vicksburg for one year after the close of the war; Avery Ames, a brother of our subject, served in a New York regiment.

Politically Mr. Ames was originally a Whig, casting his first presidential ballot in 1840 for William Henry Harrison, and continuing to act with that party until its final dissolution, after the campaign of 1852. He then united with the Republican party, voting for Fremont in 1856 and for every presidential nominee of the party, up to and including William McKinley. The only

offices ever held by him were those of highway commissioner and a member of the school board. He was formerly a member of the Congregational church and later a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which he was an active worker for many years, serving as trustee and steward, and was also active in Sunday-school work. Fraternally he is a Master Mason, and was connected with the lodge at Kaneville until its surrender of its charter, after the destruction of the lodge-room by fire, when he united with Blackberry lodge at Elburn. A resident of Kane county for forty-three years, Mr. Ames is well and favorably known throughout its length and breadth. In the many changes that have been made he has given material assistance, and has lived to see the day when Kane county is ranked among the best in the entire state. He is respected by all who know him, and is one of the best citizens of his township and county.

**W**ILLIAM L. WHITE, a contractor and builder, of Aurora, Illinois, has been a resident of the city for almost half a century, dating his residence here since April 29, 1853. He is a native of New Jersey, born near Milford, Hunterdon county, June 14, 1830. His father, Alvin White, was also a native of New Jersey, and there married Ann Sinclair, a native of the same state, and a daughter of William Sinclair. Alvin White was a farmer and mechanic, and spent his entire life in his native state, where he died September 28, 1867. His wife died some years previous. In their family were six sons and six daughters, all of whom grew to mature years, and of which four sons and two daughters are living.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in his native state, and in early life learned the mason's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He then worked at his trade as a journeyman, and also took a few contracts. In 1853, he came to Aurora, then a town of about two thousand inhabitants and the end of the railroad. He soon began contracting and building, and actively engaged in the work here for over forty-five years. All over the city are found public and private buildings, the erection of which was superintended by Mr. White. In that time he built a number of residences for himself, which were disposed of from time to time.

Mr. White was married in Aurora, in 1854, to Miss Francis Maria Harwood, born in the city of London, England, and who came to the United States when but fifteen years of age, in company with her father, J. E. Harwood, who settled in Aurora, about 1853. In the spring of 1855, Mr. White moved to Davenport, Iowa, where he engaged in business for some fifteen months, and then returned to Aurora, where he has since resided. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. White, of whom one is deceased. The living are Anna, wife of L. L. Rickard, of Kendall county, Illinois; Clara E., wife of C. G. Pearce, of Joliet, Illinois; George W., a business man of Beardstown, Illinois; William H., married and residing in Chicago; L. R., a traveling salesman; H. S., with the Joliet Steel Wire Works; E. B., bookkeeper for the Standard Oil Company, at Geneva. The deceased was Charles, who died at the age of eleven years.

Politically Mr. White is independent. Religiously he is a member of the People's church. His forty-five years' residence in

Aurora, has brought him prominently before the people, and he is well known in city and county; and his friends are many.

**J**OHNS. MILLER, who is engaged in the general merchandise business at Sugar Grove, Illinois, is an enterprising man of strict integrity, one who is helpful in any community where he may reside. He was born in the town of Beckett, Hamlin county, Massachusetts, March 20, 1849, and is the son of Frank and Frances (Hughes) Miller, both of whom are natives of the same state. The father died when our subject was but two years old and his mother passed to her reward when he was but six years old. After his mother's death he was taken by Benjamin Bracket, and was reared on his farm in Massachusetts. He was given fair school advantages, attending first the common schools and for two years was a student in the Suffield Connecticut Seminary.

After arriving at mature years, Mr. Miller was engaged in market gardening at South Hadley Falls for two years, after which he began the mercantile business at the same place, and later was engaged in the ice business in connection. He continued in business at that place for four years, building up a good trade. Selling out, he engaged in the real estate business, and was also shipping clerk in a paper mill up to 1876. He owned a fine business block at South Hadley Falls, which was burned in 1891, entailing a loss of six thousand dollars.

In 1876, Mr. Miller came to Kane county and located at Sugar Grove, where in connection with "Uncle" Thomas Judd, he erected a building for school and mercantile purposes. The building, which was

called "Uncle Tom's Cabin", was a three story structure, costing nearly ten thousand dollars. It was burned down in 1878. On the completion of the building they put in a stock of general merchandise, which was the first in the town. A large trade has been built up by Mr. Miller, who has a reputation for fair dealing. In addition to his mercantile trade he is connected with a creamery company, and yet owns a good share of its stock. For some years he was also engaged in the lumber and coal trade, but in 1897 disposed of this part of his business. In 1894, in partnership with Frank Catlin, he engaged in buying and feeding sheep, usually having in hand about two thousand five hundred head. They rent a large farm, which is used in connection with the sheep business. In the fall of 1897, they bought and sold over fifteen thousand sheep.

At South Deerfield, Massachusetts, in November, 1875, Mr. Miller was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Hale, a native of that town and state, and a daughter of Stephen B. Hale, also a native of Massachusetts. Previous to her marriage she was engaged as a teacher in the public schools. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller five children have been born as follows: Annie is now the wife of George O. Lye, of Sugar Grove; Hattie, who has been employed as a teacher in the schools of Jericho, Illinois, for three years; Stephen B., John E., and Frank, at home.

Politically, Mr. Miller has been a Republican from his youth up. For two terms he served as postmaster of Sugar Grove and for one term was assistant postmaster. For many years he served as school trustee of his township, and has always been interested in the public schools. Fraternally, he is



a Master Mason and is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and of the Knights of the Maccabees. For twenty-one years he has been a resident of Sugar Grove and has always shown himself a worthy citizen, giving liberally of his time and means in aid of every public enterprise. In the erection of the Methodist Episcopal church he gave a generous donation, and has always assisted in maintaining its services. While not classed as an old settler, he is yet widely known throughout the county and is respected for his genuine worth.

---

**R**ICHARD C. TAYLOR, M. D., of Elburn, Illinois, was born in Crawford county, Ohio, November 16, 1860, and is the son of James and Mary (Gaut) Taylor, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married, and both are now living in Marshall county, Indiana. For many years the father was an extensive farmer. He was born December 10, 1811, in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, from which place he moved to Crawford county, Ohio, about 1830. His marriage with Mary Gaut was solemnized August 31, 1837, and they celebrated their sixtieth anniversary August, 1897, at which time there were present their family of six children, with the exception of one daughter, Margaret. There were nine grandchildren present, and a good time was had by all. In early life Mrs. Taylor was a member of the Presbyterian church, and later of the Baptist church. She is a devout Christian and an excellent good woman, widely known and frequently spoken of for her many admirable qualities of head and heart. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom two died in infancy and

three in early childhood. Of the six living, Margaret is the widow of James Sprout, and resides on a farm in Ashland county, Ohio; Elizabeth is the wife of Peter W. Blue, and they reside at Mentone, Indiana; Sarah J. is the widow of J. T. Bloomer, and resides on a farm in Fayette county, Ohio; Jerome B. is a farmer residing in Kosciusko county, Indiana; Richard C., our subject; and Amanda K., wife of Jesse Taylor, a farmer of Marshall county, Indiana. James Taylor was quite a prominent man in the county of his adoption, well educated, and with many friends throughout the county. During the war for the Union he advocated its vigorous prosecution.

The subject of this sketch was reared in Kosciusko county, Indiana, where he was taken by his parents when one year old. He attended the district schools of that county, and remained upon his father's farm until 1879, when he commenced learning the carpenter's trade, at which he worked eleven years. While working at his trade he commenced the study of medicine, and in 1890 commenced reading with Dr. J. W. Heffly, of Mentone, Indiana, and later attended the Bennett Medical College, of Chicago, Illinois, from which he was graduated in the class of '93. On receiving his diploma he commenced the practice of his profession in Chicago, and there remained until January, 1895, when he removed to Elburn, where he has since continued in practice with gratifying success. Dr. Taylor was married August 4, 1886, to Miss Elvina Nellans, daughter of Moses and Lucinda Nellans, of Fulton county, Indiana, of which county she is a native. By this union they have two children—Katie E. and Mary E., both of whom are attending the schools of Elburn. Mrs. Taylor is a member of the

Baptist church, in the work of which she is greatly interested.

In politics Dr. Taylor is a Democrat, but takes little interest in political affairs as such, voting for the men rather than the party. Fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has held all the offices in both the subordinate lodge and the encampment. He is a member of the Forresters and an officer in the same, and of the Court of Honor, of which he is examining physician. He is also medical examiner for several of the insurance companies. The Doctor, who is yet in the prime of life, is highly esteemed by all who know him, and stands well among the members of his profession. He is energetic, enterprising and enthusiastic, just such a citizen as gives character to a community.

---

EDWARD C. WHILDIN, who resides on section 4, Big Rock township, where he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and eighty-five acres, is a native of Kane county, born in Sugar Grove township, December 26, 1844. He is the son of Richard Whildin, a native of Wales, who came to the United States a young man, and first located in New York, and there married Louisa Benjamin, a sister of Leonard Benjamin, who came with them to Kane county, Illinois, about 1838. Locating in Sugar Grove township, he entered a tract of one hundred and twenty acres, opened up and developed the farm, there raised his family, and there died in May, 1875, at the age of seventy-three years. His wife died some seven years previously, passing away in 1868. Of their family of four children, Mary is the wife of H. P. Swan, of Livingston county, Illinois; Mrs. Harriet A.

Taylor resides in Big Rock township; Edward C. is our subject; and George F. owns and operates the old home farm. After spending his boyhood and youth upon the farm in Sugar Grove township, and attending its public schools, our subject continued to assist his father in operating the farm, until his marriage, May 28, 1873, to Miss Mary G. Taylor, who was born and reared on the farm where she now resides, and is the daughter of Percy Taylor, a native of Vermont, who in early life moved to New York, and there married Rebecca Lawrence, moving west to Kane county, Illinois, in 1837, where he entered the land now owned and occupied by our subject.

After marriage, Mr. Whildin rented a farm for several years, and then bought out the heirs to the old Taylor homestead, on which he located, and has resided since March, 1880. He has since built a large residence, two barns, tiled much of the land and otherwise improved the place. He has always been somewhat interested in political affairs, and since casting his first presidential ballot in 1868, for General U. S. Grant, he has advocated the principles of the Republican party. His ability has been recognized by his fellow citizens, and for four years he served as assessor of his township, and for eleven consecutive years has served as a member of the board of supervisors. On the board he has been quite active, serving as chairman of the equalization committee, and of the miscellaneous committee, and also as a member of various other committees. As a delegate to numerous county, congressional and state conventions, he has exerted a good influence. In every position called upon to fill he has discharged the duties, faithfully and well, and in a most satisfactory manner.

A lifelong resident of Kane county, he is well known throughout its length and breadth, and where best known, is held in the highest esteem.

**W**ILLIAM WALLACE FRASER, proprietor of the creamery and feed mill at East Plato, was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, August 1, 1860, and is the son of Robert and Eliza J. (Dales) Fraser, both of whom were born in Livingston county, New York, the former May 15, 1816, and the latter in 1824.

Robert Fraser was the son of Alexander Fraser, a native of Scotland, who came to this country at an early day, and was murdered for his money at his home in Livingston county, New York, in 1864, when eighty years of age. Five men came to his home at midnight, who knew of his habit of arising at that hour to read. His wife climbed out of the window, alarmed the neighbors, who found the villains in a school house dividing the money. They were captured, tried and all given life sentences. When a young man Robert Fraser for a time was engaged in teaching singing school, but after his marriage he engaged in merchandising in Cuba, New York, and also owned a farm. In 1862 he sold out, came west, and bought six hundred and forty acres in Elgin township, and engaged in farming. In 1878 he sold the farm and moved into Elgin, where he lived a retired life until his death in 1888, at the age seventy-two years. His widow yet resides in Elgin. They were the parents of seven children: Donald B., deceased; Maggie, wife of Frank S. Heath, of Elgin; Robert, deceased; Melvin, a missionary in Africa; William Wallace, our subject; John, deceased; and Charles.

Our subject was but two years of age when his parents moved to Kane county. On his father's farm was spent his boyhood and youth, and in the public schools of the township and at Elgin and Milwaukee received his education. When sixteen years of age he began working in the butter factory which he now owns. He remained there two years, and then secured a place at Lily Lake, Campton township, where he also remained two years, going to Holstein for one year and to Gray Willow one year, returning to Lily Lake, where he spent two years. Moving to Elgin, he ran an engine two winters for an ice company, and then spent eight years in the gilding department of the Watch Factory. Leaving that employ he went into a lumber and coal business, but soon sold his lumber interest, continuing in the coal office two and a half years. In June, 1897, he purchased his present place of business at East Plato.

Mr. Fraser has been twice married, his first union being with Miss May Lathrop, daughter of Alvin Lathrop, who now resides in Dakota. Alvin Lathrop was the son of Elijah and Eunice (Philbrick) Lathrop. By this union there was one son, Donald B., born July 23, 1881. His wife dying, Mr. Fraser, on the 25th of May, 1893, married Mabel Bishop, daughter of Henry and Annie (Elmore) Bishop, the latter being a daughter of David Elmore, born in Massachusetts in 1800, and who came to Kane county in 1836 and died in 1854. He was the son of William Howard Elmore, a descendant of Elmer Elmore, who came over in the Mayflower. David Elmore married Mary Humphrey, a daughter of Rev. Humphrey, who married a Miss Curtis. Henry Bishop was the son of Nathaniel Bishop. He was born in St. Mary's parish, Devonshire, England,



and, coming to America, first settled on St. John's river, New Brunswick, coming to Kane county, about 1851. He bought a farm on section 28, Elgin township, where his death occurred. By his second marriage Mr. Fraser has one daughter, Hazel Mabel.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser are members of the First Baptist church of Elgin. Fraternally he is a member of Silver Leaf camp, No. 60, M. W. A. In politics he is a Republican.

---

**W**ILLIAM M. PRICE, of Sugar Grove township, is now living a retired life on his farm on section 5, comprising four hundred and twenty-six acres of well-improved land. He is numbered among the settlers of 1841 and relates many amusing incidents of pioneer life, incidents which were not so amusing at the time, but by the lapse of years show the ludicrous side. Mr. Price was born in the county of West Mathe, Ireland, July 4, 1816, and when but fifteen years of age came to America with an older brother, and for a few weeks lived in Canada, then went to Burlington, Vermont, and on July 5, 1831, at Strafford Hollow, hired out to a farmer and butcher, worked for a month, loaned his employer thirty dollars and lost both that and the month's salary. He then hired to Judge Jedediah Harris, and was employed by him on his farm for six years and nine months. The Judge proved a good friend to the poor Irish boy, and he and his wife were like a father and mother to him. For the next two years he was engaged with another party, but in May, 1841, came west to Illinois, by way of the Erie canal to Buffalo and then across the lakes to Chicago. From that place he came to Sugar Grove township, Kane county, and here joined Mr. Bliss, who had located

here some three years previously. He bought a claim of Mr. Bliss comprising a tract of one hundred and sixty acres, paying five hundred dollars for the claim. The land was unimproved, although the frame of a house had been built, which Mr. Price enclosed, and taking a family boarded with them while improving the place. On the 4th of January, 1843, Mr. Price was united in marriage with Miss Mary Smith, a native of Pennsylvania and a daughter of James Smith, a pioneer settler of 1836. By this union eleven children were born, three of whom died in early childhood. The living are Olive M., at home; Janet, wife of Charles Benton, a substantial farmer of Kaneville township; Hugh, married and residing in Hinckley, Illinois; Minnie, at home; George W., at home; Nancy E., wife of Richard Berry, a farmer of Sugar Grove township; William W. and George W., who carry on the farm; and Jessie, wife of Cornelius Cornell, a farmer of Yorkville, Illinois.

After marriage Mr. and Mrs. Price commenced their domestic life on the farm where they now reside, and which has been their home for fifty-nine long years. In the early day, and for about twelve years, he hauled all his grain and produce to Chicago, and there purchased all the necessities of life and lumber for his house. For about twelve months he suffered with the fever and ague, which was quite prevalent in early times. But he was always cheerful and it mattered not what trouble came upon him he endured them in a philosophical manner. For some years he has been afflicted with rheumatism and requires the use of crutches, but he is the most cheerful and most pleasant companion, with mind clear and memory good. Mrs. Price

has also for some years suffered with the rheumatism, but never complains and is ever cheerful and busy with her needle.

Mr. Price came to the United States with but sixty dollars in his pocket, but he came with a stout heart and willing hands and a determination to succeed. By his own labor and enterprise, assisted by his good wife, he has secured a competency, and in old age is enjoying the fruits of his former toil. During the fifty-seven years of his residence in Kane county, he has scarcely been from the farm more than one night at a time, save on one occasion, when he spent four weeks in visiting with a brother. Politically, "Uncle Billy," as he is familiarly called, has been a life-long Democrat, the principles of the party being dear to his heart. Office holding has had no charms for him and he would accept none, save that of school director, in which he served for some ten or twelve years, and also that of road commissioner, in which he served for some years. He has always been an advocate of good roads, and hauled the first load of gravel used on the roads of Sugar Grove township. Few men are better known in Kane county, and the house of Uncle Billy Price is the abode of true hospitality, and there the "latch string always hangs out."

---

**H**ENRY SEAVEY, now living a retired life in the village of Big Rock, was for many years numbered among the most enterprising of the farmers of Kane county. He was born in Wyoming county, New York, January 5, 1841. His paternal grandfather, Mark Seavey, Sr., was a native of Vermont, who, in young manhood, removed to Wyoming county, New York, and later coming

to Illinois, and in Kane county spent the remainder of his life. His son, also named Mark, is the father of our subject. The latter grew to manhood in Wyoming county, New York, and there married Lucy Ann Campbell, a native of the same county and state. While residing in Wyoming county, Mr. Seavey engaged in the milling business, owning and operating a saw and grist mill. In 1844 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Sugar Grove township, where he bought a claim, on which he resided for two years. In 1846 he moved to Big Rock township, purchased a partially improved place, having on it a log house and log stable. He at once began the further improvement of the place, and there resided until his death, January 1, 1852, at about the age of forty-four years. His widow remained on the farm, reared her family, and now resides with her children in Big Rock, a well-preserved woman of seventy-seven years. Of their two sons and four daughters, all are yet living. Henry is the subject of this sketch; Aaron M. is a farmer of Sugar Grove township; Wealthy is the wife of W. H. Chapman, of Aurora; Ellen is the wife of D. J. Myers, of the village of Big Rock; Merselia is the wife of Charles Weed, also of Big Rock; and Anna is the wife of C. A. Crouse, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Henry Seavey came to Kane county, Illinois, when but four years of age. In its public schools he received his education, attending the same during the winter months, and assisting on the farm in the summer, until fifteen years of age. He then left home and commenced working by the month, on various farms, some seven or eight years, when he purchased a place of one hundred acres, which was partly fenced

and broken, and on which were some very inferior buildings. With commendable energy, he began the further improvement of the place, and feeling the necessity of a helpmeet, he was married in Kane county, January 5, 1868, to Nancy Chapman, a native of southern Illinois, but who was reared in Kane county, and a daughter of J. H. Chapman. After marriage, he lived on the old family homestead and operated that and his own place adjoining for three years. His wife dying in April, 1871, he sold his farm and commenced dealing in stock at Big Rock and Hinckley, for two years. He then went to Plano, Kendall county, Illinois, and worked for Stewart & Hemming Breeding Association, breeders of fine stock, and remained there three years.

On the 2nd of March, 1880, Mr. Seavey was married in Plano, to Miss Eliza M. Craig, a native of Kendall county, Illinois, and a daughter of George Craig. Her mother dying when she was a child, she was taken to New York, where she grew to womanhood, and then returned to her home in Kendall county. After their marriage, he located on a farm in Kendall county, on the line dividing it from Kane county, where he purchased eighty acres, and later bought eighty acres more, adjoining, and improved and developed both places. Tiling the land, and erecting various buildings, he there resided some thirteen years. In 1890 he purchased about seven acres in the village of Big Rock, and erected one of the neatest residences in the village. Renting his farm he removed to Big Rock, where he has since lived a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. Since coming to the village, however, he has engaged more or less in the real estate business, having purchased and sold several well-improved farms.

Politically Mr. Seavey is a Democrat on national issue, but on local issues he is independent, supporting the men he considers best qualified for the office. His father and grandfather were Republicans in their political faith. Mr. Seavey never sought, nor would he accept, office, until after his removal to the village, when he was elected a member of the school board. He united with the Masonic lodge at Kaneville, with which he retained membership until it ceased to exist in consequence of their lodge building being destroyed by fire. The fifty-four years that he has spent in Kane county have been eventful ones. In the great changes that have been made he has done his part and is certainly entitled to the rest which he now enjoys.

---

EVELYN L. STARKS, who resides on section 30, Rutland township, is the son of the first settler of that township, and is descended from one of the oldest New England families. His grandfather, Stephen Starks, was a near relative of the famous Revolutionary general. Stephen Starks moved from Williamstown, Massachusetts, to Rutland county, Vermont, shortly after the Revolutionary war. He died at the age of about sixty years in Sangamon county, Illinois. He married Abigail Rich, who came west with her son, and died in Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1845, at an advanced age.

Evelyn R. Starks, the father of our subject, was the son of Stephen and Abigail (Rich) Starks. He was born at Williamstown, Massachusetts, March 19, 1813, and with his parents moved to Rutland county, Vermont, when he was a child, and there he was reared. He worked on the lakes in



connection with farming until the age of twenty-two, when he came west in the fall of 1835, and entered a tract of wild land, on section 30, Rutland township, Kane county, becoming the first settler of that township. When the township was organized, he was elected its first supervisor and named it for his old county in Vermont. Locating on section 30, he staked his claim of one hundred and sixty acres, and then went to spend the winter with a friend from Vermont, living two miles from where Naperville now stands. In the spring of 1836, he was joined by his uncle, Elijah Rich, who took up a claim on sections 30 and 31. The two kept "bach" one year, and Mr. Starks being the younger, acted as cook and housekeeper. The year following Mr. Rich returned to Vermont for his family, and, on their arrival Mr. Starks gave over cooking and housekeeping. In 1838, he himself went back to Vermont for a wife, and there married Esther Doty, a native of New York. Their happiness, however, was short lived, Mrs. Starks dying in 1840. On the 6th of December, 1845, Mr. Starks married in Rutland township, Miss Saloma Gage, a native of Arcadia, Wyoming county, New York, born June 4, 1819, and who died April 24, 1890. She was the daughter of Solomon Gage, Sr., who located in Hampshire township, section 32. For ten years prior to coming west, she had been a teacher in the schools of New York state, and, after coming here with her brothers in 1844, she taught one year in a log school house, where the village of Hampshire now stands. Her father, Solomon Gage, Sr., was born in New Hampshire, in 1788, and died on the farm in Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois, October 21, 1851. He married Miriam Guernsey, born in New Hampshire,

in 1786, and a daughter of Cyril Guernsey. She died December 17, 1866. To Evelyn R. and Saloma Starks, six children were born as follows: Evelyn L., our subject; Milton J., who resides on a fine farm in McHenry county, Illinois; Frank A., John W., and William H., deceased; and Willie H., who resides in the village of Hampshire, and is serving as justice of the peace.

Evelyn R. Starks was a man of unusual prominence, and was the first supervisor of Rutland township. He participated in all movements for the advancement of public good. A hard worker, he gave too little time to recreation and rest in his early life, and for twenty-five years endured the misery of broken health. By his industry he acquired eight hundred acres of land, to which he gave almost his undivided attention. His death occurred in 1880. Religiously, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics he was a staunch Republican. An abolitionist in sentiment, prior to the war he was interested in freeing slaves. When the railroad was built, in 1874, which passes through his old farm, Starks Station was named in honor.

Evelyn L. Starks, our subject, was born February 2, 1847, on the farm where he has always resided. He attended the district schools until the age of sixteen, and worked for his father until of legal age, when, on attaining his majority, he worked for him one year for wages, then rented a part of the farm, and began life for himself. After the death of his father, his mother made her home with him until her death.

Mr. Starks has been twice married, his first marriage being solemnized in Elgin, December 3, 1868, when he wedded Helen M. Weed, daughter of Elijah Weed, of whom a sketch appears elsewhere in this

book. Two children were born to this union—Mabel A. and Eveline E., the latter being deceased. Mr. Starks was again married September 25, 1889, at Edinburg, Johnson county, Indiana, with Miss Magdelene Hartman, a native of that place, and a daughter of Michael and Julia A. (Pickens) Hartman. By this union one child was born which died in infancy.

Mr. Starks has never had any desire to leave the farm. While others flock to cities and villages when sufficiently well-to-do, to retire, he prefers the wholesome life of the farm. He has five hundred acres of as fine land as lies in Kane county, and runs a dairy farm, milking about ninety cows and shipping to Chicago. Fraternally, he is a Master Mason and a member of the lodge at Hampshire. In politics he is a Republican. From the time he attained his majority he has served as school director or road commissioner. Prominent and influential in his township, liberal and public-spirited, he has many friends in Kane county, of which he is a lifelong resident.

---

**A**RCHER B. PHELPS, who resides on section 24, Kaneville township, on a farm of two hundred and thirty acres, has been a resident of the township and county since October, 1861. He was born in Chenango county, New York, February 11, 1845. His father, Pliny Phelps, and his grandfather, George Phelps, were also natives of the same county and state. Both were by occupation farmers. Pliny Phelps, who was born in 1819, married Elmira White, also a native of New York. By this union there were five sons and three daughters, all of whom grew to manhood and womanhood, except one, who died in

childhood, named Herbert. They were Archer B., our subject; Lyman, who married and settled in Kaneville township, and later died in Sterling, Illinois; Agnes, wife of Charles Dadds, of Kaneville, Illinois; George, who is married and resides at Pullman, Illinois, is engaged as a traveling salesman; John, of Geneva, who holds a position in Chicago; Estella resides in Geneva; and Ella, wife of Doctor Fred W. Goding, now consul in Australia. In the fall of 1861, Pliny Phelps came to Kane county, Illinois, with his family, and located on the farm where our subject now resides, which he had purchased the previous year, at which time he made a visit to this section. The place was fairly well improved, and to its further improvement he bent his energies, and was actively engaged in farming until his death in March, 1868. His wife survives him, and now resides with a son in Geneva.

The subject of this sketch came to Kane county when sixteen years of age, and assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. His education began in the public schools of his native state, was completed in the schools of Kaneville. He remained with his father until the latter's death, when he took charge of the farm and business, and later purchased the interest of the other heirs, being now the owner of the entire estate. He was married in January, 1869, to Miss Maria E. Hartwell, a native of Chautauqua county, New York, who came to Kane county when a child with her father, Willard Hartwell. She was here reared and educated and previous to her marriage engaged in teaching in the public schools. By this union are six children, as follows: Lynn, who is married and is engaged in farming in Kaneville township; Lee,



who died September 16, 1897, at the age of twenty-four years; Jennie, at home; Earl, who is assisting his father in carrying on the farm; Alice and Clinton, students in the Kaneville schools.

In addition to his own farm of two hundred and thirty acres, Mr. Phelps rents an adjoining farm of two hundred acres, and for several years has been operating both farms. In the spring of 1898, he had one hundred and twenty acres in corn, over sixty acres in oats, and the balance in meadow and pasture land. He makes a business of feeding several carloads of hogs and cattle annually, and usually feeds stock enough to consume the crop. Politically Mr. Phelps is a stanch Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for U. S. Grant in 1868. While always taking an active interest in political affairs, and while giving unswerving allegiance to his party, he has never asked or accepted office. A man well known in his section of the county, he is held in high esteem by all, and while giving strict attention to his business interest, has yet manifested an interest in public affairs and has ever shown his desire to do all he could for his adopted county and state.

---

**SAMUEL E. POULEY**, dealer in agricultural implements, carriages and harness, Elburn, Illinois, is one of the leading and active business men of that city. He is a native of Kane county, born November 27, 1851, and is the son of Samuel and Almira (Hitchcock) Pouley, the former a native of England, and the latter of Vermont.

Samuel Pouley, the father of our subject, is a native of Nottinghamshire, England, born April 17, 1808. He was one of the

very oldest pioneers in this section of the country, at the time of his settlement there being no roads or bridges, and but two houses between his place and Geneva, which was then a cluster of but a few houses. His parents were Robert and Hannah (Godfrey) Pouley, the former, who followed farming, being nearly one hundred years old at the time of his death. In his native land, Samuel Pouley followed gardening, and had but limited advantages for an education, and what he afterward acquired came by his own efforts while in touch with the world in business. In 1840, he came to America, landing in New York, where he remained one year, then moved to Illinois, settling in Blackberry township, Kane county, where he remained until 1892, when he moved to the village of Elburn, where his death occurred December 16, 1893.

While yet residing in England, Samuel Pouley entered the ministry of the Baptist church, and upon coming to Illinois, held meetings in school houses and dwelling houses, being one of the pioneer ministers of the county. He was a man of chaste life and habits, of irreproachable character, of gentle and lovable disposition, and efficient in the service of his Master. His life was pure, simple and capable of no double interpretation. He left behind him the character of one who was ardent, honorable, prudent and persevering in the interest of those who entrusted their rights to his keeping.

Samuel Pouley was married January 1, 1844, to Almira Hitchcock, who was born in Vermont, November 9, 1810, and a daughter of Amos and Achsah (Hendee) Hitchcock, who were also natives of Vermont, where they lived until their death,



the former at the age of ninety-two years. Of their six children, five are yet living—Martha A., (Mrs. Charles A. Baker), Robert F., Eliza J. (Mrs. John Winters), Samuel E., Emma L. (Mrs. Martin Withey.) The first born died in infancy. In early life Mr. Pouley was an abolitionist and later a Republican. Mrs. Pouley is yet living at the age of eighty-eight years.

The subject of this sketch was reared on a farm and educated in the district schools. He assisted his father in farm work until his marriage, when he moved to Wheaton, DuPage county, Illinois, and there worked as a carpenter for more than three years, then returned to the farm, where he remained nine years. He then moved to the village of Elburn, worked one year at his trade, and was then five years as the junior partner of the firm of Matheson & Pouley, druggists. He sold his interest in that establishment March 1, 1898, when he commenced his present business, keeping at all times a large assortment of agricultural implements, carriages and harness, and is working up a good trade.

Mr. Pouley was married March 28, 1878, to Miss Emma J. Humphrey, daughter of Milton and Minerva (Miller) Humphrey, both of whom are natives of New York, and who were then residing in Blackberry township, Kane county, Illinois. By this union are seven children—Edna M., Edwin A., Avis M., Mary J., Verna A., Vida E. and Edith C. Religiously, Mrs. Pouley is a member of the Congregational church, and, fraternally, Mr. Pouley is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics he is a Republican, and takes an active interest in state and national campaigns. He conducts his business upon methods which commend him to the favor and confidence

of the people, and he is most justly numbered among Elburn's prominent and influential citizens.

**D** E. LAMSON, who resides on section 7, Big Rock township, is one of four brothers who now own and operate a farm of three hundred and eighty-four acres of well improved and valuable land. All are natives of Kane county, Illinois, L. J. being born December 12, 1856; D. E., July 13, 1858; A. W., February 4, 1860; and L. L., December 4, 1861. The father, L. J. Lamson, was a native of Massachusetts, born in 1817, under the shadows of Bunker Hill; his father, the grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Massachusetts, and there died about 1819. The family are of English descent, and originally settled in Massachusetts.

L. J. Lamson, the father of our subject, was but two years old when his father died. He was then taken to Maine, where he grew to manhood, and then returned to Massachusetts, and later went to New York City, where an elder brother was engaged in merchandising, and for whom he clerked a short time. In 1836 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Big Rock township, being one of the first four families to settle in that township. He first entered a tract of land, and bought other land, locating where his sons now reside. He cleared the land, fenced the same, and opened up the farm, in due time erecting a substantial house and good barns, and otherwise developed the place. He was one of the most active and prosperous farmers in the township. By his fellow-citizens he was honored with various official positions, being elected the first township clerk.

Mr. Lamson was married in Big Rock township, to Jane Dale, a native of England, born at Piddington Hill, Durham county, and a daughter of Thomas, who located in Big Rock township, Kane county, in 1852, when his daughter was in her maidenhood. The four children born of this union have already been mentioned. Politically the father was a Republican, and was quite active in political affairs, but gave the greater part of his time to his farming interests. Upon the old homestead he reared his family, and passed to the unseen world April 11, 1889. His wife survived him some years, dying February 28, 1895.

D. E. Lamson, our subject, grew to manhood on the home farm, and was educated in the public schools of Big Rock township and at Sugar Grove. With his brothers, he remained with the father until his death, when they took charge of the farm and business. On the death of the mother, they succeeded to the farm, and in addition own one hundred and fourteen acres adjoining the old place, where our subject makes his home.

In 1888, the Lamson Brothers began to breed and deal in Hereford cattle quite extensively, and for some time had a herd of forty head of pure blooded stock. In 1890 they began to breed and deal in Poland China hogs, and have also been engaged in breeding Dorset Horn sheep, mostly imported stock. They have worked up a large business in fine stock and ship to various localities in several states of the union. In the ten years in which they have engaged in the breeding of blooded stock, they have acquired a splendid reputation.

Politically the brothers are all Republicans, and give earnest support to the men

and measures of that party. For eight consecutive years, D. E. Lamson served as assessor of the township. Fraternally the brothers are members of the Modern Woodmen of America, D. E. being a charter member of the camp at Big Rock, in which he has served two terms as head consul. He has also served as delegate to the state encampments. L. L. was banker of the camp in 1897, and L. J. has also served officially in the camp. L. J. and L. L. are also members of the Knights of the Macca-bees. Enterprising and progressive, the brothers are doing much to advance the material interests of the county, especially of Big Rock township. They are well and favorably known as men of exemplary habits and upright character.

---

FRANKLIN P. MIGHELL is one of the enterprising and progressive farmers of Kane county, and resides on a farm of one hundred and fifty-seven acres, on section 32, Sugar Grove township. He is a native of New York, born in Tompkins county, June 21, 1837, and is a son of Ezekial and Lucinda (Todd) Mighell, of whom special mention is made in the sketch of Silas H. Mighell on another page of this work. He came with his parents to Kane county, an infant, and here his entire life has since been passed. He was educated in the common schools of the county, and as soon as old enough assisted in the cultivation of the home farm. He remained at home until 1860, when he was united in marriage with Miss Viola Snell, a native of New York, but who came with her parents to Kane county when a child, and here grew to womanhood. By this union are six children as follows: Estella, wife of Perry Wilder,

of Kendall county, Illinois; Frank E., married and residing in Aurora; Maud, wife of Benjamin Spencer, of Aurora; May, wife of Frank Phillips, of Aurora township; Nattie, wife of George Stainfield, a farmer of Sugar Grove township; and Ray, a young man who is assisting in carrying on the home farm. In 1862, Mr. Mighell bade farewell to his family and friends and enlisted in the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, which became a part of the Army of the Potomac. With that army he participated in the fight at Sugar Loaf mountain, the battle of Antietam, second battle of Fredricksburg, second battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg and Kelly's Ford, together with many lesser engagements, about sixty in all. He enlisted as a private and was promoted sergeant in his company. He never lost any time by reason of sickness, while in the service. He served until the final close of the war, and was mustered out in July, 1865, at Jefferson Barracks, near St. Louis, Missouri.

Returning home after receiving his discharge, he resumed farming, purchasing forty acres adjoining his present place but locating where he now resides, which is a part of the old homestead. Since that time he has made many improvements in the place, erecting a good and substantial residence, with good barns and other out-buildings. His farm is always kept in the best order and is well supplied with all modern farm implements. He has always engaged in general farming and stockraising and has been fairly successful in everything that he has undertaken.

Politically Mr. Mighell is a Republican, the liberty-loving principles of that party having been instilled in from his youth, his father being an Abolitionist, and for some

years a conductor on the underground railroad. The first presidential campaign in which he participated was that of 1860, when he cast his vote for "Honest Old Abe." He has been honored by his fellow citizens with various local offices, including collector of the township, road commissioner and member of the school board. Fraternally he is a member of the G. A. R. post, No. 20, of Aurora. An almost life-long resident of the county, he has seen its changes from a wilderness until it is to-day one of the most productive counties in the state. He has seen towns spring up as if by magic, until to-day between Aurora and Chicago it is almost one continuous city. In the work of its development he has done his part.

---

CHARLES F. SHARP occupies a fine farm of four hundred and eighty-eight acres in Campton township, his residence being on section 32. He is one of the most prominent of the farmers of his township, and his ability and worth is recognized by all. A native of New York, he was born in the town of Ripley, Chautauqua county, May 1, 1839, and is the son of Joseph and Sarah A. (Phillips) Sharp, the former a native of England and the latter of Wales, but who was reared in England. In his native land Joseph Sharp was a farmer, while his father, John Sharp, followed the business of truck gardening.

About the year 1829, the grandfather of our subject, John Sharp, emigrated with his family to the United States, and settled in Chautauqua county, New York, but came west to Kane county, Illinois, about 1843. Purchasing a farm he continued to reside in this section until 1856, at which time he



proceeded to Benton county, Iowa, with two sons and one daughter. Subsequently he removed to Floyd county, Iowa, where he died at the age of eighty-nine years.

Both parents of our subject came to the United States in their youth, some years before the emigration of John Sharp. They were married in New York state and resided there where the father engaged in farming until 1858, at which time they came with their family to Kane county. For several years after his arrival here he worked land on shares, and about 1866 purchased a farm in Virgil township and died there.

Our subject got his early education in New York state and in Illinois in the district schools, working on his father's farm in the meantime. On the 21st of February, 1867, he was united in marriage with Mary J. Hitchcock, daughter of a prominent farmer of this county and one of a family of eight children. By this union three children have been born, all yet living. They are Fred S., Frank H. and Alice E., the latter living with her parents. Fred H. married Hattie Nash, of Michigan, and they have two children, Carrie and Mary. They reside on one of his father's farms of one hundred and sixty acres in Campton township. Frank resides on the old homestead near his father's present residence, situated on section 34, a fine farm and good buildings and which also comprises one hundred and sixty acres. He married Allie Barlow, whose parents are residents of Kane county.

Mr. Sharp has held a number of official positions in the county. He was supervisor one term, justice of the peace four years, highway commissioner ten years, and to him is largely due the credit for many of the excellent gravel roads in Campton township. He was also township trustee two terms,

and was school director for many years. A staunch Republican in politics, he cast his first presidential in 1860 for Abraham Lincoln. He follows general farming and stockraising on his present farm, which is excellent land, thoroughly well drained and equipped with good fences and substantial buildings. A pleasant, genial, honest man, he is held in the highest respect wherever known, and his friends are many throughout Kane county.

ALEXANDER R. WALKER, a representative farmer of Hampshire township, resides upon section 17, where he is engaged in general and dairy farming. He was born August 27, 1844, in Hemmingsford, St. Johns county, province of Quebec, not far from the line dividing Canada from the state of New York. His father, Thomas Walker, born in Port Glasgow, Scotland, in 1809, married Isabel Perry, a daughter of John Perry, also a native of Scotland. The paternal grandfather, John Walker, also a native of Scotland, came to America in an early day, settling in Hemmingsford, Canada, where his death occurred. Thomas and Isabel Walker were the parents of eight children, as follows: John, deceased; Elizabeth, deceased; Mary, wife of James McGuff, of Burlington township; Elizabeth is the wife of David Jackson, of Virgil township; Alexander, our subject; Kate, who married John Barker, of Nebraska; Thomas, living in Virgil township; and Jemima, deceased.

In 1852 Thomas Walker came to Kane county, Illinois, with his family, and located in Virgil township, where his death occurred in 1891, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife lives in Virgil. Our subject lived

with his father till the age of twenty years, and then worked by the month until his marriage, September 6, 1871, with Miss Martha Reid, daughter of David and Olive (Powley) Reid, the former a native of Scotland, born near Aiken Claurie, about thirty-five miles northeast of Glasgow, February 13, 1813, and the latter born in Frontinac county, Canada, in April, 1813.

David Reid grew to manhood in Scotland, and at the age of twenty years emigrated to Canada, sailing from Campbelltown, and after a three-months' voyage, landing in Quebec, and locating near Kingston, in Frontinac county, where he resided until his emigration to Kane county, in 1850. Two years previously he visited Kane county, and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Hampshire township, then returned home, and in the spring of 1850 brought his family to their new home. He is yet living on the old homestead, where he has spent nearly half a century, but making his home with his daughter, the wife of our subject. For some years he has been in ill health from a stroke of paralysis. His wife, the mother of Mrs. Walker, died in 1871. She was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hoffman) Powley, natives of Canada, the former dying at the age of ninety years. The parents of William Powley lived in America prior to the Revolutionary war, but after hostilities ceased returned to Germany, where they resided some years, and then again emigrated to the United States. About the outbreak of the war of 1812, they removed to Canada, where the father secured a good farm, on which he resided until his death. He often related to his children, how at one time in the forest he ran out of provisions, and killed, cooked and ate a rattlesnake, which

he always declared was, under the circumstances, very good. Of the four children born to David and Olive Reid, three are yet living—John, a banker of Kansas City, Kansas; Dr. Charles P., of the village of Hampshire; and Martha, wife of our subject.

To our subject and wife, eleven children have been born—Harriet, Florence, David, Thomas, Clarissa, Hugh, Kate, Charles, John, Bessie and James. Fraternally Mr. Walker is a member of Hampshire lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he has been a member since 1867. In politics he is a Republican, and has held the office of school director and highway commissioner. He has resided upon his present farm since his marriage, and is regarded as one of the best farmers in the township, and as a citizen he is held in the highest esteem by all who know him.

PHILLIP H. HEMRICK, who engaged in farming on section 30, Rutland township, was born in Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois, on section 13, September 25, 1848, and is the son of Michael and Dora (Hauslein) Hemrick, both of whom were natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they grew to manhood and womanhood, and were married, emigrating to America in 1845, and locating on a farm on sections 13 and 24, where they resided until their death, the latter dying when sixty years old, and the former at the age of seventy-six years. They were the parents of eight children, as follows: Michael, living in Kansas; Charles, also living in Kansas; Phillip, our subject; Dinah, wife of Jacob Miller, of Hampshire township; William, who died from the effects of sun-

stroke; Elizabeth, deceased; John, living on the home farm, and Malachi, deceased.

The subject of this sketch was reared on the home farm, and attended the district schools during the winter terms, and engaged in farm work the rest of the year. He remained under the parental roof until the age of twenty, when he hired out for one year. He was married in Elgin township April 13, 1869, to Caroline M. Maupton, who was born in Hampshire township July 12, 1850, and was the daughter of John and Sophia (Kolb) Maupton. The former died in 1852, and the latter makes her home with our subject. Mrs. Hemrick died January 8, 1898, leaving two children—Emma C. and Addie. They lost one, Ida S., who died at the age of six years. Emma C. is now the wife of E. A. Gage, of whom a more extended notice appears elsewhere in this work.

Mr. Hemrick is a member of the United Evangelical church, of which body his wife was also a member. In politics he is a thorough Republican, and for twenty-five years has served as school director. When the postoffice was established, in 1883, at Starks Station, known as Sunset Postoffice, he was appointed postmaster, which position he has creditably filled to the present time. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, while his wife was a member of the Ladies of the Maccabees.

**W**ILLIAM H. TUPPER, who owns and operates a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in section 14, Kaneville township, has been a resident of Kane county, since 1854. He was born in Ontario, Canada, March 6, 1830. His father, Elias Tupper, was a native of Nova Scotia,

and was of English parentage. He grew to manhood in New Brunswick, and there married Ann Beckwith, also of English parentage. They became the parents of four sons and three daughters, but one son died in childhood, all growing to mature years, but are now deceased with the exception of our subject and his brother, Eliakim, who resides in Canada. In early manhood, Elias Tupper was engaged in mercantile trade, but on his removal to Canada, he first engaged in merchandising and later in farming. He settled near Quebec, where his store was destroyed by fire, during the war of 1812. After being burned out, he located in Ontario, above Hamilton, on a farm and there spent the last years of his life. His death occurred in 1836, when our subject was a child of six years. His wife survived him and reared the family, doing her duty by them in a most faithful manner.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Canada and received good common-school advantages. On the 9th of April, 1848, he was united in marriage, in Canada, with Miss Catherine Edmonds, a native of Canada, and a daughter of Oliver Edmonds, formerly from New York. At the time of his marriage he was but eighteen years of age, and his bride but sixteen. Immediately after marriage he took charge of the Edmonds farm, which he operated for about six years, the winters of which time he engaged in lumbering. In 1854, he came to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased a tract of four hundred and eighty acres, in Kaneville township, about one hundred acres of which was under cultivation. Upon the place was a fair house and barn, which in due time gave place to a larger residence, while other improvements upon the place were made and the farm became one of the



best in the township. It is well tiled, and supplied with outbuildings of a most substantial character, and is well equipped with all modern agricultural implements.

To Mr. and Mrs. Tupper nine children were born as follows: Oliver, married and engaged in farming near Maple Park; Mrs. Anna Watson, of Kaneville, who owns one hundred and twenty acres adjoining her father's place; Jeremiah, married and engaged in farming in Pierce county, Nebraska; Sarah Jane Cary, a widow residing in Kaneville; William H., who was a substantial farmer, married and died leaving a wife and children; Mary, wife of Dr. Elliott, of Peotone, Will county, Illinois; Susie, wife of Henry Herrick, a farmer of Sugar Grove, and George, now a student in the medical department of Michigan University at Ann Arbor.

Mrs. Tupper died July 21, 1889, at the age of sixty-seven years, and later Mr. Tupper married in Cortland, De Kalb county, Illinois, Mrs. Philena Joslyn, a native of Vermont, who there grew to womanhood, and the daughter of Martin L. Lowell, and a sister of Judge Lowell, of Sycamore. She is the mother of four children by her first marriage.

Politically Mr. Tupper is a Republican, but has never been a seeker after office. Always a friend of education, he has served as a member of the school board and given much of his time to advantage to the educational interests of his neighborhood. He has shown his interest in educational matters in other ways, giving five hundred dollars toward the erection of Clark's, now Jennings Seminary, of Aurora. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which body his wife is also a member.

At the time of his marriage Mr. Tupper was possessed of but little means, but he had a determination to succeed, and with that determination in view, he began work, toiled early and late, and as a result, success has crowned his efforts, and he is to-day numbered among the well-to-do and representative farmers of Kane county.

---

SILAS H. MIGHELL, of section 28, Sugar Grove township, is a well-known enterprising farmer—one who has spent almost his entire life in Kane county, dating his residence here since the fall of 1837. He was born in Rutland county, Vermont, December 12, 1829. The Mighell family were among the pioneers of Vermont, where James Mighell, the grandfather of our subject, was born. His son, Ezekiel Mighell, was born in Rutland county, Vermont, December 24, 1799, and there grew to manhood and married Lucinda Todd, also a native of Vermont. Ezekiel Mighell was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and followed that occupation during his residence in Vermont, and after his removal to Tompkins county, New York, where he went about 1830, locating near the head of Cayuga Lake. He there also engaged in farming; but, believing that he could do better in the west, he came to Illinois in 1837, locating in Sugar Grove township, Kane county, where he bought a claim of two hundred acres, which he entered after it came into the market. On the place was a log house into which he moved, and where he lived for a few years until he could improve the place and secure means for the erection of a more pretentious residence. From time to time he added to his original purchase until he had six hundred acres of fine

farming land and was recognized as one of the substantial farmers of Kane county. On the old home farm he reared his family, and later moved to Aurora, living a retired life, and where his death occurred June 10, 1884, when about eighty-five years of age. His wife passed away March 26, 1877.

To Ezekiel and Lucinda Mighell eight children were born, two of whom, Silas and Nancy, died in infancy. Those who grew to mature years were Lewis, who married and settled in De Kalb county, where his death occurred May 25, 1883; Mary grew to womanhood, married John Ellis, now of Kewanee, Illinois, and died September 22, 1874; Silas H., the subject of this sketch; Albert, who married, moved to Aurora, where his death occurred; Horace R., married, settled in Morris, Illinois, and there died August 11, 1892; and Frank P., whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Silas H. Mighell was about eight years of age when he came with his parents to Kane county. He assisted in developing the home farm and as the opportunity was afforded him attended the district school. He remained under the parental roof until after attaining his majority, and on the 19th of March, 1854, married Delena Colkins, a daughter of Thomas S. and Fannie (Clark) Colkins, the former born at Corning, New York, December 4, 1800, and the latter at Keene, New Hampshire. They moved to Illinois in 1852, located near Montgomery, Kane county, where Mr. Colkins died November 27, 1862. His wife survives him, and resides on a farm adjoining that of her daughter, Mrs. Mighell, and is now ninety-four years of age. To Mr. and Mrs. Mighell three children have been born: The oldest, Emma DeEtta, is now the wife of Franklin Eglington, of Aurora; Fannie L.,

wife of Arthur Potter, of Aurora; and Ina May, who is a practicing physician in Chicago and a graduate of Hahnemann Medical College.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mighell located on the farm where they now reside, and where they remained two years, then moved to De Kalb county, Illinois, where Mr. Mighell purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, which he cultivated for seven years. In 1863 he returned to the old farm in Sugar Grove township, on which he has made many substantial improvements. Later he sold the De Kalb county farm and purchased another farm in Sugar Grove township of one hundred and thirty-three acres, which is fairly well improved.

Politically Mr. Mighell is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since its organization. Religiously Mrs. Mighell is a member of the Baptist church. A residence of fifty-nine years in Kane county has brought him in contact with many of its representative citizens, and wherever best known he is the most highly esteemed.

---

ALEXANDER L. HINDS, who resides on section 23, Sugar Grove township, came to Kane county in 1842, and has here since made his home, with the exception of a few years spent in De Kalb county. His father, Alpheus H. Hinds, was a native of Vermont, born at Mount Holly, March 9, 1796. His grandfather, Carlis Hinds, was also a native of Vermont, where he married Polly Bents, also a native of the Green Mountain state. In 1803, he removed to Jefferson county, New York, of which he was a pioneer. He attained considerable

prominence in that county, and in 1809 was elected and served one term in the legislature of the state. He died in 1811. Alpheus H. Hinds removed with the family to New York, a lad of five years. He there grew to manhood and married Mercy Wilkie, a native of Jefferson county, New York, and a daughter of Rev. Matthew Wilkie, a minister of the Baptist church, who died at Evans Mills, Jefferson county, New York, at the ripe old age of ninety years. He was a relative of Captain Miles Standish, the Puritan captain.

After his marriage, Alpheus H. Hinds operated the old homestead a few years and then moved to Redwood, New York, which was then a wilderness, which later became a flourishing town. In connection with an uncle of his wife, he built a sawmill, and engaged in the manufacture of lumber. Later he was appointed postmaster and for some years served as justice of the peace. In 1842, with two teams, he started west with his family, coming through Canada and was some four and a half weeks on the road. He arrived in Kane county on his forty-sixth birthday, March 9, 1842. In Sugar Grove township, he purchased a claim and later entered the land. On that farm he remained until 1871, when he sold out and removed to Aurora, where his death occurred December 10, 1874. His wife passed away December 20, 1872, and both were laid to rest in the West Side cemetery.

Alexander L. Hinds, our subject, was but two and a half years old when he accompanied his parents to Kane county. He is the youngest of a family of five sons and three daughters, and of that number he has one brother and one sister living. His brother, James Hinds, is a business man residing in Rochester, New York. His

sister, Mrs. Laura R. Davidson, makes her home with our subject. Our subject remained with his father some years after attaining his majority, and engaged in the cultivation of the home farm. He married in Aurora, February 26, 1868, Miss Nettie Colley, a native of Belleville, Ohio. After his marriage he continued to operate the old homestead for two years, and then bought a farm in De Kalb county, to which he removed and where he remained for some years. While residing there his wife died in April, 1877, leaving one daughter, Alice L., who makes her home in Aurora. In 1878, Mr. Hinds sold the De Kalb county farm, returned to Kane county, and rented the farm on which he now resides, for some two or three years and then purchased the place, since which time he has given his attention to its further improvement and in general farming.

Politically, Mr. Hinds is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He has never wavered in the support of his party, nor in advocacy of its principles. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of Honor. An old settler of the county, he is well and favorably known and held in high esteem.

Mrs. Laura R. Davidson, a sister of Mr. Hinds, was born in Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, January 29, 1822. She was there given good school advantages, and for some years before her marriage engaged in teaching in the public schools. She has been twice married, her first union being with William J. Rose, a native of New York, who came to Kane county a young man, and purchased the farm where Mrs. Davidson now resides. Here they began their domestic life, and resided until the



death of Mr. Rose, May 16, 1873. He was a successful farmer, a careful business man, and his death was sincerely mourned by many friends. After his death, his widow rented the farm, though still making it her home. On the 24th of December, 1885, she married T. M. Davidson, who met with an accident which caused his death some two years later. He died August 19, 1887, since which time Mrs. Davidson has been making her home with her brother. She is a member of the Baptist church, and is much esteemed and beloved by all, and is one of the few remaining old settlers of Kane county.

---

JOHN C. WHILDIN resides on section 17, Big Rock township, where he owns and operates a fine farm of two hundred and fifty-one acres. He was born in the town of Marion, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1843. His father, Jeremiah Whildin, was a native of Wales, born in Montgomeryshire, December 25, 1799, and there grew to manhood, and married Mary Reese, also a native of Montgomeryshire, Wales. The marriage ceremony was solemnized in 1826. In 1842 they emigrated with their family to the United States, and after spending seven years in Pennsylvania and New York they came west to Chicago, and there leaving his family, with his son, J. M., he walked from Chicago to Big Rock township, and after selecting a location, sent back three teams for his goods and family. His brother Edward had located here some three years previously, and it was through his solicitation that Mr. Whildin came to Kane county. On his arrival in Big Rock township he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, on which was a log

house, and a few acres in cultivation. To the improvement of this land and to founding here a home, in which to rear his family and spend his declining days, was the desire of his heart. He later bought more land until his tract comprised two hundred and twenty-five acres. In the course of time the old log house gave place to a more modern structure, barns and other outbuildings were erected, and the farm placed under a high state of cultivation. On this place he died October 21, 1889, at the age of nearly ninety years. His wife passed to her reward, April 13, 1880. Jeremiah Whildin was a true Christian man, a member of the Baptist church at Big Rock, in which he was elected deacon in 1849, serving as such until his death. Of their family of four sons and eight daughters, three sons and five daughters grew to mature years, and of these, three sons and one daughter now survive.

The subject of this sketch was but six years of age when he came with the family to Kane county. On the home farm he remained, assisting in its cultivation, until after reaching his majority, in the meantime receiving his education in the public schools. On the 14th of May, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Harriet Potter, who was born in Big Rock township, Kane county, and a daughter of Samuel E. Potter, a native of Franklin county, Massachusetts, who came to Kane county a young man about 1845. He here married Olive P. Winslow, also a native of Massachusetts. He was the owner of land in both Kane and De Kalb counties, and here died July 20, 1855, when about thirty-five years of age, leaving a widow and several small children. Mrs. Whildin was taken by her aunt Mary Potter, to her grandfather, Potter, in Massa-

chusetts, where she was reared to womanhood. After the death of her grandmother Potter, she went to New York state and there lived one year, and then returned to Kane county, where her marriage with Mr. Whildin occurred. By this union are five children, of whom Alice is now the wife of William W. Williams, a farmer of Big Rock township; Mary A. is the wife of B. C. Fountain, also a farmer of Big Rock township; Merritt J. is assistant postmaster, and clerk in a store at Big Rock; Otis F., who is assisting in carrying on the farm, and Leslie E., a student at the home schools.

Politically Mr. Whildin is a Republican, having acted with that party since attaining his majority. He has been quite active in local politics and has served in several official positions. He was on a special committee for the erection of a town hall, and since becoming of age he has served as a school director. Every year he has served as a delegate to various conventions, including county and congressional, and is one of the commissioners of highways of the township and treasurer of the board. While not members of the church, Mr. and Mrs. Whildin attend the Baptist church at Big Rock, in which faith they were both reared. A thoroughly practical farmer, one who has engaged in no other line of business, Mr. Whildin has worked early and late, and success has in a measure crowned his efforts.

---

**R**ENALWIN OUTHOUSE, deceased.— This gentleman was born near Lily Lake, Kane county, April 22, 1852, and was the son of James and Elizabeth (Read) Outhouse, both natives of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia. The former was raised on a farm and that pursuit he followed in his younger

days, but the temptations surrounding his home at Sackville, New Brunswick, near to the stormy bay of Fundy, were too strong for his adventurous spirit, so he left farming and followed the sea. In 1836, with his wife and two children, he came to the United States, and settled near Maple Park, Kane county, Illinois, where he staked off a claim of government land, but soon after removed to another farm, which he purchased in the same township, and subsequently sold to his father-in-law, Joshua Read, who had newly arrived with his wife, Priscilla (Chapel) Read, and their twelve children. James Outhouse then bought a farm near Lily Lake, Campton township, to which he added from time to time, eventually owning three hundred and twenty acres, upon which he built a good residence and other outbuildings, and gradually improved the land. At the time of purchase the Black Hawk Indians and their noted leader were extant in this vicinity.

James Outhouse had a family of seven children, as follows: Priscilla, Edward, William, Mary, George, Renalwin and Arathusa. Priscilla is the widow of George Easterbrook and is now living in De Kalb county; William is a resident of Elgin; Mary is the wife of James Leighton and resides in Maine; George, a retired farmer, is now living in Elburn, Illinois; Arathusa is the wife of Henry Lord, of Aurora.

Renalwin Outhouse gained his early education in the public schools, supplemented by a year in Jennings Seminary and Business College, in Aurora, after which he settled down to farming, his father dividing the old homestead farm between him and his brother George. January 28, 1878, our subject married Addie Leighton, daughter of Alfred C. and Jeannette (Morris) Leigh-



ton, residing in Perry, Maine, her father being a native of Eastport, Maine, while her mother was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. Mr. Leighton is deceased, while Mrs. Leighton makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Outhouse. Four children were born to our subject and wife—three still surviving: Fred M., Laura E., and Myrtie E.; Mary J. died in her eighth year.

The son, Fred M., is taking a scientific course in Dixon College, preparing himself for the legal profession. Laura graduated from the Elgin High School in 1898; and Myrtie is now attending school at Elburn, Illinois.

Mr. Outhouse was clerk of the school board three terms, and highway commissioner two years, being still in office at the time of his death. He was formerly one of the directors of the Milk Shippers' Association. Fraternally he was a Mason, belonging to the blue lodge at Elburn, the chapter, and a Knight Templar, belonging to Sycamore Commandery, No. 15. Mr. Outhouse was the owner of about four hundred and twenty acres of valuable land. His widow rents her farms and resides in a pleasant, commodious residence in the village of Lily Lake. She also owns property in Elburn, Illinois. Mr. Outhouse attended the dedication of the World's Fair at Chicago, and was stricken with illness immediately on his return home and died on the 4th of November, 1892. His remains lie resting in the beautiful cemetery at Elburn. Mrs. Outhouse is a member of the Congregational church.

1879, and is to-day one of the most successful lady physicians in this section of the state. She comes of a family of educators and has herself been a leading teacher in the public schools of Illinois and other states. She was born at Otsego, near Zanesville, Ohio, February 26, 1844. She was the fifth child and fourth daughter in a family of eight children born to Thomas H. and Jane (Culbertson) Patrick, the former a native of Warren, Massachusetts, and the latter of Zanesville, Ohio. Her father was one of the most proficient educators of his day and all his family were teachers of merit. He was a resident of Zanesville at the time of his marriage, which event took place in the early '30s. He continued to reside there until 1839, teaching in the meantime. In the spring of that year he brought his wife to the prairies of Illinois and purchasing land in Montgomery county, founded the village of Zanesville, naming it after his former home, the journey there being made in a wagon; the country at that early day was wet and malarial, his wife soon tiring of their adopted home, they returned to Ohio, and continued to reside there until called to their final rest.

The maternal great-grandfather of our subject, Col. Horatio Jamieson, was a graduate of Edinburgh University, Scotland, and came to America to assist the colonists in their struggle for liberty. So active and eminent were his services in the cause, that it is stated in the private records of the family that General Washington tendered him Fort Duquesne, as a reward for his valued services. His declined the reward, however. He was also a surgeon in the French and Indian war. He later returned to Scotland for a time, but came back to Pennsylvania and there married. The only child

---

MRS. CATHERINE B. SLATER, M. D., No. 48 Fox street, Aurora, Illinois, has practiced medicine in the city since



of this union was named Cassandra, and who from a small child took considerable interest in her father's medical studies and became quite an adept in the use of the knife and lancet. She became the wife of James Culbertson and was a woman of great beauty and undaunted courage. In 1805 James Culbertson and his wife emigrated from McKeesport, Pennsylvania, and were pioneers in the early settlement of Central Ohio. On leaving Pennsylvania their destination was Columbus, Ohio, but stopping at Zanesville on the way, they became very popular in that scattered hamlet, and on resuming their journey they were escorted for some distance by most of its inhabitants. The fatigues of travel, sickness, together with the warmhearted reception they had met with at Zanesville, caused them to return before reaching Columbus, and they determined to make that place their future home. Securing a valuable piece of land in what is now the center of the city, they erected a dwelling and a business block in which for many years Mr. Culbertson carried on the business of a hatter, manufacturing the then popular beaver hat—known to the present generation only by pictures representing "Uncle Sam" and "Grandfather Harrison."

The family of James Culbertson and wife consisted of five daughters and six sons, of whom three died in infancy. The others established themselves in every branch of life, professional, business and agricultural. Their names were as follows: James, Joseph, Perry, Jamieson, a captain in the Civil war; William, Elizabeth, Emily and Jane, the last named being the mother of our subject. She was born in 1809, died 1852. Of these, William is the only one now living. The children born to

Thomas H. and Jane Patrick were: Louisa, James, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Catherine B., Harriet, Thomas and Asa P. The last two died in infancy, while James and Charlotte are also deceased.

The early education of our subject began in the McIntyre Academy at Zanesville, Ohio, an endowed institution in which her father was principal. The academy was afterwards absorbed by the public schools. In the public schools her education continued and she was graduated from the high school in 1864. She subsequently taught in the high school at Fremont, Ohio, and on September 3, 1867, she married James G. Slater, a merchant of Fremont, and continued to reside there until the fall of 1868, at which time they removed to Mansfield, Ohio, where they remained until February, 1870, when they came to Aurora, Illinois. Soon after their arrival, Mr. Slater engaged in the dry goods business, entering into partnership with A. Somerindyck. Later failing health induced him to dispose of his interest in the business, since which time his services have been with Mr. Sencenbaugh.

Mrs. Slater began the study of medicine in 1873, at the same time teaching in the west side high school at Aurora, of which she was principal for three years. She then entered the Woman's Medical College, of the Northwestern University, Chicago, where she remained a little over two years, and was graduated in the spring of 1879, with the degree of M. D. She was one in the first class to stand competitive examinations for the hospitals of Chicago. Immediately after receiving her degree Dr. Slater began the practice of her profession in Aurora, her office being at 48 Fox street, and she has built up an excellent practice

among the very best families in Aurora. Since her graduation she has supplemented her education by a journey to Berlin, Germany, going as a delegate from the American Medical Association to the international congress at Berlin, and was the first lady admitted to any clinic in that country. This was in 1890. She remained there six months, and while abroad visited all the medical institutions of any note, receiving invitations from the different medical societies. In 1897, Dr. Slater formed one of a party of about fifty physicians, ladies and gentlemen, who traveled and visited the hospitals on the continent of Europe and Russia, and all were most cordially received. She was appointed professor of hygiene in the medical department of the Northwestern University at Chicago, and in 1895 was elected to the board of education of Aurora, and is still a member. She has been trustee and surgeon of the Aurora City Hospital since its establishment in 1888, and is also surgeon of the Woman's Relief Corps, No. 10, department of Illinois. While reared a Presbyterian, she now attends the Episcopal church. A woman of natural and acquired ability, she ranks high in her profession and is greatly esteemed for her womanly virtues.

---

**SQUIRE D. HUNT**, president of the County Line Creamery Company, and one of the most enterprising farmers of Kane county, residing on section 32, Kaneville township, where he has a valuable farm of three hundred acres, dates his residence in Kane county, from 1847. He was born in Chenango, county, New York, July 9, 1840, and is the son of Daniel Hunt, born in 1804, in the same county and

state. Joseph Hunt, his grandfather, was a native of Connecticut, and a pioneer settler of Chenango county, New York. During the Revolutionary struggle, he served his country and assisted in securing its independence. He lived to the advanced age of ninety-four years.

Daniel Hunt spent his boyhood and youth on his father's farm, and later married Polly Dutcher, a native of Dutchess county, New York. Her father, Gideon Dutcher, was one of a pioneer family of that county, and from his family the county derived its name. After marriage Mr. Hunt engaged in farming in Chenango county, where he remained a number of years. In 1845 he came to Illinois, locating first in Oswego, Kendall county, where he remained two and a half years, and then moved to Kaneville township, Kane county, where he purchased eighty acres, which was a part of the farm now owned by our subject. The land was unimproved, but he at once went to work and in due time had the place under cultivation, and, as his means increased, purchased more land, until he was the possessor of one hundred and sixty acres. He was prosperous and successful as a farmer and, after a long and useful life, passed to his reward in 1889, at the age of eighty-five years. His wife died some three years previous.

Squire D. Hunt is the only survivor of a family of two sons and three daughters. His brother, Edwin, grew to mature years, married, owned and operated a part of the farm, and there died in 1864. His sisters were Jane, who married James H. Chapman, and died in Pike county, Illinois; Sarah, married W. J. Bates, located in Cortland, DeKalb county, Illinois, and there her death occurred; and Madeline,

who died in infancy, in Oswego, Kendall county, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch came to Kane county, when but about eight years old, and here grew to manhood on the home farm, and assisted in its cultivation. He was educated in the Kaneville schools, and on the 26th of February, 1862, married Lydia E. Flanders, a native of Massachusetts, and a daughter of Parker Flanders, who was born in New Hampshire, there grew to manhood, and married Hannah Freeman, a native of New York. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Flanders located in Vermont, where he engaged in farming, in connection with other business. In 1854 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and located in Kaneville township, on the farm where his son now resides. To Mr. and Mrs. Hunt four children have been born, as follows: Myrtie, now the wife of Henry M. Smith, a farmer of DeKalb county, Illinois; Carrie, now the wife of W. H. Smith, residing on the Hunt farm; Alice and Harry B., at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt began their domestic life on the old homestead, he taking charge of the business, his father and mother making their home with him in their declining years. Since coming into possession of the farm he has purchased more land, erected a large and neat farm residence, and made many improvements in the place, putting in some eleven miles of tiling, and setting out two good orchards. He carries on general farming and stock raising, feeding several carloads of stock, which he annually ships to the Chicago market.

Mr. Hunt was one of the originators and prime movers in establishing the County Line Creamery, in 1890. He was elected its first president, and by re-election has

served continuously to the present time. The company now controls two creameries, and has a record second to none in the state. At the dairy convention in 1897 it took sweepstakes, scoring highest on butter of any on exhibition.

Politically Mr. Hunt has been a Republican since attaining his majority, having cast his first presidential ballot, in 1864, for Abraham Lincoln, and his last, in 1896, for William McKinley. For twelve years he served his township as road commissioner, and was township treasurer of road funds for eight years. For twenty-one years he has served as a member of the school board, taking an active interest in educational affairs. He has always been active in political affairs, and has served his party in various county and congressional conventions. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at Kaneville, and is now serving as steward. His wife and daughters are also members of that church, and all manifest an interest in its work. For half a century Mr. Hunt has been a resident of Kane county. That he has made his impress upon county affairs cannot be questioned. He is well known as one of its best farmers and business men, and as a citizen he is interested in every movement looking to its material welfare. No family is held in higher esteem.

---

**H**IRAM D. RUDD, now living a retired life in the village of Kaneville, is a veteran of the war for the union. Since 1856, he has been a resident of the village of Kaneville, and is now its oldest living settler. He was born in Rutland county, Vermont, at Middletown, December 8, 1820. His father, Samuel Rudd, was born



in Westfield, Connecticut, of which state his grandfather, Increase Rudd, was also a native. The latter served in the Revolutionary war, and was at the battle of Bunker Hill, where he broke off the butt of his gun over the head of an enemy. From Connecticut, Increase Rudd moved to Vermont, when his son Samuel was a small child. The latter was carried by his mother on the back of a horse, the entire distance. He there grew to manhood and married Mary Ames, a daughter of Elijah Ames, who was also a soldier in the Revolutionary war from Connecticut, but who later moved to Vermont, locating in the wilderness, where he hewed out a farm. Samuel Rudd was also a farmer by occupation, and after rearing his family in Vermont, he later removed to Jefferson county, New York, locating in the town of Ellisburg, where his death occurred.

Hiram D. Rudd spent his boyhood and youth in Vermont, under the shadow of the Green Mountains. In early life he had fair common-school advantages, his education being supplemented by reading and study in after life. In September, 1846, he was united in marriage with Miss Emily Jane Lyman, a native of Rutland county, Vermont, born in the town of Ira, and a daughter of Isaac and Achsah (Ames) Lyman, both of whom were natives of Vermont, the latter being a second cousin of Charles Ames, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Rudd resided one year in Vermont, and in 1848 moved to New York, and settled in the town of Ellisburg, Jefferson county, where he engaged in farming for several years, and also in the carpenter's and joiner's trade. From Jefferson county, he moved

with his family to the town of Gaines, Orleans county, New York, where they remained two years. In 1856, they came to Kane county, Illinois, and located at Kaneville, where he has since continued to reside. Here Mr. Rudd worked on a farm until September 18, 1861, when he enlisted in Company I, Eighth Illinois Cavalry, as a private, and with his regiment went east, where it was assigned to the Army of the Potomac; with that army our subject remained while in the service. He participated in the fight on the Rappahannock, and also at Fairfax Courthouse, and in various cavalry engagements, at the same time doing a good deal of scouting duty. In 1862, he met with an accident caused by the stampede of a number of horses, at which time he got his back and hips badly hurt, and was permanently disabled. He was first sent to the regimental hospital, and later to Douglas hospital in Washington, District of Columbia, where he remained three months, and in 1863 was discharged from the service and returned home. He has since been crippled and unable to work to any extent.

Politically, Mr. Rudd was first an old-line Whig, but on the organization of the Republican party, became identified with it. As a Whig he voted for Henry Clay, a man whom he greatly admired and who was without doubt one of the greatest statesmen this country ever produced. As a Republican he voted first for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, a vote for which he has never been ashamed. Mr. and Mrs. Rudd are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which they both take an active interest. For thirty-four years Mrs. Rudd has had charge of a class in the Sunday-school, and was in attendance nearly every Sunday. As

the eldest resident of the village of Kaneville, Mr. Rudd is well known and his many friends will be pleased to read the record of his life work in the Biographical Record of Kane county.

**H**ARVEY BRUCE DENSMORE resides on section 14, Sugar Grove township, about four and a half miles west of Aurora, where he is living a retired life. His residence in Kane county dates from 1836. He is a native of Windsor county, Vermont, born September 15, 1815. His father, Job Densmore, was also a native of Vermont. His grandfather Densmore was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill. He lived to be nearly one hundred years old. Job Densmore was reared in his native state, and there married Mary Jane Sprague, also a native of Vermont. By trade he was a miller, and for some years was engaged in that business. He is an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, but later in life withdrew from that church, but still continued his preaching. His death occurred in Vermont many years ago.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Vermont, then went to Cortland county, New York, where he worked on a farm and engaged in other employments. Having had a good common-school education, he engaged in teaching to secure means for a better education in Cortlandville Academy. While residing there he was united in marriage in 1836, and soon after moved to Kane county, Illinois, at a time when there was less than fifty inhabitants in Aurora. He drove through with three teams, in company with his father-in-law, George

W. Densmore. He spent a part of the first winter after coming west with relatives in Chicago, and then moved to the farm where he now resides, having purchased the claim of two hundred and forty acres. There was a log house on the place, fourteen feet square, with puncheon floor and shake roof, into which he moved and resided for some time. He soon afterward built an addition to the cabin, making the shingles himself. His wife here died, about 1851, leaving one daughter, Sarah, who first married a Mr. Avery, who was killed while in the service of his country, during the war for the Union. She later married James Carter, a substantial farmer of De Kalb county, where they now reside. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Densmore married Miss Mary Jane Mather, a native of New York, who came west a young lady. By this union there is one son and three daughters—Charles M., who resides in Eugene, Oregon; Grace, wife of G. R. Lee, of Aurora; Jane, wife of Pratt Benjamin; and Jessie, wife of Charles Paul, of Wichita, Kansas. Pratt Benjamin was born in Kane county, Illinois, in June, 1856, and after his marriage in September, 1878, with Jane Densmore, he took charge of the Densmore homestead, which he has continued to operate until the present time.

Politically Mr. Densmore was originally an Abolitionist, and kept a station on the underground railway. On the organization of the Republican party he became identified with it, and has since been an advocate of its principles. At twenty-one he was elected township clerk, which position he held for many years. He has also served as justice of the peace and as a member of the school board. He voted at the first election ever held in the township. He assisted in the erection of the first school

house in Sugar Grove, and taught the first school in Sugar Grove township. Later he taught two other terms, and has assisted in the erection of two other school houses.

In 1888, Mrs. Densmore died at the residence of her daughter in Aurora, and later Mr. Densmore went to Nebraska and purchased some village property in Stanton, Stanton county, and there resided two or three years, during which time he was employed in the office of the county clerk and recorder. While there he erected a brick house, which has since been converted into a bank. Since coming to Kane county, sixty-two long years ago, Mr. Densmore has witnessed many changes, and in the improvements that have been made he has taken an active part, and is recognized as one of the most progressive of the old settlers of Kane county.

---

JAMES C. MINARD, now living retired in the city of Aurora, has been a resident of Illinois since 1856. The family are of French descent, and were originally members of the Society of Friends. The great-great-grandfather of our subject was a native of France, and was among the first settlers of Connecticut. His son, Captain Joel Minard, was a native of Connecticut, as was also Joel Minard, Jr., his son, the father of our subject. The family at quite an early day moved to Ulster county, New York, where Joel Minard, Jr., was reared and where he married Susannah Letts, a native of Schoharie county, New York, and a daughter of William Letts, also a native of New York state, who spent the last years of his life with his daughter, Mrs. Minard, and died in Ulster county. To Joel and Susannah Minard were born four

sons and four daughters; all except one grew to mature years, and three sons and one daughter are now living, as follows: David, who resides in Mississippi; James C., of this review; Elias, residing in Colorado; and Mrs. Jane Moody, who resides just across the Hudson, from Poughkeepsie, in Ulster county, New York. The father died in Ulster county, in 1852.

James C. Minard grew to manhood in Ulster county, and during the winter months attended the public schools and assisted his father upon the farm at other seasons of the year. He was born near Poughkeepsie, Ulster county, New York, November 13, 1825, and remained with his father until March 13, 1851, when he was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Jane Teerpening, a native of Ulster county, reared and educated in the same neighborhood with our subject, and a daughter of William J. Teerpening, also a native of Ulster county, New York. By this union are four living children, as follows: William J., married and engaged in farming near Storm Lake, Iowa; Lenora, wife of John H. Husk, of Aurora; Mary, wife of Theodore R. Davis, a druggist of Hinckley, Illinois; and James Edward, a farmer of Kane county. They lost three children—Joel, who died at the age of fourteen years; Orin, who died at the age of five years; and Eva, who died when nine months old.

For five years after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Minard resided upon a farm in Ulster county, New York. Desiring to better themselves in life, in 1856 they came west to La Salle county, Illinois, locating near Leland, where Mr. Minard purchased a farm of two hundred acres, of partially improved land, and at once commenced the further development of the place. He



built a large and substantial residence, and otherwise improved the place until he had one of the best farms in that neighborhood. In connection with farming, for three years he engaged in the mercantile business at Leland with fair success. In 1895 he sold the farm and moved to Aurora, since which time he has been living retired. He owns, however, a well improved farm of one hundred and forty acres, near Batavia, on which his son, James E. Minard, is now living. He also owns a well-improved farm of one hundred and sixty acres near Storm Lake, Iowa.

In early life Mr. Minard was an earnest supporter of the Whig party, but since 1856, when he voted for John C. Fremont, he has supported the men and measures of the Republican party, save for a short time on account of his strong belief in temperance, he supported the Prohibition party. Of late he has cast his ballot in favor of the Republicans, voting in 1896 for William McKinley. Religiously Mr. and Mrs. Minard are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. As a friend of education and an advocate of good schools, he served for years as a member of the school board. Since coming to Kane county he has made many friends who esteem him for his upright character and worth as a man and a citizen.

---

**CORYDON L. DICKSON** is a farmer residing on sections 5 and 6, Plato township. He was born in Union township, Broome county, New York, August 5, 1843, and is the son of James and Lusetta S. (Gardener) Dickson, the former born in Cobleskill, Schoharie county, New York, and the latter in Canada. She was the

daughter of Isaac and Susan (Butolph) Gardener. James Dickson was the son of Benjamin Dickson, a native of New York, who lived in Canada during the war of 1812, and who married Sarah Parsons. Of the ten children born to James and Lusetta S. Dickson, seven lived to maturity and five still survive. Lovisa E. married Addison Gleason, who is now deceased. She is now living in Hampshire. Lafayette lives in Idaho. Sheridan P. resides in Elgin. Corydon L. is the subject of this sketch. Edgar W. resides in the village of Hampshire.

The subject of this sketch came west with his parents in 1850, they locating in Hampshire township, May 9, of that year. His education was begun in the district schools of New York, and after his removal here he attended the district schools of Plato township, and completed his education at Beloit College, which he attended three or four terms after his return from the army. On the first call of President Lincoln he enlisted in Company A, Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Joslin, who was later commissioned colonel. This regiment was the first to enter the service from Illinois during the war of the Rebellion.

On the completion of his term of service Mr. Dickson returned home and remained with his father until he was twenty-four years of age. His father having purchased the body of land that the west half of the village of Hampshire is now built on, and having it to pay for, our subject, like a dutiful son, remained with him until he had paid for the land and secured a title. His father was also in debt, somewhat, for the farm on which our subject now resides, which, when paid for, was deeded to him for his faithfulness. The farm consisted of one hundred

and forty-two acres, but, from subsequent purchases, it now consists of two hundred and sixty acres of fine rolling land, having a beautiful view to the eastward from his residence, and which is very fertile and is kept under a high state of cultivation. He also owns a fine village residence and five acres, in the village of Hampshire.

Mr. Dickson was married in Udina, Illinois, April 12, 1868, to Mary Rowell, daughter of Samuel C. and Elizabeth (Ball) Rowell, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. By this union are two children, Luella Maude and Ethel May. The former married Edwin Walgren, the junior member of the firm of I. B. Courtyman & Co., general merchants of Dixon, Illinois, where they reside. She took five terms in Dixon College, and was a successful teacher before her marriage. They have one son, Eugene Dickson. Ethel May attended Dixon College and also spent one year at Normal, Illinois, then taught school one year in Elgin and one in Franklin Grove. She is now employed in the office of the Union Wire Fence Company, of De Kalb, Illinois. Fraternally Mr. Dickson is a member of the G. A. R. post at Hampshire, and also of the Knights of the Macca-bees of the same place. In politics he is a Republican.

**R**OBERT T. JAMES, who is the owner of a well-improved farm on section 28, Big Rock township, is a native of Wales, born at Flintshire, December 2, 1851, and in his native country lived until the age of eighteen years and there received a fair common-school education. With a laudable desire to better his condition in life, he determined to emigrate to the United

States, where he learned the opportunities were much greater for the aspiring youth than in his native land. Accordingly, in 1869, he crossed the ocean, and went directly to Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and there engaged in farm work at seventeen dollars per month. During his first winter in this country, however, he worked for his board and attended the public schools that he might acquire a better knowledge of the English language. For ten years he continued to work by the month at farm work; but, in the meantime, in Waukesha county, July 8, 1871, he was united in marriage with Miss Ann Goodwin, also a native of Wales, who came to this country with her parents when but five years of age. Her father and mother, David and Jane Goodwin, were among the earliest Welsh settlers in Waukesha county. To Mr. and Mrs. James seven children have been born: Robert T., Jr., Lizzie Jane, John, William D., Maggie, Phebe (deceased) and Mamie.

In 1880, Mr. James rented a farm in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, on which he remained five years, and then came to Big Rock township, Kane county, Illinois, and rented a farm on which he remained five years, and then rented the Ben Davis farm for eight years, during which time he was quite successful and accumulated considerable property. In the spring of 1898 he purchased his present farm of three hundred and five acres, of which two hundred and thirty acres are under the plow, the remainder being meadow and pasture land. Commencing life in the New World a penniless youth, he has, by industry and economy, acquired a valuable property, and is now regarded as one of the successful and prosperous farmers of Kane county, hon-



ored for his manly worth and strict integrity.

Politically, Mr. James is a Republican, and has voted the ticket and advocated the principles of the party since acquiring his naturalization papers. He is the present commissioner of highways of Big Rock township. With his wife and two children, he holds membership in the Welsh Congregational church of Big Rock, in which he takes an active interest. One daughter, Lizzie Jane Wagner, belongs to the English Congregational church. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Macca-bees. While only residing in Kane county a comparatively short time, he has made many friends by his upright character and sterling worth.

---

GEORGE VAN VOLKENBURG, an active and enterprising farmer residing on section 30, Kaneville township, where he owns and operates a farm of one hundred and thirty acres, has been a resident of Kane county since 1865. He was born in Yates county, New York, February 20, 1836. His father, Captain Andrew Van Volkenburg, was also a native of New York, born August 11, 1810. He there grew to manhood, and married Polly Freer, a native of New York, born September 27, 1797. By occupation Andrew Van Volkenburg was a farmer in Yates county, where he occupied a very prominent position, for some years being captain of the militia. He reared his family in that county, where his death occurred March 25, 1865. His wife survived him a few years, dying when about seventy years old, at the residence of her son, in Kane county, Illinois.

In his native county George Van Volkenburg grew to manhood, and received a fair education in the common schools. He remained on his father's farm, and assisted in its cultivation, until the latter's death. In January, 1854, he was married in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, to Marilla Hammond, a native of that county, where she was reared and educated. After their marriage he engaged in farming for eleven years in Yates county, New York, and then, in the spring of 1865, came to Kane county, Illinois, where he rented a farm for one year, and in 1866 purchased the place, where he now resides. The farm was an improved one, but to its further development he gave his time and attention for many years. In 1892 his barn was destroyed by a tornado, and his house badly damaged, while the windmill was torn down and the orchard nearly ruined. He has since repaired the house, rebuilt the barn, and set out more trees in his orchard. The place is now one of the most valuable in the section where located. Mr. Van Volkenburg lost his wife May 19, 1872. She was the mother of three children. Andrew died in childhood. Charles is married, and is helping to carry on the home farm. Herbert is also married, and has two children. He is also engaged in farming, in De Kalb county, Illinois.

Mr. Van Volkenburg was again married in Kaneville, Illinois, March 22, 1874, to Marietta Hazen, a native of New London county, Connecticut, a daughter of William and Laura (Ladd) Hazen, also natives of the same state. Her father there died when she was a child, and her mother removed with the family to Oneida county, New York, where she resided some twenty-six years. Mrs. Van Volkenburg was educated



in Oneida county, New York, and there engaged in teaching for some years. She continued in that profession after her removal to Illinois, and for two years was engaged in teaching in the public schools of Galesburg, Illinois, until her marriage. In 1872, she came to Kane county. Since 1886, her mother has made her home with Mrs. Van Volkenburg.

Politically Mr. Van Volkenburg is a stanch Republican, with which party he has continued to act since attaining his majority. While never desiring office, he served some three years as constable of his township, and was also a member of the school board for some years. Both he and his wife are members of the Kaneville Methodist Episcopal church, and for many years, until having a severe illness in November, 1894, he was one of its most active workers. For twelve years she taught a class of young ladies in the Sunday-school. Both were members of the choir for some twenty years. For a full third of a century, Mr. Van Volkenburg has been a resident of Kaneville township, and is well-known especially in the northwestern part of the county. He is a man that stands high in the estimation of his fellow men, and he has ever been ready to assist in the material and moral welfare of his adopted county and state.

---

**H**ON. ARWIN E. PRICE, who is now at the head of the city government of Elgin, and is one of the most prominent factors in her business circles, is a man whose worth and ability have gained him success, honor and public confidence. He enjoys the well-earned distinction of being what the public calls a "self-made man,"

and an analyzation of his character reveals the fact that enterprise, well-directed effort and honorable dealing have been the essential features in his prosperity.

Mr. Price possesses the true western spirit of progress, and is a western man by birth, training and preference. He was born in Waukesha, Wisconsin, August 29, 1850, and is a son of Humphrey and Elizabeth (Evans) Price, natives of Wales. His paternal grandfather, Jonathan Price, spent his entire life in that county, reared a family of seven children, and died there at an advanced age. The maternal grandfather, John Evans, also a native of Wales, died in middle life. The father of our subject, having determined to try his fortune in America, crossed the briny deep and took up his residence in Rochester, New York, whence he removed to Waukesha, Wisconsin, about 1844. He there followed the pattern-maker's trade, and also engaged in the manufacture of threshing machines. His death occurred in 1878, when he had reached the age of fifty-nine years, and his wife passed away in 1862. Both were members of the Presbyterian church. Their family numbered twelve children, five sons and seven daughters, six of whom are now living: Lydia; Jennie, wife of Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Barton, New Jersey; David, who is living near St. Paul, Minnesota; Lucy, widow of Walter Ormsby, of Oakland, California; Arwin E.; and Carrie, wife of Harry Dailey, of Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Arwin E. Price in his early youth attended the public schools of his native town, and when twelve years of age began learning the marble-cutter's trade, completing his apprenticeship the day before President Lincoln was assassinated. He remained in Waukesha until about fifteen years of age,

and then went to Madison, Wisconsin, whence he removed to Elgin in 1869. Here he worked for George P. Harvey for about two years, and then entered into partnership with his employer, they remaining together in the marble business for two years. On the expiration of that period Mr. Price bought out his partner and continued operations alone until 1889, when he removed to Chicago, where for three years he engaged in the real-estate business. In 1893 he returned to Elgin, and in 1896 purchased the marble and granite works of A. N. Soper & Company, still continuing the business under the name of the Elgin Marble and Granite Works, the plant being opposite the Bluff City cemetery. He turns out work which is both artistic and finely executed, and his honorable dealings have secured to him a liberal patronage, making his enterprise a profitable one.

On the 4th of September, 1869, Mr. Price was united in marriage to Miss Martha A. Lewis, daughter of Francis and Clarissa (Soper) Lewis. Mrs. Price's great-uncle was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. They have one daughter, Edith. Theirs is a hospitable home, always open to their many friends, and no one leaves it without feeling glad that he had the privilege of being there.

Socially Mr. Price is a Master Mason, and in his political predilections he is a Republican. In 1885 he was a third time elected alderman from the Third ward, and in 1888 was elected acting mayor. The following year he was elected for a full term, thus serving in that position for three consecutive years, and in 1897 he was again re-elected, defeating William Grote, who had formerly defeated him. His administration is a progressive one, marked by improve-

ment and reform, for he has the best interests of the city at heart. For a quarter of a century he has been a resident of Elgin, and no one is more devoted to its welfare than he.

CYRUS CALKINS, who resides on section 32, Sugar Grove township, is one of the successful farmers of Kane county. He is a native of New York, born in the town of Corning, Steuben county, January 14, 1815, and is the son of Enos Calkins, a native of New Hampshire, who came to New York from Vermont when a young man. In Steuben county he married Parthena Perkins, a native of that county, and a daughter of Squire Perkins, also a native of Steuben county. By occupation Enos Calkins was a farmer and engaged in that calling during his entire life.

Cyrus Calkins is one of three sons and six daughters born to Enos and Parthena Calkins, and in his native county grew to manhood and received a good common-school education. In 1853 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres in Sugar Grove township, on which fair improvements had been made. He at once began its farther improvement and in due time had erected a good, substantial dwelling house, barns and other outbuildings and placed the land under a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Calkins was originally an old-line Whig, and in 1836 cast his first presidential vote for William H. Harrison. He again voted for Harrison in 1840, and was well pleased at his election. He has a vivid recollection of that exciting campaign. After coming to Kane county he received



the appointment as postmaster of Jericho, and served twelve years. On the organization of the Republican party Mr. Calkins gave adherence to its principles, and has voted for every presidential nominee from John C. Fremont to William McKinley. For forty-five years he has been a resident of Kane county and has been identified with its agricultural interests. Coming here a comparatively poor man, he has by his industry and the practice of economy become one of the substantial men of the county, of exemplary habits, upright character and worth.

---

**G**EORGE E. DAUM is a representative of the younger generation of farmers of Kane county, Illinois. He resides on section 30, Rutland township, on the farm where he was born, January 25, 1868. His father, George J. Daum, was born in 1831, in Asbach, Darmstadt, Germany, of which country Martin Daum, the grandfather of our subject, was also a native. The latter emigrated to America and spent the last years of his life in New York. In 1847 George A. Daum, the father, came to Illinois and located on section 30, Rutland township, on the farm where our subject now resides. He married Mary Hauslein, a native of Bavaria, and a daughter of Michael Hauslein, also a native of that country. By their union were eight children: Martin, Mary and Emma, all of whom died about the same time from diphtheria; William, who married Jennie Reams, resides in Hampshire township; George E., our subject; Lyda, living with her parents; Luella and John, who died of diphtheria.

George E. Daum attended the district schools until the age of fourteen

years, then gave his whole time to farm work until the age of seventeen years. Going to Elgin, he worked for Mr. Bell, and later for Mr. Gary, at making concrete sidewalks. With the exception of nine months spent in Montana he was engaged in that business until twenty-one years of age. He then returned home and took charge of the home farm, which consists of one hundred and fifteen acres of well-improved land, with good house and barns. The farm is now devoted to dairy purposes, Mr. Daum usually keeping from twenty-five to thirty head of milch cows, the product of which he ships from Starks Station to Chicago.

Mr. Daum has been twice married, his first marriage, which was solemnized May 5, 1891, being with Miss Emma Matthews, born in Milwaukee, and a daughter of Martin Matthews, who served as a spy for the Union forces during the Civil war. She died June 21, 1897, leaving six children—George, Oscar, Frederick, Clara, Matilda and Marie.

Mr. Daum was again married December 2, 1897, with Miss Edith Turner, who was born in Galena, Illinois, and a daughter of William and Kate (Blaze) Turner, the former a native of Ontarioville, Illinois, and the latter of Alsace, Germany. Mrs. Daum was second in a family of eight children born to her parents. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Daum are members of the United Evangelical church. In politics, he is a Republican.

---

**J**ACOB SALFISBERG, who resides at 140 Lincoln avenue, Aurora, Illinois, is a native of Canton Berne, Switzerland, was born March 25, 1834, a son of Johann and



Mary Ann (Salfisberg) Salfisberg. There was no previous relationship existing between the two, although of the same name. The father and mother of our subject were both natives of Switzerland, and emigrated to the United States with their family in 1854. Sailing from Havre, France, in the month of October, on the ship *Confederacy*, they reached New York the following month, being thirty-eight days on the ocean. Their destination was Oswego, Illinois, at which place they arrived November 28, 1854. Christian Salfisberg, the eldest son, had come to America two years before and had already settled on the rich prairie lands of Illinois. The children of Johann and Mary Ann Salfisberg were as follows: Christian, Madeline, Jacob, Fred, Anna, Samuel, Rudolph, Adam and Mary Ann. The husband and father was in poor health, and he failed to find relief, as he had hoped, in the sea voyage, and survived the journey but one year, dying at Oswego in 1855. His wife survived him twenty-five years.

Jacob Salfisberg was educated in the public schools of his native land and there also learned the trade of a miller. He soon found employment in the mills at Oswego, and worked in the capacity of a miller for six years after his arrival. In 1860 he came to Aurora, and became engaged in the burning and selling of lime in the vicinity of Oak Park, continuing this business eight years. In November, 1868, he removed to Naperville, Du Page county, Illinois, where he purchased a quarry of very fine building stone, of the most durable quality and considered the best in the state. He furnished large quantities of the products of his quarry to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to be used in the construction of bridges for their various lines. The

supply and demand continued for many years. For a time he hauled the stone from his quarries by teams, using five of his own for that purpose and engaged others, and had the services of fifty-five men employed in operating the quarry. He eventually ran a line of railroad to the work, which greatly facilitated matters.

In 1889 Mr. Salfisberg disposed of the quarry and its surroundings, and a company was organized to carry on the business under the title of the Chicago & Naperville Stone Company. On selling the plant, Mr. Salfisberg retired from active business life and once more came to reside in Aurora. Business, the prevailing passion of his life, induced him, however, to purchase a half interest with J. Marshall Spiker in the business of artificial stone, cement and concrete, and many of the superb sidewalks of Aurora and other cities in this and adjoining counties have been constructed by this company. In 1895 Mr. Salfisberg purchased a farm in Kendall county, consisting of one hundred and seventy-two and a half acres, which is now rented by his son, Charles. Since purchasing he has made great improvements, erecting a fine dwelling house, barns and other outbuildings to the extent of six thousand dollars.

On the 4th of January, 1859, Mr. Salfisberg was married to Anna Salfisberg, a distant relative, and daughter of Jacob and Anna Salfisberg, and who came to this county with her parents. She was one of fourteen children, ten of whom are living at the present time. The children of our subject and wife are ten in number, of whom eight are living—Amanda, Charles A., Ida E., Jacob E., Anna, Edwin A., Frank O., and Maud May. Those deceased are Freddie and Emma. The last named was

the wife of John Nicholas, and died leaving two children, John and Fred.

Mr. Salfisberg's interests in the artificial stone business is now looked after by his son, Jacob E., who is a man of good business ability. Fraternally Mr. Salfisberg is a member of the Masonic order, of the blue lodge, chapter, council and Knight Templar. A thorough-going business man, he keeps abreast with the times and has contributed his share in the unbuilding of Du Page and Kane counties. As a citizen he is greatly esteemed.

COIT SPALDING, the present efficient supervisor of Blackberry township, and the junior member of the firm of Cline & Spalding, general merchants, Elburn, Illinois, was born in Washtenaw county, Michigan, November 12, 1836, and is the son of Colwell and Beulah (Lyon) Spalding, natives of New York. In his native state, Colwell Spalding was by occupation a farmer, and followed that vocation after his removal to Kane county, Illinois, in 1844. He located in Blackberry township, where he purchased government land, which is still in possession of the family. A pioneer of the county, he was widely and favorably known for his many excellent traits of character—a man often referred to in settling troubles, such as arise between neighbors, and a man universally respected for his many sterling qualities. He died in this county at the age of eighty-seven years. He was a pioneer of Michigan before his removal to Illinois. Originally a Democrat, he voted for James K. Polk, but on the organization of the Republican party, gave adherence to it, and voted that ticket during the remainder of his life. He took great

interest in political affairs, and was a great reader of periodicals and current literature. For many years he was a justice of the peace, and held other minor official positions. His wife was born in 1804, died in 1891. She was for many years a member of the Baptist church, and was very regular in attendance. Her parents were Mathias and Rhoda Lyon. Of their three living children, Gilbert resides in Greenwood county, Kansas, where he is engaged in farming; Coit is the subject of this sketch; and Louisa J. is the wife of Charles Eckley, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Coit Spalding was reared on the home farm in Blackberry township, and his education, began in the district school, was completed in an academy, which he attended one year. After leaving school, he remained for a time on the farm, then tried railway work one year, then clerked in a store, but mostly engaged in farming, until he commenced business for himself in Elburn, in August, 1891, where he formed a partnership with M. S. Cline, in the general mercantile trade. They now carry a fine stock and have their share of the business of the place.

Mr. Spalding was married January 1, 1863, to Miss Helen M. Barker, daughter of Jabez Barker, a native of Massachusetts, and who was a pioneer of Kane county. Three children were born of this union, James J., who married Miss Nettie Reeves, by whom he has one child, Fenner, is engaged in the lumber business in Elburn; Lester, who is in the livery business at Elburn; and Warren, a pupil of the public schools.

In politics Mr. Spalding is a Republican and a firm believer in protection. He was elected assessor of Blackberry township, in

1883, and held the office for five successive years. He was then elected supervisor of the township, and has held the office continuously to the present time. His reelection to the same office for so many years, speaks in unmistakable terms of a well-rendered and efficient service, and in this connection, it may be said that he is classed among the leading, enterprising and reliably solid citizens of the county, and a leader in his community in all enterprises, which, in his estimation, promises for the best interest of his township. For fifteen years he has also held the office of township school treasurer. Fraternally he is a Mason, a member of Blackberry lodge, No. 359, of Fox River chapter, No. 14, and of Sycamore commandery. He is also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America.

**A**NDREW ANDERSON, residing on section 14, Big Rock township, is a representative Swedish-American, one who has the interest of his adopted country at heart. He was born in Sweden, November 20, 1842, and there grew to manhood, spending his boyhood and youth upon a farm. His educational advantages were limited, and his knowledge of the English language has been acquired since coming to the United States. Glowing accounts had been sent him of the opportunities for wealth in this land and he determined to emigrate with the hope of bettering his fortunes. In company with his brother, Oscar, he crossed the ocean and immediately came west to Batavia, Illinois, where he joined Swedish friends and soon secured work on a farm and in a stone quarry. The next summer he worked on a steamer on the Mississippi river, and then was employed on the North-

western railroad at Union Grove, Whiteside county, Illinois.

In 1871, Mr. Anderson commenced work on the Illinois & Iowa railroad, with which he was engaged for several years. He then bought a small tract of land west of Big Rock, on which he located, but at the same time continued to work for the railroad company. As his means increased he purchased more land adjoining his little place, and there engaged in farming some thirteen or fourteen years. Disposing of that place, in 1895 he purchased the farm on section 14, where he now resides. The place was very much run down at the time of his purchase, but he has since made various improvements, and has to-day a good farm of one hundred and sixty-one acres, on which he has built a large barn, put up a wind pump, and underlaid it with many rods of tiling.

Mr. Anderson was married in Cook county in 1872, to Miss Lena Christiansen, also a native of Sweden, in which country she grew to womanhood. She has been to him a helpmeet indeed, and has co-operated with him in his work to their mutual advantages. Commencing life in the new world in limited circumstances, and among strange people, by his own labor and enterprise, assisted by his good wife, he has secured a large and valuable farm, a good home, and an honored name in the land of his adoption.

Politically Mr. Anderson is a staunch Republican, and while interested in political affairs, has preferred to give his time and attention to his business interests, rather than in office seeking. He is a member of the Big Rock Congregational church, of which body his wife is also a member. For more than a quarter of a century he has



lived in Kane county, the greater part of which time in Big Rock township, where he is well and favorably known.

**SILAS S. FOOTH**, who resides on section 9, Virgil township, is numbered among the well-to-do farmers of Kane county. He was born May 1, 1859, in Kane county, Illinois, and is the son of Simon and Barbara (Fried) Footh, both of whom were natives of Bohemia, Austria. They were the parents of two children, Lola and Silas S. In 1852 Simon Footh left his native land and came to the United States, locating in St. Louis, Missouri, where he engaged in the cigar business, in which he continued about one year. In 1854 he came to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased eighty acres of land in Virgil township, and at once began its improvement and as time and his means increased, he purchased more land, until at one time he had a valuable farm of one hundred and eighty acres, all of which was under cultivation.

On the home farm the subject of this sketch grew to manhood, and while assisting his father in its cultivation, attended the district schools as the opportunity was afforded him, receiving a good common-school education. He has followed farming during his entire life together with stock-raising and has been fairly successful.

On the 10th of January, 1887, Mr. Footh married Miss Emma Sabin, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and by this union are three children, one of whom died in infancy. The living are Myrtie A. and Charlie S.

In 1888, Mr. Footh purchased his present farm of one hundred and fifty-three

acres, all of which is under cultivation, and which is a well-improved and valuable farm, the surroundings of which show the thrift and energy of its owner. Politically, he is an enthusiastic Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. For three years he served as road commissioner, and was for several years a member of the school board. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of the Globe.

**ERNEST A. GAGE** resides on section 30, Rutland township, Kane county, Illinois, where he is engaged in general and dairy farming. The Gage family are of old colonial stock, and is scattered over the New England states. Lyman J. Gage, the present Secretary of the Treasury, undoubtedly sprang from common ancestry with the Gage family in Kane county. The first to come to this county was Cyril Gage, who came in 1844, with his brother-in-law, Caleb Truax. His father, Solomon Gage, Sr., came in 1846, and also located in Rutland township. He was the youngest of a family of seven children, and was born in New Hampshire, in 1788, and died in Rutland township, Kane county, October 21, 1851. He married Miriam Guernsey, also a native of New Hampshire, born in 1786, and who died in 1866. She was the daughter of Cyril Guernsey, who never came west. Solomon and Miriam Gage were the parents of eight children, of whom seven reached maturity. Socrates came west with Caleb Truax in 1844. Saloma married Evelyn R. Starks, the first settler of Rutland township, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this work. Esther married Caleb Truax, who was the first of the relatives to move

west and settle in Kane county. Cyril, who came in 1844, with Caleb Truax, as before stated. John, who came in 1848, with his parents, and who is mentioned more at length elsewhere in this review. Solomon, Jr., father of our subject. Aaron came to Illinois with the family in 1848, and now lives in Missouri.

Solomon Gage, Jr., was born in Arcade, Wyoming county, New York, June 15, 1827. He was reared in his native county, and came west in 1846, and later bought a farm west of the present village of Burlington, Kane county, but sold the same after a few years. In company with his brother Cyril, he went to California in 1852, and there engaged in trading in cattle, meat, provisions, etc., to immigrants from the states. In 1854 he returned to Kane county, and after purchasing a lot of horses and cattle, went a second time to the coast, where he remained three years, employed as at first. On his first return the vessel on which he had taken passage, was wrecked and he was cast away on a desolate island, from which he was rescued after two weeks' exposure.

In 1857, having lost his first wife in California, Solomon Gage, Jr., returned to Kane county, married and bought a farm on section 30, Rutland township, where he lived until his death, March 7, 1886. The farm consists of one hundred and forty-one and a half acres, on which he erected all the buildings, but which has been improved by our subject since the death of the father with over two miles of tiling. In addition to the home farm, in the spring of 1884 he purchased six hundred and forty acres in Jackson county, Iowa, lying in Belmont and Hunter townships, on which his son, Charles, now resides. Solomon Gage, Jr., was first married March 15, 1854, to Susan Hoge-

boom, of Geneva, Illinois. She died in California, March 15, 1857, and was followed shortly after by their only child. On the first of July, 1858, he was again married, his second union being with Mary E. King, born in New Haven, Connecticut, October 4, 1840, and who died January 4, 1871. She was the daughter of Madison King, of English descent, a sail-maker by trade, who died when about seventy-eight years of age. His wife survived him, and lived to be ninety years of age. By this second union nine children were born, of whom four lived to maturity. Charles H., who married Estella McClelland, by whom he has three children, Ernest T., Florence and Mary, lives upon a large farm in Minnesota; Ernest A. lives upon the old homestead in Rutland township; Susan M., deceased, first married Dr. W. Heffelfinger, a resident of Lakefield, Minnesota, and after his death married R. E. Nash, who is now living in Chicago; John G. is the proprietor of a drug store in Hampshire.

Solomon Gage, Jr., was for the third time married in 1872, his union being with Mrs. Sylvia Brisbin, widow of Fields F. Brisbin, who died in Plato township in 1870. She was born in Canada in 1826. Her father, Ephraim C. Staunton, was a native of New Hampshire, and the son of Eldridge Staunton, a native of England, who bore arms against the mother country in the war of 1812, and who was killed in the battle of Black Rock, December 31, 1813. Ephraim C. Staunton married Sarah Samis, a native of New York state, and a daughter of Benjamin Samis, likewise a native of New York. They lived for a time in Canada, but came to Kane county, Illinois, in 1845, settling in Burlington township, where he died in 1861.

Ernest A. Gage, our subject, was born on the farm where he now resides and after attending the district schools completed his education in Beloit College. With the exception of two and a half years, when he resided on a farm in Minnesota, he has spent his entire life on the home farm. In 1886, after his father's death, he took charge of the homestead, which has since been under his control. He was married March 31, 1891, to Emma C. Hemrick, a daughter of Philip Hemrick, of Rutland township, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

In politics Mr. Gage is a Republican, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. He has been a member of the school board for several terms. Fraternally he is a member of Hampshire lodge, No. 443, A. F. & A. M., of Hampshire, and Loyal L. Munn chapter, R. A. M., and of Blackhawk garrison, No. 32, Knights of the Globe, Hampshire. He and his wife are members of the Eastern Star lodge of Hampshire. As a farmer he is thoroughly practical and keeps his farm under a high state of cultivation, devoting it principally to dairy purposes.

---

**T**ODD BENJAMIN, residing on section 19, Sugar Grove township, is in every respect a representative citizen of the county, and is now operating the home farm of two hundred acres on which he was born January 30, 1853. On his father's side he is of Scotch descent, his grandfather, Elisha, who was an early settler of Oneida county, New York, being of Scotch parentage. Leonard Benjamin, the father, was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1812, and

there grew to manhood, and after having passed through the common schools entered Hamilton College, and taking the regular course, was graduated therefrom. In 1837, he came to Kane county, Illinois, and made claim to one hundred and sixty acres in Sugar Grove township, on which he built a small residence and began its further improvement. When the land came into market he secured his deed for the same, together with forty acres additional, which is yet in possession of the family and is the home of our subject. He later bought a farm of forty acres in Big Rock township. A well educated man and a practical farmer, he made of the place one of the best in the township. In 1891, the family residence was destroyed by fire, and he later built the present substantial residence.

Before coming to Illinois, Mr. Benjamin taught several terms in the public schools and after his arrival here again engaged in teaching in connection with his farm work, teaching in all about twenty terms. He here married Lucretia Emery, a native of Tompkins county, New York, and a daughter of Abner Emery. By this union were two sons and one daughter, Todd our subject; Ida, wife of Charles Dugan, a farmer of Sugar Grove township; and Pratt, also a farmer of Sugar Grove township and the present township assessor. By a former marriage there are two sons, Charles and James.

Leonard Benjamin was in his time one of the most prominent men in Sugar Grove township, where he served as supervisor, assessor, justice of the peace, township trustee, collector, and other positions of honor and trust, showing the confidence reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He died on the old homestead May 21, 1895.



His widow survives and makes her home with her son, the subject of this sketch.

Todd Benjamin grew to manhood on the old farm, and in his youth assisted in its cultivation. His primary education was obtained in the schools of his neighborhood, after which he attended the Jennings Seminary at Aurora, preparatory to a college course. He then entered the State University at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from which he graduated in the class of 1878. When but eighteen years of age he taught his first term in the public schools, and taught several terms before entering the university. After completing his course, he taught some twelve or fifteen terms, and now holds a teacher's certificate. He has, however, abandoned the profession, and now gives his time exclusively to the management of the farm, of which he has had charge since 1890.

Mr. Benjamin was united in marriage in Tekamah, Burt county, Nebraska, December 8, 1895, with Miss Alta Breed, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Charles Breed, now deceased, who was an early settler of De Kalb county, Illinois, and also of Tekamah, Nebraska. Politically Mr. Benjamin is a life-long Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes, in 1876. In local political affairs he has been somewhat active, and for eight years was a member of the county central committee of his party. He has also served as a delegate to various county and state conventions, in which his influence has been felt. For nine consecutive years he served as road commissioner, and has always been in favor of good roads. While not members, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin attend the People's church of Sugar Grove. Fraternally he is a member

of the Modern Woodmen of America at Sugar Grove. A life-long resident of Kane county, and the township where he resides, he is well and favorably known as a man of superior education, of good business ability, and of exemplary habits.

---

SAMUEL HARTER, a retired farmer living on section 17, Kaneville township, came to Kane county in 1854, and for three years was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is a native of Pennsylvania, born in Centre county, January 5, 1827. His father, Jacob Harter, was a native of the same county and state, as was also his grandfather, Andrew Harter. The family are of German ancestry, the first of that name who came from Germany being a pioneer settler of Centre county.

Jacob Harter grew to manhood in Centre county, Pennsylvania, and there married Elizabeth Kern, also a native of the same county. Her father, Stephen Kern, was also a native of Pennsylvania, of German parentage. In his native county Jacob Harter engaged in farming, and there reared his family, spending his entire life there, dying in 1863. His wife survived him about two years, dying in 1865. Of their family of seven sons and three daughters, our subject is fifth in order of birth. All grew to mature years, and five of the seven sons are yet living.

Samuel Harter was reared in his native state, and in its common schools received his education, attending during the winter months, while assisting in operating the farm the remainder of the year. He remained under the parental roof until attaining his majority, and in 1849 was united in

marriage with Mary Dauberman, a daughter of John Dauberman, of Centre county, Pennsylvania. After their marriage they remained in Pennsylvania until 1854, when they came to Kane county, Illinois, locating in Kaneville township, on land belonging to John Dauberman, a place of one hundred and sixty acres of partially improved land. On that farm he remained for about twenty years, giving his time and attention to the improvement of the place. In 1875 he bought his present farm of a hundred and thirty acres, and since coming into his possession he has made many improvements, including the erection of the substantial residence, good barns and other outbuildings, together with a good tenement house.

In 1857, some three years after coming to Kane county, Mr. Harter lost his wife, she dying, leaving one son, Adolphus, a farmer residing in Maple Park, Illinois. They lost one child, a daughter, who died when about one year old. In November, 1857, Mr. Harter married Elizabeth Gusler, a native of York county, Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob Gusler, a pioneer of Du Page county, Illinois, who later removed to Kaneville township, Kane county. By this marriage there is one son, Rodell S., who is married and is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at Maple Park, Illinois. He is also a member of the town council and a justice of the peace.

Politically, Mr. Harter supported the men and measures of the Democratic party until 1896, when he voted for William McKinley and sound money. For years he served as commissioner of highways and also a member of the school board. He is now serving as township trustee, which position he has held for six years. Religiously, he and his wife are members of the United

Evangelical church, and for some years he was a member of its official board.

Mr. Harter commenced life with but limited means, but by hard work and the practice of economy, he has acquired a competency. For forty-four years he has engaged in agricultural pursuits in Kane county, and that he has made a good farmer is attested by the improvements on his place. As a citizen his friends and neighbors all speak of him in the highest terms of praise.

---

FRANK DOBSON, a farmer residing on section 13, Virgil township, and who receives his mail at Lily Lake postoffice, is a native of Kane county, born on the farm where he now resides, June 28, 1854, and is the son of Abraham and Mary (Currin) Dobson, the former a native of New Brunswick, and the latter of Ireland. They were the parents of six children—Mary, Julia, Frank, George, Eleanor and Alfred. The paternal grandfather Dobson was a native of England, who emigrated to New Brunswick at an early day, and there engaged in farming, at which occupation he continued during his entire life.

In 1838, Abraham Dobson came to Kane county, Illinois, and purchased a tract of three hundred and twenty acres of government land, in Virgil township, and there engaged in farming and stockraising, in which he was quite successful. He died at the age of sixty years. The subject of this sketch grew to manhood on the old farm, which has always been his home. In the common schools, he received a fairly good education, and by reading and observation has since become a well-informed man. He has an interest in over six hundred acres of

well improved land, and is classed among the most substantial farmers of Virgil township. In politics he is a Democrat, and religiously he is a member of the Catholic church.

---

S. W. MYERS is engaged in farming and stockraising on section 9, Sugar Grove township, where he owns and operates a farm of about three hundred acres of well-improved and valuable land. He is a native of Illinois, born near Eureka, Woodford county, July 26, 1856. His father, Lewis H. Myers, was born in 1835, in Pennsylvania, and removed to Ohio, when a lad of thirteen, with his parents. George Myers, the paternal ancestor, was one of the early settlers of Pickaway county, Ohio. There Lewis H. Myers spent his youth, and when but eighteen years of age, was united in marriage with Miss Christina Helvern, who was but sixteen years old, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Daniel Helvern, an early settler of Pickaway county, and also of German parentage. Soon after his marriage he moved to Indiana, and spent one year, and in 1856 moved to Illinois, locating in Woodford county, where he bought a partially improved farm of two hundred and forty acres, and there engaged in general farming. He was an active, enterprising and successful agriculturist, and by his thrifty habits has been enabled to retire from active business and is now residing in Washington, Illinois. He was duly honored by his fellow citizens and served in various official positions with credit to himself and satisfaction of others.

S. W. Myers is the second in order of birth in the family of four sons and four daughters, all of whom grew to mature

years and all married with the exception of two. In his native county, our subject grew to manhood and received his primary education in the common schools, which was supplemented by two years at Westfield College. He was one year engaged in teaching during his college course, and after finishing his studies he farmed one year in Woodford county, and was then appointed deputy sheriff of the county, and removed to Metamora, then the county seat. After serving as deputy one term he returned to the farm where he spent four years and then moved to Eureka, where he engaged in the live stock business, in which he was quite successful. While residing on the farm he was elected a member of the board of supervisors of Woodford county, and after his removal to Eureka was again elected a member of the board, and during his service, was on some important committees including public buildings, almshouses, and judiciary.

In 1891, Mr. Myers disposed of his interest in Eureka, and came to Kane county, and bought the farm on which he now resides. Since locating here he has built a neat and substantial residence and several outbuildings, cleared and broke about seventy acres of new land, and put the place in the very best condition. For years he has been engaged in the fine stock business and is now making a specialty of Poland China hogs and Jersey cattle. He is also engaged to some extent in breeding thoroughbred Percheron horses. There is no better judge of fine stock in Kane county than Mr. Myers.

Politically Mr. Myers is a Democrat, with which party he has been identified since attaining his majority. In 1893 he was elected justice of the peace of Sugar Grove



township, was re-elected and is now serving his fifth year. He has served as delegate to various conventions and is an ardent supporter of the free-silver measure. In 1896 he was nominated by his party as a candidate for the office of county recorder, but failed of election, the county being strongly Republican.

Mr. Myers was married in Woodford county, Illinois, February 7, 1878, to Isabelle Stumbaugh, a native of Woodford county, where she was reared and educated, and a daughter of Samuel Stumbaugh, one of the early settlers of that county. By this union there are five children, as follows: Gay, a young lady at home, who received her education at Sugar Grove, Illinois, and Knox College, Galesburg; Clark Shull, who is assisting his father in carrying on the farm; Lewis Dean, Mossie and Ruth, who reside at home. Mr. and Mrs. Myers were members of the Presbyterian church in Woodford county, but since locating in Sugar Grove they have not united with any church, though still feeling an interest in moral and church work. Fraternally he is a member of Sugar Grove camp, Modern Woodmen of America. A life-long resident of Illinois, but only residing in Kane county a comparatively few years, Mr. Myers has yet made many friends, who will be pleased to read this sketch of his life.

---

**R**ICHARD DALE, who is now living a retired life on his farm in section 23, Big Rock township, is numbered among the settlers of 1852. He was born in Durham, England, July 28, 1824, and is the son of Thomas Dale, who was born in Yorkshire, England, and who married, in Durham, Miss Ann Stoddard, a native of Durham. In

1852, he emigrated to the United States with his family, coming direct to Kane county, Illinois, and locating in the western part of Big Rock township, where he purchased an improved farm, and engaged in farming, there spending the last years of his life, dying July 28, 1862, at the age of seventy-six years. His wife survived him a number of years, dying in March, 1876, at the age of eighty-two years. Of their family of fifteen children, all grew to mature years, of which number the following named are now living: George S., residing in Chicago; Thomas S., of Hinckley, Illinois; Richard, of this review; Mrs. E. F. Long, of Big Rock; and Mrs. Alfred Summers, of Aurora.

Richard Dale came to Kane county, a young man of twenty-eight years, and assisted his father in the operation of the home farm, until the latter's death. He was married in Aurora, March 6, 1856, to Ann Summers, a native of England, born in Frome, Somerset county, England, and who came to this country with her parents when but eight years of age. Her father, Joseph Summers, was one of the first settlers of Kane county, locating here in 1836, and purchasing a tract of four hundred acres, in Big Rock township, and, at his death, left Mrs. Dale that part of the estate on which they now reside. To Mr. and Mrs. Dale five children were born: Joseph H. resides at home and is carrying on the farm; John R. grew to manhood, and died December 21, 1884, at the age of twenty-two years; Martha M. is yet residing at home; Ann S. is the wife of E. K. Frydendall, of Big Rock, and they have one child, Lura; Sidney J., a single man, also resides at home.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Dale

located on the farm where they now reside, and he at once began its improvement. He has since built a neat and substantial residence, good barns and other outbuildings, and has tiled much of the land. He has now a well-improved and valuable farm of two hundred and eight acres. His good wife passed to her reward on the 17th of September, 1891, when nearly sixty-four years of age. Her death was mourned not alone by the family but by a large circle of friends.

Politically, Mr. Dale and sons are strong Democrats and give earnest and enthusiastic support to the men and measures of that party. For fifteen years, Mr. Dale served as commissioner of highways, and for twenty-six consecutive years was school director of Eagle school district, and is still serving as a member of the school board. Religiously, he was reared in the Episcopal faith. Identified with the interests of Big Rock township, for forty-six years, he is well known and is universally respected.

**C**HRISTOFER FREDERIC GEYER, who resides at No. 70, South Fourth street, Aurora, Illinois, is the well-known superintendent of the locomotive department of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, a position which he has held for the past twenty years, to the satisfaction of all concerned. He is a native of Germany, born in Wurtemberg, near Lake Constance, October 22, 1839. In his native city he remained until fifteen years of age, during which time he received a liberal education, although yet in his youth, he determined at once to begin life for himself, with a view of bettering his condition in life, he resolved to emigrate to America.

Leaving home, he took ship at Havre, France, in a sailing vessel, and was seven weeks in making the voyage across the Atlantic, during which time they experienced some very severe weather, the storms sweeping the deck, carrying off one of the masts and a portion of the forward deck. Arriving in New York, he proceeded at once to Buffalo, where he joined some friends, and spent the first seven months on a farm. He then went into the machine shops of Henry Hawkins, where he served a five-years apprenticeship, during which time he saved up five hundred dollars. An absence of six years from home and friends, made him desirous of once more returning to his native land. He accordingly recrossed the Atlantic and after spending three and a half months with his parents and friends, he returned to Buffalo, and again went to work in the machine shops. His employer later gave him a letter to a brother in Aurora, when he came here and went into the shops of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company, where he worked as a journeyman until 1875. He was then promoted to assistant foreman and served in that capacity about two years, and then took charge of the boiler shop for a year. In 1878 he was given charge of the locomotive department, and has held that responsible position up to the present time, having under his control from two hundred to four hundred men. Mr. Geyer was married in Aurora, March 29, 1864, to Miss Caroline Scharshug, a native of New York, born in the city of Brooklyn, and a daughter of John Scharshug, who removed with his family to Aurora in 1853, and locating on a farm in the city. He now resides in Aurora, where he is living a retired life. By this union are three children: the oldest,

Mary, is the wife of Frank Lincoln, of Aurora; Clarence, now a student at the Northwestern Medical College; and Edna I., a student in the East Aurora High School. They lost two children, Frederick O., who died at the age of eleven years, and Cora Josephine, who died at the age of seven years, both dying December 14, 1877, of diphtheria, and both buried in one grave.

Since coming to Aurora, Mr. Geyer has been fairly prosperous and has been able to make some investments. On the organization of the Improvement and Building Association, he subscribed to its stock, and was made one of its directors, and is now its vice-president. For eight years he was a member of the board of public works, the duties of which office he discharged in a faithful manner. Politically he is identified with the Republican party, on national issues, but in local affairs he votes regardless of party. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, of the blue lodge, chapter and Eastern Star. Mrs. Geyer was reared a Lutheran. In his thirty-five years residence in Aurora, Mr. Geyer has not only gained the confidence of the officials of the great road with which he is connected, but has also gained the respect of all the people of Aurora, and is recognized as one of its best representative citizens.

**A**SEM A. OAKLEY, a farmer residing on section 31, Hampshire township, is a native of the Prairie state, born in Genoa township, De Kalb county, Illinois, January 9, 1853, and is the son of John A. and Mary Ann (Eddy) Oakley, the former a native of Oak Hill, New York, born in 1818, and the latter a native of Yates county, New York, and a daughter of John Eddy. The first

persons by the name of Eddy to come to America were Samuel and John, who came in 1630, in the ship *Handmaid*, landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts. They were the sons of Rev. William Eddye, vicar of the church of St. Dunstan, Cranbrook, County Kent, England, who married Mary Foster. Samuel Eddy was one of the original purchasers of the town of Middleboro, Massachusetts. His wife's first name was Elizabeth. Zachariah, son of Samuel, married Alice Paddock, and their son Joshua married Hannah Stevens. Their son John married Sarah Stevens and lived at Gloucester. Their son John was a captain in the Revolutionary war. He married Deborah Winsor, daughter of John Winsor, a celebrated Baptist minister of Smithfield, Rhode Island. Their son Richard married Susannah Shaw, the mother of Mary A. Eddy, who married John A. Oakley, the father of our subject. The name Eddye, from the Anglo-Saxon *Edda*, or *Eadig*, from root "ead", meaning prosperity. The remote ancestors fought in the holy wars, as is shown in the cross on armoreal bearings, which is a shield with the heads of three old men connected at shoulders by cross, croslet and dagger, salientwise for crest. The motto is "*Crux mihi grata quies.*"

In 1841 John A. Oakley came to Illinois and located in Genoa township, De Kalb county, where he purchased one hundred and twenty-five acres, on section 25, and forty acres adjoining in Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois. He was a man of some prominence in De Kalb county, and for a time served as postmaster of New Lebanon. In politics he was a Republican. His death occurred in January, 1864. He was married about 1843 to Mary



Ann Eddy, and they became the parents of five children, as follows: Erasmus A., deceased; Windsor, who lives in Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois; Melinda, wife of George Harrington, residing on the old homestead, section 25, Genoa township, De Kalb county; Amelia, wife of George Hallock, of Seattle, Washington; and Asem A., our subject.

Asem A. Oakley remained upon the home farm in Genoa township, De Kalb county, until fourteen years of age, receiving his primary education in the public schools. He then went to Hillsdale, Michigan, where he pursued his studies in the college at that place, for three and a half years. From Hillsdale he went to Yates and Steuben counties, New York, where he spent six months visiting relatives and in working part of the time. Returning home he worked on the farm of his mother, until the age of twenty-three years, when he married Catherine Berry, born in Burlington township, Kane county, Illinois, and a daughter of Ebenezer and Matilda (Bennett) Berry, both of whom were natives of New York. Her father is now living retired in Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois. By this union are five children: Clifford, Daisy, Jessie, Kittie and Mary A., the latter being better known as "Bonnie." The four girls are expert musicians, forming an orchestra on the piano, violin, mandolin and guitar. Their services are in demand for entertainments.

After his marriage, Mr. Oakley rented a farm in Genoa township, for three years, and then crossed the line into Burlington township, Kane county, where he rented a farm for one year, after which he purchased his present farm of one hundred acres, on section 31, Hampshire township, which is a

well improved place and is devoted to general and dairy farming. In politics Mr. Oakley is a Republican, and fraternally he is a member of Hampshire Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. He has never desired office and has only been prevailed upon to accept that of school director.

LOUIS A. DEAN, who resides on section 35, Big Rock township, has a well-improved farm of one hundred and thirty acres, and is numbered among the settlers of Kane county of 1847. He was born in Westchester county, New York, April 30, 1843. His father, Smith A. Dean, was also a native of the same county and state, where he married Delilah Wright, also a native of New York. In 1846 they came to Kane county, Illinois, with their family and located in Big Rock township, on the farm now owned and operated by our subject. On his arrival he purchased the land, a small portion of which had been under the plow, and at once fenced and commenced the cultivation of the place, and here died April 28, 1849, at the age of forty-seven years. His wife survived him and died December 2, 1882, at the age of seventy-two years. Their children were: Erastus married and residing in Waterman, De Kalb county; Alice, wife of C. W. Reynolds, residing in Morrison, Illinois; John, who accidentally met his death when forty years of age; Ada, wife of Edward Meade, residing in Dunlap, Iowa; Louis A., the subject of this sketch; and Mariam, widow of Alfred King, of Aurora.

Louis A. Dean came to Kane county when but three years of age and upon the farm in Big Rock township grew to manhood and attended the public schools of the

neighborhood. His school life was during the winter months, the summer months being required for work upon the farm. He was married in Kane county, December 9, 1862, to Louisa Mewhirter, a native of Pennsylvania, born in Westmoreland county, and who came when a child to Kane county with her parents. Her father, William Mewhirter, was among the earliest settlers of the county and here died at the age of eighty-four years. His wife surviving him, died at the age of ninety years. To Mr. and Mrs. Dean two children were born. The eldest, Elmer, now owns and operates a farm of one hundred acres adjoining the old homestead. He married Anna Loucks, daughter of Almeron and Henrietta Loucks, and they have a son, Lewis A. Elzora is the wife of Albert Greenacre, a stock dealer of Hinckley, Illinois. They have one daughter, Alice.

After their marriage, Mr. Dean rented a farm for some years in the neighborhood of the old home place. He then bought out the heirs of the family homestead, which consisted of one hundred and ten acres. He later bought twenty acres adjoining the farm, and has since built a good addition to the house, erected a large barn and various outbuildings, put up a wind pump, and tiled the farm, making of it one of the best in Big Rock township. In addition to his home farm, Mr. Dean has operated one hundred and sixty acres of other land for some years, and is recognized as one of the active and successful farmers of Big Rock township.

Politically, Mr. Dean is a Democrat, with which party he has acted and given his support since casting his first presidential ballot for General George B. McClellan in 1864. Mr. and Mrs. Dean have been resi-

dents of Kane county since childhood, and attended the same school. They have witnessed the growth and development of the county and have been identified with its interests for more than half a century, and are well known and greatly esteemed in Kane and adjoining counties.

---

JAMES McMAHON is a prosperous farmer residing on section 23, Virgil township, where he owns and operates a farm of about four hundred acres of well improved and valuable land. He is a native of County Clare, Ireland, born in March, 1825, and is the son of Thomas and Nancy (Noonan) McMahon, both of whom were natives of Ireland, and became the parents of eight children.

The subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth in his native land, and on attaining his majority joined the great band of emigrants for the new world. Arriving in New York he proceeded to Connecticut, where he remained six years, and in 1862 came to Kane county, Illinois. In 1863 he returned to Connecticut, and married Mary Comins, a native of Ireland, and by this union were born fourteen children, seven of whom are living. In order of birth they are as follows: Thomas, Margaret, Katie, James, William, Dennis and Vincent.

In 1882 Mr. McMahon purchased the farm where he now resides, which then comprised about one hundred and seventy-one acres, but to which he has since added until he has now three hundred and ninety-five acres of as fine land as can be found in Virgil township, and which is under a high state of cultivation. Here he engages in general and dairy farming, and has been

very successful. He is a natural born farmer, and has followed that occupation during his entire life. In politics he is a Democrat, and has voted that ticket since obtaining his naturalization papers in 1861. While taking a commendable interest in political affairs, he gives his time and attention to his extensive business interests, leaving office seeking and office holding to others. The entire family are members of the Catholic church, in the doctrines of which they have unbounded faith.

---

ELAM F. HATCH, who resides on section 7, Sugar Grove township, traces his ancestry back to Thomas Hatch, who was born in Kent county, England, in 1603, and who came to the new world with Governor Winthrop in 1630, landing at Cape Cod. Elam F. is in the sixth generation from Thomas Hatch. He was born in Sherburne, Chenango county, New York, February 10, 1839. His father, Elam Hatch, was born in 1787, in the same house in which our subject was born. Timothy Hatch, the grandfather, was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, as was also his father, Jethro Hatch, the great-grandfather of our subject. Elam F. Hatch has a cane brought from England by Thomas Hatch in 1630, of which he is justly proud. The cane is of hazel wood with a heavy silver head, and ferrule. Descendants of Thomas Hatch have been well known in the history of the country and in various walks of life.

Elam Hatch, the father, was a farmer in New York, where he married Margaret Farrell, also a native of New York, and who is a descendant of an old family. In 1850, with his family, Mr. Hatch moved to Kane county, Illinois, and located on the

farm in Sugar Grove township, now occupied by our subject. Purchasing a hundred and thirty acres of partially improved land, he built a good house, fenced the land, and opened up a good farm. Here he reared his family and spent the last days of his life, dying in 1876. His wife died the previous year. Their family consisted of four sons. The oldest, Israel Burdette, married in New York, came to Kane county, locating in Aurora, from which place he moved to Kankakee, and still later to Denver, Colorado, and there died in 1888. T. Yale is married and is a farmer by occupation and now resides in Highmore, Hyde county, South Dakota. Elam F. is next in order of birth. Frank D. is a merchant at Kankakee, Illinois.

The subject of this sketch was eleven years of age when he came with his parents to Kane county, Illinois. He grew to manhood on his father's farm and assisted in its cultivation and on the death of his parents succeeded to the home place. In Manchester, Vermont, October 1, 1868, he was united in marriage with Miss Augusta Maria Collson, a native of New York, who came to Illinois in childhood, lived in DeKalb county, where she was reared and educated. By this union are six children as follows: Burdette M., a conductor on the street railway, residing in Aurora; Lorenzo C., a farmer of Sugar Grove township; Cora G., wife of L. K. Owens, a farmer of Sugar Grove township; Addie M., wife of Eddie Phillips, of Big Rock, and Martha F., a young lady now housekeeper for her father. The children are all well educated and each of the daughters have engaged in teaching in the public schools. The wife and mother passed away December 28, 1895. She was an excellent woman, a true



Christian, and her death was sincerely mourned by the family and a large circle of friends.

Politically Mr. Hatch is a life-long Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and has voted for every presidential nominee of the party from that time to the present. He never wanted nor would hold office. Religiously he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and is an official of the church at Kaneville. His parents were also members of that church, although they were reared in the Congregational faith. For forty-eight years Mr. Hatch has been a resident of Kane county, during which time he has contributed his share in its development and has always been interested in its growth and prosperity.

---

DAVID HAMILTON, deceased, who was long a resident of Campton township, was born at Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland, June 11, 1815. He was the son of James and Mary (Kilpatrick) Hamilton, natives of Lanarkshire and Dunbartonshire, Scotland, respectively. James Hamilton was a merchant tailor and clothier in the town of Hamilton, and carried on quite an extensive business. James and Mary Hamilton were the parents of nine children, our subject being the youngest of the family.

David Hamilton received his education at private schools in his native town. He learned the trade of a fruiterer and carried on that business very successfully for over twenty years on London street, Glasgow, Scotland. At the close of the war in 1865, he disposed of his business interests in the old country and came by steamer to the United States, landing at New York. He

proceeded direct to Kane county, Illinois, and resided for a time with the Muirhead family in Plato township, until he could secure a desirable farm. He decided upon one in the northern part of Campton township, and made a purchase of eighty acres, on section 8. He subsequently added sixty acres and afterward an additional fifty acres, and to this was added twenty acres of timber, but subsequently sold two and a half acres to the railroad company. He, soon after purchasing, sold the fifty acres to his son-in-law, George Marshall. There was a log house on the eighty acres first purchased, and in this he resided. He was first married in Glasgow to Jane Morris, by whom he had five children. The wife and mother and youngest child died in Glasgow in 1863, his remaining four children accompanying him to America, and made their home with him for a time upon the farm. He married, for a second wife, Miss Margaret Bowie, September 20, 1867, the ceremony being performed in St. Charles, Illinois, by Rev. David Metlock. Mrs. Hamilton was born at Ardgwon, Inverkip, Renfrewshire, Scotland, March 20, 1820, her parents being Archibald and Ann (Frazer) Bowie. Her mother, who died when Mrs. Hamilton was a child, was a descendant of an old and honored family of Scotland. Her ancestor, being Simon Frazer, of Lovet, Inverniss, a very conspicuous family at the time the Stuarts filled the throne of England. Within the present century a protracted lawsuit has been waged over the Lovet estate, but was decided against the Frazer family, by a verdict of not proven. Mrs. Hamilton spent her childhood days on the sea-coast of Renfrewshire. She was an old friend of the first wife and her husband. She came to Amer-

ica in 1867 and the same year was married to David Hamilton.

The children by the first marriage were Jesse, who died unmarried at the age of forty-four, being accidentally burned to death; John; Mary, the wife of George Marshall, married March 31, 1879; they have three children—David, Jane and Madge; John, who married Vidi Westgarth, of Kane county, is now residing on a farm at Benton Harbor, Michigan; he has six children—Jesse, Isabella, Donald, Nellie, Margaret and John Van Clair; Margaret married, July 14, 1878, James Clark, a farmer near Manchester, Iowa, and has five children—Adelbert, Agnes, Foster, Edna and a girl of three years.

David Hamilton, of this review, while in this county devoted his entire time to dairy farming, keeping a herd of never less than forty milk cows. For some years prior to his death he was in delicate health, and died of heart disease in the Sherman Hospital, in Elgin, Illinois, December 17, 1894, aged eighty years. Soon after her husband's death, Mrs. Hamilton removed to Lily Lake, and erected a neat cottage in which to pass her declining years. She has an interest in her late husband's estate, some land of her own, beside the cozy residence and lot at Lily Lake. In 1885 she made a trip to bonnie Scotland, visiting her old home in Renfrewshire, and making a protracted visit. She again visited Scotland in 1895, staying four months. The trip was saddened by the absence of many of her old-time friends, who had gone to the land beyond. Although in her seventy-ninth year, Mrs. Hamilton is a very bright woman and an interesting talker, possessing all her faculties unimpaired. She is very active, occasionally taking long jour-

neys on foot in the neighborhood, where she has resided for over thirty years, and where she is so well and favorably known.

JOHN J. READ, who is engaged in farming on section 12, Virgil township, was born on the farm where he now resides, November 6, 1852. He is the son of Richmond and Miranda (Sweet) Read, the former a native of Westmoreland county, New Brunswick, and the latter of Syracuse, New York. Of their family of ten children five are now deceased. Those living are: John J., Wilford A., Emma D., Otho E., and George R. The paternal grandfather, Eliphalet Read, was also a native of New Brunswick, and a farmer by occupation. He came to Kane county, Illinois, in September, 1837, and took up two hundred and forty acres of government land in Virgil township, which he improved and which was his home during the remainder of his life.

Richmond Read, the father of our subject, was one of the government surveyors in Kane county. He also took up two hundred and forty acres of government land, and here engaged in farming and stock-raising. He became one of the most prominent men in the township, and at one time was the owner of over five hundred acres of splendid land which he had under a high state of cultivation. His death occurred on the old homestead some years ago.

The subject of this sketch was reared upon the farm where he now resides, and which has been his home during his entire life. After attending the public schools of his neighborhood for a time he finished his education in the graded schools of Sycamore, De Kalb county, which he attended two

years. On the 10th of January, 1877, he was united in marriage with Miss Lola Footh, a native of Virgil township, Kane county, Illinois, a daughter of Simon Footh, and a sister of Silas Footh, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. By this union three children were born—Fred R., Maude and Edith. Maude is now deceased.

Politically, Mr. Read is a Republican, and is a firm believer in the principles of that party. He cast his first presidential vote for Rutherford B. Hayes, in 1876, and his last vote for William McKinley, in 1896. He has been honored by his fellow-citizens with various local offices, including township collector, which position he filled for several years, and a member of the school board, holding the latter office for over twenty-five years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and the Modern Woodmen of America, and Knights of the Globe. He and his brother Wilford are the owners of five hundred and eight acres of land, which is a part of the old Read homestead. The improvements upon the place show the thrift of its owners, who are held in the highest esteem by their friends and neighbors.

---

CHARLES HOPKINS BARRETT, who is engaged in farming in Blackberry township, was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts, October 16, 1850, and is the son of Sylvester and Caroline Adelia (Hix) Barrett, the former a native of Massachusetts, and the latter of Rensselaer county, New York. They were married in Brainard, New York, and later removed to New Lenox, Massachusetts, where he engaged in his trade of mason and also in operating a quarry. After living in Massa-

chusetts for a time, they went to Lebanon, New York, where they remained some years, and in the spring of 1857 came to Illinois, locating at Geneva. For some three or four years he worked the quarry at Batavia, then moved back to Geneva, there lived two years, while still working the quarry. He then moved to Sugar Grove township, where he worked at the mason's trade four years, then moved to the vicinity of La Fox, Blackberry township, where he resided until his death, April 24, 1896, at the age of eighty-six years and three months. He was well and favorably known throughout the county, especially during his active life. He was a member of the Congregational church, of which body his wife was also a member.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject was a very prominent man in his day, serving as colonel of militia. His son, Nathan, was a man of great will power, but died comparatively young, the effects of a cancer in the neck, which severed the jugular vein. He became the father of three sons and three daughters, as follows: Ruth, who married Samuel C. Evarts, of Geneva township, but is now deceased; Julia, wife of William Fitch, lived and died near Lenox, Massachusetts; Ettie, was the wife of William Hazzard, but is now deceased; Sylvester, father of our subject; James and Jedediah, who reside in the vicinity of Lenox, Massachusetts.

The maternal grandfather of our subject was Thomas Hix. His children were, Eliza, deceased; Solomon, deceased; Hiram, residing in Lebanon, New York; Charlotte, residing in New York; Philander, deceased; Mary Jane, deceased; Henrietta, who established a school, known as the Transylvania School, was a very successful teacher, and a most worthy lady; Sarah, wife of



John Proper; Caroline Adelia, the mother of our subject; Ann Maria, wife of Edward Hulburt, resides in the state of Washington, Josephine and Albertine, twins, the former residing with Ann Maria, and the latter is deceased; Frances, residing on the old homestead in Rensselaer county, New York.

The children born to Sylvester and Caroline Adelia Barrett were Charles Hopkins, our subject; Lottie, wife of Willis Richardson, by whom she has one child, Ralph B., and they reside in La Fox, Illinois; Frank and Anna, twins, the former married to Emma Reid, and with the child, Imo, they reside at Union, Illinois; the latter is a primary teacher in St. Charles, Illinois, a lady of culture and refinement, and well worthy of the high esteem in which she is held by the school board, pupils and all concerned.

The subject of this sketch was educated in the common schools and has spent almost his entire life on the farm. For some years he was engaged in dairy farming, having about forty cows and shipping the product to Chicago. He sold out February 18, 1898. In politics he is an ardent Republican, and has been quite active in political affairs, and keeps well posted on the issues of the day. He is perhaps one of the best posted men in his township, and has many of the elements of good citizenship. He is in accord with the progress of the community, on every line of advancement.

---

**A**DAM WEAVER, who resides on section 20, Batavia township, Kane county, is a representative farmer of Kane county, owning and operating a farm of two hundred and forty acres, two miles west of

Batavia. His residence in Kane county dates from 1849. He is a native of New York, born in the town of Ellsburg, Jefferson county, January 31, 1826. His father, John Weaver, was also a native of the same state, born in the Mohawk valley. His grandfather, Adam Weaver, was a soldier in both the Revolutionary war and the second war with Great Britain, in 1812. The family are of German ancestry, and were early settlers of the state of New York. John Weaver, the father, grew to manhood in the village of Mohawk, and there married Christine Chrisman, also a native of New York. After his marriage he settled in Jefferson county, where he reared his family and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1837.

Our subject was but eleven years of age when his father died, after which he was compelled to make his own way in the world. When a young man he went on the lakes as a sailor, and later followed the sea in the same capacity. In all he served some six or eight years on the water. Farming, however, was his main work, and he followed that in his native county for some years. On coming west he commenced work on a farm in Kane county, and for two years worked by the month on various farms. He then rented a farm for two years, after which he rented the Able farm, where he remained six years, and then purchased a portion of his present farm. To his original purchase he added from time to time until he had two hundred and seventy-five acres of valuable land, thirty-five acres of which he has since sold, leaving him a tract of two hundred and forty acres which is under a high state of cultivation, with a good frame dwelling house, large and substantial barn, and good out-

buildings. When purchased the greater part of the farm was unimproved.

Mr. Weaver was united in marriage February 9, 1857, to Mrs. Adelia Trimble, a native of Erie county, New York, born in 1825, and a daughter of John Talmage, who drove through from New York to Chicago, with a team in 1836, and located in Du Page county. Mrs. Weaver was but eleven years of age, and there she grew to womanhood, and first gave her hand in marriage to Charles H. Trimble, and they settled in Kane county, where he engaged in farming. In 1849, on the discovery of gold in California, he went to that new Eldorado, and there died soon after. By her first marriage, she became the mother of two children—Adelbert, who grew to mature years and then died, and Ella, who died at the age of thirteen years.

To Mr. and Mrs. Weaver six children were born as follows: Ada A., who died when about seven years of age; Frances E., now the wife of James McDermott, of Wisconsin; Imogene, who died in childhood; Fanny, who also died in childhood, Orissa, wife of Theodore Brandenburg, of Kane county; and Herbert A., who married Florence Emmett, a native of Kane county, who was educated in Geneva and Batavia, and taught school for some years previous to her marriage, as did also her husband; they have one child, Roy Maxwell.

Mr. Weaver was originally an old-line Whig, but has been a Republican since the organization of that party. For nearly fifty years he has been a resident of Kane county, and is well and favorably known as a man of exemplary habits and upright and character, he and his estimable wife are held in the highest respect by all who know them.

MARSHALL LAWRENCE, who is engaged in general and dairy farming on section 8, Burlington township, was born on section 32 of the same township, and is the son of Edward and Melissa (Marshall) Lawrence. Edward Lawrence is the son of Robert Lawrence, who for many years ran a boat on the canal in England, and there died at the age of seventy-three years, never coming to this country. Our subject's father was born in Thurnham, Lancashire, England, where for eleven years he ran a merchant boat on the canal. Removing from that place, he resided at Liverpool for about one year, and then came to America in company with two brothers, sailing for New York from Liverpool in 1850. The two brothers that accompanied him were both younger. William is deceased and John resides in Sycamore, De Kalb county. Coming direct to Kane county, Illinois, Edward Lawrence settled in St. Charles, where he resided one summer, removing from there to Charter Grove, De Kalb county, where he purchased a farm and engaged in agricultural pursuits. After his marriage he bought a farm on section 32, Burlington township, and later, about 1860, purchased the farm on which our subject now resides on sections 8, 16, and 17, Burlington township. Here Mr. Lawrence made his home until 1881, when he retired from active life and moved to Genoa, De Kalb county, Illinois, residing there up to November, 1896, at which time he removed to Elgin, where he is now living in retirement.

On the 4th of June, 1856, Edward Lawrence was united in marriage with Miss Melissa Marshall, born in Nottinghamshire, England, and a daughter of William and Mary (Bingham) Marshall. Mrs. Law-

rence's father served for seven years in the British army. To this union were born four children in order of birth as follows: Marshall, the subject of this review; Jennie, residing in Elgin with her parents; Robert Edward, a merchant of Elgin; and Mary E., wife of Edwin Lawson, also engaged in the mercantile business in Elgin, Illinois.

Marshall Lawrence was an attendant of the district school No. 10, Burlington township, until his twentieth birthday, after which he rented his father's farm, consisting of one hundred and ninety acres on sections 8, 16, and 17, which he conducts as a general and dairy farm, milking from thirty to thirty-five cows, and selling the product to the factory at Burlington. Mr. Lawrence was joined in wedlock February 24, 1886, in Genoa, De Kalb county, Illinois, with Miss Sallie Schairer, a native of Naperville, Illinois, and a daughter of George and Salome (Vogt) Schairer, the former dying when Sallie was but five years old.

George Schairer was born in Baden, Germany, January 12, 1813, and died in February, 1868. In 1826, when only a lad of thirteen, he came to America, reaching his destination after passing through a number of exciting adventures, including that of shipwreck. He had sailed for New York, but eventually landed in New Orleans, from which place he started north. Working at various places in the different states on his way up, he finally reached Chicago, two years after his landing in New Orleans. On his arrival in Chicago he took up the trade of a tailor, which he learned thoroughly. Leaving Chicago he went to Naperville, Illinois, where he worked at his trade for many years. On the 15th of September, 1865, he removed to Burlington, Illinois, where he purchased a farm consisting of one hundred

and forty acres. This farm was purchased on the 15th of December of the same year, and later was increased to two hundred and thirty-seven and a half acres, which his sons, Charles and Lewis, now operate. Mr. Schairer continued working at his trade up to a short time before his death. He was an earnest worker and an active member of the Lutheran church, and fraternally he was a member of the I. O. O. F.

George Shairer was united in marriage with Miss Salome Vogt, a native of Gierstheim, Alsace, Germany, and who came with her parents to America when ten years of age. The family settled in Lisle, Du Page county, Illinois, where the father bought an eighty-acre farm. Both parents of Mrs. Schairer were killed in a cyclone, which occurred in 1868, the father meeting his death at the bridge, being struck by flying timbers as he was hastening home to protect his family; the mother being killed in the house with her children, none of whom met injury. The grandfather of Mrs. Schairer, Philip Vogt, and his two sons were killed while serving in the French army in Africa. Of the seven children born to George and Salome Schairer, five yet survive, as follows: George, a resident of Aurora; Charles H., a resident of Elgin; Carrie M., wife of Charles A. Chase; Louis, a merchant of Burlington; and Sallie, wife of our subject.

To Marshall and Sallie (Schairer) Lawrence have been born two children, Pearl Winifred and Bertha May. In political belief Mr. Lawrence is independent, voting for the man he considers best qualified to fill the office regardless of party. He has served in several official positions, among them that of highway commissioner, which office he filled for some five years, and then refused to be a candidate. He was school



director for over thirteen years, always taking a deep interest in all things pertaining to education or plans to advance the material interests of his county.

---

**WILLAM GROTE.**—The city of Elgin has within its borders a number of men who have become prominent in the social, political and financial world, and among them all none stand higher, or are worthy of greater commendation than the one whose name heads this sketch. His parents, Wm. and Sophia (Eberhardt) Grote, were German peasants of thrifty, careful and religious habits, who spent their last days in the new world, locating in Bartlett, Du Page county, Illinois, in 1867, the mother dying in 1879, at the age of sixty-seven years, and the father May 27, 1895, at the age of eighty-three years.

William Grote was born in the hamlet of Winzlar, in the province of Hanover, Germany, November 22, 1849, and there secured a limited education in the parodcial schools. Early in life he learned of that country, in which peasant life was unknown, and where even the humblest had the opportunity of attaining the highest rank—the grand United States of America. Obtaining the consent of his parents, he crossed the Atlantic in 1866, when but sixteen years of age, landing in New York, but at once coming west, locating in Bartlett, Du Page county, Illinois, where for one year he was employed as a farm hand. He was then joined by his parents, and together they purchased a farm which they cultivated for nearly five years.

While not not altogether distasteful to him, the life of a farmer was not suited to

our subject. His energy and his mental make-up were not such as could be satisfied with farm work, however honorable or however profitable it might be. Accordingly in 1871 he left the farm and removed to Elgin, where he embarked in the mercantile business, which he successfully continued for eleven years. Though it yielded a good income and was a paying investment, it did not, however, offer the scope for extended operations which he desired, and he therefore disposed of his interests. Prior to this he had invested somewhat in real estate in Elgin, and on retiring from the mercantile trade he determined to engage more extensively in the real estate business.

Not having all the capital desired for the prosecution of his new enterprise, Mr. Grote associated with himself in a portion of the business E. D. Waldron, who became the "silent partner" of the firm. His success was remarkable from the beginning. Mr. Grote carefully watched indications of rise in land values, and when he thought investments could profitably be made, he bought land, and became the owner of extensive tracts in and around Elgin, in addition to much business property. This he divided into city lots, and more than twenty large additions were made by and through him, including the Grote & Waldron, first, second and third, Central Park, Winzlar, Boulevard and Grand View additions.

Some time later, upon the partial retirement from active business of Mr. Waldron, A. B. Church became associated with Mr. Grote, thus strengthening the firm financially and otherwise. Substantial edifices, which add to the beauty and attractiveness of his adopted city, stand as monuments to the thrift and enterprise of Mr. Grote and his associates. While in company with Mr.

Waldron, he erected the Grote & Waldron and the McClure blocks, and in 1880, in connection with Mr. Church, he erected the Merchants Hotel Block, formerly the Jennings House, in which is located the principal hotel in the city.

Time has shown that the highest type of business ability is found in the successful real estate dealer, who must be able to anticipate the rise and fall in the value of land, must be able to read character, so as to know the individual with whom he is dealing, and must so plan and arrange all matters that the persons who are in search of a location may be induced to settle upon property which he controls. Many cities of the west owe their existence to the enterprise and perseverance of some capable real estate dealer. They are virtually the founders of a town and are connected with its development from the time of its inception. That Mr. Grote has all the elements of the successful real-estate man is attested by his work in and for Elgin.

Through the instrumentality of Mr. Grote many industries have been located in Elgin which promote commercial activity and make it one of the thriving cities of the northwest. It was through him that the well-known D. C. Cook Publishing Company established their house here; also the Illinois Watch Case Company, the Ludlow Shoe Company, the Cutter & Crossett Company, manufacturers of gents' furnishing goods, the Elgin Silver Plate Company, and the Elgin Sewing Machine & Bicycle Company, all of great importance and value to the city, and representing a donated capital of about one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

While Mr. Grote has great capacity for work and excellent business ability, his op-

erations have all been confined to Elgin. He is thoroughly loyal to the city which gave him a home, and all his energies are for its upbuilding. Among the various concerns which have added to the material prosperity of the city, with which he is connected, are the Elgin City, Carpentersville & Aurora railway, of which he is president; also president of the Elgin Packing Company; secretary of the Elgin Lumber Company; president of the South Elgin Stone Company; director of the Home National Bank; director of the Home Savings Bank; secretary of the Elgin Brick and Tile Company; vice-president of the Elgin Milking Company; in fact, he is connected with nearly every enterprise of importance in the city.

In his private life Mr. Grote has been most fortunate. He was married March 10, 1872, to Miss Kate Deuchler, a resident of Dundee, Illinois, and to them have been born five children, two sons and three daughters, of whom Augusta, Anna and William are still living. In addition to these they have an adopted son, Frank, whom they are carefully and tenderly rearing. Mrs. Grote has been to her husband a true helpmeet, and has seconded him in every effort made to rise in the world.

Politically Mr. Grote is a stalwart Republican, and is deeply interested in the success and growth of his party. Although it would seem that his business enterprises would occupy his entire time and attention, he has served the people as supervisor two years and assistant supervisor four years. For six years he was one of the members of the board of education of Elgin, working earnestly for the advancement of its schools. In 1891 he headed his party's ticket for the position of mayor, was elected and served



so acceptably that the business and representative men of the city, in 1893, elected him for a second term. He is strong in all the essentials that combine to make a valuable and trustworthy official. Whatever he undertakes to do he does thoroughly and well. He conducted his office as he would manage his own affairs, strictly on business principles, and for this reason he has given general satisfaction. The people delight to honor such men—men who accept public office as a public trust, and who bear its responsibilities and perform its duties fearlessly and conscientiously, jealously guarding the sacred interests of the people whom they have been called to serve.

During the administration of Mr. Grote as mayor a new city hall was built, and upon its completion he donated the clock which now adorns its tower. Many improvements in the way of sewerage and paving were made during his incumbency of the office, the light and water plants were largely increased, and other improvements added, which make Elgin one of the most advanced cities in northern Illinois.

It is as a philanthropist and public benefactor that Mr. Grote is entitled to more credit than he has yet received. His charities have ever been of the most quiet and unostentatious character, and within a few years he has given thousands of dollars, with scarcely a comment beyond those from the people most directly interested. With the German Evangelical Association he has been identified since childhood, and in the erection of the magnificent house of worship of that body in Elgin, built at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars, and which is the finest in the city, he contributed most liberally, which enabled the church to be dedicated free from debt. He is trustee of

the association, and for many years has been superintendent of its Sunday-school, a position which he is eminently qualified to fill. He also acted as one of the trustees for the association's board of publication for America, Germany and Japan, which has headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, and as trustee for Northwestern College, located at Naperville, Illinois.

When the association desired to establish a mission at Lane Park addition to Lake View, Chicago, it was found that no funds were available, and Mr. Grote then set to work. He first secured two lots from the owners, and then personally assisted in building the church and partially supported its minister for a period of five years. This church is now prosperous and self-sustaining. When the Sherman hospital was erected in Elgin he contributed one thousand dollars, and, in addition, he has given much and often to other worthy charities, of which he keeps no record. He gives from a true Christian spirit, and not from any desire to win the praise of his fellow-men. There is nothing narrow or contracted in his nature, and he has made generous donations to various other churches, helping nearly all denominations in Elgin.

In 1887, accompanied by his wife and children, Mr. Grote crossed the Atlantic to the old world, and visited many parts of Europe, spending many pleasant hours amid the scenes of his boyhood. He has also traveled extensively in the United States, and finds in travel his chief source of rest and recreation. Mr. Grote is a very busy man, yet he is ever ready to pause in the midst of his business duties to listen to the appeals and relieve the needy. He is wholly worthy of the respect which is everywhere tendered him, for his very name is



synonymous with honorable dealing, and with all that is elevating to the individual or beneficial to the city.

AUGUSTUS H. DETTMER is a representative of the German-American citizens who have done so much in developing the agricultural interests of the northwest. He resides on section 29, Hampshire township, where he has a fine farm of one hundred and eighty acres of well-improved land. He was born in the village of Langendahl, Hessen Cassel, Germany, December 7, 1835. His paternal grandfather, August Dettmer, was the keeper of an inn, near the River Weser, and owned a small farm. The inn was on a road along which drivers of teams which towed vessels up the river had to return, by a short cut, to their starting place. He was a good business man and quite prosperous. His wife was a Miss Albrecht. His son, William Dettmer, the father of our subject, was born in the village of Gretzbuerŋ, Hessen Cassel, in 1809. He was reared to manhood in his native country and there married Miss Wilhelmina Alberding, born in Langendahl, in 1807, and a daughter of Jacob Alberding, a farmer in the old country. They became the parents of seven children, as follows: Augustus H., our subject; Phillip, deceased; Caroline, living in Sycamore, Illinois; Herman, deceased; Charles, living in South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois; Henry, deceased; Cornelia, who married Joseph Schnee, and resides in South Grove township, De Kalb county.

In 1849, William Dettmer came with his family to the United States, and, landing in New York, there resided one year, and then came west and purchased a farm

in South Grove township, De Kalb county, Illinois, on which he resided until his death, in 1889, when in his eightieth year. He also followed agricultural pursuits in Germany, and, being an only son, he was required to work very hard when a boy, and therefore had but little educational advantages. Trained to hard work, he kept it up during his entire life, and became one of the most prosperous farmers in De Kalb county.

The subject of this sketch attended school in his native village, and also at Nas-sen, Germany. He was fourteen years old when the family emigrated to America, in the spring of 1849. Sailing from Bremen, in April of that year, on the ship "Hermen-a", after a voyage of three weeks, they landed in New York, where he remained until 1856. At the age of twenty-one, he came to Illinois, first locating in South Grove township, DeKalb county, and worked for various farmers for about four years. On the 16th of September, 1861, he married, in Hampshire township, Miss Magdalena Munch, who was born in Tonawanda, Niagara county, New York, about 1840, and died March, 1890. She was the daughter of Phillip and Magdalena (Scheur) Munch, the former a native of Alsace, Germany. By this union are five children—Lydia, who married Harrison Reams, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work; George, who died at the age of nine months; Emma, who married Mark Devine, by whom she has one child, Dettmer; they reside in Elburn, Illinois; Matilda, who married Henry Rittel, and lives in Hampshire, Illinois; and Edward A., who married Alice Reid, daughter of Alexander Reid, whose genealogy is given in full elsewhere in the work. Mrs. Edward

A. Dettmer has been one of the successful teachers of Kane and De Kalb counties, having taught one year in the Warner district, three years in the district where she now resides, in Kane county, and three years in De Kalb county. She graduated from the Hampshire High School in 1890.

In 1861, Mr. Dettmer rented a farm for one year in De Kalb county, and then bought eighty-five acres in South Grove, township, Dakota county, which he continued to operate for ten years. In 1872, he sold that farm, and purchased his present place on section 29, Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois, rebuilt the house and barns, and has since continued to reside. For some years he was engaged in general farming and stockraising, but now gives more time to dairy farming, shipping the products from Hampshire to Chicago. His first presidential vote was cast for John C. Fremont, in 1856, and has since continued to act with the Republican party. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical church.

**SAMUEL R. PLUMMER**, who is operating a farm on section 20, Big Rock township, first came to Kane county in 1855, when a young man of twenty-four years. He is a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of West Newberry, Essex county, May 16, 1831. The family are of English descent, and of Quaker stock. His father, John L. Plummer, was a native of Maine, and the only son born to his parents. His father dying when he was but a small child, he was taken to Massachusetts and reared by some of his mother's family. He married, in Massachusetts, Miss Joanna Rogers, a native of Massachusetts, and a daughter

of Captain Samuel Rogers. John L. Plummer was by occupation a farmer, and also a manufacturer of shoes. He spent his life and reared his family at West Newberry, Massachusetts, and there died in 1877, at the age of eighty-two years. His wife died about 1851. Of their three sons and six daughters, seven grew to mature years, our subject and three daughters being the only survivors.

In his native town, Samuel R. Plummer was reared and educated in its public schools. In his youth he learned the carpenter's and joiner's trade, and followed that occupation prior to his removal west. On coming to Kane county he located at Aurora, where he engaged in contracting and building, following that business at intervals for seven years. In 1862 he accepted a position with a Rochester, New York, nursery company, and for thirteen years was engaged in traveling, and selling nursery stock. His travels took him over twenty-one states, and also into New and Old Mexico, during which time he disposed of nearly a half million dollars worth of stock. While on the road he made his home at Aurora, and during which time he put out ten acres of strawberry plants in Aurora, and cultivated and sold the same to the trade.

On leaving the employ of the nursery company, Mr. Plummer worked for about two years at his trade, and then returned to Massachusetts, and located on the old homestead which he operated until in December, 1883, when he returned to Kane county, and located on the place where he now resides, and on which he has continued to live, engaged in agricultural pursuits. On the farm where he now resides, he was married, September 13, 1864, to Miss Matilda, a daughter of Alexis and Ophelia B.

(Long) Hall, the latter being a daughter of Dr. Silas Long, who was the first physician in Big Rock township. He came from Massachusetts, but was a native of Vermont. In 1836 he located on the farm now occupied by our subject. Alexis Hall was also one of the honored pioneers of Kane county, who on coming here, purchased a tract of about five hundred acres, which he placed under cultivation. Squire Hall was a very prominent man in the early days, and held various positions of honor and trust. He died here January 15, 1883, at the age of eighty-two years; his wife survived him six years, dying February 26, 1889. Mrs. Plummer was reared on the farm here, and after attending the public schools of the neighborhood, finished her course at Jennings Seminary, Aurora. Her father was twice married, and she was one of the children by the second wife. On the division of the estate, after the death of the parents, she succeeded to the part on which they now reside. To Mr. and Mr. Plummer one daughter was born, Mary O., now the wife of H. Leon Cutting, who resides in Stamford, Connecticut, and is in government employ as postal clerk on the Hamburg and American line of steamers, running between New York and Hamburg and Berlin. He passed an examination among six thousand applicants for governmental positions, and is now one of sixteen engaged in that work.

Politically, Mr. Plummer is a lifelong Republican and a firm believer in the principles of that party. He was made a Master Mason in Aurora in 1859, and is now a Knight Templar. For forty-three years he has been identified with the interests of Kane county, and in its growth and prosperity he takes especial pleasure.

JOHN G. KIRK, who owns and operates a large farm on section 10, Burlington township, was born in the town of Lanarkshire, Scotland, December 31, 1843. He was fifth in a family of seven children born to Joseph and Charlotte (Schoulds) Kirk. Joseph Kirk and his wife were both natives of "Bonnie Scotland," as was also his father, Joseph Kirk, Sr., who for many years was an officer of the British army. He was born near the town of Bigger, in the eastern part of Lanarkshire, where he was engaged in farming until coming to America in 1851. After coming to the United States he again took up the occupation of a farmer, at which he continued until his death in 1858, when he had reached the advanced age of seventy-one years.

John G. Kirk left the land of his birth when a lad of eight years, and, coming direct to the United States, settled in Northport, near New Haven, Connecticut, in company with his parents. Here he resided for six years, attending school in the meanwhile. In 1857 the bright halo of success which surrounded the west at that time attracted him, and determining to succeed in life, he immigrated to Illinois, settling in St. Charles, Kane county, where he resided for a number of years, and then went to Chicago. After trying various kinds of employment he engaged in the meat-market business, at which he continued for two years, when he left the mercantile trade to take the position of fireman on the Illinois Central railroad, also later being employed by the Northwestern railway at the same work. Leaving the railroad, at which he had been engaged for over two years, he came back to St. Charles, where he bought a small farm and opened up a meat market in the town, which occupied his attention



for the succeeding two years. He kept his farm for three or four years; then selling it, rented a farm in Virgin township for three years.

In 1881 Mr. Kirk bought the farm on which he now resides, consisting of one hundred and forty acres of finely cultivated farm land. This he ran as a dairy farm principally until 1896, when he commenced buying and selling dairy stock and fattening steers for the market in connection with his general farming. On purchasing his farm our subject rebuilt the house and moved the barns and other outbuildings across the road to a later purchase, in order to make the group of buildings one home place. The farm is well improved and is extremely fertile, being well tiled throughout.

To the father and mother of Mr. Kirk seven children were born, their order of birth being as follows: Jane, the wife of Samuel S. Lee, residing in St. Charles; Francis, married and residing with his children west of Batavia; Elizabeth, deceased; Joseph, residing near St. Charles, Illinois; John G., our subject; Margaret, deceased; and William, who is now living in Chicago.

On the 3rd of April, 1862, Mr. Kirk was united in marriage with Miss Louisa Pazen, a native of Germany, born at Ems, on River Lahn, in Hessen Nassen, April 20, 1839, and came to America in 1853, sailing from Amsterdam and landing in New York, being sixty-three days on the water. She came direct to Chicago, where the marriage ceremony was solemnized. The father of Mrs. Kirk died while they yet resided in their native land, and before leaving the old country Mrs. Pazen took all the children through Amsterdam, showing them the various points of interest, as more than likely they would never have the opportu-

ity to again view the grand old town. Mrs. Kirk yet remembers well the line of demarkation where the muddy waters of the Lahn mingle with the clean green of the Rhine, as it flows into the latter.

To Jacob and Helen (Bensz) Pazen were born seven children: Frank C., a former resident of Wisconsin, is now deceased; Gertrude, deceased; Jacob, who now resides in Oskosh, Wisconsin; Sophie, deceased; Louisa, the wife of our subject; Susetta, living in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Joseph, who occupies a very prominent position with the Chicago fire department. He is the second assistant to the chief, and is well and favorably known in political and social circles, where he exerts considerable influence.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirk have been blessed by the birth of eight children, seven of whom are yet living. Frank, the eldest born is deceased. The living are: Ella, residing at home with her parents; Walter, who is a milk conductor on the Illinois Central railway, running to Chicago, married Laura Godfrey, a daughter of Charles B. Godfrey, of Burlington, Illinois, and by whom she has two children—Elmer and Verna; Lillie, residing at home; Jennette married Ennis Chapman, a blacksmith of Burlington, Illinois, and has three children—Florence, Ada and Frank; Mary, Gertrude and Adella, all residing with their father and mother in Burlington township.

In political faith, Mr. Kirk is an ardent Republican, and while not caring for official position, preferring to give his attention to his business interests, has been prevailed upon to accept the office of justice of the peace, which he has held since 1896, prior to which time he served as constable for four years. He was also a school director

for six years. Fraternally, Mr. Kirk is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodge at St. Charles, Illinois.

While a resident of Chicago, he was selected to drive and escort President Lincoln around through the city. He is president of the Annual Picnic Association of Burlington township, the meetings of which attract many thousands.

---

**H**AROLD D. HEMMENS, editor and publisher of the "Daily and Weekly Courier," was born in Elgin in 1858. In 1882 he, with the late W. S. Doherty, began the publication of the "Courier," and has since continued the work up to the present time. He advocates all measures for the good of the city, and champions its progress along all beneficial lines. Journalism has been his life work, and in his chosen field of labor he has won a fair success.

---

**J**OHAN W. CRIGHTON, section 4, Geneva township, is one of the practical, representative farmers of the township in which he resides. He is what may well be termed "a native son of Illinois," born in Dundee township, Kane county, September 15, 1854. The father of our subject, William Crighton, was born in Scotland, where he attained his majority, and came to the United States a young man of twenty-one. Coming direct to Illinois, he located in Chicago, and there engaged in the butcher business for some years. He later removed to Kane county, where he purchased a farm near Dundee, which he opened up and improved. Mr. Crighton continued in agricultural pursuits for a num-

ber of years, and having acquired a competence, which enables him to live in ease and retirement, he moved to the village of Dundee, where he has since resided. William Crighton was united in marriage with Miss Grace Todd, whose land of nativity was Scotland, but who came to this country when a lass of seven. Her father, James Todd, was one of the early settlers of Kane county, locating in Dundee township.

John W. Crighton, our subject, grew to manhood on the old farm in Dundee township, and received his education in the district and high school at Dundee. He remained at home until he attained his majority, and then went to Chicago, and there worked one year for other parties in the milk business, then started in the same line for himself. For thirteen years he continued in the milk business in Chicago with gratifying success, having worked up a large trade. About 1886 he traded his Chicago property for seventy-eight acres of his present farm, and in the spring of 1889 moved to the place and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. Since locating on the farm he has built a good residence and large barn and made other substantial improvements. To his original purchase he has added sixty-five acres adjoining, and has now one of the best improved farms in the neighborhood.

Mr. Crighton was married at Glen Ellyn, Illinois, April 29, 1880, to Miss Mary Cooper, a native of Illinois, born and reared at Glen Ellyn, and a sister of Hon. L. C. Cooper, of that place. By this union there are three living children—Harry Leslie, Edith A., and John Wilbur. The first born, William, died when five years of age.

Politically Mr. Crighton is a life-long

Republican, having cast his first presidential ballot for Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876. The principles of the party have ever been such that he could readily give his assent to, but he has never been a politician in the common acceptation of the term. Office seeking especially has been distasteful to him, his time and attention being given to his business interests. Religiously his wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, in which she is especially interested. Socially they are both held in the highest esteem, and have many friends in Kane and Cook counties. Success has crowned their efforts, and they are numbered among the well-to-do citizens of Geneva township.

**T**HOMAS H. SOLOMON, who owns and operates a farm on section 16, Burlington township, was born in the city of Chicago, on State street, September 12, 1850, and was the second child to bless the union of Thomas and Emma (Pierce) Solomon. Thomas Solomon, the father of our subject, was born in Cornwall, England, and in early life learned the trade of a shoemaker. This occupation he followed in Cornwall, and also in Chicago after his removal to the United States. In 1854 he, desiring a change, moved to Burlington township, where he purchased one hundred and thirty-seven acres of farming land, and here resided until his death, which occurred in 1896, at the age of seventy-six years.

Thomas Solomon was united in marriage with Miss Emma Pierce, a native of Cornwall, England, and a daughter of John Pierce. Mrs. Solomon died in November, 1884, at the age of sixty-six. To this union was born five children, all of whom

are yet living, and whose order of birth is as follows: John, residing in Sycamore, De Kalb county, Illinois; Thomas H., the subject of this review; Joseph, who is engaged in farming in Nebraska; William, now operating a grocery in Ottawa, Illinois; Mary Jane, who first married Dr. Morand, and after his death was again united in marriage, being wedded to William Heren, who is engaged in farming in Michigan.

The subject of this sketch was but four years of age when he came with his parents to Kane county, settling in Burlington township. Here he attended school until the age of fifteen, after which he aided his father in the cultivation of the home farm, but upon reaching his majority he was joined in wedlock with Miss Grace Munn, and rented a farm in Virgil township for one year. Returning to Burlington township, he leased his father's farm for three years, and then moved to St. Charles, Illinois, where he was employed in various capacities for the succeeding two years. Removing back to Burlington township, Mr. Solomon bought a small farm of twenty-six acres, where he resided twelve years. Selling this place, he again rented his father's homestead. In June, 1891, he purchased his present place, consisting of forty acres, which he operates as a dairy farm, also being largely interested in bees. In connection with his dairy business, he raises hogs and poultry for the market.

On the 24th of September, 1871, Mr. Solomon was united in marriage with Miss Grace Munn, as before mentioned. Mrs. Solomon was born in Virgil township, Kane county, Illinois, and is the daughter of John Munn, a native of East Kent, England. John Munn emigrated to America in 1845, and lived to the age of seventy-one years,



dying about 1878. His father, John Munn, Sr., died in England, where he resided all his life. The father of Mrs. Solomon was united in marriage with Miss Thankful Northway, a daughter of Harmon Northway, a native of England. To John and Thankful Munn were born seven children, of whom Mrs. Solomon was third in order of birth.

The union of Thomas H. Solomon and Grace Munn, was blessed by the birth of six children: Fred, residing at home; Stella, wife of Wm. Van Doosen, a farmer of Burlington, and to whom have been born one child, Edith; Fannie is the wife of Edward Vogle, who is engaged in farming in Riley township, McHenry county, Illinois, and to them one child has been born, which died in infancy; Frank, Edna and Ida, all residing with their parents.

Mr. Solomon is an ardent supporter of Republican principles, and has been somewhat active in local politics. He was an efficient constable of the township for twelve years, and filled that office to the satisfaction of others as well as his partisans. He was also school director for a period of six years. Fraternally, he is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, Burlington camp, No. 471.

**C** H. WAYNE, who has attained distinction as one of the able members of the Elgin bar, is now practicing as a member of the firm of Botsford, Wayne & Botsford. In this profession probably more than any other success depends upon individual merit, upon a thorough understanding of the principles of jurisprudence, a power for keen analysis, and the ability to present clearly, concisely and forcibly the

strong points in his cause. Possessing these necessary qualifications, Mr. Wayne is accorded a foremost place in the ranks of the profession in Kane county, and stands today as one of the most esteemed members of the Elgin bar.

A native of Union, McHenry county, Illinois, he was born December 27, 1855, the only child of Harley and Ellen (Dietz) Wayne. His paternal grandfather, Anthony Wayne, a native of the Empire state, came to Illinois in 1842, locating in McHenry county, where he carried on agricultural pursuits. He had a family of three sons and a daughter, and died at an advanced age. The maternal grandfather, William Dietz, was also born in New York, and was of German lineage. He was a farmer by occupation, and died at the age of sixty years. Both the parents of our subject were born in New York. The father, locating in McHenry county about 1842, was a general merchant of Union for a number of years, and was a very prominent and influential citizen, especially active in affairs political. He became one of the ardent advocates of the Republican party on its organization, and in 1860 served as clerk of the house of representatives of Illinois. At the beginning of the Civil war he loyally responded to the country's call, mustering as a member of Company D, Fifteenth Illinois Infantry. He was elected to the rank of captain, and as such fell fighting at the battle of Shiloh, April 5, 1862, when thirty-eight years of age. Mrs. Wayne still survives her husband, and is a member of the Methodist church, to which he also belonged.

Charles H. Wayne was reared in the village of Union, and acquired his education in the public schools of that town and Marengo. Later he attended the Chicago

University, where he was graduated in the class of 1880. Determining to enter the legal profession and make the practice of law his life work, he became a student in the law office of A. B. Coon, of Marengo, and was admitted to the bar in December, 1882. He came to Elgin in March, 1883, and has practiced here continually since with marked success. He was a deep thinker, a logical reasoner, strong in argument and forceful in delivery, and his addresses before court or jury never fail to carry great weight and seldom fail to convince, he having won some notable forensic triumphs when opposing some of the strongest members of the Elgin bar.

On the 17th of January, 1888, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Wayne and Miss Mary C. Smith, a daughter of Leonidas L. and Sarah (Stewart) Smith. She is a member of the Episcopal church and presides with gracious hospitality over their pleasant home, which is a favorite resort with their many friends. Mr. Wayne belongs to Marengo lodge, A. F. & A. M.; Lansing chapter, R. A. M.; Bethel commandery, No. 36, K. T., and Medinah temple of the Mystic Shrine of Chicago. He also belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. In politics is a Republican. He was president of the board of trustees of Elgin for one term and also mayor of the city for one year, and his administration of the municipal affairs was progressive and reformatory. He is deeply interested in all that pertains to the public welfare and is accounted one of the most valued citizens of Elgin.

---

JEROME B. ELLIS, who is engaged in farming and stock raising in Geneva township, first came to Kane county in the

fall of 1856, and has here since continued to reside. He was born in Warrensburg, Tioga county, New York, November 12, 1838. His father, Samuel Ellis, was a native of the same county and state, born in 1805. He there grew to manhood and married Margaret Westbrook, also a native of Tioga county, New York. In 1844 he removed with his family to Canada, and there engaged in the lumber business, buying and shipping to various points. For eleven years he engaged in that business and in 1856 came to Kane county, Illinois, and bought the farm where our subject now resides, and which was a fairly well improved place. Here he engaged in general farming, and here spent the remainder of his life, dying in May, 1865, at the age of sixty years. His wife survived him for years, passing away in December, 1895, when nearly eighty-nine years old. Of their family of eight children, all grew to mature years. They were Joshua, who settled in Bay City, Michigan, where he engaged in business; Jerome B., of this review; Daniel, a farmer of Kane county; Mrs. Van Wert, of Geneva; Mrs. John Fick, Samuel, Edward and Mrs. Langs. The four last named are now deceased.

The subject of this sketch was a young man of seventeen when he came with his parents to Kane county. In the common schools of Canada and also in the schools of Geneva he received a good education. He remained with his father, assisting in the cultivation of the home farm until twenty-one years of age, when he left home, and spent two seasons upon the lake, and then spent two years roving around, principally through the east. His father being ill he returned home and took charge of the farm, taking care of his parents during the re-

mainder of their lives. After his father's death he succeeded to the old homestead, on which he has since made some valuable improvements. In addition to general farming, for some years he has been engaged in breeding and dealing in pure-blood Jersey cattle, and also in Plymouth Rock poultry, in which he has built up a good business. He has also dealt somewhat extensively in blooded Berkshire hogs. His reputation for the purity of his stock has brought him customers from many of the states of the union. At present he has a herd of twelve pure Jerseys and about twenty-five Berkshires. While he still resides upon the old homestead, he sold the farm to James Swan, of Chicago, in 1891. He owns a farm on section 6, Geneva township, a well improved place of eighty-four acres.

Mr. Ellis was married in Chicago, February 14, 1871, to Miss Laura Powers, of St. Charles, Illinois, a native of Canada, but reared and educated in Kane county, and a daughter of James Powers, also a native of Canada, but who emigrated from that country with teams at a very early day. By this union there are two children: Ernest J., a young man engaged in railroad-ing with the Northwestern railroad; and Charles, a student of the Geneva High Schools.

Politically Mr. Ellis is a lifelong Democrat, and in 1860 cast his first presidential ballot for the "little giant", Stephen A. Douglas, since which time he has voted for every presidential nominee of that party. He does not consider himself a politician in the ordinary sense, but believes in every man exercising the rights of franchise. Both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Geneva. For forty-

two years he has been a resident of Kane county, and has ever taken an interest in that which would add to its prosperity. He is well known as a man of good business ability and a practical farmer. His friends are many throughout the county.

---

GEORGE MICHAEL SCHNEIDER, deceased, was born near Prospect Park, Du Page county, Illinois, September 23, 1853. He was reared in DuPage county, and attended the German school at Naperville, Illinois, and the public schools in the Bonapart district in Du Page county. Our subject was the son of Adam Schneider, a native of Bavaria, and who came to America in 1840. He is yet living on a farm in Du Page county at the age of seventy years, a fine, hearty, hale old gentleman, who is getting the best out of life. Adam Schneider married Margaret Schulz, daughter of Peter and Mary A. (Eisenhutt) Schulz, both of whom were natives of Baden.

At the age of sixteen years, George M. Schneider became his own master, and was employed on farms till twenty years of age. On reaching his twenty-first birthday he started to learn the blacksmith trade at Prospect Park, Illinois, under William Wagner, and worked for him five years and ten months. He came to Burlington township in 1880, and purchased a shop and residence and here continued in business until his death, which occurred October 27, 1893. Mr. Schneider was a devout member of the Catholic church and died in the full assurance of faith. In politics he was a Democrat, and though not desiring official position served as school director for eight years, and as school trustee for four years. Fraternally he was a member of Kane camp, No. 471,



M. W. A., of Burlington, Illinois. He was a man of many lovable traits, genial, whole-souled and friendly to all whom he knew, and a man much missed by his friends and acquaintances, as well as by his neighbors and family. He was always a kind parent and affectionate husband, and no man has been more sincerely mourned.

The subject of this review was united in marriage with Miss Mary Schlick in Milton township, Du Page county, Illinois. She was born in Prospect Park, and is the daughter of Casper Schlick and Margaret Wiedneder, the latter a daughter of Michael Weidneder, a native of Bavaria and a cooper by trade. Caspar Schlick was for many years employed on the railroad at Prospect Park, and died at the residence of his son, Joseph Schlick, in Burlington township, August 13, 1895, at the age of seventy-six. His wife died some years previous, passing away March 26, 1887, aged sixty-seven.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schneider six children were born as follows: Annie E., Frank J., George P., Margaret K., Laura Mary and Carl Michael. Mrs. Schneider is a member of the Catholic church, and is also an active member of the Ladies of the Maccabees, Burlington Hive. Her father made his home with her during the last eight years of his life, up to a few months of his death, when he went to live with his son, Joseph, as before stated. He was a fine, noble-hearted old gentleman and was most highly respected by all who knew him.

---

**D**ENISON R. JENCKS, a well-known and prominent citizen of Elgin, is a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of Kane county. Not only is

there particular interest attaching to his career as one of the early settlers of this section, but in reviewing his genealogical record we find his lineage tracing back to the colonial history of the nation, and to that period which marked the inception of the grandest republic the world has ever known.

Mr. Jencks was born October 13, 1837, in North Adams, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, and is a son of Henry and Amelia B. (Bowles) Jencks. He is a descendant of Governor Jencks, of Rhode Island, who was of English ancestry. His grandfather, Thomas Jencks, was a native of that state and a farmer by occupation. A certificate given to him for service in the war of 1812 is now in the possession of our subject, it being for twenty-one dollars and drawing interest at seven per cent. until paid.

Henry Jencks, our subject's father, was born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and from that state removed to Massachusetts, where at different times he was engaged in business as a merchant and hotel-keeper. He was also connected for a time with the Fink & Walker stage line. Coming west in April, 1841, he located in Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, where he took up a claim from the government and engaged in its cultivation for a few years. In 1849 he gave up farming and removed to the town of Dundee. Politically he was first an old-line Whig, and later a Republican, taking quite an active and influential part in local politics. He died in Elgin April 7, 1877, his wife in Dundee in October, 1871. Both were charter members of the Baptist church at the latter place, and were earnest, consistent Christian people. She was a native of Utica, New York, and a daughter of Frederick and Amelia Bowles, who were also born in that

state. Our subject is the younger of two children, the other being Elizabeth, now deceased. By a former marriage the father had seven children, all of whom have departed this life.

Amid pioneer scenes Denison R. Jencks was reared, and in the public schools of Dundee acquired his early education, which was supplemented by a three-years' course in Drury Academy, at North Adams, Massachusetts. Returning to his home in Dundee, he engaged in merchandising, and during President Lincoln's administration was appointed postmaster at that place, serving as such for six years, when he resigned in favor of a crippled soldier. He also filled the office of township treasurer for three years. In March, 1872, he came to Elgin, where he has since made his home. At first he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, but on account of ill health he gave up that business and accepted the agency of a number of reliable insurance companies. He continued in that business for about twenty years, and then turned it over to his son, while he lives retired.

On the 25th of October, 1859, Mr. Jencks was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth A. Hollister, who was born in Danbury, Connecticut, and was a daughter of A. S. and Elizabeth Hollister, natives of Connecticut. Mrs. Jencks, who was a faithful member of the Baptist church, died January 18, 1897. The only child born to them died in infancy. Later they adopted Fred W. Jencks, who has succeeded his father in business.

Politically Mr. Jencks is identified with the Republican party. For three consecutive years he served as assistant supervisor, and in 1878 was elected alderman, holding that office for thirteen years, and uninter-

ruptedly for eleven years. He was then succeeded by his son. He is a charter member of the Sons of the Revolution. His public and private life are above reproach, for his career has been one characterized by the utmost fidelity to duty. He receives and merits the high regard of the entire community.

---

MICHAEL J. GETZELMAN, a retired farmer living in the village of Hampshire, 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. Possessing the energy and determination which marked the people of Germany, and by the exercise of his powers he has steadily progressed, winning not only a handsome competency but has commanded universal respect by his straight-forward business methods. He was born in Ober-Altenheim, Bavaria, Germany, October 22, 1832, and is the son of Malachi and Mary Getzelman, both of whom were natives of the same country, the former born in 1801, and the son of Andrew Getzelman, a farmer who died in Germany when eighty-two years of age. Malachi Getzelman was a mason by trade, which occupation he followed in his native land. On coming to America, in 1848, he settled in Hampshire township, Kane county, Illinois, where he first acquired forty acres of land, and began agricultural pursuits. Before his death, in 1862, he had acquired one hundred and seventy acres.

The subject of this sketch attended the public schools of his native land until fourteen years of age, when he was con-



firmed and taken into the church. Two years later he came to America with his parents, the family sailing from Havre, France, April 29, 1848, and landing in New York after a voyage of twenty-nine days. Our subject came to Hampshire township and remained with his parents until after attaining his majority. He began life for himself by renting the farm of S. K. Williams for one year, and then the farm of Mrs. Smith for one year, after which he bought from the latter eighty acres, which he proceeded to improve. This was the foundation of the fortune that has attended him, and he now owns four hundred and ninety acres, divided into three farms, all of which is under the highest state of cultivation.

Mr. Getzelman was married in Hampshire township to Mary Frederick, a native of Germany and a daughter of Mathias Frederick, who was also a native of the same country, but who emigrated to America when his daughter was but two years old. By this union nine children have been born, as follows: William, who married Mary Wreshe and lives in Chicago; Elizabeth, deceased; Susan, at home; Cyrus, who married Sophia Schrader, and lives in Hampshire township; John, who married Emma Brenner, and also lives in Hampshire township; Annie, the wife of Frank Brenner, living in Hampshire township; Julius, who married Maggie Hass, and also resides in Hampshire township; Andrew and Emma, who yet reside with their parents and are students in the Hampshire schools.

The farms of our subject are cultivated by his sons, who have been reared to agricultural pursuits and are thorough practical farmers. The entire family are members of the Evangelical church, and in politics

Mr. Getzelman is a Republican. The only office which he has ever held has been that of school director.

**S**YLVESTER SHERMAN MANN, deceased, was for many years one of the most prominent citizens of Kane county. He was of an old New England family, the members of which were all of strong mentality, of fine education, and above the average in brain and influence in the communities where they lived. His father, James Mann, was born in Massachusetts January 1, 1794, and died in Burlington township, Kane county, Illinois, September 22, 1878. He lived in Massachusetts until he attained his majority, when he removed to Wyoming county, New York, where he purchased a farm and erected a hotel at North Java, which he ran for fourteen years. In 1844 he came west, by lake from Buffalo to Chicago, and thence to Burlington township, Kane county, where he purchased twelve hundred acres of land, built a large frame house and at once commenced its improvement. Some years later, while on a visit to his old home in New York, the house was burned. On his return he built a larger and more substantial residence of brick, large enough to serve as a hotel, in which he kept a public house for many years. The building was demolished in 1897 by our subject and a fine frame farm house erected in its place.

James Mann was quite prominent in the early history of Burlington township, and was a man of strong personality, politically a Whig in early life, later a Republican, and religiously a Congregationalist. He was the son of William Mann, a native of Massachusetts. James Mann married Lucy Sher-



man, a native of Java, New York, born March 18, 1798, and who died September 24, 1870. Of their ten children four only survive, as follows: Lucy, wife of Amos Brown, of Lockport, New York; Parmeno, living in Nebraska; Alfred, living in Elgin; and Sherman D., of Burlington, Illinois.

Sylvester S. Mann was born May 30, 1827, in North Java, New York. His education was obtained while yet living in New York, and he came west with his parents in 1844. While yet in his twentieth year he opened a store in the village of Burlington, and under the firm name of Mann & Brown engaged in a general mercantile trade, and also at the same time engaging in farming. Later the firm name was changed to Mann, Hapgood & Co., and the business continued, while he was also interested in a store in Hampshire, run under the name of Hathaway & Co.

Mr. Mann was married May 18, 1850, in Burlington township, to Caroline Young, born in the town of Plainfield, Monroe county, New York, July 17, 1826, and a daughter of Simon and Betsy (Meyers) Young. Her parents moved from New York to Ohio in 1833, where they resided some five or six years, and then came to Kane county, Illinois. Simon Young was born in America of English parents, and was second of a family of three sons, the others being Nicholas and Emanuel. The latter was a bachelor and died at a very old age. Betsy Meyers was born in Cayuga county, New York. To Simon and Betsy Young nine children were born, of whom Caroline was seventh in order of birth. Nearly all attained old age. The living are: Daniel, who lives at Elgin, at the age of eighty-six years; Stephen, who also resides in Elgin, at the age of eighty-four years;

John, living in Waukegan, Illinois, at the age of seventy-six years; and Caroline, widow of our subject. To our subject and wife six children were born, the first dying in infancy. The others are: Elvira, who married C. H. Potter, of Elgin; Alice; Irvin, who died at the age of five years; John S., of whom further mention is made in this sketch; and Nellie, wife of Dr. O. A. Chappell, of Elgin.

Sylvester S. Mann, from the time he attained his majority, occupied a prominent position in the political affairs of his township and county. He served as supervisor in 1858, and several succeeding years. In 1863, he was elected a member of the legislature, and in the session of 1863-4 assisted in bringing about the disagreement between house and senate, which enabled Governor Yates to prorogue the legislature. He was re-elected in 1865, and during this term secured the location of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane, at Elgin, and when additions were made necessary, his constituents re-elected him in 1872. Others seemed unable to accomplish the results required, but he secured an appropriation sufficient to make the necessary changes. For some years he was an official in the management of the Hospital. In 1866, he was appointed and served as collector of Internal Revenue of his district.

Mr. Mann was largely interested in the improvement of cattle, and in 1883 went to Europe, on the steamer City of Chester, which was later sunk in the Golden Gate, San Francisco. While abroad he purchased one hundred and sixty head of Holstein cattle, and one year later, two hundred and ninety-eight head, which he imported in two shipments. He was one of the first importers of this valuable breed in Illinois. For

some years he was a member of the Holstein Breeders' Association, in which he rendered valuable service. Fraternally he was a member of the old Masonic lodge at Burlington. In 1866, he moved to the city of Elgin, where his death occurred August 14, 1885.

John S. Mann, son of Sylvester S. Mann, grew to manhood in Kane county, and in Elgin, married Mattie L. B. Arnold, a native of that city, and a daughter of Marshall Newton Arnold, who was born in Wellesley Hill, Massachusetts, and who came west in 1871, to assume a position as expert watchmaker, in the factory at Elgin. He was the son of Thomas Ambrose Arnold, who died when a young man. His grandfather, Thomas Arnold, was a large property owner in Chicago. The Arnolds are members of an old colonial family, who first settled near Farmington, Maine, and who trace their descent from Myir, King of Kent, in the twelfth century. Marshall N. Arnold married Mary Sharpe, a native of Jackson, Mississippi. His death occurred in 1884. To John S. Mann and wife one child was born, Alice Caroline.

In 1890, five years after the death of our subject, the family moved back to Burlington, occupying the old homestead. The farm being managed by John S. Mann, who is a practical farmer, and a member of the Holstein Breeder's Association of America. Fraternally he is a member of Kane camp, No. 471, M. W. A., of Burlington.

**C**HARLES M. PIERCE, who is engaged in farming on section 27, Burlington township, was born in Sycamore township, De Kalb county, Illinois, April 30, 1861, and came with his parents in the

fall of that year to the farm which he now occupies. His father, Daniel Wesley Pierce, was second in a family of six children. He was born in the village of Shavertown, Delaware county, New York, on the 20th of September, 1834, and came west by boat from Buffalo to Chicago with his parents when about the age of twelve. His father, Martin Pierce, a native of New York, settled three and a half miles north of Genoa, Illinois, dying in 1890 at the age of ninety-eight years, at the residence of his son William, near Genoa, De Kalb county, Illinois.

Daniel Pierce attended school in his native village until coming west, and for one year in Genoa township. When quite a young man he rented a farm in Sycamore township, De Kalb county, where he resided until his removal, in 1861, to Burlington township. Here he lived until 1885, when he rented his farm to our subject and moved back to the Sycamore township farm, where he lived retired until his death in 1887. He was united in marriage to Miss Delia Ann Dayton, October 8, 1857, who was born in De Kalb county, June 18, 1836, and the daughter of Alvin Dayton, a native of Vermont. Her father died on a farm three and a half miles east of Sycamore, Illinois, in August, 1887. He married Abigail Wyman, who resides on the old home place at the advanced age of eighty-five years. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, as were their parents.

Charles M. Pierce is the only son of his parents, and was only one year old when he moved with them from De Kalb county. He attended the district schools of his neighborhood until eighteen years of age. He then worked for his father until the age of twenty-one, when he rented his father's



farm for one year. Mr. Pierce married the girl of his choice and removed to Elgin township, where he resided for one year. Returning, he rented his father's farm for the following five years, after which he again moved to Elgin, and for two years was engaged in the hay and grain business, and also in teaming. Having fallen heir to his father's farm in the spring of 1889, he rented it during his residence in Elgin, coming back in September, 1892, where he has since resided. The farm consists of one hundred and thirty acres of land, which is used principally as a dairy farm. Mr. Pierce keeps from fifteen to twenty-five head of cows, the product of which he sells to the creamery. He also raises stock for sale and large quantities of grain. It is a highly improved farm, most of which were made by his father in his lifetime. He has a large house and barn and good outbuildings on the place and everything is up to date, and shows the work of a practical farmer.

Our subject was married to Miss Ida Wright, the eldest of four living children born to Solomon and Caroline (Pease) Wright, who are residing in Elgin. The three younger ones are George, Frank and William. They had one other child who died young. Solomon Wright was born in Putnam county, New York, March 10, 1836, and is the son of Baldwin and Elizabeth (Foster) Wright. Baldwin Wright is the son of Solomon Wright. Caroline Wright, the mother of Mrs. Pierce, was born in the state of New York, in 1848, and is a daughter of James Pease, who married Salome Cottrell.

To Mr. and Mrs. Pierce were born three children, Roy Alvin, Charles Wesley and Fred Solomon. He is a Republican in his political views, and has been a school di-

rector since 1896. Fraternally Mr. Pierce is a member of K. O. T. M., of Burlington, while his wife is an active member of the Ladies of the Maccabees of the same town.

---

ORSON L. WEAVER, residing on section 30, Batavia township, Kane county, owns and operates a farm of two hundred and forty-eight acres. It lies four miles southwest of the city of Batavia, and is a well-improved and valuable farm. He is a native of New York, born in the town of Ellisburg, Jefferson county, September 22, 1836. His father, George Weaver, was a native of the same county and state, born in 1811. He there married Abigail Colvin, also a native of the same county and state. In 1840, with his wife and children, he drove through with teams to Kane county, Illinois, where he arrived in September of that year. First entering a tract of forty acres, in Blackberry township, he later traded that place and located in Batavia township, where he opened up another farm, on which he resided for some years, after which he purchased the farm on which our subject now resides. When he purchased the land it was entirely uncultivated, but with him it was but a short time before he developed a fine farm, on which he later erected good buildings, and, buying more land, had at the time of his death three hundred and seventy-seven acres. He died there in June, 1891, at the age of eighty years. His first wife died some ten years previously, and he later married again.

George and Abigail Weaver were the parents of three sons and four daughters, who grew to mature years. Electa married Edward Brown, and they located in Vermont,



where he engaged in the hotel business. Later they moved to North Dakota, where they now reside. Adelia Ann married H. P. Brown, of Vermont, a brother of Edward Brown, the husband of her sister. Luella A. is the wife of Charles Knox, and they reside in Kansas. Celesta died at the age of fifteen years. Orson L., our subject, and D. R. are both substantial farmers residing in Batavia township, the latter being now retired. Alvaro died at the age of nineteen years. George grew to manhood, married and died when only twenty-two years old.

Orson L. Weaver grew to manhood on his father's farm, and attended the public schools during the winter months, and assisted in the cultivation of the farm the remainder of the year. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age. In 1860 he married Augusta Bodine, a native of Seneca county, New York, where her parents lived and died. She was a lady of good education, and was a teacher, both in New York, and after her removal to Kane county. By this union there were four children: Hattie grew to womanhood, married and resides in Iowa. Charles died at the age of six years. Celesta married and resides in Sac county, Iowa. William H. engaged in farming in Iowa.

After marriage, Mr. Weaver located on the home farm, and after raising one crop, on the 1st of August, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and at Springfield, Illinois, was mustered into the United States service. He participated in the battles of Raymond, Mississippi, Jackson, Mississippi, Champion Hill, and Vicksburg. For some time he was on provost duty in the latter place, after

which he participated in the battle of Spanish Fort. He was then taken sick, and sent to the hospital at Fort Gibson, where he remained about one month. On the 4th of August, 1865, he was discharged at Chicago, and returned to his home. Soon after he went to Clinton county, Iowa, where he bought a farm of one hundred and twenty acres, on which he remained until November, 1875. Selling that place he returned to Kane county, to the old home farm, where he remained two years, then went west to Fort Kearney, and there engaged in farming for about two years, when he again returned to Kane county, and resumed his place on the old home farm. After the death of his father, he and his brother bought out the other heirs, and later divided the place, our subject taking one hundred and eighty-seven acres. Here he has since continued to reside, and in addition to dairy farming, has been engaged in breeding and dealing in full blooded Short-horn cattle, and Poland China hogs. The old house has been remodeled by him and a large barn erected, with a slate roof, being one of the best in the township.

At Fairbury, Nebraska, in December, 1878, Mr. Weaver was united in marriage with Miss Marietta Finch, born in Whiteside county, Illinois, but reared and educated in Clinton county, Iowa. Her father, Samuel Finch, was a native of Canada, of English descent. He married Lydia Clawson, and later moved to Whiteside county, Illinois, from which place he moved to Minnesota, where his wife died, and he later married again and settled in Clinton county, Iowa. By trade he was a cooper, as was his father and three brothers, all of whom engaged in that business in Whiteside county, Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Weaver,

three children have been born—Adam L., Edith L. and Brayton L.

Politically Mr. Weaver is a Republican. His first presidential ballot was cast in 1860, for Abraham Lincoln, while his last one, in 1896, was cast for William McKinley. For several years he served as highway commissioner, and has also served for some years on the school board. With the exception of the time spent in Iowa and Nebraska, he has been a resident of Illinois for fifty-eight years, and in his adopted county has done his full share in developing its various interests.

## WILLIAM H. ELLITHORPE.—

Among the representative farmers of Burlington township none are better known or more widely respected than he whose name heads this sketch. The subject of this review was born on the farm where he now lives, and here he has spent his entire life, coming into this world May 31, 1848. He is third in a family of six children born to Stephen R. and Emily (Smith) Ellithorpe.

Stephen R. Ellithorpe is the son of John Ellithorpe, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, who was a captain in the war of 1812, being in the engagement at Plattsburg and other battles of the war. He married Eliza Chapman, daughter of a veteran captain of the same war. To this union were born six children: John, who settled in Burlington township, dying at about the age of sixty-five years; Oliver died in Elgin, aged seventy years; Timothy died in Burlington, Illinois, at about the same age; Stephen, the father of our subject; Jedediah is actively engaged in the mercantile business at Russell, Russell county, Kansas;

Albert C., who is a wagonmaker by trade, resides in Chicago, and is the inventor of the air cushion elevator. He served in the war for the Union with a regiment from Chicago, and among the various battles was engaged in the one at Pea Ridge. He was the chief of the commissary.

Stephen R. Ellithorpe was born in the town of Sheldon, Franklin county, Vermont, April 16, 1819, and in 1841 concluded to come west, driving overland fifteen hundred miles to Illinois. Landing in Chicago, Mr. Ellithorpe found himself with only thirty cents and a strong determination to succeed, in his possession, but with that steadfast industry which has characterized the "Yankee" ever since the word was known, he set to work at whatever he could find to do. For one year he engaged in cutting and hauling wood to Chicago for market, at that time there being an abundance in the near vicinity. In 1842 he removed to Burlington township and settled on the farm where he now resides with his son, our subject, he being one of the first pioneers in that township.

The father of our subject was married to Miss Emily Smith, born in Colwell's Manor, Canada, April 15, 1821, and the daughter of Nathan Smith, born February 9, 1786, and a soldier in the war of 1812. Nathan Smith was united in marriage with Miss Phoebe Huxley, born August 28, 1795, and to this marriage were born thirteen children: Uziel, Emily, William, Mary A., deceased, Elizabeth, John G., Malcolm, Lafayette, Henry, Mary, Frank and Lorenzo. The marriage of Stephen R. and Emily (Smith) Ellithorpe was blessed by the birth of six children, as follows: Franklin, who died in 1875; Marion wedded Mary J. Smith and is now residing in Iowa; William H.,



the subject of this review; Phœbe, wife of J. B. Reser, lives in Algonguin, McHenry county, Illinois; Antoinette married Alva Ashcraft and is now residing in De Kalb, De Kalb county, Illinois; Nathan S. was united in marriage with Miss Lulu Doty and is living in Iowa.

Stephen R. Ellithorpe built the first board shanty in the township and was also the first man to erect a frame house and school house. He at one time paid fifty per cent interest for the use of money needed. He takes the Democratic side of the political question and has served in numerous positions of honor and trust, among which, that of assessor and town clerk. He is now living with his son, our subject, on the old homestead, and as he comes of an extremely long-lived race, he bids fair to reach the century mark, having already lived to the age of eighty years, with all his faculties, mental and physical, unimpaired. He still has in his possession deeds from the government for the old homestead. His wife is now in her seventy-eighth year, and will no doubt continue to accompany her husband on life's journey for many more years, as she is enjoying life with good health, and has a zeal that is surprising.

William H. Ellithorpe attended the district and common schools of his neighborhood, where he received his education, and is a graduate of Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, of Chicago. He, unlike many boys, was content to remain on the farm; and now, as he gets on in years, can realize the wisdom of his course more fully than he could in the past. He has purchased eighty acres on section 26, which makes a total of four hundred acres. The latter, however, is leased to tenants. Mr. Ellithorpe operates his farm as a dairy, as

well as a general farm, and milks from eighteen to twenty head of cows. He is also engaged in breeding full-blooded Durham cattle.

On the 20th of October, 1875, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Martha Worden, a native of De Kalb county, Illinois, and a daughter of Benjamin and Martha (Ferguson) Worden, the former a native of Chautauqua county, New York, and the latter of Scotland. To our subject and wife were born two children: Benjamin F., born June 23, 1876, and Stephen R., born August 25, 1879.

In political issues he has been very prominent, especially in local elections. He is a Democrat, the principles of which party being instilled into his mind from boyhood up. He has served in various positions, being township treasurer for fourteen years, town clerk for the same length of time, notary public for a period of twelve years, town trustee of schools and held other minor official positions. In his political as well as social and business life, Mr. Ellithorpe made many friends, and no one in the township where he has so long resided is held in higher or more sincere respect.

---

JAMES A. RUTLEDGE, M. D., room 19 Spurling block, Elgin, is a physician and surgeon of acknowledged skill, one standing high in the medical profession. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri, August 21, 1861, and is a son of Thomas and Abigail J. (Richardson) Rutledge, the former a native of Canada, the latter of Illinois. They were the parents of four children: William, of Kansas City, Missouri; Emma,



of Rockford, Illinois; James A., of this sketch; and Joseph, of Elwood, Indiana.

Thomas Rutledge, the father, was by trade a carpenter, an occupation chosen before coming to the States, at which he worked for some years in Canada. In 1860 he located in St. Louis, and during the war was foreman of the St. Louis arsenal, during which time he also superintended the construction of a number of gunboats at Cairo, Illinois. About the close of the war, being still in the employ of the government, he was ordered west to superintend the building of some forts on the frontier. While engaged in that work his death occurred at Cheyenne, in 1866, while comparatively a young man.

On the death of her husband, Mrs. Rutledge moved with her four fatherless children to the city of DeKalb, DeKalb county, Illinois, and three years later to Rockford, Illinois, where she still lives, and where she reared her family, giving them all the advantages possible in securing an education and becoming honored members of society.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, Joseph Rutledge, was a native of Canada, where his entire life was spent. The maternal grandfather, Benjamin Richardson, was a native of New York, a blacksmith and farmer by occupation. He was one of the first settlers of Winnebago county, Illinois, and one of his sons was the first white child born in that county. He had a large family and died in old age.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were spent in DeKalb and Rockford, and his literary education was completed in the high school of the latter city, from which he graduated in 1879. He then studied pharmacy, and later entered Rush Medical

College, graduating therefrom in 1886. Soon after graduating he located in Fielding, Illinois, where he commenced the practice of his profession. His success was gratifying, but wishing a more extended field he came to Elgin in 1895, and here he has since continued in practice. While a general practitioner he has made a specialty of the diseases of women and children, in which line he is considered authority. Since his graduation the Doctor has taken two courses in the Polyclinic in Chicago, and in all ways endeavors to keep posted in the improvements being constantly made in medicine and surgery. His practice is constantly growing, and patients coming from various points are being constantly treated by him.

In Fairdale, Illinois, April 13, 1887, Dr. Rutledge was united in marriage with Miss Mary H. Crill, an adopted daughter of Isaac Crill, of that place. They now reside at No. 370 Chicago street, Elgin, where their many friends are given a cordial welcome. Mrs. Rutledge is a member of the First Congregational church of Elgin, and does considerable church and Sunday-school work.

The Doctor is a member of the Kishwaukee lodge, No. 402, F. & A. M., of Kingston; Sycamore chapter, No. 49, R. A. M.; and Sycamore commandery, K. T. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen, Court of Honor, and Home Forum, of Elgin, and in the three last named is examining physician. Socially, he is a member of the Century Club, of Elgin. Politically, he is independent in the best sense of the term, voting for such men and measures as at the time he believes will best conserve the interest of the people. Professionally, he is a mem-

ber of the Fox River Medical Society and of the American Medical Association, in both of which he takes an active interest, taking part in the discussion of subjects brought before the societies and contributing to them papers on various subjects. As a citizen the Doctor is greatly esteemed, and as such he takes a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of his adopted city.

---

CHARLES E. GREGORY, city editor of the "Daily News," of Elgin, was born in that city, in the '50s, a son of Samuel E. and Mary Ann (Moffatt) Gregory. The father was born in Orange county, New York, in 1812, in which county his parents spent most of their lives. In their family were ten children, namely: Noah, Hiram, James, John, Sylvester, Benjamin, Samuel, Mrs. Hannah Van Duzer, Mrs. Katy Stevens and George, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of John. The mother of our subject was also a native of Orange county, New York, born in Blooming Grove, September 27, 1811, and was a daughter of Thomas and Deborah Moffat, of Orange county, New York.

During the '40s Samuel E. Gregory emigrated westward and located in Elgin, Illinois, where he engaged in business as a manufacturer of carriages and wagons, and also as a dealer in agricultural implements. On the formation of the Republican party he joined its ranks and became one of its staunch supporters. Both he and his wife were leading members of the early Presbyterian church of Elgin, and took an active and prominent part in its work. He died September 27, 1872, and she passed away October 19, 1896, honored and respected by all who knew them. In their family

were six children: William M., Mary H. and Henry S., all now deceased; Emma L., wife of George E. Hawthorne (see sketch elsewhere in this volume); Kate E., wife of Dr. Daniel H. Whitford; and Charles E., of this review.

The early life of our subject was passed in Elgin, obtaining his education in the public schools of the city. Throughout his active business life he has been interested in journalistic and newspaper work, and for the past twelve years has been connected with the "Daily News." Prior to this he was for a time associated with the same paper. In politics he is a Republican.

On the 20th of July, 1884, Mr. Gregory was united in marriage with Miss Mary E. Slade, a native of Polo, Illinois, and a daughter of Stephen M. Slade, who is now living retired in Elgin. Her mother died some years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Gregory have two children: Carl E. and Bessie A.

---

ERWIN C. CONNER, postmaster and general merchant at Richardson, Kane county, Illinois, although not numbered among the early settlers of Kane county, is a well-known citizen and popular business man. He was born in Holland, New York, June 7, 1848, and is the son of Caleb and Margaret (McCarther) Conner, both of whom were natives of Vermont, and who were the parents of twelve children, of whom our subject is ninth in order of birth. From Vermont, Caleb Conner moved to Holland, New York, in an early day, and there engaged in agricultural pursuits.

On the home farm in Holland, New York, the subject of this sketch spent his boyhood and youth, and received a fairly good education in its public schools. In



1874 he came west to Elgin, Illinois, remaining there three months and then returned to Holland, New York, in order to care for his mother. He continued in that filial duty until her death, July 16, 1881. In 1883 he returned to Illinois, since which time he has been a resident of Kane county.

On the 3rd of October, 1876, Mr. Conner was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Crystal, a native of Canada, and they have one child, Harry, born February 22, 1890. Mr. Conner located at Richardson, in 1886, engaging in the mercantile trade. February 15, 1887, he received the appointment of postmaster, and served in that position until April 15, 1898. In the years that have passed he has succeeded in building up a good, substantial trade. In politics he is thoroughly independent, voting for men rather than party. In his business relations he has been quite successful, and is numbered among the well-to-do men of Kane county. As a citizen he is greatly esteemed and those who know him best trust him the more implicitly.

**P**HILIP SCHULZ, deceased, was for years one of the leading citizens of Kane county, and a farmer whose ability was unquestioned. He was born in the village of Obergimper, Baden, Germany, May 25, 1838. His father, Peter Schulz, was born in the same place September 21, 1798, and died in Du Page county, Illinois, January 1, 1867. He was a farmer all his life. He married Mary Eva Eisenhutt, a native of the same village, born in 1797, and who died in 1867. They were the parents of four children, as follows: Julia, who married Jacob Miller, but is now deceased; John, who lives near Glen Ellyn, Du Page county, Illi-

nois; Margaret, who married Adam Schneider; and Philip, our subject.

Philip Schulz came to America with his parents in the fall of 1846. By boat they went from Mannheim, Germany, to Havre, France, from which place they sailed, landing at New York city, and coming west by way of the Hudson river, Erie canal and the lakes to Chicago, certainly a long distance by water. The family settled between Wheaton and Lisle, Du Page county, where the father engaged in farming and where our subject grew to manhood, in the meantime assisting in the cultivation of the home farm and receiving his education in the public school. He was married in the city of Chicago, September 15, 1861, to Miss Caroline Delles, who was born in the village of Mensdorf, Luxemburg, Germany, January 18, 1843, and who came to America, with an uncle, in March, 1858, sailing from Havre, France, to New York, being twenty-eight days on the water. From that city she came west to Chicago, where she lived until her marriage. She is the daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Koehler) Delles, both natives of Germany, the former being a son of Jacob Delles, who lived and died in Germany. Phillip Delles was an inn-keeper and merchant during early life, and later became an official on a state railroad, from which he retired after twenty-five years service, with a small pension from the government. His death occurred in his native land, December 20, 1893, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife is yet living in the old home in Germany, and is now seventy-nine years old. They were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are yet living, as follows: Caroline, widow of our subject; John living in Sycamore, Illinois; Michael, living in Iowa; James and



Joseph in Chicago; Pierre, making his home with his mother in the old country; and Margaret, now Mrs. Olivier, living in Paris, France.

To Mr. and Mrs. Schulz ten children were born, all of whom are living save one, Annie, who died at the age of eight years. The others are Mary, Caroline, Philip, Katherine, Rosa, Elizabeth, Odelia, Frank and Emma. Of these, Katherine married Michael Rineck, and lives in Chicago; Rosa is a teacher in the Hampshire schools, while Elizabeth is engaged in teaching at Lily Lake; Frank is attending the Metropolitan Business College, Chicago; and Emma is in school at Hampshire.

After marriage, Mr. Schulz lived for two years on his father's farm, then rented a farm near Naperville for three years, and in December, 1866, came to Burlington township, where he purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land, and there for sixteen years was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits. From time to time he added to his original tract, until he was the owner of three hundred and thirty acres. In the fall of 1882, he retired from active farming, and in December of that year moved to the village of Hampshire, where he resided until his death, July 1, 1896. His death occurred in San Francisco, California, while on a tour through the west. Religiously he was a Catholic, and in politics was a Democrat. About the only offices that he held was that of school director and that of city alderman. The family still make their home in Hampshire.

Philip Schulz, Jr., son of Phillip and Caroline Schulz, was born near Naperville, July 10, 1865. He was reared on the farm, on section 8, Burlington township, and received his education in the district schools,

He moved with the family to Hampshire, in 1882, and there resided until 1883. He married Lena Fidler, October 29, 1894, who was born in Garnet, Kansas, and a daughter of Nicholas and Angelina (Hasterd) Fidler. By this union there is one child, Martha Angeline. For a number of years he has rented two hundred and ten acres, a part of the family estate, and has since been engaged in dairy farming with gratifying success.

**J**OSEPHUS DAVENPORT, who resides on section 19, Batavia township, is a native of Du Page county, born in Downer's Grove, March 3, 1845. His father, Theron Davenport, was born in Seneca county, New York, in 1825. He there married Deborah Swarthout, who was born in the same year, and in the same county and state, and who was the daughter of James Swarthout. The Swarthouts are of Holland ancestry, and one of that name was of the first four families to locate in Seneca county, New York. The Davenports are of English ancestry, and were also among the early settlers of that county. Stephen Davenport, the grandfather of our subject, lived to be over one hundred years old. With his son Theron, he came to Illinois, in 1844, and first located in Du Page county, where they took up a half section of land, and opened a farm. The following year Theron Davenport came to Kane county, Illinois, and located near Aurora, where he engaged in farming, and where he resided some years. He later moved to South Dakota, locating at Washington Springs, where he now resides.

Josephus Davenport grew to manhood in Kane county, near where he now resides,

and had fair school advantages, attending first the common school, then the Aurora High School and Jennings Seminary. He remained with his father for several years after attaining his majority and assisted him in the farm work. He was first married in Aurora in 1868, to Louise Bodine, of Seneca county, New York, and who died on the farm in May, 1875, leaving one daughter, Nina L., now the wife of Elmer Given, a railroad conductor, residing at Huron, South Dakota. They have one son, Harold W.

In Sugar Grove township, June 22, 1876, Mr. Davenport married Helen Niles, a native of Kane county, born in Sugar Grove township, and a daughter of Williams Niles, one of the first settlers of Kane county. She was educated in the common schools and Aurora Seminary, and was a teacher for twelve years previous to her marriage.

In 1876 Mr. Davenport bought the farm where he now resides, which was the old homestead of his father, and has here since been actively engaged in farming and dairying. Since residing here he has built a substantial residence, good barn, and various outbuildings, and has now one of the best improved farms in the township. Politically he is a lifelong Republican, his first presidential ballot being cast for U. S. Grant in 1868. While always taking a commendable interest in political affairs, office seeking has not been to his taste. He is a farmer pure and simple, and is recognized as one of the best in Kane county. Religiously Mrs. Davenport is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Batavia, and fraternally he is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of that place. A life-long resident of the county, he is well known, especially in the southern part and wherever and by whoever known he is held

in the highest esteem. He is a man of good business ability, of exemplary habits and upright character.

**D**ANIEL J. MYERS, of the village of Big Rock, and who is there living a retired life, was for over forty years actively engaged in agricultural pursuits in Kane county. He was born in Chenango county, New York, April 26, 1823, and is the son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Fowler) Myers, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. Nathan Myers grew to manhood in his native state and when a young man moved to New York, where his marriage was solemnized. For years he engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes, saddles and harness, at Columbus, New York, where his last days were spent.

The subject of this sketch grew to manhood in Chenango county, and was educated in the schools of Columbus, supplemented by two terms in New Berlin Academy. In 1845, he came to Kane county, Illinois, a young man, and first located in Blackberry township, where he entered one hundred and twenty acres, which he partially improved, and there resided for three years, going thence to Sugar Grove, where he remained two years, and in 1850 moved to Big Rock township. All his lumber for building purposes he hauled from Chicago, where nearly all his necessary supplies were obtained. All the products of his farm he hauled to Chicago, and there disposed of them, either for cash or trade. In Big Rock township, he bought one hundred and sixty acres of raw land, which he fenced and improved and on which he resided and engaged in farming until 1886, when he leased the place to his son, but yet made it his



home until 1896. To his original tract he added one hundred and thirteen acres adjoining. The improvements on his place were all of a most substantial character, and in all his undertakings he met with a fair degree of success. In addition to his other landed interests, he purchased two farms in Sugar Grove township, both of which are well improved, and on which his sons reside.

Mr. Myers was united in marriage in Kane county, November 16, 1846, with Miss Sarah M. West, a native of Chenango county, New York, and a daughter of David West, also a native of the same county, and who was one of the early settlers in Kane county. By this union there are three sons. The oldest, William West, now owns and operates a valuable farm in Sugar Grove township. Lucien P., married, owns and operates a well improved place in Sugar Grove township. The third son, Charles D., is also married, and owns a valuable farm in Sugar Grove township. The mother of these children died December 11, 1884. On the 29th of September, 1896, Mr. Myers was again married, in Big Rock township, his second union being with Mrs. Ellen Crouse, who was born in Big Rock township, Kane county, Illinois, and who is the daughter of Mark Seavey, one of the honored early settlers, who located in Big Rock township, in 1843, coming from Wyoming county, New York, where he grew to manhood, and married Lucy Ann Campbell, a native of Wyoming county, New York, and a daughter of Roger Campbell, of that county. Mr. Seavey was one of the prosperous farmers of Kane county, and here spent his last days, dying about 1852. His widow is yet living, at the age of seventy-six years, and makes her home with Mr. Myers. Of

the two sons and four daughters of Mary and Lucy Ann Seavey, all are yet living and are married. Mrs. Myers grew to womanhood, and September 16, 1865, married Egbert Crouse, a native of Dutchess county, New York, who came to Kane county with his parents, and here made his home until his death, October 4, 1881. His widow lived on the farm for a number of years after his death, and then purchased a lot in the village of Big Rock, on which she built a residence, and where she has since continued to reside.

Politically Mr. Myers is a Republican, and cast his first presidential ballot for John C. Fremont, in 1856. He has never wavered in his support of Republican principles from that time to the present. He has held various positions of honor and trust, the duties of which he has fulfilled in a satisfactory manner to all concerned. A firm believer in the public school system, he has for years cheerfully served as a member of the school board. For fifty-three long years he has been a resident of Kane county, and has contributed his full share towards its development. He is honored, trusted and respected by all who know him.

---

WILLIAM J. GILBERT, who resides in a beautiful home at No. 330 Division street, Elgin, Illinois, was born at Brimfield, Illinois, January 9, 1847, and is the son of James and Lucy (Jaqueth) Gilbert, the former a native of Vermont, and the latter of Indiana. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom are living, as follows: Arnold, of El Paso, Illinois; Christopher, of Peoria, Illinois; Charles, of Verona, Mississippi; Frank, of



Indiana; William J.; Emma; Mrs. Alice Campbell, of Champaign, Illinois; Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Radbone, of Elmwood, Illinois; and Erastus, of Elgin, Illinois.

James Gilbert was by trade a carpenter and came to Illinois at an early day, locating in Peoria. He now resides in Brimfield, Peoria county. For some years he worked at his trade, then became a farmer, and for the past few years has been living a retired life. In his business operations he has been quite successful, and is now the owner of several farms. His wife, who was a member of the Free Will Baptist church, passed to her reward many years ago.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was a native of England, who came to America with three other brothers and they separated in New York. On coming west, while on the Mississippi river with his wife, they took the yellow fever and died. He owned land in the south, which he traded for land warrants in the west, but all knowledge of this has been lost. They had several children, but only one son. The maternal grandfather was a native of one of the eastern states.

William J. Gilbert, our subject, was reared in Peoria county, on his father's farm. In the district schools of that county he began his education, and later attended the public schools of Elgin, to which place he came in the fall of 1866. After leaving school he clerked for Bartlett & Waldron, in a book and stationery store, and remained in that store until Mr. Bartlett sold out, and then went with him into a grocery store, where he remained until 1872. He then started in the book and stationery business for himself, in which he remained until 1893, when he sold out and

is now engaged in the real-estate and renting business.

In January, 1894, Mr. Gilbert was united in marriage with Mrs. Rebecca Burritt, widow of Peter Burritt, and daughter of Thomas and Rebecca McBride. In 1896, they erected one of the handsomest residences in Elgin. Fraternally, he is a Mason and a member of Bethel commandery, K. T., and also of the Knights of Pythias. Politically, he is a Republican. At present he is secretary of the Elgin Packing Company, which is one of the most valuable industries of Elgin. A lifelong resident of Illinois, and a resident of Elgin since 1866, he is well and favorably known.

---

PHILIP RAMER, a veteran of the war for the Union, and an enterprising farmer of Virgil township, has been a resident of this state since 1846, and of Kane county since 1866. He is a native of Ohio, born March 13, 1840, and is the son of Henry and Susan (Troupe) Ramer, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and who located in Ohio at an early day. They were the parents of ten children--Peter, Levi, John, deceased, Henry, Phillip, Anthony, George, Maria, Catherine, and Lovina, the latter being deceased. From Ohio, Henry Ramer moved with his family to Illinois in 1846, and purchased five hundred and sixty acres of Government land, eighty acres for each of his seven sons. He located in De Kalb county, just across the line from Kane county, and there engaged in farming extensively, becoming quite prosperous, and adding materially to his stock of this world's goods. He gave special attention to stock-raising in connection with general farming. His death occurred on the old homestead

when he was eighty-six years old. Well known throughout Kane and De Kalb counties, he was a man universally respected, and enjoyed the reputation of being an honest man.

Phillip Ramer, our subject, was reared on the farm, and received his education in the old log school house in De Kalb county, Illinois. While his school life was limited and the education received therein not of the best, he has yet become a well informed man, gaining knowledge by reading and observation. He has always followed the vocation of a farmer, having a taste for it, and having no desire to change.

The war for the union being in progress, Mr. Ramer enlisted November 9, 1861, as a member of Company G, Fifty-eighth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, at Aurora, and with his regiment went to the front. He participated in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh, and after the latter engagement was taken sick and for three months was in the hospital. He was then discharged from the service and returned home. After spending some time in regaining his health, he again engaged in farm work. In consequence of ill health, caused by disease contracted while in the army, he now draws a pension from the general government.

After his return from the front, Mr. Ramer located in De Kalb county, where he remained until 1866, when he purchased eighty acres of land in Virgil township, near Maple Park, and at once began its improvement, and has there remained until the present time. He also owns three hundred and twenty acres in Ottawa county, Kansas.

On the 1st of January, 1866, Mr. Ramer was united in marriage with Miss Olivia

Watson, of Kaneville, Illinois, but a native of New Jersey. By this union were six children, two of whom are deceased. The living are Alvin, Harley, Charlie and Lloyd. Those deceased were Fielding A. and Gertrude. Fraternally Mr. Ramer is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and religiously he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. In politics he is a Republican and a firm believer in the principles of the party. As a citizen he is enterprising, and as a farmer his ability is recognized by all. Socially he is greatly esteemed.

NATHAN PERRY COLLINS, M. D., was for years one of the best known physicians in Kane county. He was the grandson of Solomon Collins, and the son of Dr. Nathan Collins, probably a native of New Hampshire, who came to Kane county in November, 1835, locating at Clintonville, now South Elgin. In company with Dr. Joseph Tefft and P. C. Gilbert, he drove through by wagon from Madison county, New York, the two Doctors bringing with them their families, but sending their furniture and household goods by lake. They did not find them in Chicago until June, 1836, although they made frequent trips of inquiry. On their arrival they left their families at "Yankee settlement," on the Des Plaines river, in Cook county, and on horseback rode over the prairies searching a place of settlement. They visited settlements at Aurora, Blackberry, Geneva, and that of Ira Minard, where the insane asylum now stands. Descending the river a few miles to the present site of South Elgin, Dr. Collins took up a claim on the west side, and Dr. Tefft on the east side of the



river. The next spring, however, Dr. Collins removed to St. Charles, and the first brick building erected in that place was for his use as an office. It was erected in 1837, and is still standing, but now used as a stable. The Doctor died in 1841, a few months prior to the birth of our subject. He was one of the most prominent of the early settlers, very influential, and of a genial disposition.

Dr. Nathan Collins married Miss Fannie Gilbert, whose birth occurred in De Ruyter, New York. She was a member of one of the three families so intimately connected in the early settlement of Kane county—the Teffts, the Gilberts and the Collinses. Of their family of five children, four reached years of maturity, as follows: Adeline, who married Thomas Orcutt; Marian, who married Manley Morgan; Lydia, who married Adolphus Brown, and Nathan Perry. Dr. Nathan Collins was a cousin of Commodore Perry, from whom our subject received his middle name.

Nathan Perry Collins was born in St. Charles, Illinois, July 9, 1841. After the death of his father, his mother resided for a time at Elgin, at Clintonville and St. Charles, where our subject attended school, as well as at Aurora. The mother died when he was about twelve years old, and he then lived in the family of P. C. Gilbert, a relative for whom he worked for his board. He early evinced the desire to make the medical profession his life work, and to that end read medicine with Dr. Whitford, in Elgin, some two or three years, after which he began practice in a small town in Illinois. Later he took a course in the Cincinnati Eclectic Medical College, from which he was graduated February 11, 1868. He then began practice in Earlville, Illinois,

and in a short time secured a patronage that kept him so constantly employed that his health broke down. For rest and recreation he took a trip to Minnesota, and there met the woman who was later to become his wife.

Dr. Collins was married near Lyle, Mower county, Minnesota, May 5, 1870, to Miss Mary A. Whitford, a native of Erie county, Pennsylvania. Her father, Asahel Whitford, was born in Otsego county, New York, and was by occupation a farmer. From Otsego county he moved to Erie county, Pennsylvania, and later returned to New York, locating in Madison county, where he married Eliza Mitchell, born in De Ruyter, Madison county, and a daughter of Joseph and Mary (Mosher) Mitchell, both of whom were natives of New York. Joseph Mitchell followed the occupation of a farmer during his entire life. When a boy he lived on Nantucket Island, and many were the stories told around the fireside of his early life among the fisher folks and seafaring men. His father was a native of the Isle of Wight. After the death of Joseph Mitchell, his widow made her home with Mrs. Collins, passing to her rest November 30, 1896. She was the mother of five children, Mrs. Collins being the only survivor. Religiously she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In the spring of 1866 Asahel Whitford, who was the son of Ezekiel and Aurilla (Ruggles) Whitford, removed from Madison county and settled near Lyle, Mower county, Minnesota, where he lived until a short time before his death, when, believing a change of climate would be beneficial, he came to South Elgin, and made his home with our subject until his death, May 9, 1887, at the age of sixty-nine years.



Returning to Earlville, our subject resumed practice, but again broke down, when he closed his office and left with his wife for Minnesota. Joining a surveying corps, he remained with the party during the summer and fall, but spent the winter with his wife at the home of her parents. In the spring following he came to Clintonville, now South Elgin, and built a house on part of his father's old claim, with the intention of locating here but temporarily. His practice grew so rapidly that he decided to remain and so rebuilt the house, which is now the home of the family. It is a large, commodious dwelling on Main street.

To Dr. Collins and wife three children were born. Fannie died in infancy. Cornelia W. married Rev. Thomas Ream, the present pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Barrington, Illinois, and they have two children, Dorothy H. and Mary A. William P. is a student in a Chicago medical college, but makes his home with his mother. During his vacations he finds employment in the Malleable Iron Works in St. Charles. In politics he is a Republican.

Dr. Collins was a martyr to his profession. His practice was very large in the country, and calls came to him day and night. On the 22nd of December, 1895, he had a hard drive all day, during which time he was suffering great pain in his heart, but made no complaint at home, not even mentioning it. That night, however, the pain grew so severe a physician had to be called. He grew rapidly worse and expired during the early hours of the morning of December 24. Dr. Collins was a man of decisive character—facts were quickly considered and decision quickly rendered. He was unerring in his judgment of cases coming under his care; kind, but firm in his direc-

tions and management of a case. He was a man whose place in the community can scarcely be filled. While not a church member, he was a religious man. In politics he was a Republican, but his professional duties kept him from accepting an official position but that of school director, which was forced upon him for many years. Fraternally, he was a member of the old Clintonville lodge, A. F. & A. M., which was afterwards merged into one of the Elgin lodges. He was also a member of the Modern Woodmen of America, of South Elgin, for which he was medical examiner.

---

D J. HOGAN, member of the Democratic state central committee, now residing in the beautiful city of Geneva, is a native of the Prairie state, born in Chicago, December 7, 1856. He is a son of John Hogan and wife, both of whom were natives of Ireland, but who emigrated to this country at an early date, locating in Chicago about 1837, where he successfully engaged in mercantile pursuits until the great fire in October, 1871. His death occurred in that city in 1873, while his wife survived him some ten years, dying in 1883. They were the parents of two sons, our subject and his brother, Dr. Hogan, who for seven years was engaged in the practice of his profession in Paris, France. He is now deceased. Both parents were earnest and devout members of the Roman Catholic church and died in that faith.

Our subject grew to manhood in his native city, and after receiving his education in the primary and parochial schools, entered the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana, from which institution he graduated. Later he entered the Union

College of Law, at Chicago, and after pursuing the prescribed course received his degree and was admitted to the bar in 1875. For some seven years he engaged in active practice, securing a good and valuable clientele, but other interests demanded his attention and he therefore abandoned the law.

While on a visit to Ireland, Mr. Hogan was united in marriage May 20, 1879, with Mary Agnes Duhig, who was born, reared and educated in that country. Returning home he brought with him his bride and they began their domestic life in Chicago, which was their home until 1887, when they removed to the more quiet city of Geneva, where they have since continued to reside. Two children have come to bless their union—Mary E., a young lady now attending Mrs. Rice's Girl's Collegiate School of Chicago, in the class of 1899, and John P., a student in the University of Chicago,

Mr. Hogan is very fond of travel and has visited the various European countries eleven times, taking in most every place of interest in England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, France, Spain, Italy and Germany. While visiting the old world so many times, he has not neglected his own country, but has been in almost every state and territory of the union. As might be expected, his knowledge of various countries is extensive, and it is a rare treat to listen to his description of places and men that he has seen.

A life-long Democrat, Mr. Hogan has taken a lively interest in political affairs and has given much of his time and means in advocacy of the principles of his party. His reputation as a party worker, thorough and systematic organizer, is well known throughout the length and breadth of the land and has brought him into prominence

and deserved recognition. Few men are better posted in regard to the relative strength and weak and strong points of the various parties. That knowledge he utilizes in strengthening his own party and weakening the opposing one. While working for his party, giving to it his best efforts, he has never himself sought or cared for official position. He has served as alderman and mayor of his adopted city, and for some years has been a member of the board of trustees of the Northern Illinois Hospital for the Insane at Elgin. He is one of the oldest members of the Democratic state central committee, and the services of no man are more highly appreciated.

Fraternally Mr. Hogan is a member of the Elks, and religiously he and his wife are members of the Catholic church.

---

**R**OBERT GEDDES EARLEY, junior member of the firm of Lovell & Earley, with offices in the Spurling block, Elgin, is a young man whose record appears to be creditable. He is one of Illinois' native sons, having been born in Rock Island, August 26, 1866, his parents being John Hertmann and Laura (Grover) Earley. His father was also a native of Illinois, and the grandfather, Robert Early, was a native of Virginia, whence he came to this state at an early day; he was a "Henry Clay Whig" in politics, and his memory is revered by all who live to remember him at that time. John H. Earley, father of our subject, was the only son of Robert Earley, and now lives in Woodstock, Illinois, where he is engaged in the hardware business. He married Laura Grover, daughter of G. L. Grover, who comes from Pennsylvania and



is now living with his daughter, Mrs. John H. Earley, in Woodstock, Illinois, at the advanced age of ninety-two years. Mrs. John H. Earley was a native of Pennsylvania, where her parents resided for many years and thence removed to Rock Island, Illinois, where her father was elected to and filled the office of sheriff for a number of terms. Both the Earleys and Grovers are of Revolutionary stock, the great-grandfather, Joseph Grover, having come from England in colonial days, and joined the American army when the colonists renounced any and all allegiance to the British crown, and served with credit to himself during nearly two years of that terrible campaign and fight for liberty of the American people. Mr. and Mrs. John H. Earley are the parents of two children, Hattie, who died in infancy, and Robert G., the subject of this sketch.

It was in the common schools of Woodstock, Illinois, that Robert G. Earley acquired his primary education, supplemented by a course in the Woodstock High School, from which he graduated at the age of sixteen years, being one of the youngest students who at that time had completed the course.

A short time after laying aside his textbooks he obtained a position in the abstract office of Richards & Arnold, at Woodstock, Illinois, where he remained for upwards of three years, acquiring a splendid post-graduate course under the able tutorship of one of the best, if not the best, abstracter in the state of Illinois, Hon. Emery E. Richards. From Woodstock Mr. Earley was called to Geneva, Kane county, Illinois, and there took a position in the office of the county and probate clerk; in these positions he gained considerable knowledge of law

and acquired an ambition and desire to enter the legal profession.

In 1891 Mr. Earley came to Elgin and entered the office of Judge Edward C. Lovell, who directed his law studies until his admission to the bar, in May, 1896, and thus well equipped, began his chosen work.

Mr. Earley was married July 9, 1892, to Miss Elsie A. Forrest, a daughter of James E. and Adelaide (Morse) Forrest, early residents of Kane county, Illinois, in the vicinity of LaFox. Mr. and Mrs. Earley have only one surviving child, Caroline, an interesting little sunbeam of twenty-one months. Mrs. Earley is a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist; is an officer of the Key Note Club, a musical society of Elgin, and shares with her husband in the warm regard of many friends.

In politics Mr. Robert G. Earley is a stalwart Republican, and is, and has been since its organization, chairman of the executive committee of the Lincoln Republican Club, an organization which now numbers over eight hundred members, and has also been an executive committeeman for his county for several years in the National League of Republican clubs, and to the national conventions, of which he has been three times elected a delegate.

Mr. Early also belongs to, and is a committeeman, in the Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and is also a member of the Knights of Pythias. He is also a member of the Hamilton Club, of Chicago.

---

EVELYN E. RICH, Hampshire, Illinois. One of the oldest, as well as most honorable, families in Kane county, is that from which the subject of this sketch has



sprung. The family in America is descended from four brothers who came together from Wales in early colonial days, the ancestor of this branch of the family settling in one of the New England states. The grandfather of our subject, Elijah Rich, Sr., was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and after serving through the Revolutionary war settled in Vermont, where he died at the age of seventy-seven years.

Elijah Rich, Jr., an only son, was born in Massachusetts, June 10, 1795, and when a child removed with his parents to Vermont, where he was reared. Here he married and some of his children were born. Early in 1834 he started west on horseback, and after traversing four or five states arrived in Naperville, Illinois, at the house of his friend, Hiram Goodrich, whom he had known in his native state. From here he rode over much of the northern part of Illinois, through several counties, finally selecting a tract on section 31, Deerfield precinct, now Rutland township, and returned to Naperville. Leaving his horse here, he returned to Vermont by way of the lakes in the summer, and sent his nephew, E. R. Starks, who was living with him, to come west to hold the claims he had made for them, which Mr. Starks did that fall.

In the spring of 1836, Mr. Rich again turned his face westward bringing his family with him, coming as he had returned, by water. From White Hall, New York, they came by the Erie canal to Buffalo, coming thence by lake to Chicago, and by wagon to Naperville, where the family was left while Mr. Rich and his nephew built a house to shelter them. Coming to their claims as early as the season would permit, the two first built a cabin on Mr. Starks'

claim which they occupied, until some ground could be broken and a crop planted. Later a larger and more commodious dwelling was erected on Mr. Rich's claim, probably the largest log house in the county, and as soon as completed the family came out from Naperville and here the venerable pioneer made his home until his death November 10, 1871.

On this homestead he reared a family of sons and daughters, who have lived as he lived, honored and respected by all who knew them. His passing carried from among us one of the grand old men who fearlessly faced the hardships of the wilderness to provide for their families a greater heritage than the flinty hills of New England could afford, and leave them sufficient of this world's goods to save them from the many privations which he endured.

Mr. Rich was twice married, first to Triphosa Fowler, daughter of Thomas and Betsey Fowler, natives of Vermont. She bore him four children, two of whom survive: Thomas F., of Hampshire, Illinois; and Melissa, widow of Charles Bradford, living in South Dakota. His second marriage was to Anise Meacham, to whom six children were born: Anise, deceased, married N. R. Sanford; Clarissa, wife of Albert Shurtleff, lives in South Dakota; Venelia, who married E. B. Arnold, and also lives in South Dakota; Delia died at the age of fourteen years; Evelyn E., our subject, a twin brother of Eveline, deceased, who married John Gage, also deceased, of whom more is said elsewhere in this work.

Evelyn E. Rich, the subject of this sketch, was born on the old home farm in Rutland township, April 26, 1839. He was reared on the homestead, attending the district schools until the age of sixteen, at

which time he began life for himself. Renting a farm for two years, he discontinued farming, at the end of that time and for an equal period was engaged at carpentering, when he again took up his regular calling, and was employed on the farm until going into the Union army to help suppress the Rebellion, enlisting May 2, 1864, in Company K, One Hundred and Forty-first Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, for the one-hundred-day service. He remained nearly twice his enlisted time, being mustered out October 10th, of the same year. The regiment to which Mr. Rich was attached was assigned to garrison duty and stationed most of the time along the Mississippi river.

On his return from the war Mr. Rich resumed farming, and after the death of his father, in 1871, purchased the old homestead. Here he resided until 1888, when he retired from active farming, purchased a fine property in the village of Hampshire, where he takes the world easy, while still in the prime of life.

The old homestead, consisting of two hundred and fifty acres of unusually fertile land, is not excelled by any farm in Rutland township. The wide lawn stretching down to the highway, with its magnificent old trees, patriarchs of the original forest, with the woodland across the way, makes a picture of rural beauty pleasing to every eye that beholds it, be he artist or ploughboy. The residence, an unusually large and commodious building, one of the most substantial in the country, was erected by the first proprietor of the estate, while the present owner built the large barn, 112 x 44, and many of the minor buildings on the farm. Dairy farming is the present industry, a fine herd of some sixty head of cattle being

kept there at all times, and frequently many more find shelter there.

Mr. Rich has been by no means idle since leaving the farm, but has been an extensive dealer in live stock of all kinds. He buys and ships milch cows, having at all times a large number on hand for sale. He is an excellent judge of the horse, and no one in Kane county drives a finer pair of high-spirited, handsome roadsters than Mr. Rich.

For a companion in life Mr. Rich chose the daughter of one of the most honored of Kane county's pioneers, Miss Helen Doty, a native of Ohio, where the family was residing a few years prior to continuing their migration westward in the early days when Illinois was emerging from the wilderness. Henry Doty, father of Mrs. Rich, was born in Delaware county, New York, October 16, 1813. In early life he removed to Ohio, where he lived a few years, and then came further west, spending one year at Kenosha, Wisconsin. On his advent to Illinois his whole capital was two and one-half dollars—a small beginning from which he made a success in life that is a credit to any man, and one of which his descendants may well be proud.

October 10, 1843, he settled upon the farm now owned by his son, William E., and for fifty years lived upon and cultivated it. His deed, direct from the government, signed by President James K. Polk, is in possession of the family still. Mr. Doty died October 28, 1893, having lived on the farm fifty years and eight days.

The grandfather, Elijah Doty, was a native of New York state. He died in Ohio aged sixty-seven years. His wife, who was Polly Hodges, attained the age of ninety-seven, passing away on the home farm in



Kane county. Her marriage occurred at the age of sixteen, and she became the mother of fourteen children, five of whom survive.

Henry Doty first married Persis F. Burlington, a native of New Hampshire, daughter of Chauncey and Roxina (Folkner) Burlington, who lived to be ninety-five and ninety respectively. Of Mr. Doty's first marriage four children were born, the mother dying when they were very young. The three surviving are Henry S. Doty, of Sauk county, Minnesota; Mrs. Rich and Mrs. C. T. Campbell, living in Crowley county, Kansas. Of Mr. Doty's second marriage to Maria Page, three children were born, only one of whom survives, William E. Doty, occupying and owning the old home farm.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rich seven children have been born: Addie E., who married Frank Ball and is living on the home farm in Rutland township. To them eight children have been born. May E., who married A. D. Brown, of Forks, Wyoming Territory, is the mother of one child. Milton, died in 1890, aged twenty-three years. Henry E. lives in Wyoming on a large ranch, and with him is Ralph, who employs part of his time teaching. Arthur died at the age of eighteen months; Ethel, the youngest, is a successful teacher of Hampshire township.

In politics Mr. Rich is a staunch Republican, having supported that party and its principles since attaining his majority. He is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Hampshire post.

---

**C**HARLES H. STRINGER.—The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success is worthily achieved, over-

coming the obstacles and difficulties in his path until he has reached a high position in the business world. This is a progressive age, and he who does not advance is soon left far behind. Mr. Stringer, by the improvement of opportunities by which all are surrounded, has steadily and honorably worked his way upward until, at the time of his death, he was one of the large landed proprietors of Elgin township, Kane county.

Mr. Stringer was born near Montreal, Lower Canada, October 31, 1834, a son of George Stringer, a native of Yorkshire, England, who was in the Canadian militia during the rebellion, and suffered captivity. The father came to the United States in 1835, which was during the infancy of our subject, who never saw him until nearly grown. The mother died when he was about six or seven years of age. As his school privileges were limited, he was mostly self-educated, but acquired a good practical knowledge of men and affairs. In his native land he learned the trade of a harness and trunk maker, but never followed those occupations after coming to Kane county, Illinois, in 1855, at the age of twenty-one years.

Joining his father in Kane county, where he settled at a very early day, Mr. Stringer remained with him until his marriage with Miss Fannie Bishop, daughter of John Bishop, a native of England. They have become the parents of five children, namely: Kate, now the wife of Robert Canada, a farmer of Big Stone, Minnesota; George, deceased; Carl, who married Cora Griffin, of Mitchell county, Iowa, and now lives on his father's farm in that state; Daisy, the wife of John McGary, of Elgin; and Harry, a resident of New Mexico.

After his marriage, Mr. Stringer pur-



chased one hundred and fifty acres at Youngsdales, Elgin township, where he lived for twenty years, and then removed to Mitchell county, Iowa, purchasing three hundred twenty acres there. He continued the cultivation and improvement of that place until 1888, when he leased it to his son and returned to Illinois. He owned his father's old homestead on the western boundary of the corporation of Elgin, it being a valuable tract of four hundred twenty acres, formerly a stock farm and now a dairy farm supplied with one hundred milch cows. Mr. Stringer was always a lover of good horses, was an excellent judge of the noble steed, and since 1895 was interested in fine trotting stock. Being pleased with the famous "Loafer," the fastest horse in Chicago—he bought, trained and developed him, and then sold to the present owner. As a business man Mr. Stringer was always prompt, reliable and energetic, and as a citizen commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. In his political affiliations he is an ardent Republican, but has never cared for the honors or emoluments of public office.

---

HERBERT Z. BERRY, who for more than a quarter of a century was connected with the "Aurora Beacon," has been a resident of the city since the age of two years. He was born in Medina, Ohio, November 7, 1855, and is the son of Thomas E. and Ann (Pierce) Berry, the former a native of Ireland, born in 1821, and who came to America when about nineteen years of age, and the latter a native of England, born in 1829, and who was fifteen years of age when with her parents she emigrated to

the United States. In 1857 Thomas E. Berry, with his family, located in Aurora, which was his home during the remainder of his life. He died July 22, 1896, his wife preceding him to their heavenly home some fifteen years, dying April 5, 1881. Of their eleven children, five are yet living, three of whom make their homes in Aurora, one in Beardstown, Illinois, and one in Chicago. The living are O. Adelbert, Herbert Z., A. Doc, William H. and Bertram. The first four named are married.

Herbert Z. Berry grew to manhood in Aurora and was educated in its public schools. In 1868, when but thirteen years of age, he commenced work in the "Herald" printing office in that city, and was connected with that establishment for three years and two months. He then engaged with Dudley Randall, who commenced the publication of the "Illustrated City Life," and was Mr. Randall's principal assistant. The paper survived but ten months, the material of the office being sold to the proprietors of the "Aurora Beacon." Mr. Berry was tendered and accepted a situation in the latter establishment, where he remained until March, 1897, over a quarter of a century, a faithful workman with progressive ideas. For fifteen years he held the responsible position of superintendent and manager for the "Beacon." While connected with that establishment he won an enviable reputation for being prompt and reliable in all matters pertaining to his business, and the well-deserved popularity of the "Beacon" as a newspaper publishing office and as a job printing office in a large measure was due to him.

Politically Mr. Berry is an ardent Republican, and for the promulgation of the principles of the party has contributed of his

time and means. He has held several positions of honor and trust, non-remunerative, and has at all times been a public-spirited and loyal citizen. He has been on the board of public works, and is at present secretary and treasurer of the West Aurora Cemetery Board of Managers.

On his retirement from the "Beacon," March 3, 1897, Mr. Berry spent eleven months in travel, in an attempt to regain his worn-out condition, and so admirably did he succeed that on February 1, 1898, he formed a partnership with A. G. Wormwood, to do general book and job printing, and February 20, 1898, they left the place of business which Mr. Wormwood had oc-

cupied in a like capacity for several years, and moved to their present elegant new quarters at Nos. 79, 81 and 83 Main street, where they have one of the finest general printing offices in the state of Illinois. For thirty years Mr. Berry has been identified with the printing and publishing interests of Aurora, and is well and favorably known throughout Kane and adjoining counties.

On the 10th of November, 1880, Mr. Berry was united in marriage with Miss Martha W. Hoyt, of Aurora, daughter of A. J. and Caroline Hoyt, for many years residents of the city. Both Mr. and Mrs. Berry are held in the highest esteem by all who know them.



# INDEX.

Abbott, Dr. Edward H.....	146	Brown, George W. L.....	260	Dobson, Frank.....	715
Adams, DeWitt C.....	25	Brown, Morris P.....	525	Doty, Isaac V.....	126
Adams, Henry B.....	547	Brown, Dr. Simon P.....	228	Douglass, Elon G.....	178
Adams, John Manly.....	85	Bueklin, Anson C.....	131	Dorr Brothers.....	655
Adams, Samuel L.....	279	Burlingame, Dwight E.....	68	Drake, Nathan A.....	447
Aldrich, Nathan J.....	430	Burns, Michael.....	562	Dunean, Thomas W.....	41
Alexander, George.....	612	Burroughs, Dr. L. M.....	397	Durant, Bryaut.....	394
Allen, Charles.....	569	Burton, Francis.....	152		
Allen, John.....	406	Burton, William.....	276	Earley, Robert G.....	760
Ames, Charles.....	671			Eaton, Ebenezer P.....	367
Anderson, Andrew.....	710	Callhonn, Dr. C. D.....	663	Egan, Robert S.....	105
Anderson, Charles J.....	368	Calkins, Cyrus.....	706	Elliott, John F.....	301
Anderson, David.....	648	Callow, Walter H.....	590	Ellis, Jerome B.....	739
Archibald, Robert.....	67	Cassem, Randall.....	669	Ellithorpe, William H.....	748
Atehison, Rev. W. D.....	332	Chapman, Samuel W.....	11	Eno, Edward S.....	185
		Chamberlin, Dwight A.....	475	Erikson, Charles E.....	454
Baekus, Charles H.....	440	Chilvers, Robert.....	631	Evans, William W.....	601
Baker, Edward.....	291	Chisholm, George S.....	243		
Baker, George.....	150	Christiansen, Vigo V.....	632	Fellows, Daniel J.....	494
Baker, Theron.....	377	Clark, John J.....	426	Ferry, Joseph Sanford.....	407
Baldwin, Duane B.....	388	Clark, Joseph.....	384	Fiekeusher, Henry.....	418
Baldwin, Silas.....	49	Clyne, Lewis C.....	608	Fish, Joseph M.....	484
Baldwin, William W.....	13	Collins, Dr. Nathan P.....	757	Fisher, Charles H.....	628
Barrott, Charles H.....	725	Colson, J. F.....	523	Fink, Josiah A.....	667
Barrows, M. T.....	358	Conner, Erwin C.....	751	Footh, Silas S.....	711
Battle, James W.....	478	Constant, Dr. William E.....	269	Forbes, Dunean.....	51
Beebe, D. R.....	195	Constantine, Louis A.....	390	Foss, Eben.....	60
Beith, George A.....	646	Cook, George W.....	104	Foster, Rev. Caleb.....	386
Bell, James F.....	614	Cornell, E. W. K.....	107	Fraser, William W.....	677
Bell, Dr. John F.....	555	Cox, Benjamin.....	173	Frazier, Walter S.....	635
Benjamin, Todd.....	713	Crawford, Dr. H. M.....	615	Frear, George.....	389
Bennett, Arthur A.....	348	Crego, George M.....	580	Freller, Phillip.....	250
Berner, Frank H.....	543	Crighton, John W.....	736	French, Rurie A.....	622
Berry, Herbert Z.....	765	Crouse, Charles M.....	659		
Bevier, Isaac T.....	287	Cummings, Charles O.....	280	Gage, Ernest A.....	711
Bishop, Thomas.....	33			Gahagan, Dr. Henry J.....	218
Black, William H.....	127	Dale, Richard.....	717	Gamble, Winfield S.....	92
Black, Willis L.....	196	Dauberman, Jonathan S.....	638	Gardner, John.....	464
Blackman, Erastus W.....	256	Dauberman, McClellan.....	660	Gardner, Joseph W.....	465
Blazier, Henry.....	187	Daum, George E.....	707	Getzelman, Malachi C.....	144
Bloss, F. W.....	617	Davenport, Josephus.....	753	Getzelman, Michael J.....	742
Boldt, E. J.....	365	Davidson, Orlando.....	529	Geyer, Christofer F.....	718
Borden, Gail.....	543	Deane, Charles P.....	198	Gifford, Abel D.....	52
Bosworth, Franklin S.....	42	Dean, Louis A.....	720	Gift, Samuel J.....	310
Botsford, R. N.....	16	Demmer, Herman F.....	258	Gilbert, Horace.....	606
Bowman, Francis H.....	467	Denney, Ebenezer.....	404	Gilbert, Persons C.....	230
Brill, Samuel S.....	626	Densmore, Harvey B.....	700	Gilbert, William J.....	755
Brill, Fred R.....	226	Dettmer, Augustus H.....	732	Gillett, Arthur L.....	435
Brown, James C.....	380	Dickson, Corydon L.....	702	Gillett, Lewis H.....	566
Brown, John A.....	416	Dickinson, William F.....	351	Goetting, William H.....	205



Goodale, John W . . . . .	641	Kirchhoff, Gustave F. . . . .	67	Morgan, Lyman D. . . . .	378
Goodrich, Dr. Grant . . . . .	625	Kirchhoff, Herman H. . . . .	67	Muirhead, George . . . . .	428
Goodell, Joel . . . . .	364	Kirk, John G. . . . .	734	Myers, Daniel J. . . . .	754
Gorham, Jacob R. . . . .	329	Klein, Peter. . . . .	516	Myers, S. W. . . . .	716
Graves, A. C. . . . .	253	Kliek, William . . . . .	399	Newman, John. . . . .	122
Gray, Mrs. D. P. . . . .	290	Knott, George H. . . . .	119	Newman, Joseph . . . . .	433
Gregory, Charles E. . . . .	751	Kramer, Frank . . . . .	185	Newman, William W. . . . .	528
Gronberg, Charles A. . . . .	225	Krumm, Henry C. . . . .	448		
Grote, William . . . . .	729				
		Lamson, D. E. . . . .	684	Oakley, Asem A. . . . .	719
Hagen, George P. . . . .	98	Larkin, Cyrus H. . . . .	267	Ohls, Dr. Henry G. . . . .	533
Haley, George S. . . . .	293	Lasher, Hiram . . . . .	595	Outhouse, Renalwin. . . . .	694
Hamilton, David . . . . .	723	Laue, Dietrich. . . . .	353		
Hanson, Ezra . . . . .	116	Lawrence, Marshall. . . . .	727	Pearece, Ezekiel . . . . .	486
Hardy, Dr. Hiram T. . . . .	490	Leake, Thomas W. . . . .	542	Peek Brothers. . . . .	576
Harger, Merritt . . . . .	200	Leatherman, Abraham. . . . .	159	Pelton, Dr. O. L. . . . .	551
Harter, Samuel . . . . .	714	Lee, Samuel H. . . . .	559	Perkins, Francis B. . . . .	114
Hartman, Thomas. . . . .	443	Lee, Warren S. . . . .	647	Pfrangle, William. . . . .	292
Harvey, George P. . . . .	31	Leet, William . . . . .	410	Phelps, Archer B. . . . .	682
Hasler, John A. . . . .	634	Levey, Charles. . . . .	469	Pierce, Charles M. . . . .	745
Hatch, Elam F. . . . .	722	Lewis, Charles E. . . . .	175	Pierpont, Robert. . . . .	575
Hathaway, Annas . . . . .	527	Lilbriidge, W. P. . . . .	429	Pingree, Rev. Andrew . . . . .	455
Hawes, Moses W. . . . .	380	Linden, John W. . . . .	479	Plummer, Samnel R. . . . .	733
Hawley, Arvin T. . . . .	532	Lindgren, John G. . . . .	247	Pouley, Samuel E. . . . .	683
Hawley, Dr. Sidney B. . . . .	437	Little, Alexander C. . . . .	538	Potter, Theron J. . . . .	309
Hawthorne, George E. . . . .	84	Little, James. . . . .	553	Powers, John R. . . . .	21
Hayward, Laban . . . . .	368	Logan, John A. . . . .	209	Pratt, DeWitt C. . . . .	589
Healy, John L. . . . .	66	Long, Jacob Phillip. . . . .	206	Pratt, Dr. H. L. . . . .	203
Heath, Sidney. . . . .	110	Longacre, Dr. H. Y. . . . .	331	Pratt, Dr. William A. . . . .	393
Hemmens, Harold D. . . . .	736	Loomis, Amasa W. . . . .	224	Preston, Mrs. Sarah F. . . . .	409
Hemrick, Philip H. . . . .	688	Lovell, Edward C. . . . .	536	Price, Arwin E. . . . .	705
Hill, David . . . . .	199	Lovell, Vincent S. . . . .	188	Price, William M. . . . .	678
Hinds, Alexander L. . . . .	691	Lowrie, A. H. . . . .	503	Prindle, James P. . . . .	571
Hipple, James W. . . . .	375				
Hodder, John H. . . . .	420	McChesney, H. . . . .	554	Quackenbush, Charles C. . . . .	453
Hogan, D. J. . . . .	759	McCormick, Thomas. . . . .	628	Quackenbush, Marvin. . . . .	36
Holden, Timothy N. . . . .	500	McCredie, William. . . . .	272		
Holmes, Joseph R. . . . .	91	McDonald, James D. . . . .	605	Radloff, John. . . . .	161
Holt, Jonathan M. . . . .	423	McDonald, William Wallace. . . . .	417	Ramer, Philip. . . . .	756
Hoover, S. N. . . . .	373	McDonough, John . . . . .	82	Randall, John D. . . . .	506
Hoxie, Edgar E. . . . .	207	McElroy, Dr. James. . . . .	168	Rang, Henry. . . . .	346
Hoyt, Jacob N. . . . .	586	McGliney, Col. R. P. . . . .	190	Ranstead, John W. . . . .	219
Huhhard, A. H. . . . .	621	McKellar, John . . . . .	299	Read, John J. . . . .	724
Hunt, Major B. T. . . . .	38	McKindley, Daniel M. . . . .	239	Reams, Harrison H. . . . .	236
Hunt, Edward L. . . . .	419	McKinnell, Peter. . . . .	312	Reed, George B. . . . .	595
Hunt, Squire D. . . . .	697	McMahon, James. . . . .	721	Reid, Alexander. . . . .	515
Hurd, John N. . . . .	473	McQueen, John A. . . . .	355	Reid, Dr. Charles P. . . . .	28
Huth, Rev. Casper J. . . . .	27	Mann, Adin. . . . .	56	Reid, James F. . . . .	516
		Mann, Dr. A. L. . . . .	311	Rieh, Evelyn E. . . . .	761
Ingham, Joseph. . . . .	665	Mann, Sylvester S. . . . .	743	Rieh, Thomas F. . . . .	294
Irwin, Clinton F. . . . .	176	Marshall, Frederick J. . . . .	625	Richardson, John H. . . . .	654
		Marshall, George P. . . . .	282	Riekert, Jacob D. . . . .	496
James, Robert T. . . . .	703	Marshall, Richard S. . . . .	287	Riddle, Adoniram. . . . .	463
Janeeke, Jr., John F. . . . .	668	Marshall, Romeo W. . . . .	271	Rockwell, James. . . . .	344
Japp, August. . . . .	265	Marshall, William . . . . .	156	Roehl, Fred. . . . .	155
Jeneke, D. R. . . . .	741	Marshall, William E. . . . .	240	Robertson, Edward P. . . . .	510
Jeneke, Fred W. . . . .	153	Melms, Charles. . . . .	270	Roche, William . . . . .	584
Johnson, Hans . . . . .	154	Merrefield, Walter A. . . . .	425	Root, Anson W. . . . .	137
Joslyn, Frank W. . . . .	336	Merrill, William W. . . . .	574	Rosenerans, Asa. . . . .	304
Judd, Asahel T. . . . .	618	Messenger, William L. . . . .	535	Rosenerans, Dr. Halsey. . . . .	132
Judd, Sarson L. . . . .	520	Mighell, Franklin P. . . . .	685	Rowell, Samuel C. . . . .	189
Judson, Lewis B. . . . .	560	Mighell, Silas H. . . . .	690	Rudd, Hiram D. . . . .	698
		Miller, John S. . . . .	674	Ruggles, George F. . . . .	624
Karl, John Henry. . . . .	370	Minard, James C. . . . .	701	Russell, John A. . . . .	204
Kelly, Arfred W. . . . .	436	Mink, James V. . . . .	466	Rutledge, Dr. James A. . . . .	749
Kelly, John. . . . .	489	Monroe, C. Dallas . . . . .	345		
Kemp, John . . . . .	470	Moore, Daniel B. . . . .	602	Salfisberg, Jacob. . . . .	707
Kimhall, William C. . . . .	334	Moore, John B. . . . .	210	Salfisberg, Jacob E. . . . .	546

Sawyer, Henry G.....	214	Stringer, Robert.....	100	Walker, James.....	234
Schader, Anton F.....	220	Suhr, Charles W.....	300	Warford, Henry.....	86
Schiekler, Philip.....	627	Sunderland, Waterman R.....	591	Warren, Isaac H.....	14
Schneider, George M.....	740	Switzer, Jabez.....	325	Waterhouse, H. B.....	513
Schoeberlein, John Adam.....	405	Switzer, Samuel.....	229	Waterman, Daniel B.....	237
Schulz, Philip.....	752			Watson, Charles W.....	593
Scott, John H.....	497	Taylor, Dr. Richard C.....	675	Wayne, C. H.....	738
Scott, William.....	565	Tazewell, Frank B.....	548	Weaver, Adam.....	726
Seavey, Henry.....	679	Tefft, Jonathan.....	62	Weaver, Orson L.....	746
Seymour, Horace J.....	396	Tefft, Dr. Joseph.....	476	Webster, Franklin.....	611
Seymour, John W.....	44	Tefft, Thomas W.....	138	Weed, Elisha.....	20
Seymour, Joseph B.....	459	Thiers, Mrs. Ruth Ann.....	581	Weld, Owen B.....	80
Sharp, Charles F.....	686	Thomas, Nathanael J.....	400	Weld, Russell.....	90
Shaw, James.....	278	Thompson, Edwin W.....	458	Weld, Dr. Salem E.....	106
Shedd, Otis N.....	266	Thompson, Moses H.....	22	Wells, Rev. George H.....	656
Sherwin, William W.....	308	Thoms, Alexander P.....	517	Wheaton, Charles.....	9
Sherwood, Abraham P.....	255	Thon, Louis.....	444	Whildin, Edward C.....	676
Sholes, David W.....	519	Thornton, Milton.....	12	Whildin, John C.....	693
Skinner, Baxter O.....	524	Thorwarth, John F.....	450	White, William L.....	673
Skinner, James.....	563	Torrey, Willard C.....	507	Wilber, Charles T.....	449
Slater, Dr. Catharine B.....	695	Town, Morris C.....	288	Wileox, Gen. John S.....	162
Smailes, Col. William.....	72	Treadwell, Manley P.....	259	Wileox, Silvanus.....	245
Smith, Alfonso A.....	594	Tuck, Reuben.....	544	Wilder, Mrs. Clark.....	439
Smith, Edward S.....	328	Tupper, William H.....	689	Williams, J. J.....	664
Solomon, Thomas H.....	737	Tuttle, Daniel.....	343	Willis, Henry B.....	235
Southworth, M. O.....	635	Tyers, John.....	499	Windett, Robert A.....	505
Spalding, Coit.....	709	Tyrrell, Dr. Pierce.....	509	Wing, William H.....	74
Spencer, Sidney U.....	549			Woodruff, Cyrus H.....	297
Starks, Evelyn L.....	680	VanDeusen, Peter.....	487	Wright, Alden K.....	136
Starr, Ezra M.....	216	VanGorder, Daniel.....	15	Wright, James.....	488
Stenger, Michael.....	457	VanPattan, J. S.....	248		
Sternberg, Charles.....	109	VanVolkenburg, George.....	704	Yarwood, Louis H.....	130
Stone, Charles A.....	303	Vollor, Joseph.....	319	Young, Francis L.....	556
Stoughton, Rev. J. C.....	480	Voltz, John D.....	99	Young, George A.....	446
Stowe, Levi S.....	217			Younges, Smith.....	314
Stowell, Lysander.....	180	Wagner, Joel.....	657		
Stephens, I. S.....	585	Waldron, Elisha D.....	120	Zack, N. R.....	460
Stringer, Charles H.....	764	Walker, Alexander R.....	687		








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

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



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

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA  
977.323852 C001  
THE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF KANE COUNTY,  
  
3 0112 025387306