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**HISTORICAL
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SKETCHES
OF
HALL COUNTY
NEBRASKA**

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Historical And Biographical Sketches Of Hall County Nebraska

"History of the State of Nebraska — Andreas 1882"

HALL County is one of the oldest in the state, having been organized in 1859. It is situated in the sixth tier of counties west from the Missouri River and about 150 miles west from Omaha. It is bounded on the north by Howard County, on the east by Hamilton and Merrick, on the south by Adams and on the west by Buffalo.

The Platte River enters the county at the southwest corner, flows east of northeast across the county, leaving it about twelve miles north of the southern boundary. Wood River enters the county from the west and about three miles north of the Platte and flows in a direction nearly parallel with the latter named stream, emptying into it about eight miles west of the city of Grand Island. The Platte is very broad all the way in this county. Over the western border, in Buffalo County, it separates into two channels, between which lies a broad and fertile island about sixty miles in length. This extends across Hall County and is known as Grand Island. Besides the Platte and Wood rivers, the only other stream of great importance is Prairie Creek, about one hundred miles in length, two branches of which rise in Buffalo County, and after flowing across the northern half of Hall County in an easterly direction, unite near its eastern boundary.

The elevation of Hall County is about 1,850 miles above the sea level. The general surface of the county is undulated prairie. The high lands are not abrupt and broken, but are generally made up of long and gentle slopes. The valleys are

well drained and have a rich and fertile soil, and average from two to nine miles in width. All this extent of country is interspersed by a large number of clear and quite rapid flowing streams that are fed by springs. Except the narrow extent of country which comprises the sand hills, a strip of which extends almost entirely across the county, the soil is very fertile; and the sand hills themselves being covered with grass, afford rich pasturage for stock.

There is but little natural growing timber in the county. In the years of the first settlement of the county, the Platte was skirted with considerable timber while there was a great deal to be found on its islands. There was also considerable timber along Wood River and a little on Prairie Creek, but the greater portion of this was cut off at the time the Union Pacific Railroad was built in 1866. There is, however, some natural timber yet to be found, but, excepting the young trees, in no great quantities. There is, however, a vast acreage of trees, that have been planted in groves by settlers and cultivated while small; many of these have already attained a large growth. The oldest grove of forest trees planted in the county is near Grand Island and the trees have attained a height of from seventy to eighty feet. Timber grows very rapidly. Three years after planting cottonwood, walnut, ash and maple will attain a size sufficient for good fuel, and in five years will make good fence posts, and in ten or twelve years will attain a size to make good lumber.

The planting of fruit trees has been carried on to a sufficient extent to prove that all the hardier varieties of larger fruits, and all small fruits, flourish and yield abundantly.

EARLY HISTORY.

About the years 1856-1857, a great many settlements in the Platte, (then Nebraska) River Valley were projected by the residents of more eastern states. The colonies for these settlements were generally sent out by speculators, who intended to lay out towns, expecting that a railroad would, some time in the future, extend up this valley. Their object was to start at this early day, towns that would, when the railroad came, have attained sufficient size to form nuclei for settlement, and to readily become important business centers.

What is now Hall County, Nebraska, was settled in the summer of 1857, by a colony consisting of a number of Germans and a few Americans, from Davenport, Iowa.

This colony was formed under the following circumstances. Sometime during the winter of 1856-1857, A. H. Barrows, of the banking house of Chubb Bros. & Barrows, of Davenport, Iowa, Washington, D. C., and Boston, Mass., conceived the idea of founding a town on the Platte River. Accordingly he went to William Stolley to get him to help organize a colony and locate a town. He told Stolley

that wealthy and influential parties, some of whom were members of the United States Congress, would aid in the project, and that it was thought a railroad would be built up the Platte valley at an early day and that the national capital would eventually be removed from Washington to some point near the geographical center of the United States. The object of Barrows and his associates was to locate a town as near the center of the country as possible, secure land, and then secure the removal of the capital to this point.

It is true, that this was a wild and visionary scheme, but there is no doubt that these enthusiasts fully believed that their object would be attained. This was an era of wild speculations, preceding the great panic that followed as a natural consequence. This plan, wild and imaginary as it was, of going out into a wild and unsettled country, inhabited only by Indians, in the hope of securing in a few years the national capital, was no more chimerical than many other plans formed about this time for the acquisition of sudden wealth.

At this time the surveys in the Territory of Nebraska, did not extend west of the town of Columbus. The lands north of the Platte, with the exception of a small reservation, had just been deeded by the Pawnee Indians to the United States, and the Sioux claimed all the lands south of the Platte River.

According to the plan of Barrows, four or five men were to be sent to find a suitable location and make surveys; Stolley declined to become a member of the company to be formed, but agreed to undertake the work and to form a settlement. But on account of anticipated danger from the Indians he proposed that twenty or thirty young men be engaged, which proposition Barrows acceded to.

Therefore a town company was formed, consisting of A. H. Barrows, W. H. F. Gurley, and B. B. Woodward, who empowered Wm. Stolley and Fred Hedde to engage a number of men under certain conditions and make a settlement. By a Nebraska territorial law, then thought to be legal, every person who was a single man or the head of a family could claim 320 acres of land, by making a settlement. The contract entered into, with the proposed settlers, by the town company, was that each settler should enter and hold 320 acres of land wherever the company's surveyor should direct. The town company was to furnish funds to purchase the land, and each settler contracted to deed one-half of this land to the town company immediately after he had secured a title to it. Each settler was also to have ten lots in the new town, and all parties who were without means were to be furnished with provisions for one year, by the company; these they were to pay for as soon as they could. A party of Americans and Germans was made up on above conditions. The Americans were: R. C. Barnard, and Lorens Barnard, surveyors from Washington, D. C.; Joshua Smith, David P. Morgan and Wm. Seymour from Davenport, Iowa. The remainder of the party was made up of Germans, the most of whom had been in America but a short time. They were: Henry Joeinks and wife, Marx Stelk, Henry Schoel and wife, Fred Doll,

Wm. Hagge, Wm. Stolley, George Shulz, Fred Hedde, John Hamann, Fred Vatge, Hans Wrage, Peter Stuhr, Wm. Steer and wife, Detlef Sass, Cay Ewoldt, Henry Egge, Cornelius Axelson, Nicholas Thede and wife, Anna Steer, and Christ Menck. The above were all from Holstein, Germany. There were also Henry Schaaf and Mathias Gries, of Prussia, Fred Landman of Mecklenburg, Theo. Nagel, Waldeck; Herman Vasold, Thuringen; Christ. Andresen and wife, Schleswig, Germany. After they had become thoroughly organized, a surveying party, consisting of R. C. Barnard, and all the Americans of the colony, with Fred Hedde, and Christ. Menck, left Davenport, Iowa, about the middle of May, 1857.

William Hagge and Theo. Nagel were appointed to go to St. Louis to purchase a supply of ammunition, arms, and provisions, blacksmith tools, &c., and to ship them to Omaha in time to meet the main party there.

On the 28th day of May, 1857, the main party left Davenport with five loaded wagons, drawn by sixteen yoke of oxen, and in charge of Wm. Stolley. This party arrived at Omaha the 18th day of June, and after remaining there one day, all except Stolley went on west. He was obliged to return to Davenport on business. The party passed Fremont, which then consisted of ten log houses, on the 23rd of June. On June 26, they arrived at Columbus, then a little town of about 18 log houses. From this point they kept on up the Loup River until they were about twenty miles above Columbus, near where Genoa now is. Here they crossed the river on the 27th of June.

On the 2nd day of July, the party arrived at the point where Wood River empties into the Platte, opposite the large island in the latter river, upward of fifty miles in length, now called Grand Island. On July 4, the party, having spent their time since their arrival in making observations on the country, had retraced their steps for a few miles, and now laid out a town very near the present site of the city of Grand Island. On the next day, the survey of their town was completed and stakes driven. The town was called Grand Island, after the large island in the Platte. Part of this town site covered the present town of that name, but the greater part of it was south and southwest, between the present town and the north channel of the Platte.

Though very well satisfied with the location of their town, the colony, wishing to find the very best location possible, on July 7, divided into three parties, each to start in different directions. One of these explored Prairie Creek, another crossed over to the island and explored it, and the other went up Wood River about thirty miles.

By July 11, the parties had all returned, and on comparing notes, decided to remain at their first location. A meeting was then called, at which it was resolved that, to meet the present needs of the colony, four log houses should be

built, each fourteen feet wide and thirty-three feet long. Each house was to consist of two rooms, with an entrance large enough for a door.

The breaking of the prairie was the next thing attended to, but it was now so late in the season that only fifty acres were broken the first year.

By July 12, work began in earnest. Some chopped logs, others hauled them, and still others burned charcoal for use in the blacksmith shops.

On July 23, it being feared that they would soon run out of provisions, a team was sent to Omaha for a supply.

Saturday, August 15, some of the settlers moved into the new houses, and by the 27th, all of the houses were completed. These houses were built on the south half of the northwest quarter, and on the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 14, Town 11 and Range 9, now a part of the farm owned by Christ Menck.

When the team was sent to Omaha for provisions, in July, the settlers had to live on half rations until its arrival. The company was furnishing provisions, and Fred Hedde had charge of their distribution. For a time there was a little trouble with some of the settlers, who insisted on having full rations as long as any provisions remained, but soon the trouble was quieted, and every thing went on smoothly until the provisions arrived, seventeen days after the teams had left the settlement, and once again the half-starved and almost discouraged settlers were supplied with plenty.

On Monday, September 21, teams were again sent to Omaha for provisions and clothing that had been shipped to them from St. Louis and Davenport. But on arriving at Omaha it was found that the goods had not yet arrived, as the low water in the Missouri River had cut off the supplies by the line of boats, by which all freight was then received.

Soon after the Grand Island settlement, another one was formed at the mouth of Wood River. A town was laid out and called Mendota. Four houses were built. This town was settled by David Crocker, Wm. Roberts, M. Potts and Wm. Painter. Owing to a lack of means, this town was soon abandoned, and the town was settled by Crocker as a farm. Later he sold it and removed to California.

The fall was passed in making preparations for the coming winter. The teams sent for provisions had not yet returned, and much anxiety began to be felt lest the winter should set in before their arrival. Should this happen, unless the teams could make their way through the snow, the settlers could see nothing but starvation in store for them.

The fall passed without any extraordinary occurrences, until a big snow storm set in on November 6. In this storm a number of the settlers came near losing their lives. On the above date a hunting party, comprised of Lorens Barnard, Henry Joehnks, Wm. Roberts and Wm. Painter, started out to try to kill some antelope and ducks. When on Prairie Creek, near the pond due north of Grand Island City, the party separated into pairs. Barnard and Roberts went up the creek and Joehnks and Painter went down. While hunting along the creek they got wet. Toward evening it began to rain very hard, and they started home. They were soon very wet, and the wind suddenly changing to the north a heavy snow began to fall, the weather became colder and colder, and so blinding was the storm that the travelers soon lost their way. After much trouble, however, Barnard and Roberts reached the settlement with no further harm than being very cold and wet. But Joehnks and Painter were unable to find their way through the storm, and so, when darkness set in, they concluded to stay where they then were. This was in a swampy slough. They tried to shelter themselves by stacking their guns and covering them with slough grass, but the wind blew the grass away as fast as they could put it on. To keep from perishing with the cold, they walked all night. Painter became so hungry that he ate a portion of a raw duck that they had killed during the day. By daylight the snow was eighteen inches deep, and the storm was still raging in all its fury. Again they tried to reach the settlement, but it was impossible to find their way through the blinding storm. However, they plodded wearily on through the deep and drifting snow.

From the settlement a party was sent out to look for them, but the men were soon driven back by the drifting snow which was so blinding that it was impossible to face it. About nine o'clock on the morning of the 7th, the storm began to abate, and soon Joehnks reached home, so weak and exhausted from the effects of hunger and cold that he could but stumble along, and was almost unconscious and unable to speak. As soon as he could recover his voice he managed to make it known that Painter had lain down in a dying condition not far away. Parties went out to look for him, and he was soon found in an unconscious condition and nearly dead. He was quickly taken to a house and every means tried to save him, but he only lived a few hours. This was the first death to occur in Hall County. Joehnks was badly frozen but finally recovered.

The teams sent to Omaha for provisions, in September, had not yet returned, and on November 10 the settlers sent a team with a wagon load of hay, to meet them at Columbus. This reached the banks of the Loup River, opposite Columbus, on the 14th. The provision train was there, but it was impossible to get across the river. There was a ferry boat here, but it was unsafe at the best of times, and now that the river was full of drifting ice, it was madness to try to use it. Two of the men belonging to the provision train saw the team opposite, and with much danger and difficulty succeeded in crossing over in a small skiff. A conference was then held, and it was determined to buy all the rope in Columbus and try and work the ferry boat. The rope was bought, and an attempt was made

to use the ferry boat, but it was unsuccessful. They then resorted to the use of the skiff, and by making frequent trips they succeeded in getting several hundred pounds of flour and a few other articles over. The team then returned home, taking with them two of the Columbus party, who were sick with a fever. They arrived at Grand Island, November 18, 1857.

On the 23rd of November another team was sent with a load of hay to the Columbus party, but they returned on December 4, with no provisions.

The first Indians that appeared at the settlement were a large number of Pawnees, who stopped here a short time on their return from a hunt, during the winter. As the settlers knew little of the Indian character they were somewhat fearful that depredations would be committed, but in a few days the savages departed peaceably.

The first fire in the new settlement occurred January 8, 1858. The houses of Henry Schoel and Wm. Steer were burned and but little was saved. They were, however, assisted by the other settlers.

By this time the lack of provisions began seriously to be felt in the settlement. There was plenty of flour, but that was all. Several weak oxen were killed for food, but the meat proved of very poor quality. For weeks there were no candles or soap in the settlement. The winter was a mild one, but this was worse for the settlers, as the Loup did not freeze over enough to allow the teams to cross from Columbus. The provision train did not arrive until January 25, 1858, almost four months after leaving the settlement for Omaha. Their arrival was the signal for great rejoicing at Grand Island. The settlers had been on half rations, and even less, for some time, and many were feeble and weak.

The first white child born in the settlement was Nellie, daughter of the wife of Wm. Steer, born March 3, 1858.

In the spring of 1858 work was commenced in earnest, and the land broken the year before was planted to crops, while much more land was now being opened up, and all other necessary improvements were fast being added. All went on very well during the spring, but the colony again getting short of provisions, teams were dispatched to Omaha for a fresh supply.

In June, however, long before the arrival of supplies, their stock of provisions ran so low that they resorted to half rations and some of the time even less. As this was the very busy season of the year, they had to work very hard, and soon many were so weak they could hardly stand. Cay Ewoldt was so nearly starved that he could not walk without a cane. Thus were strong and healthy men giving out from day to day. But on Thursday, June 24, the wagon loaded with supplies

arrived from Omaha. Again the settlers were saved from the starvation that stared them in the face, and in a short time all were strong again.

On July 5, 1858, another party of settlers arrived from Davenport. This consisted of twenty persons, who brought with them ten horse teams, twenty yoke of oxen, and a number of cows and young stock.

On August 27 the Pawnee Indians again visited them, and were viewed with suspicion, but they were perfectly friendly and no damage was done by them, other than stealing a small quantity of corn and potatoes.

The settlement had been made under the town company for the purpose of speculation, and the original town site laid out, consisted of 1,440 acres. But the speculation was not a success and, besides this, during the financial crisis of 1857-58, the great banking-house of Chubb Bros., Barrow & Co. became bankrupt, and the town company soon fell to pieces. Disputes had arisen between the settlers and the company, the former not thinking they were cared for and they should be under the terms of the contract. The provisions furnished the settler were to be paid for as soon as the settlement should become firmly established, and Fred Hedde was appointed to distribute the goods and keep the books. The books he still has in his possession, the disbanded company never having called on him for them, or upon the settlers who were indebted to them, for payment of their dues. The company did not abandon the settlement until after they had spent \$6,000. Of the members of the company A. H. Barrows and W. H. F. Gurley died many years ago. A few years since B. B. Woodward was president of the Davenport National Bank, and it is believed that he is still living there. The five Americans who have been named as having been members of the colony, left during the early years of settlement, and never again returned. The German settlers were then left to keep up this new settlement, on the wild, and except by themselves, uninhabited prairies, as best they could.

In 1858, another settlement, composed of Mormons, was commenced, some miles west of them on Wood River. The center of this settlement was on the spot where Shelton, Buffalo County, now stands. This was about one-half mile west of the present limits of Hall County, but the settlement was scattered along Wood River for a few miles in this county.

On Tuesday, January 18, 1859, an event took place, that struck terror to the hearts of all. This was a terrible prairie fire that swept over the settlement. Three men supposed to be from Florence, Nebraska, who were on their way home from the gold fields of California, became angry with some of the settlers as they passed through, and one of the fiends, after they had got out a little way, declared with an oath, he would burn out the Dutch settlement and at once set fire to the prairie. A violent wind was blowing, and in a short time the fire had swept over the settlement. It was with the greatest effort on the part of the

settlers that no lives were lost. Only with the hardest work was any of the settlement kept from destruction. As it was, eight of the large houses were burned to the ground. Besides this a great deal of damage was done to other property. The principal sufferers were William Stolley, William Hage, John and Henry Vieregg, Christ Menck, Marx Stelk, Fred Vatge, Hans Wrage, Mathias Gries, and Rudolph Mathieson, though many others lost a great deal of property.

Though the greatest effort was made, the villains who perpetrated this dastardly crime, were never captured or brought to justice.

Knowing the desperate circumstances in which some of the settlers must be placed by this event, the citizens of Omaha raised money to aid the sufferers, but the party to whom it was entrusted stole it.

During the winter and before another crop could be raised, many privations and some suffering was endured by the settlers, but all worked manfully in the efforts to raise a good crop and their labors were liberally rewarded.

In the fall of 1859, the settlers, through William H. Stolley, secured a government contract for the delivery of 2,000 bushels of corn at Fort Kearney, at \$2.00 per bushel. Before this time, corn had been freighted to the above named post from Fort Leavenworth, at a cost of from \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bushel. Col. May was at this time commander at Fort Kearney, and he was ever a firm and kind friend to the settlers. It was through him that the settlers secured this contract, and then only with the greatest difficulty, as so many rings existed for the purpose of furnishing the government with grain at an immense price. During the winter many of the settlers also found work at the fort, and their days of suffering were at an end.

Another thing that now contributed to the success of the settlers was the fact that the overland travel to the west began to pour up the Platte Valley. Gold had been discovered at Pike's Peak, and emigrants and freighters, *en route* for Oregon, California, New Mexico, Montana and Colorado, began to travel up the valley by the thousands. This was the commencement for the Grand Island settlement of a term of prosperity that continued for several years. Everything they had to sell brought a high price. Cabbages were 50 cents each, watermelons, \$1 each, with all other products bringing prices in the same proportion.

Every day large trains were moving up and down the valley. The teams generally used were oxen, and the settlers did a good business buying up lame cattle and young calves from the emigrants and freighters, who were willing to sell cheap. This soon became one of the most prosperous settlements in the State and for several years the settlers made money rapidly.

During the early years of the settlement but after the organization of the county, ten of the settlers left the settlement. These were Fred Hedde, Christ Andresen, D. Sass, William Steer, N. Thede, M. Greis, Theo. Nagel, C. Axelson and H. Vasold. The three first named returned in a short time and remained, becoming leading men. None of the others ever came back.

In 1859, the settlement had acquired so great importance that it was determined to organize a county under the territorial laws of Nebraska. Before this the Grand Island settlement had been a part of Platte County, but in this year Hall County was organized, and officers elected. The first officers were: Judge, Fred Hedde; Clerk, Theo. Nagel; Commissioners, Hans Wrage, James Vieregg, and Henry Egge; Sheriff, Herman Vasold; Treasurer, Christ Andresen; Justices of the Peace, R. C. Barnard, and Wm. Stolley; Assessor, Fred Doll; Constables, Christ Menck and M. Greis.

In the winter of 1858-59, the stage line had been extended from Columbus to Fort Kearney, through Grand Island and this first brought "Pap" Lamb here as the first stage driver and station keeper. The first post office was established in the spring of 1859, with R. C. Barnard, Postmaster. The first mails were weekly, but changed to tri-weekly in 1860. The first weekly stage from Omaha to Fort Kearney was put on the route, October 1, 1858.

From Grand Island, the first party to venture to the Loup country started in October, 1860. They started with two teams, one of horses and the other of oxen. Their route was up Wood River to a point north of Fort Kearney, where they crossed over the divides to the north. They were gone about three weeks and returned with loads of game and furs.

The first term of school ever taught in the county, was in 1862, and was taught about one mile south from the present court house of Grand Island. There were but six pupils in attendance, and Theo. Nagel was the teacher.

The winter of 1863-64 was an exceptionably severe one. Snow covered the ground from November to March. The greater portion of the corn was left in the fields all winter, it being impossible to get it out on account of the deep snow. A great many cattle perished during the cold storms. Several men were so badly frozen, while lost in the storms, that they lost some of their limbs, and one man was frozen to death.

WILD GAME IN THE COUNTY.

In the early years of settlement, wild game and the various wild animals generally found on the western prairies, were very plentiful. The principal game was buffalo, elk, antelope, deer and wild turkeys. The settlers secured a great part of their meat for provisions from the wild game. The first winter they

passed in the settlement, however, game of all kinds was very scarce, as the winter of 1856-57 had been one of the most, if not *the* most severe and intensely cold season ever known in the west. Much of the wild game had perished during the severe storms, and the ground being constantly covered with deep snow, it was impossible for them to get food and many of them starved. Hence the great scarcity during the year or two succeeding.

But these animals all increased rapidly and it was but a short time till there was an abundance once again. Of other wild animals there were wolves, foxes, wild cats, badgers, etc., an immense number. The wolves soon became so numerous as to become very troublesome, and measures had to be taken to destroy them. In hunting them they could not be destroyed fast enough to make any perceptible difference in their numbers, so the settlers resorted to poisoning them, and every winter quite a good business was carried on by many in securing wolf skins, which sold readily at prices ranging all the way from seventy-five cents to three dollars each. During one winter one man killed seventy-five large wolves on his premises, one of which was nine feet long. Being a somewhat eccentric individual he had his house covered both inside and out with wolf skins.

A very good business was also done dealing in buffalo robes. In the early years of settlement these hides could be purchased from the Pawnee Indians, who visited the settlement twice each year on their return from their semi-annual hunts. These buffalo hides could generally be bought at prices ranging from two three dollars each, and were sold at about twice this price. For years the buffalo robes were the principal beds used by the settlers; and particularly so when trips on the road had to be made, when they had to camp out. For this purpose they made a bed, at once soft and warm, and easily carried. With the decrease of the wolves and foxes, wild turkeys, rabbits, quails, prairie chickens, and the smaller game of various kinds came in and in a short time became plentiful. With the exception of the wild turkeys this small game is still abundant. The larger game was found in numbers for many years, but after the country began to settle rapidly, it soon disappeared. Before this the hunters by their wholesale slaughter of the buffalo for their hides had thinned them out very fast.

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS.

Up to this time the settlers had been on good terms with the Indians. The Pawnees used to pass through the settlement once or twice a year upon their hunting expeditions. Some of them, many times, stopped for weeks in the neighborhood. The Sioux also sent war parties after the Pawnees and followed the Platte through Hall County on the main route, but during the early years of settlement, no serious trouble ever occurred. Several fights between the Pawnees and Sioux had taken place not far from the settlement. In September, 1860, there was a heavy battle between these two tribes, on Grand Island, in sight from the settlement, but there was so little fear on the part of the settlers, that they did not

stop hauling hay. They were so near that they could see and hear all that occurred.

When the War of the Rebellion broke out and the troops were withdrawn from the West, the Indians began to be unruly, and in 1862, the settlers had their first trouble with them. Their first depredation was the massacre of the Smith family on Wood River, on February 5, 1862. Joseph P. Smith and his son-in-law, Anderson, were farmers, living together on Wood River, about twelve miles from Grand Island. On the above date they were hauling logs from the Platte, about two and one half miles distant from home. They were accompanied by the three sons of Anderson,--Alexander, fourteen years old; Charles, nine years old; and Willie, eleven years old. Anderson had taken one load of logs home and on his return to the woods where he had left Smith, the children, and two teams, he found the old gentleman and the two youngest children dead. Smith was lying with his face down on the ice; he was holding a boy with each hand and had seven arrows through his body. Charles had his neck broken and his skull mashed in. Willie was not quite dead and had his mouth and cheeks cut open from ear to ear. He died in a short time. Alexander was found some distance further away with his skull broken. The horses had been stolen. J. P. Smith and his family had come to Hall County, in the fall of 1861, from Lake County, Indiana, and had taken a farm and opened a small store on Wood River. The settlers started out at once in search of the murderers. Jesse Eldridge, with seven of the Wood River settlers, captured seventeen Sioux who were armed with bows and arrows. This capture was made about eighteen miles east of Fort Kearney in a dry channel of the Platte, where they were trying to hide. Captain Johnson at the fort, requested that they be turned over to him, which was done. After some time they were released. Johnson said he would rather see twenty farmers killed than one Indian, for fear of a general uprising. It was afterwards discovered however, that the Indians captured were not the murderers of Smith and the three children.

For the next two years after the murder of the Smith family no trouble was experienced with the Indians; but some time during the summer of 1864, a band of Sioux were discovered in the bluffs near George Martin's ranch, about eighteen miles southwest from Grand Island, on the south side of the Platte. Two little sons of Martin, Nat. and Robert, were herding cattle, having but one pony. As soon as they saw the Indians they both mounted the pony and hurried to drive the cattle home. About one hundred Indians rode up and the boys left the cattle, and tried to reach home, and volley after volley of balls and arrows were fired after them. At first they were not hit but at last an arrow struck them, pinning them together. Still the brave little fellows stuck to the pony until the ranch was reached, when they fell off. As the Indians rode up one was about to scalp the boys but he was stopped by another. They then stole several cattle and horses, but were fired upon from the fortified ranch, and several ponies and one Indian were wounded. The boys were then taken in and cared for. The arrow by which they were pinned together was drawn clear through both bodies. Strange

as it may seem, both boys recovered, and are now married and living in the county, well known and respected citizens.

In August of this year, the war with the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians broke out, with the massacre at Plum Creek. The residents along the Platte from the mountains to Omaha were panic stricken, and even Omaha trembled at the reports of the thousands of Indians on their way down the Platte to destroy all that came in their path. Nearly every settlement in the valley was abandoned, and on August 13 and 14, as they passed through Grand Island, there was one continuous crowd for twenty miles. The fugitives were so frightened that they crowded hard on each other. Heavy loaded wagons of goods, droves of cattle and horses, people on foot, and people on horseback crowded down the valley in one solid mass of confusion and hurry.

Though most of the settlements were abandoned, the settlers at Grand Island concluded to remain and fortify themselves. Before this, Wm. Stolley had built a log house twenty-four feet square with twenty-five portholes, a short distance from his residence, for the protection of his family. The first flag in the county was kept floating from this stockade. This flag had been brought into the county during the earliest days of settlement, but before this it had only been used for Fourth of July celebrations, and other great events of a similar nature. It is still in the possession of Wm. Stolley.

At the above mentioned stockade, thirty-five persons soon gathered. Arms were collected here sufficient for seventy-two shots without reloading. Fifty pounds of powder were stored here and other ammunition in proportion, and a well was dug in one corner. A thorough militia organization was made, and cartridges were made and every precaution taken lest they be surprised. Other measures were then taken to make a complete fortification. A large cattle yard was erected and fortified. An underground stable for horses was constructed. The Stolley stockade protected only a small portion of the settlement, and it was resolved to fortify the "O. K. Store," belonging to H. A. Koenig and F. A. Weibe, which had been established in August, 1862, and was located about one and one half miles from the present court house in Grand Island. On this new fortification, Wm. Thavenat, now in Missouri, was the engineer, and Dr. A. Thorspeeken was captain. A breastwork of sod was thrown up around the buildings, and each corner was provided with a tower of green cottonwood logs, which projected out so that any one crawling up under cover of the breastworks from the outside could be shot from above. As soon as this was completed, sixty-eight men and one hundred women and children were gathered here. Every day, squads of men were sent out in all directions to scout. Straw and brush were piled up to be used for alarm fires, in case of an attack. A requisition was made on the Governor the Territory, for arms, but he was unable to furnish them at once, and when they did come, there were only seventeen muskets.

On August 22, 1864, Maj. Gen. Curtis arrived with a cavalry regiment and one ten-pound cannon. The General inspected the fortifications and praised the settlers for their skill in the work. Believing the settlement at Grand Island to be safe, Gen. Curtis pushed on to Fort Kearney, but left the cannon for the use of the settlers. The cannon is still in Hall County, and is the one used at Fourth of July and other celebrations there. Soon after the visit of Gen. Curtis, a detachment of twenty men, of Company E, Seventh Iowa Cavalry, under Capt. J. B. David, was stationed at the fortification, at the "O. K. Store," to help protect the settlement from the Indians. But there was never any attack by them. There were, however, a great many depredations committed by the soldiers themselves. Several of them took grain and cattle by force, and it was impossible to secure their punishment. It is said that one of the settlers afterward received payment for the destruction on his property, through the personal intervention of Gen. Grant. But none of the others ever received any payment for the damages done. There was general happiness throughout the settlement when they were afterwards ordered away to a station on the Loup River, familiarly known among the old settlers and soldiers as Fort Desolation, on account of the loneliness of the station, there being no settlements in the region.

Another party that did not leave the county was Squire Lamb, familiarly known as "Pap," who with his son Henry and three men, remained at the stage station on Wood River, about eight miles from Grand Island. Lamb was the pioneer stage man of this part of the Platte Valley, and was at all times cool and collected and always ready for a fight should the Indians make an attack.

Further than big scares, there was never much trouble with the Indians east of Fort Kearney, and those who left the valley so hurriedly in August of 1864, soon returned.

On July 24, 1867, there was another murder by the Indians. On this date a band of Sioux visited the ranch of Peter Campbell, a Scotchman, about ten miles south of Grand Island, on the south side of the Platte River. No men were at home. After gaining an entrance they killed Mrs. Thurston Warren by a gunshot, and her little boy with an arrow. Two nieces of Campbell, aged seventeen and nineteen years respectively, and two twin boys, four years old, were captured and carried off by the Indians. Several months after, the government bought these captives from the Sioux by the payment of \$4,000 and the release of a squaw and papoose, who had been captured at Elm Creek by Ed. Arnold and the Pawnee scouts.

At the time of the attack on Campbell's ranch, a German, named Henry Dose, who lived a short distance away, was killed and scalped and his house plundered and his stock stolen.

THE GREAT STORM.

On Sunday, April 13, 1873, there commenced one of the most terrible storms ever known in the state. The early spring had been warm and vegetation had started rapidly. On the above date there came up a severe thunder storm accompanied by a heavy wind. After a while the temperature began to fall rapidly, the rain changed to snow; and then began in earnest one of the most terrible of snow storms ever known in the western prairies, lasting three days. The storm was so blinding, that it was certain death for any one to venture a few rods from the house. So heavy was the snowfall and so violent the wind, that drifts were formed from fifteen to twenty feet in height, and packed so compactly that they did not melt away for several weeks. In this storm great damage was done to the trees of the county. Both fruit and forest trees were so badly injured that great numbers of them died. A great many cattle perished. One man lost seventy-four, another lost one hundred, and many lost all or nearly all of their stock. Dead birds were everywhere found, and the bodies of a great many deer, and other wild animals, were found scattered over the prairie.

GRASSHOPPERS.

Since the settlement of the county in 1857, the grasshoppers have appeared no less than eight times.

In August, 1862, they committed their first ravages. Considerable damage was done, though there was nothing like a complete destruction of crops. Again on August 1, 1864, they appeared in large numbers, though but little damage was done.

On July 8, 1866, grasshoppers again visited the county, though they did but little injury. Again in 1868 there were a few, but no damage was done. In 1869, myriads of them came down and nearly all the corn in the county was destroyed, but the yield of small grain was good. On May 22, 1873, they came in with a heavy southwest wind, in immense numbers, though very little damage was done.

Again on July 20, 21 and 22, 1874, they came in swarms, forming clouds so thick that the light of the sun was darkened. They remained for several days and everything that was yet green was completely devoured. Many of the settlers had relied on the corn crop alone and this was entirely destroyed. Those who had in a variety of crops, were successful in saving the most of their small grain, which was, with the exception of a few late fields, already ripe and was not touched by the grasshoppers. But the new settlers who had but lately come here, and as yet had secured no crop, and of course were the least able to lose, had nearly, if not quite all, their grain destroyed. Great suffering was the consequence. With a long winter before them, and without food, without

clothing, and without money, starvation and death stared many families in the face. However, Congress and the State Legislature made appropriations, and aid societies were promptly formed, and assistance in shape of grain, provisions, and clothing were sent hither, in liberal quantities, from all parts of the United States, and though many privations were endured, the settlers managed with this aid to live through the winter and the next summer until another crop could be raised.

Again on June 24, 1875, a few grasshoppers appeared and did some damage. From August 8 to 10 of the same year they again visited the county and considerable damage was done, but yet there were sufficient crops to keep the settler from suffering. This year some disease seemed to have been contracted by the grasshoppers, and they were to be seen scattered all over the ground, where they had fallen dead when flying. On examination it was found that a small maggot had bored into their vitals, thus killing them. Though there was no suffering this year among the settlers, it was hard times, and the strictest economy had to be practiced by the farmers.

In 1876, there was still another visitation by the grasshoppers, but they were not very numerous and but little injury was done.

Since the last named year, the grasshoppers have never again appeared in numbers sufficient to do any damage, and as with the cultivation of the soil, moisture increases, and as the grasshopper naturally shuns a moist climate, the settler have little or no fear of another visitation by the ravenous pests.

OLD SETTLERS.

Among the original settlers in the county in 1857, who are now living here are Fred. Hedde, a leading business man and large property owner in Grand Island; and Wm. Stolley, an extensive farmer near Grand Island. The latter is one of the leading men of the county, and a few years ago wrote an able and interesting history of the county, to which the writer of these pages is much indebted for historical facts; these in many instances are here given in the same order of arrangement as in the history referred to.

Besides the above named gentlemen there are other first settlers in the county and the immediate vicinity. These are, Cay Ewoldt, Henry Joehnks and wife, Christ Menck, Henry Schoel, Marx Stelk, Peter Stuhr, Henry Schaff, and Hans Wrage, who are all the owners of fine and well cultivated farms in the immediate vicinity of the city of Grand Island. There are also Fred. Doll and wife, living on a fine farm in Howard County; Christ Andresen and wife; Wm. A. Hagge, and Detlef Sass; all living in Grand Island; and Mrs. Anna Thompson, *nee* Steer, living with her husband on a farm, near Grand Island.

Of the others among the first settlers, seven who were named on another page, went back to Davenport and never returned. The five Americans also left the colony during its earlier history. Some have died. Fred. Vatge committed suicide. Johan Hamann was upset from a wagon on the railroad track, in front of a moving train of cars, and was run over and killed.

Of the pioneer women of the county, Mrs. Henry Schoel died some years ago. Mrs. Doll lives with her husband in Howard County. Mrs. Joehnks and Mrs. Andresen live with their husbands in Hall County, Mrs. Wm. Steer returned with her husband to Davenport, several years ago. Miss Anna Steer, the one unmarried lady, who came with the first settlers, is the wife of John Thompson and lives on a farm about five miles west from the town of Grand Island.

SAW AND GRIST MILLS.

The first saw mills were built in 1863, one with wind power at Grand Island; and the other with water power at Wood River. After that time a number of saw mills were built previous to the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1866, soon after which they were abandoned on account of a lack of trees. There was no natural timber in the county except along the Platte and its islands, on Wood River and a little along Prairie Creek. The timber land on the island was withheld from market, by the government, and at the time of the building of the railroad, this was nearly all cut off by the Union Pacific Railroad Company, to be used for railroad ties and for fuel.

The grist or flouring mills now in the county are the steam mill at Grand Island; the water power mills at Wood River; Schaup's mills, about three miles west of Alda; Blunks' mills about two and one half miles southwest from Grand Island on the Platte; and Bussell's mills in the northwestern part of the county. All of these mills manufacture a good quality of flour and are in a prosperous condition.

AGRICULTURE.

The Agricultural Society of Hall County was organized at an early date and is in a flourishing condition. This society owns a tract of land, just to the northwest of Grand Island which is finely laid out and arranged as their fair grounds. The annual fairs are well attended, and not only by the citizens of Hall, but from adjoining counties. The exhibit of stock, grain, and vegetables is always good, and the citizens of the county seem to take pride in making these annual fairs a success.

The main industry of Hall County is, of course, farming. With crop raising is usually combined the raising of hogs and cattle or sheep, and by this course the

farmers are fast accumulating property, as well as improving and beautifying their homes.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The railroad facilities of the county are: the Union Pacific Railway, extending through the county along the north side of the Platte River; and the branch of the Omaha and Republican Valley Railroad which extends north from Grand Island via St. Paul to North Loup; and the St. Joseph & Western Railroad, of which Grand Island is the terminus.

The government surveys were made in Hall County during July and August of 1866.

In July, 1869, the Union Pacific Railroad was completed to this county, and from that date begins an era of rapid progress for the county.

On February 13, 1869, the State Legislature passed an act allowing O. A. Abbott, H. A. Koenig, John Wallichs, and Wm. H. Platt to dam the Platte River, but as it is simply impossible to construct a dam of any kind of material across the Platte, that could stand, it is probable that this act was passed in spirit of levity. At any event no attempt was made to dam this river except in a profane sense, which had doubtless been done hundreds of times by the early settlers that were compelled to ford it before the days of bridges.

By 1870, the county had become quite well settled, and immigration was fast pouring in. The population in 1860 had been but 116, but now it had increased to 1,057.

About this time public improvements commenced. On the 21st of May, 1870, bridge bonds for \$15,000 were voted for the construction of a bridge across the Platte. The contract was let September 6, 1870. The bridge was located in Town 10 and Range 9, and was completed in March, 1871. It consists of nine distinct bridges crossing as many channels of the Platte.

Court House bonds were voted on February 15, 1872, the contract let for the building, on July 17, 1872. The court house was completed June 28, 1873, and was a large and substantial building. On the day of completion, the county offices moved in, and it has ever since been occupied as the county building.

In 1872, the citizens of Hall County were astounded to find that Charles Ruelberg, the County Treasurer, was a defaulter, to the sum of \$6,000. When this was discovered, Ruelberg fled, but was captured and brought back, but by some means he escaped punishment, and the county never recovered the money.

On the advent of the railroad in the summer of 1866, the county began to be settled with rapidity, by an enterprising class of farmers, and this was kept up and a vast acreage of land put under cultivation, until the grasshopper ravages of 1874, when there came a period of reaction. From 1874 to 1878, the progress of the county was slow. A large number of business firms had been established and during these hard times many of them failed. Since 1878, however, the progress of the county has been rapid, and the population of the county is now more than ten thousand. Crops of all kinds, since 1876, have yielded abundantly, and there has been no year in which the grain yield has approached a failure since 1874.

The public improvements of the county have kept pace with its settlement. The streams of the county are well bridged. A bridge was early built across the Platte at a cost of \$15,000.00, which was followed by many other bridges in various parts of the county and on the different streams wherever needed.

The court house was completed in the summer of 1873 and cost \$20,000.00. The public square, in which it is located, is nicely laid out and well ornamented by forest and shade trees. It is in fact a small park with the court house in the center. This building is a fine one, and a credit to the county, and fitted up with the county offices below and the court room above.

This town is the county seat of Hall County. It is pleasantly located on the north side of the Platte River, a short distance therefrom, and on the level valley lands that extend far to the north. It is also on the main line of the Union Pacific Railroad, the terminus of a freight division; the terminus of the St. Joseph & Western railroad; also of the Grand Island, St. Paul & Loup Valley Railroad. It will be seen that Grand Island is fast becoming a railroad centre, and it is already the largest town in Nebraska on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad west of Omaha, from which it is one hundred and fifty-four miles distant.

From its fortunate location, in the centre of a fertile country, and with its railroad and other advantages, which are described on the following pages, Grand Island may be said to have prospects for future prosperity unexcelled by any town in Central or Western Nebraska.

The plan of the town, as to streets, is about as follows: The streets which run east and west commence in Koenig and Wiebe's addition, below the brewery, at the southern limits of the town, and going north, are respectively: Anna, John, Louise, Charles, Koenig, Division, First, Second, Third, Front, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh.

Beginning at the eastern limits of the city and going west, the streets that run north and south are as follows: Plum, Vine, Oak, Mulberry, Sycamore, Pine, Locust, Spruce, Walnut, Cedar, Elm, Cleburne, Eddy, Clark, Green, Lincoln, Washington, and Adams. By starting from the large and magnificent business

house of Walbach Bros., on the corner of Third and Pine streets, it is easy for one not thoroughly acquainted in the city to find any given location. The principal business streets of the city are Third and Front and the intervening cross streets. The railroad extends through the city from east to west along the north side of Front street. On the north side of this street are the railroad freight houses, depot, old round house with twenty stalls, and the old railroad repair shops; and on the east side of the town, along the railroad, are the new railroad shops, now being erected at a cost of about \$100,000. The other portions of the city are devoted to residences.

EARLY HISTORY OF GRAND ISLAND.

The history of the present city of Grand Island begins with the date of the building of the Union Pacific Railroad. In the spring of 1866, the line of railroad having been surveyed, the Union Pacific Railroad Company laid out the town near to and just opposite the old Grand Island settlement, that has been described, and leaving the settlement between the new town site and the Platte River.

The railroad was completed to this point on the 8th day of July, 1866, and on the same day the construction train was run as far west as the Grand Island station. George Loomis was engineer, and this train was drawn by the engine Osceola, which was, about two years afterward, captured by the Indians about six miles west of Plum Creek.

The new town was named by the railroad company, Grand Island, from the large island in the Platte and from the original settlement of this name, which was established in 1857. The new town site covered a portion of the original town laid out by the settlers in 1857.

The first depot established here consisted of a tent, which was the agent's office, and where all the railroad business was transacted. Besides this, there was built a small boarding house for the railroad employes. In the fall of 1866 the railroad eating house was built. This building was very small, however, and an addition was soon built, after which it was occupied for the intended purpose until the completion of the present large and capacious building, in December, 1875, when a part of the old building was bought by Fred Hedde, and removed to the southwest corner of Locust and Third streets, where it has ever since been occupied by him as a store and dwelling. The remaining portion of the old building was moved away and used as a residence by P. Touhey.

The first dwelling in Grand Island was built by W. Stephens, on the corner of Locust and Front streets.

The post office was established in the new town in November, 1866, with D. Schuller, Postmaster. About this time several new buildings were erected. Among the first was a store built and opened by M. S. Hall, a railroad contractor. Early in 1867 Koenig and Wiebe, the pioneer merchants of Hall County, removed their "O. K. Store" from its old site about one mile south of the town. About the same time W. R. McAllister and C. W. Thomas built and opened a store. Several other stores were also opened.

For two or three years, however, after the settlement of the town and the building of several business houses and residences, it grew quite slowly, as the adjoining country was but sparsely settled, and the town naturally had to wait for the settlement of the country and the opening up of farms.

But soon the heavy immigration to Nebraska commenced and Hall County began to settle very fast, and then again the town of Grand Island began to grow rapidly. A great many business houses were erected and opened. This great increase in the business facilities was fully warranted by the rapid settlement of the country tributary to the town. Settlers were coming in by the thousands, and Grand Island commanded the trade from all the northern country. To the east there was no town nearer than Columbus; to the westward the country was fast being settled, while to the south and southwest it commanded the trade for a distance as far as the settlements extended, and far up the Republican Valley country. But aside from the settlements in Hall County, the town derived the greater portion of its business from the settlements in the Loup Valley, which commenced in 1871, and extended fully a hundred miles from Grand Island. All these things gave new life to the town, and new stores were established and prospered.

On December 6, 1869, about the time that the heavy immigration to this part of the state commenced, a United States land office was established at Grand Island.

In 1871 the first bridge in the county was built just southwest from the town, at a cost of \$15,000, and this contributed much to the business facilities.

On July 1, 1870, the first newspaper in the county was established by Seth P. and Mrs. Maggie G. T. Mobley, and known as the *Platte Valley Independent*. It was removed from North Platte, where it was formerly published.

In 1871 the first bank in the town was started and incorporated as the State Central Bank, and had a capital of \$45,000. Its President was H. A. Koenig, and the Cashier was D. Heffleman.

So rapidly did the town continue to grow that within a very few years it had about one thousand inhabitants, about half of them Americans and the other half Germans.

The town had so increased in size that, early in the year 1873, it was determined to incorporate Grand Island as a city, which was done in the spring, with the following officers: R. C. Jordan, Mayor; W. H. Platt, Judge; and W. C. Buderus, Clerk. The Board of Aldermen were H. P. Handy, John Wallichs, H. N. Chapman, and L. Engel.

After its incorporation as a city, Grand Island continued to increase in population and the number of business houses. July 16, 1873, the second weekly newspaper, the *Grand Island Times*, was established, and during the entire summer various improvements continued to be made.

The city kept up its rapid progress until the summer of 1874, when the grasshoppers destroyed nearly all the crops and business came to a stand still. From the years 1874 to 1878, the progress of the city was slow. Trade in all its branches had become very dull. Many business houses, apparently strong, failed during this period. This depression in business resulted from several causes combined. During the earlier years of the settlement of this part of the State, Grand Island was the principal business point for the country many miles in all directions. As the other settlements in central and western Nebraska continued to progress, new towns were built. To the south the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad was completed and new towns built on it, hence the trade from points far distant from Grand Island was cut off to a great extent. In the grand rush for the new city everything had been overdone. The town had grown far in advance of the country around it, and now it had to wait until the county and the country naturally tributary to it should be settled. The sudden rush of settlers that came for the few years after the completion of the railroad now nearly stopped. The crops had failed in 1874, and the crops for the next two years were rather light, which rendered business quite dull.

During these four dull years, however, there had been some additions made to the settlement of the county. Every year the crops were becoming much better, and that of 1878 was a particularly good one, and the farming community was prosperous. New settlers were now coming in great numbers. From the above causes, the city began, now, to improve rapidly. There were many who located in the new city and building began to go on with increasing rapidity. So fast did settlement and improvements increase that by the spring of 1880 the population was about 3,000, and the business houses and residences which had been erected were of an exceptionally good character.

In 1880 the city continued to progress, and with greater rapidity than ever before. Early in the year the sale of residence lots began on a large scale. During

the year the sale of lots amounted to about \$80,000, and one hundred and fifty-seven buildings were erected. A few of these were business houses of a substantial character, but by far the greater number were neat and attractive residences, most of which were built by the workingmen of the city. These are the men who make a city, and when they own their own houses it is an evidence of the thrift of the town in which they live. They too, then take an active interest in the progress of their town, and thus contribute to the success of public enterprises.

U. P. RAILROAD SHOPS.

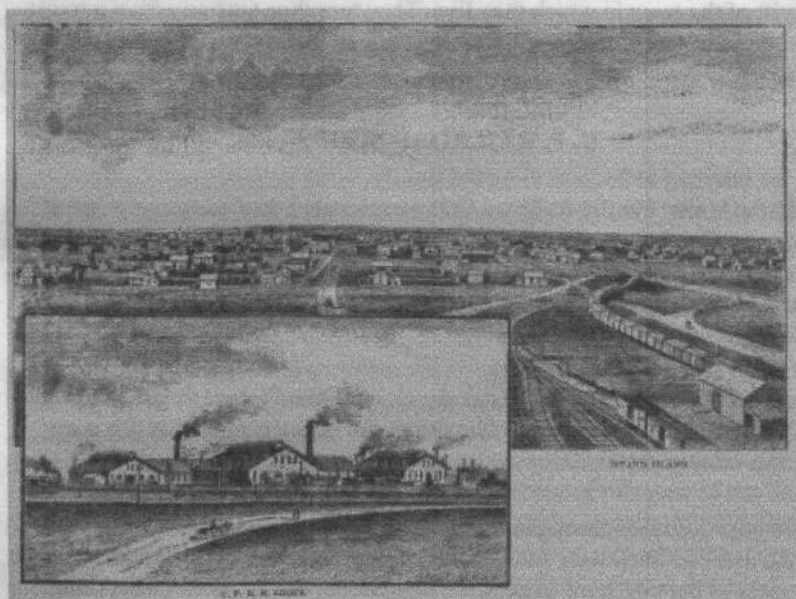
In 1880 the Union Pacific Railroad Company located their shops here and at once began work on their new buildings. The future success of Grand Island was now assured. The new shops were to cost, when completed, at least \$100,000, and would afford work for large numbers of men, and these alone would make Grand Island a prosperous little city.

To secure the location of these shops the city of Grand Island voted bonds of \$50,000, which were to be issued when the works of the company at this place reached the value of \$100,000.

In 1881 improvements throughout the city continued to go on. On the north side of the railroad track were built scores of neat and substantial residences. In various parts of the city were large and magnificent residences erected. Along the business streets were built large and capacious business houses. The population had so increased by the spring of 1882, that it numbered upward of 4,000.

The Union Pacific Railroad shops, spoken of, are to be the very best on the line of the road on the Union Division. Work began on them in 1880, and has continued to the present time, but they are not yet completed. The plan of the yard and shops is as follows: The yard consists of one hundred and twenty acres, and is three quarters of a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, and is located in the eastern part of the city. There are to be nine buildings and beginning at the west end they are as follow: A coal chute 31 feet wide by 175 feet long; next, and a little further to the southward, is the round house with twenty stalls; a little further to the eastward a machine shop, 100 feet wide by 150 feet long, with an engine room 50 by 50 feet; south of this a blacksmith shop, 75 by 150 feet; east of the machine shop a turn table; south of this a building 50 feet wide by 180 feet long, to contain two offices and two store rooms; directly to the south, at the edge of the yard, an oil house, 40 by 60 feet; then in the centre of the yard comes the car erecting shop, 100 by 300 feet; attached to this on the south side is a car machine shop, 100 feet wide by 150 feet long; attached to this is an engine room, 50 by 50 feet; 100 feet east are two buildings, each 50 by 300 feet, the

north one a car paint shop, and the other a car repair shop. The lumber yard lies south of the car shops.



GRAND ISLAND. U. P. R. R. SHOPS.

The above buildings are all to be built of a good quality of limestone, from the quarries of the company on the Beatrice branch of their railroad.

Of the above buildings, three--the machine shop, blacksmith shop and car shop have already been built. The round house is just commenced.

The machine shop is in size 100 by 150 feet, the walls 21 feet high, and the peak of the roof 46 feet, with a seven foot ventilator above. It contains three pits, 118 feet long, with room for another as soon as required. Twenty-two iron columns support the shafting. Four double doors on the west side enter the building. Fifty-seven windows furnish the light. Back of the engine room is a chimney 75 feet high and ten feet at the base. The roof is of slate. The other buildings now erected are fully equal to the machine shop.

When completed it is estimated that the above shops and fixtures will cost fully \$100,000.

The old round house consists of twenty stalls. This, with the old repair shops, are situated further west and near the freight depot.

The company already employ a large number of men at their shops and on their buildings. The fact, also, that Grand Island is the terminus of the St. Joe & Western as well as of the St. Paul & Loup Valley branch, makes it most decidedly a railroad town. This is the one material enterprise that makes Grand Island the prosperous and growing little city that she is.

GRAND ISLAND BUILDINGS.

Foundry. Grand Island has also a good foundry located on the corner of Locust and Second streets. Edward Hooper is the proprietor, and it does quite a large and prosperous business. The history of the foundry is as follows: In October, 1878, it was established by Edward Hooper and the Ferguson brothers, under the firm name of Ferguson Bros. & Co. In the spring of 1881, the entire business was purchased by Edward Hooper, who has continued to enlarge the capacity of the factory, and is now doing a large business, and the foundry is in a flourishing condition. Mr. Hooper is a practical man, extending his business slowly but surely, and he proposes soon to erect new buildings and largely increase the casting facilities of the foundry. Mr. Hooper also runs a wagon making shop here.

Wagon Shop. Stratmann Bros. are also proprietors of a wagon shop, and manufacture good and durable wagons. This establishment is located on Third street between Walnut and Cedar.

Flouring Mills. The State Central Flouring Mills, H. A. Koenig, proprietor, does a large and prosperous business, turning out daily immense quantities of the finest quality of flour. The mills are run by steam power and are the oldest established flouring mills in the county. They were established in 1867, and were the first mills west of Fort Calhoun.

Water Works. Grand Island has an excellent system of water works, which for protection from fire are of untold benefit. The business portion of the city is laid with mains, and there are hydrants on every corner, to which it is but the work of a moment to attach the hose. Water is furnished from twelve wells and pumped by one large steam pump in one of the railroad buildings, steam being kept up day and night. As early as 1874, two good fire companies were organized and since that time there has always been the very best protection against fire. This department is filled by experienced men.

Banks. The State Central Bank is located on Locust, between Third and Front streets. This is the oldest established bank in the city, having been founded in 1871. It is in a prosperous condition, and does a large business, being the

heaviest banking institution in the city. H. A. Koenig has been its President, since the date of its first organization.

The Grand Island Banking Company have their banking house on Third, between Locust and Pine streets. It was incorporated in January, 1880, with a paid up capital stock of \$40,000, and does a general banking business. It has a large and growing business. J. P. Kernohan is the cashier and has entire charge of the bank affairs in the city.

C. F. Bentley is a private banker, with the bank on Third, between Locust and Pine streets. It was established early in 1880.

The First National Bank of Grand Island has just been organized, with a capital of \$100,000. S. N. Wolback, President; C. F. Bentley, Cashier; D. H. Veiths, Assistant Cashier.

Hotels. The hotels of Grand Island are twelve in number. The Grand Island Railroad eating house is the leading hotel and is kept by Chauncey Wiltse. Several others are first-class houses, though the buildings are all rather small.

NEWSPAPERS.

The press of the city is moral and elevating in its tone, and in matters of local and general news is fully up to the times. It is progressive and its public-spiritedness has contributed much to the upbuilding of the city.

The Platte Valley Independent is edited and published by Seth P. and Mrs. Maggie G. T. Mobley. It is a large quarto newspaper, Republican in politics and is published weekly. This paper was established at first at North Platte, in November, 1869. But on July 1, 1870, the proprietors removed it to Grand Island, where it has since continued to be published. It is ably conducted and has a large circulation.

Seth P. Mobley was born in Washington County, Ohio, on January 15, 1845. In the spring of 1853, he removed with his parents to Henry County, Iowa. In 1855, he entered the office of the *Advertiser* at Mount Pleasant, and began to learn the printer's trade. In 1857, he went to Burlington where he attended school until the winter of 1861-62. In November, 1862, he enlisted in Company B, Seventh Iowa Cavalry. He went into the service in Colorado, Dakota and Nebraska. In the summer of 1864, he was made field messenger for Gen. Curtis and served in Missouri. He was then sent on provost duty in Southern Kansas. In June, 1865, he was ordered to Fort Kearney, Nebraska. Was soon detailed as government printer. Soon purchased the material and began the publication of the *Fort Kearney Herald*. Was mustered out at Fort Kearney, November 24, 1865. For four years after, he was engaged in the grocery and stock raising

business. January 1, 1870, he entered into partnership with Mrs. Maggie G. T. Eberhart in the publication of the *Platte Valley Independent* at North Platte. July 1, 1870, they removed the paper to Grand Island where it has since been published. On December 9, 1871, he was married to Mrs. Maggie G. T. Eberhart.

Mrs. Maggie G. T. Mobley, was born at Limerick, Ireland, October 23, 1848. Her father was a merchant. The family came to America the next year. Her father died in 1851. The next year she went to St. Mary's Convent, at South Bend, Indiana. At the age of sixteen taught school at Peoria, Ill. In early life exhibited literary taste. Removed to Omaha, October, 1867. To North Platte in 1869, where she taught one term of school and then, in company with Seth P. Mobley, started the *Independent*. Her name was then Mrs. Eberhart. July 1, 1870, they removed the paper to Grand Island. On December 9, 1871, she was married to Seth P. Mobley.

The Grand Island Semi-Weekly Times, was established July 16, 1873, by Charles P. R. Williams. It is Republican in politics and has ever been a wide awake paper. It was published as a weekly, until January 1, 1882, when it was changed to a semi-weekly, and is now a seven column folio. The *Times* has a large patronage. In the spring of 1882, it was sold to W. H. Michael.

The Herold is a German newspaper, established October 29, 1880, by Henry Garn and Charles Boehl. It is an eight page, six column paper, independent in politics. Owing to the large German element in the county it has a very large circulation. Henry Garn, the senior editor of the *Herold*, came to Nebraska, and located at Grand Island in August, 1866. He engaged in teaching school and was for a long time principle of the Grand Island schools. This position he resigned in the summer of 1879 and engaged in the insurance and collection business. He was also justice of the peace. In October he began the publication of the *Herold*. He was born at Berlin, Germany, April 29, 1842. Was educated at a military academy in his native town. He served in the Prussian army. In 1863, he came to America to participate in the War of the Rebellion, and enlisted as a private in Company I, One Hundred and Seventy-eighth New York Volunteers. He served until April, 1866, and was mustered out at Mobile. He then went to New Orleans, where he remained a few weeks, and then went to Grand Island, where he located. He was married March 29, 1874, to Miss Anna Genz, of Grand Island. They have three children: Henry, born May 17, 1876; Emma, born October 20, 1877, and Charles, born January 12, 1881. Charles Boehl, junior editor and half owner of the *Herold*, came to Nebraska and located in Grand Island, in the latter part of December, 1879. He worked as a clerk in a store until October, 1880, when, in partnership with Henry Garn, he began the publication of the *Herold*. He was born at Davenport, Iowa, June 5, 1859. Attended school there until fourteen years of age when he began clerking, which occupation he followed until coming to Nebraska, in December, 1879.

CHURCHES.

Religion is almost universally respected. A large portion of the citizens are church goers. The several religious organizations have a large membership and are well supported. The community is moral and a strong religious feeling is rooted deep in their breasts.

German Roman Catholic Church.--The first church built was the German Roman Catholic which was erected soon after the laying out of the present town of Grand Island. It was quite a fine church, but was blown down by a hurricane, in the summer of 1870. Sometime afterward it was rebuilt and is a very fine building, and is located on the southeast corner of Second and Walnut streets. The church has a membership of about 300. The Sunday school is large and in good condition. Religious instruction is given four times each week.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is located on the corner of Second and Cedar streets. The church society was organized in the summer of 1871, and the erection of a church was begun soon after. This is a neat structure. The first church services were conducted by Right Reverend Robert H. Clarkson, Bishop of the diocese. Upon its first organization, R. C. Jordan was senior warden, and D. T. Jameson, junior warden; and it had ten communicants at that time. The Sabbath school was organized in 1870, by Mrs. Jordan with thirty scholars.

The First Baptist Church is situated on the corner of Sycamore and Fourth streets. The society was organized in 1870, by Rev. J. N. Webb, State missionary, with only five members, but a church was soon built. It has now grown to a good organization, and the church building is a good one. Sunday school is held regularly with a good attendance.

The Presbyterian Church is situated on Second street, between Spruce and Walnut. The church society was organized August 12, 1869, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, under the auspices of the Missouri River Presbytery. The society then had five members, and Robert Mitchell and Samuel Hindman were elected elders. Services were not held regularly until, in February, 1875, Rev. Samuel Griffies held a series of services and the membership was increased to ten. Since that time the organization has continued to increase, having now upward of 100 members. The Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is situated on Pine street between Second and Third. The society was organized in February, 1872, by Rev. J. S. Smith. The Baptist Church was occupied for services, until March, 1874, after which they held their meetings in the court house, until the completion of their church the following summer. It was formally dedicated by Bishop Bowen September 30, 1874. The Sunday school has a large attendance and is in a prosperous condition.

The Church of the United Brethren in Christ was organized early in the history of Grand Island, and on March 18, 1876, it was incorporated and measures taken to build a church, which was completed early in the summer, and on the second day in July, 1876, it was formally dedicated by Bishop Glossbrenner. The church has a good membership and is in a prosperous condition.

The Evangelical Lutheran.--In the due course of events in the history of the town, this church was organized, and on the fifteenth day of March, 1882, it became incorporated. It had been organized for some time previous, and had already become prosperous and is making rapid progress.

SCHOOLS.

The educational interests of the city are regarded by its citizens as of the greatest importance. Early in the history of Grand Island, not only were good schools established but every effort made to instruct both old and young, and anything that tends to the educational advancement of the city, or of its inhabitants, is liberally encouraged. The school houses of the city are two in number, one on the south side of the railroad and the other on the north. The high school building is located in the southern portion of the city. It is a large brick edifice, built in 1879, at a cost of upward of \$20,000. It has all the modern conveniences, and is a credit to the city. The north side school building has been found too small to accommodate the increase in attendance, and provisions are to be soon made for a larger structure. In April, 1882, bonds of \$15,000 were voted, but have since been decided to be illegal. The school departments are eleven in number, and the schools are well graded, and all under the management of efficient teachers. It is intended that the high school course shall fit the graduate for entering upon a collegiate course, and to train him for the practical and business side of life.

SOCIETIES.

Ashlar Lodge, No. 33, A., F. & A. M., was organized October 5, 1870, under dispensation, and R. C. Jordon was appointed Worthy Master; O. A. Abbott, Secretary; G. E. Wilson, Senior Warden; S. J. Saxe, Senior Deacon; G. H. Thummel, Junior Warden; E. Munch, Junior Deacon; P. H. Baylor, Treasurer; W. Lloyd, Tiler. The lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, June 26, 1871, with G. H. Thummel, Worthy Master; and G. E. Wilson, Secretary. The lodge then had seventeen members, since which time it has continued to increase in numbers, having now about eighty members.

Mount Lebanon Commandery, No. 6, K. T., was organized in the fall of 1874, with R. C. Jordan, Commander. Meetings are held each month, and the membership numbers about eighty.

Deuel Chapter, No. 11, R. A. M., was chartered November 14, 1873, with Robert C. Jordan as High Priest; Wm. A. Deuel, King; and Geo. E. Wilson, Scribe. There was then a membership of sixteen which has now increased to over forty.

Fidelity Lodge, No. 935, K. of P., is in a flourishing condition, and meets twice each month. J. W. West is P. D.

Scottish Rite Masonry Lodge of Perfection, No. 2, an organization of Kinwinning, was organized several years ago and has an excellent membership. The Master, R. C. Jordan, is the active thirty-third degree for Nebraska, and is the highest officer in rank in the State, in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. Some years ago he resigned his position, but at the meeting of the Supreme Council, in Washington, D. C., in October, 1880, he was again called to the position, which he has since occupied and discharged its duties faithfully.

Sons of Temperance.--As early as October 2, 1873, the Sons of Temperance organized, with fifteen members. Horatio Thomas was W. P.; Alice Odell, W. A.; and J. J. Cash, R. S. The organization was for a long time very successful.

Grand Island Lodge, No. 60, I. O. G. T., meets every week at Temperance Hall. The order has a large membership, and is in a flourishing condition.

Grand Island Temple of Honor and Temperance has a large and effective organization, numbering among its members, some of the leading men of the city.

Lyons Post, No. 11.--Early in 1879, Lyons Post No. 11, of the Grand Army of the Republic, was organized with G. H. Bush, Post Commander. From the first, this organization grew rapidly, and now it has an exceedingly large membership for the large number of ex-soldiers in Grand Island and vicinity. In numbers and effective working it now ranks one of the very first among the various posts in the State. Chauncey Wiltse is the present Post Commander.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows have a large and working organization here. Grand Island Lodge, No. 22, I. O. O. F., has a large and effectively working membership. It was organized several years ago and its progress has since been steady and rapid. Meetings are held weekly.

Advance Encampment, No. 13, holds regular meetings each month, at Odd Fellow's Hall, over McAllister's store. The lodge is quite large and is in a flourishing condition.

The Grand Island Building and Loan Association was incorporated September 30, 1881. The association is composed principally of the workingmen of the

city, and its object is to encourage them to save their earnings, by being banded together for the purpose of combining their savings, which are invested either in buildings for tenants, or loaned at a reasonable rate of interest.

The Grand Island Turnverein, or Turner's Society, was organized in October, 1874, and for many years held meetings at Hanns Park. It became a corporate body, January 15, 1878. It had a very large membership, but at the time Grand Island was visited by the writer, no meetings had been held for some time. But they had not disbanded, and it was expected that the meetings would again be resumed during the summer.

The Liederkranz Society was organized in November, 1870, with John Wallichs, now State Auditor, as leader. The object of the society is to promote social culture, and further the advancement in music among its members. After its organization, the Union Pacific Railroad Company gave them two lots, and a building was erected in August, 1871. They now have eight lots, and the finest and largest hall in the city. Meetings of the society are held the first Sunday in each month. The membership is now very large, and the society is in a flourishing condition.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.



RESIDENCE OF HON. JOHN L. MEAN

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O. A. ABBOTT, Attorney at Law. He located in Grand Island in 1867, and commenced the practice of law. He served an unexpired term in the Nebraska State Senate in 1872. He was a member of the constitutional conventions in 1871 and 1875. He was elected lieutenant governor in the fall of 1876. He was born Hartley, Canada East, September 19, 1842. He lived in his native country until 15 years of age when the family moved to DeKalb Co., Ill., where he attended school and farmed until 1861. He enlisted in September, 1861, in Co. I, Ninth Regiment, Illinois Cavalry; participated in the battles of Gen. Curtis' campaigns in Missouri and Arkansas, and guarded the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. He was wounded in the right arm at Pontotoc, Miss., July 1, 1864. At Nashville, Tenn., December 15, 1864, was shot through the left side. He was promoted to second-lieutenant February 23, 1864. He was appointed first lieutenant May 23, 1865; he was mustered out in October 31, 1865. Began to study law while in service, buying his first law books in Selma, Ala. He was admitted to the bar in 1867, at Belvidere, Ill., having studied two years in the law office of Ira M. Moore. He married February 9, 1873, Miss Lizzie M. Giffin, of Sycamore, Ill. They have four children, Othman A., Jr., Edith, Grace, and Arthur G. He is a member of the Masonic order of Grand Island, also Lyons Post No. 11, G. A. R.

WM. L. ARNOLD, proprietor of the Blue Front, livery, sale, and feed stables. Opened business in May, 1881. Deals in horses, and does a general livery business. Was born in Bushnell, Ill., December 6, 1857. His parents moved to Leavenworth, Kan., 1858, lived there a year and removed to Albia, Iowa, lived there two years, then to Harrison Co., Western Iowa, a year, after which they located in Lincoln, Neb. His father, Abel Arnold, was a physician. William first engaged in the sale of fruit and forest trees about three years, then attended and taught school some time, after which engaged in dealing in horses, etc. He is a member of I. O. G. T.

F. M. BACON, of the firm of Griswold & Bacon, dealers in lumber and building material. They established the business in September, 1878; employ four men. He first came to Grand Island in the spring of 1873, bought a farm of three hundred and twenty acres, near the then village of Grand Island, and cultivated the same until he sold out and entered the lumber trade. He still owns a farm of 160 with 90 acres in cultivation. He was born in Auburn, N. Y., July 5, 1825, from there went to Pennsylvania with his parents, and in 1845, at the age of twenty, he left home and settled in Miami Co., Ind., then nearly a wilderness, the Miami Indians occupying the southern and the Pottawattamies the northern portions of the country, and there opened out a farm in the heavy timber. He was married in 1850 to Sarah F. Griswold, his present wife, in 1861, he moved to Peru, the county seat, and engaged in the agricultural implement trade with A. R. Whistler, under the firm name of Whistler & Bacon. Leaving the firm three years later, continuing the lumber trade alone, until March, 1873, when he moved with his family of six children, four daughters and two sons, to his present house, where they all reside at this time. Alice M. was married to S. M.

Bryan, book and fancy goods dealer. Laurie A. was married to H. A. Bartling in the Union Pacific Railroad employ. Jennie L., married to S. B. Reynard, dealer in musical instruments, and Gertrude, single and at home. Walter R., married, is bookkeeper for the firm. Fred, single and at home, is receiving and shipping clerk for the firm.

PROF. GROVE E. BARBER, City Superintendent of Public Instruction, at Grand Island, Neb. There are 10 schools, 11 teachers, and about 900 pupils. All the common branches are taught, and many of the higher studies are pursued in the upper departments. Mr. Barber was born in Freedom, Ohio, November 1, 1844. His father died when he was an infant. He entered the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute, which afterward became Hiram College, of Hiram, Ohio. In the fall of 1860 taught school, and in the winter of 1861-62, enlisted in Co. I, 104th Regular Volunteer Infantry, and participated in the siege of Knoxville and Atlanta campaign, and battles in that vicinity, battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864, and Nashville, Tenn., December 15 and 16, 1864. Was mustered out in Cleveland, Ohio, June 30, 1865. He served as a musician, afterward re-entered Hiram College, from which he graduated in the spring of 1871, at which time he became Superintendent of Public Schools, of Rock Creek, Ashtabula Co., Ohio for one year. Then elected to the professorship of Latin and Greek of Hiram College, which position he filled until June, 1881, when he moved to Nebraska. He was married in Freedom, Ohio, June 24, 1867, to Miss Esther B. Gardner, of the latter place. They have four children, Lena A., Harry G., Alphonzo G., and Virgil C. He was elected to the chair of Latin in Nebraska University, July 27, 1882.

ADOLPH BLUNK, of the firm of Blunk Bros., proprietors of the Platte Valley Grist Mill. Erected mill in 1877. Size building 28x42; three run stone, 9½ feet head; capacity 80 barrels in twenty-four hours. Cost \$5,000. They have one hundred and fifty-one acres of fine land in connection with the mill, one hundred of which is under cultivation, located on Section 29, Town 11, Range 9, and two and a half miles southwest of Grand Island. They first located in Hall County, 1871; worked at various occupations until 1873, bought the above farm, cultivated same four years, then went into milling business. Mr. Adolph Blunk was born in Holsteni, Germany, April 12, 1854. Came to America, 1871. He is a member of Leiderkranz Society of Grand Island.

HENRY D. BOYDEN, dealer in general line of drugs, paints, oils, and druggists' sundries. He became proprietor of his present business February 12, 1881. He first came to Nebraska, May 10, 1879, as manager of a drug store owned by J. W. Bean, of Morris, Ill., in which capacity he continued until he purchased a stock of drugs and opened for himself. He was born in Morrisville, N. Y., December 26, 1852, where his parents lived about six years. They moved to Chicago, Ill., and resided there five years. After living a year near Eau Claire, Wis., they returned to Chicago, remained three years and went to Kenosha, Wis. At the age of sixteen he became apprenticed to Hon. Fred Robinson, druggist of

Kenosha, three years and a half. He went to Chicago in 1872, and served as prescription clerk. He returned to Kenosha in the same occupation. His former employer, Mr. Robinson, placed him in charge of his drug store until 1878, when he went to Morris, Ill., as prescription clerk until he came to Nebraska.

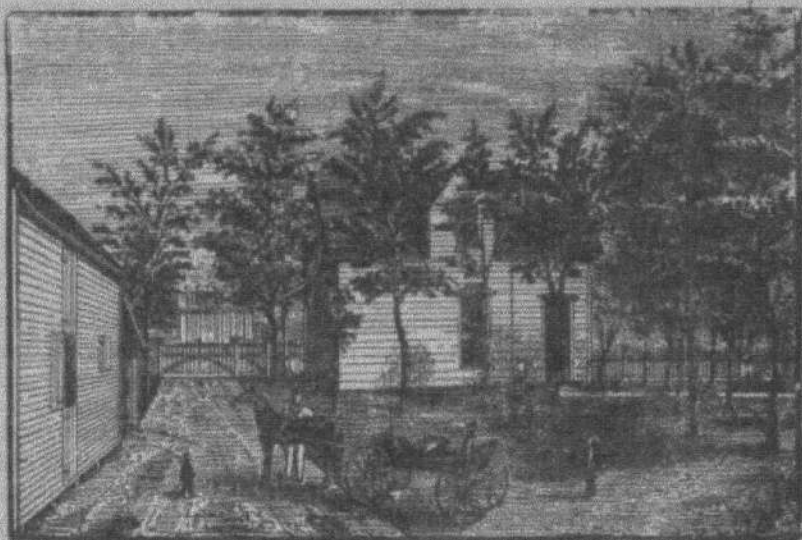
H. L. BURKET, stock raiser, has a ranch located on the head-waters of North Loup River in Northern Nebraska, where he keeps from four hundred to five hundred head of cattle. The business is owned by M. C. Burket, his wife, nearly all of which is fine graded Durham stock. He opened the ranch in April, 1882. He first located in Grand Island, 1878, and engaged in the furniture and undertaking business until April, 1882. Born in Alexandria, Huntington Co., Penn., September 16, 1842; lived there with his parents until 1847, and moved to Dixon, Ill., where they lived until 1870. Engaged in farming, stock, coal, restaurant, and ice cream business. Came to Ottumwa, Iowa, as traveling salesman. Moved to Pottawattamie Co., Iowa; dealt in stock two years, then came west. Enlisted in the spring of 1861 in Co. B., Thirteenth Regular Illinois Volunteer Infantry; participated in the battles of Vicksburg, Miss., Arkansas Post, Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Springfield, Mo., and a number of skirmishes on White River, Jackson, Chickasaw Bayou, etc. Mustered out in Springfield, Ill., June, 1864. Married in Dixon, Ill., 1866, to Miss Mary C. Anderson, of Alexandria, Penn. They have three children, Clara Ada, Jessie D., and Julia Della. He is a member of Lyon Post No. 11, G. A. R.; K. of H., and an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

GEO. H. CALDWELL, Judge of the County Court of Hall Co., Nebraska, was born in Meigs Co., Ohio, in 1844, raised upon a farm until 1864. Enlisted in Co. C., 140th Ohio National Guards and mustered into the service May, 1864, at Gallipolis, Ohio, and was stationed at Charleston and Meadow Bluff, W. Va., during his enlistment; was honorably discharged in the fall of the same year; remained upon his father's farm until the spring of 1875, when he went to the Oil Regions of Wirt Co., W. Va., where he invested in the oil business, clerking in a store, a telegraph operator, and student at law. Removed to Parkersburg, W. Va., in 1875, where he completed his law studies in the office of Hon. D. H. Leonard, and was admitted to the Bar in the spring of 1876. Came to Hall Co., Neb., May, 1877, and opened a law office. Formed a law partnership with Hon. O. A. Abbott, which continued until the fall of 1881, when he was elected Judge of the County Court of Hall County for two years. Was married to Miss Carrie F. Hutchinson, of Beaver Co., Penn., in May, 1877. Is a member of Lyon Post, G. A. R., and a member of the Masonic fraternity. Practices in the higher courts of his county and state.

JAMES CLEARY, dealer in hardware, stoves, and tinware. Opened business April 1, 1870, being the oldest established hardware business in the city of Grand Island, carrying a stock then of about \$400; now carries a fine stock of \$6,000. Employs three men. Size of building 80x22 feet, two stories high. He was born in Ireland. Came to America in 1859, with his parents, and settled in

Louisburg, W. Va. Lived there until the close of the Rebellion. Enlisted in 1863, in Co. A, Fourteenth Regiment Virginia Cavalry, in Gen. Jenkins' Brigade; participated in the battles of Gettysburg, Winchester, Droop Mountain, and many skirmishes. After leaving the army he engaged at the tinners' trade in Charlestown, W. Va., a year. Engaged in the same business in Atchison, Kan., a year, then to Denver and Central City, Col., and worked at the same trade until he came to Nebraska. Married in Grand Island, 1874, to Miss Johanna Danahy, of New York state. They have three children, Mary Josephine, John Leo, and James Timothy. He was Mayor of Grand Island in 1876, City Treasurer a year, now a member of the City Council.

F. D. COLLINS, of the firm of Collins & Kerr, dealers in clothing and gents furnishing goods. Opened business in September, 1881, carry a stock of \$5,000. Mr. Collins is also a part proprietor of a brick-yard, under the firm name of Collins, King & Berkenbuel. They have a capacity of manufacturing 3,000 pressed bricks per day. Employ twenty men. He was born in Toulon, Illinois, in 1856; lived in his native state until he came to Nebraska. He was clerk in Illinois four years. Married in 1878 in Kewanee, Ill., to Miss Ella M. Kerr, of the latter place.



RESIDENCE OF GEORGE CORNELIUS.
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GEORGE CORNELIUS, County Treasurer of Hall County. He has been engaged in farming in the above county since May, 1864, when he followed the same in connection with carpenter work until January, 1880, when he was elected County Treasurer. In the fall of 1881 he was re-elected. He owns one hundred and sixty-five acres of land, all under cultivation, three and a half miles southwest of Grand Island. He had been County Commissioner two terms. Was

born in Schleswig Holstein, Germany, January 25, 1844. Came to America in 1857, and settled with his parents in Davenport, Iowa. Worked on a farm and at the carpenter trade until he came to Nebraska. Was married in Grand Island, April 30, 1868, to Miss Gertrude Rauert, of the same place, in Germany. They have four children, August N., Jacob William, George Marcus, and John C. Mr. Cornelius is a member of the Leiderkranz Society.

A. J. CUSHMAN, dealer in furniture of all kinds. Opened business December, 1880. Employs three men, and carries a stock of \$13,000 in all kinds of household furniture. He was born in Sandy Creek, Oswego Co., N. Y., March 31, 1838. Went from New York to Ionia and St. Joseph, Mich.; worked at the carpenter trade some time, also engaged in the furniture business ten years. Went to Independence, Kan., in 1875; engaged in the same business until he came to Nebraska. Enlisted in Engineers' and Mechanics' Regiment in 1862; served two years. Married in Peoria, Ill., June 15, 1875, to Miss Anna Goodrich, of New York.

H. C. DENMAN, Sheriff of Hall Co., Nebraska. He was located in Nebraska County, fifteen miles below Nebraska City, with his parents, on government land, in 1859, and lived there until 1871, then moved to Hall County, ten miles south of Grand Island, on a homestead. Now owns five hundred acres of land with three hundred and forty under cultivation, and is quite extensively engaged in stock raising and shipping, was elected Sheriff of Hall County in the fall of 1881. He was born in Licking Co., Ohio, July 24, 1844. His family moved near Bloomington, Ill., in 1852, and lived there until he came to Nebraska, is a member of the Masonic order of Grand Island. He was married in Cass Co., Mo., in 1869, to Miss Ella R. Edmunson, of Pleasant Hill, Mo. They have four children, Lena Belle, Brtha, Franklin, John Harrison, and Mary Ann.

JOHN EGGERS, of the firm of Eggers Bros., dealers in all kinds of fresh and salt meats. Opened the business in the fall of 1874. Employs three men and does a large business. He located in Grand Island in 1869, afterward spent three years in Texas. Was born in Germany, December 7, 1851. Came to America in the spring of 1869

HENRY ELSNER, of the firm Conley & Elsner, dealers in a general line of groceries, provisions, tobacco, and cigars, queensware, etc. Opened business in December 1881; carry a stock of \$4,000, and employ four men. He was born in Germany in 1856, came to America in 1879, and located in Grand Island, worked on a farm some time, and clerked in the grocery trade, and became a partner in the above firm. He was married in December, 1880, in Central City, Neb., to Miss Anna Ott, of Germany. They have one son, Henry. S. A. Conley of the above firm, was born in Monongalia County, W. Va., January 15, 1855; lived there until 1857, and moved with his parents to Nebraska, opposite Sioux City, Iowa, and lived there seven years, then to Bates County, Mo., and lived there some time. He moved to Pleasanton, Kan., and clerked in a grocery store

and express office seven years. Came to Grand Island, Neb., in the summer of 1881, and took charge of the grocery store for H. C. Decker. Was married June 17, 1877, to Miss Julia Baugh, of Linn County, Kan. They have two children, Lena Pearl and Charles Allen

JAMES EWING, Deputy County Treasurer, and editor and proprietor of the Wood River *Gazette*. He located at Wood River in May, 1871, where he farmed and taught school, until the fall of 1877, when he was elected County Superintendent of Public Instruction, and by re-election, served four years at the end of which he became Deputy County Treasurer. He issued the first number of the Wood River *Gazette* in March, 1882. It had, however been issued since September, 1881. Mr. Ewing also deals in real estate, and is agent for several fire insurance companies. He was born in Allegany Co., N. Y., July 7, 1850. He was raised on a farm, and lived in his native state until sixteen years of age, when he went with his parnts to Cedar Co., Iowa, where he followed farming and teaching until he came to Nebraska.

DR. M. J. GAHAN, physician and surgeon, located in Grand Island March 1, 1875, where he has since practiced medicine. Was born in Dublin, Ireland, May 27, 1844. Came to America with his parents in 1846, and settled in Philadelphia, Penn. He left there in 1855 and went to Baltimore, Md, and stayed there one year, then to St. Johns, N. B., one year. Entered the St. Dunstan's College on Prince Edward's Island, where he was a student until the latter part of 1860. Entered the volunteer service as Medical Cadet, and was stationed in the United States Mustering Office in New York City until 1863, then entered active service as Hospital Steward of the Thirteenth New York Heavy Artillery, remaining in the field until July, 1865. Mustered out July 11, 1865. Lived a year in Boston, Mass., when he went to Galveston, Tex., and entered the Galveston Medical College, where in due course of time he graduated and entered the regular army as surgeon. Served in the Fifth Louisiana District until 1871. Re-entered the service in a short time as Hospital Steward in the regular army, until 1875, after which, he settled in Grand Island and began the practice of medicine. He is known as the first surgeon that performed ovariectomy in that part of Nebraska successfully. He is now Medical Director of G. A. R. of the state, and holds the position of Chairman of the State Medical Society; also Assistant Surgeon for the Union Pacific Railroad, and full Surgeon of the St. Jo, Denver and Northern Railroad; also Scottish Rite, Mason, and Director of the Grand Island Building and Loan Association.

HENRY GIESE, farmer and stock raiser. Came to Grand Island in 1860; located on his present place in 1864, Sections twenty and twenty-nine, consisting of one hundred and sixty acres, one hundred and ten of which are under cultivation. Was born in Holstein, Germany, December 1, 1839. Came to America in 1857; lived in Scott Co., Iowa, and farmed until he came to Nebraska, since which time he has followed farming and stock raising. Married in Grand Island in 1867, to Mary Obermuller, a native of Schleswig, Germany.

They have four children, Bertha, Caroline, Henry, and Metha. Mr. Giese has been Constable and Road Supervisor of his precinct for eight years.

H. H. GLOVER, of the firm of H. H. Glover & Co.; C. A. Wiebe is the other member of the firm. They are large dealers in dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, carpets, and all kinds of dry goods. Opened business in 1879; carries a \$30,000 stock, and employs twelve men in the business. Mr. Glover located in Omaha in 1876, worked as traveling salesman for a clothing store three years. He then came to Grand Island and opened the above business. Was born in Dorchester, Mass., near Boston, in 1853. Lived in his native state for four years, after which he came west. He is a member of the Masonic order of Grand Island. Was married in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 1880, to Miss Maggie Field, of the latter city. They have one son, Edward D.

CHARLES GUENTHER, contractor and builder, Grand Island, Neb. Opened business in the fall of 1876; employs from ten to fifteen men in the business season. He erected the Wolbach store and residence, and many other fine buildings in Grand Island. He first came to Grand Island in the fall of 1869. Was born at Mechlin, Germany, December 5, 1853; came to America in 1859; located in Grand Island, and was married in the latter city, May 6, 1881, to Miss Margaretta Sthere, native of Holstein, Germany. They have one son, Herman. Mr. Guenther is a member of Leiderkranz Society and City Fire Department.

WILLIAM AUGUST HAGGE, collecting agent for the State Central Bank. Located in Grand Island in 1857; engaged in farming until 1872; was appointed County Treasurer for Hall County in the fall of 1871; was elected in the fall of 1872, and by re-election held the office three terms. He then assisted the present County Treasurer a year. Was prospecting in the summer of 1880. Was in the County Treasurer's office during 1881, after which he accepted his present position. Was born in Holstein, Germany, April 3, 1834; came to America in 1849, settled in Moline, Ill., remained there some time, then to Davenport, Iowa, where he attended school, there engaged in mercantile business some time; came with the Davenport Colony to Nebraska, in May, 1857; was married in Grand Island in the fall of 1865, to Miss Caroline Miller, of the same place in Germany. They have seven children, Ida, Adelede, Emma, William, August, Hellene, Frederick, and Clara. Mr. Hagge is a member of the Leiderkranz Society.

T. O. C. HARRISON, firm of Harrison & Rief, attorneys at law, loan and insurance agents, abstracts furnished, etc. He located in Grand Island in March, 1873, taught school a few terms, and was admitted to the bar of practice in June, 1873. Practiced law until 1875; went to California and Oregon, remained a few months, and returned to Grand Island. Was Deputy County Treasurer a year; served a year as County Judge of Hall County; was elected to the same office in the fall of 1877, and held it one term; was also Police Judge at the same time, and is at present holding the latter office. Born in Clinton County, Ohio, May

23, 1848, and was raised in New Burlington, Clinton County, Ohio, where he lived until he came to Nebraska. Entered the law office of his uncle, R. A. Harrison, of London, Madison County, when quite young, and remained in the study of law until he came to Nebraska. Married in Grand Island, March 25, 1879, to Miss M. Camille Laine, of Madison County, N. Y. He is a member of the Masonic order of Grand Island.

FRED HEDDE, dealer in farm implements, machinery, lumber, grain, etc. Located in the vicinity of Grand Island in 1857; he farmed until 1869. Began merchandising in 1864, and continued until 1869, at which date he went to Germany as emigrant agent for Nebraska, located in Hamburg, and after successfully operating eighteen months, returned to Omaha, where after remaining some time he went to California and Oregon; then returned to Grand Island, in the spring of 1873, and opened a general store and sale of farm implements; he added the lumber trade in 1874, and sold the store in 1880. Now keeps a large stock of implements and lumber of all kinds, and owns a large amount of real estate. He was born in Holstein, Germany, September 11, 1818; came to America in 1854, and lived in Davenport, Iowa, where he was principal in forming a colony of thirty persons to settle in Nebraska. These people are among the most wealthy and prosperous settlers in Central Nebraska. He was married in New York City in 1855 to Mrs. Caroline (Waechter) Bueneman, a native of Thuringen Germany. Mr. H. was County Judge in 1858-59, was a member of the Nebraska Territorial Legislature from 1858-61, and a member of the Council of Grand Island after the organization of the city government.

H. C. HELD, dealer in watches, clocks, and jewelry, silver and plated ware, opened business in September, 1872, with a stock of \$1,000; he now carries a stock of \$4,500, and employs two men. Born in Hanover, Germany, Jan. 20, 1842; came to America in the fall of 1868, locating in New Orleans, La., a short time; then came to Omaha, Neb., and worked in the jewelry business four years, after which he came to Grand Island, Neb. Was married in the latter city in 1876, to Miss Minnie Wyese, a native of Holstein, Germany; they have two children--Adolph H. and Minnie. He is a member of the Liederkrantz Society and I. O. O. F. of Grand Island; he was a member of the Sharpshooters in Hanover, Germany, for twenty months during the years 1863 and 1864; he served in the German-Danish war, also in the Prussian and Austrian War.

HENRY W. HIGH, stock dealer, ships on an average of five carloads per month, at an average cost of \$600; he began the stock business in 1878. He first located in Alda, on a homestead, in 1873, and farmed on Section 32, Town 11, Range 11; he owns 240 acres of land, 200 of which is under cultivation, with a fine cottonwood grove. He was born in Gouverneur, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.; his parents moved to Rock County, Wis., when he was a child, where he lived until seven years old; he then went to Green County, and lived twelve years, when they moved to Stephenson County, Ill., where he farmed until he came to Nebraska. He married in Monroe, Green Co., Wis., in 1868, to Miss Lottie

Fellows, of Du Page County, Ill.; they have two children--Agnes Viola and Allen Warren. He enlisted in 1862 in Company D, Ninety-third Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry; he was in the battles of Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Baker's Creek, Black River, siege of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, and Altoona Pass; he was mustered out in 1865 at Louisville, Ky.

EDWARD HOOPER came to Grand Island in the settlement of 1861, and engaged in blacksmithing on the old California stage road, on the banks of the Platte River; moved to his present place in the city of Grand Island in 1866; he engaged in the agricultural implement business in 1873, and in 1879, he, in company with Ferguson Brothers, erected the Grand Island iron and brass foundry and machine shops, 20x40 feet, one and a half stories high, of brick, with an engine room 14x20 feet; he contemplates soon erecting a large brick structure, and will put in a twenty-five horse power engine to propel the machinery, etc.; he employs eleven men; he bought the entire interest in February, 1881; born in Monmouthshire, South Wales, April 10, 1835; came to America in April, 1861; was raised a blacksmith; married in Wales, in October, 1855, to Miss Sarah Parcell, of the same place; they have five children--Anna S., married to Mr. A. H. Wilhelm, and living in Grand Island, William H., Alice E., Charles A., and Lillie. Has served five years as County Commissioner; elected Mayor of the city two successive terms; is at present City Councilman, and a member of the Masonic order and the I. O. O. F.

JOHN L. HOUCK, foreman of the blacksmith department of Union Pacific Railroad shops, has charge of sixty men, which do all the work for the locomotive department and car shops for the main line, and St. Joe & Western, also the St. Paul branch; he located in Grand Island, Neb., November 25, 1881, coming from the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad, having been foreman at Brookfield, Mo.; was born in Germany, December 24, 1837; came with his parents to America in 1842, and learned his trade in Toledo, Ohio, beginning at the age of eighteen years; he worked in the latter place four years; then went to Cleveland, Ohio, four months; then to Pittsburg, Pa., a year; then was steamboat blacksmith on the Ohio River, ranking as second engineer on the steamer City of Alleghany; then worked for the Illinois Central Railroad a year, at Amboy, Ill.; then for the Hannibal & St. Joe Railroad about twenty years. Was married in Brookfield, Mo., in the fall of 1865 to Miss Lavina Stembellver, of near Decatur, Ill.; they have two children--John Calvin and Daisy Belle. He is a charter member of Brookfield Lodge, No. 86, A., F. & A. M., also a member of a Masonic Benevolent Association of Mattoon, Ill.

M. B. HOXIE, Register of the United States Land Office, Grand Island, Neb., received the appointment in September, 1878, to engage in the practice of law in Schuyler in 1869; in 1873 was elected and re-elected in 1875 District Attorney for the Fourth Judicial District of Nebraska. He was born in Wayne County, N. Y., May 28, 1837; his family moved to Montrose, Iowa, in 1838; then to Fairfield and Des Moines, Iowa, in 1846; began the study of law at the age of

eighteen, entering the law office of Finch & Crocker, where he studied a number of years; was admitted to the bar of the Circuit Court in 1858, and practiced in Iowa until he came to Nebraska; he secured the division of Platte County in 1868-69, and organized the eastern portion into Colfax County, establishing the county seat at Schuyler.

CHRISTIAN IPSEM, dealer in a general line of drugs, patent medicines, paints, oils, etc., and sole agent for Jones' ventilated truss, opened for business in March, 1882. He first located in Omaha in 1875, and clerked for C. F. Goodman until he was sent to Grand Island to take charge of the drug store in 1876, which capacity he continued until he became proprietor; he carries a stock of \$2,500. Born in Denmark February 19, 1848; came to America in 1868, and located in Council Bluffs, Iowa; worked in a music store and traveled as salesman for the same until he returned to Europe in 1872; soon returned to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and clerked with the same music house a few months; worked in the Takama drug store two years, and in the drug business in Omaha a short time. He was married in Cheyenne, Wyoming, December 25, 1880, to Miss Anna Plunkett, of Indiana; they have one son--Percy Harold. Mr. I. is a member of Blue Lodge, Scottish Rites, A., F. & A. M., and Liederkrantz, of Grand Island, Neb.

CHARLES IVERS, dealer in groceries and provisions, queensware, crockery, etc., opened business in June, 1881; carries a stock of \$2,000 in goods, including building; building erected and completed in May, 1882. He located in Omaha in 1869 with his brother, and lived two years; came to Grand Island in 1871, and clerked in a general store about seven years; then worked in various stores until he engaged in business for himself. Born in Springfield, Ill., March 13, 1854, and lived in his native State until 1869; he is a member of the Liederkrantz Society, has charge of their hall, and is a member of the Grand Island Fire Department. Was married in the latter city, in 1874, to Miss Wilhelmina Paustian, a native of Germany; they have two children--George and Edith.

GWYN T. JORDAN, firm of Jordan & Justice, dealers in a general line of hardware, stove, and tinware; doing a large and flourishing business. Mr. J. was born in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio, March 17, 1855; he lived in his native State until fourteen years of age, when he went to St. Joseph, Mo., and attended the school in the latter city five years, after which he was engaged as clerk in a wholesale hardware house for five years. He then went to Grand Island, Neb., and opened business.

E. W. JUSTICE, firm of Jordan & Justice, dealers in a general line of hardware, stoves, and tinware; they keep a large stock and do a large trade; they opened business March 24, 1881; they carry a stock of \$10,000; they employ three men; size of building 23x100 feet; two stories and basement, filled with goods; they have one of the finest tin shops in Nebraska. Mr. Justice was born in Jacksonville, Ill., February 15, 1855; he lived in his native State until fifteen years old; his family then moved to Southern Kansas, and lived there six years;

then moved to St. Joseph, Mo., where Mr. J. began the hardware business as clerk for a few months; he then went on the road as traveling salesman two years; then into the house until he came to Nebraska.

JAMES P. KERNOHAN, cashier of the Grand Island Banking Company. The above named bank was opened for business January 20, 1880, with a capital of \$30,000.00, increased April 20, 1880, to \$40,000; average deposits \$25,000. C. P. Packer is president; James P. Kernohan, vice-president; C. H. Bell, assistant cashier; with C. P. Packer, G. A. Packer, S. A. Peterson, F. Sprague and J. P. Kernohan, directors. They do a general banking business in addition to long time loans and insurance. Mr. Kernohan was born near London, Ontario, January 7, 1849; left his native country in 1856 with his parents, and settled near Mason, Mich. He was principal of the Harrisville, Alcona Co., High School in 1875, '76, '77; was principal of Galesburg, Mich., High School, one year, 1877-78. He settled in Edgar, Neb., October 1, 1878, and engaged in a general banking business, under the firm name of Packer & Kernohan, until he removed to Grand Island, where he now conducts a large business in loans, etc. The company will move into its new stone and brick bank building, the best and safest building of the kind in central Nebraska, about September 15, 1882.



Portrait of Henry A. Koenig.

HENRY A. KOENIG, President of the State Central Bank, of Grand Island, Neb., located in Grand Island in 1862, and engaged in general merchandising until 1872. Erected the State Central Flouring Mills in the fall of 1867; the size

of main building is 30x60 feet, thirty feet high, built of wood, with a brick engine room 20x35 feet; one and one-half stories high; brick boiler room, 16x45 feet, one story high; capacity of mill 150 barrels of flour in twenty-four hours; ware-house is independent of the mill, and is 24x50 feet, one story high. The State Central Bank represents a capital of \$150,000 paid up, and a surplus of \$200,000; average deposit equal to \$70,000. D. H. Veiths is cashier. Bank opened for business August, 1871. Mr. Koenig opened the first lumber yard in the place in 1867, and dealt in grain in Grand Island and other intermediate points. He was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1836; came to America in 1860, and clerked in Omaha some time. Enlisted in 1861 in Company B, First Regiment Nebraska Volunteer Infantry; was made Second Lieutenant; participated in battle of Fort Donelson; was disabled, and resigned January, 1862; made a trip to Colorado, and soon afterward came to Grand Island. He married in Grand Island in 1863, to Miss Agathe Von Wasmer, Holstein, Germany. They have four children, Richard W., Mary, Arnold and Henry, Jr.

DR. H. B. LASHLEE, physician and surgeon, located in practice in Palmyra, Neb., April 1877, and practiced four years; located in Grand Island in June, 1881, where he has an extensive practice. Born in Camden, Benton Co., Tenn., November 10, 1846. Began the study of medicine in 1865, studied two years, and then engaged in the mercantile business two years, after which he took up the study of homeopathy. Entered the St. Louis Medical College; taking lectures in winter 1872-73. Then he returned to Hollow Rock, Tenn., and practiced his profession two years. Practiced in Columbia, Texas, a year and a half; came to St. Louis, Mo., and took his second course of lectures; graduating March 1, 1877. Then he came to Nebraska, and married in Nebraska City, April, 1878, to Miss Nellie Harman, of Peoria, Ill.; have three children, Claude, and an infant daughter, and Stella--a daughter by former marriage.

A. C. LEDERMAN, dealer in a general line of hardware, stoves and iron; opened for business in May, 1879, and employs three men. He was born in Pekin, Ill., in 1854, and lived in his native State until 1874. Began as clerk in a hardware store. Learned the tinner's trade, and opened business in his native town, continuing a year. Also in business in Belle Plaine somewhat over a year. He has a good trade, doing a fine retail business. Mr. Lederman is a member of the Masonic Order, and Liederkrantz Society of Grand Island.

W. R. McALLISTER, dealer in groceries, provisions, boots and shoes, notions and agricultural implements, etc., opened business in September, 1867. Carries a stock of about \$3,500, employs three men; he first located in Kearney City, two miles west of Fort Kearney, in May, 1858. Followed teaming from Omaha and west five years, then farmed and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad Company two years, prospected one and a half years, and then opened business. Born in Providence, R. I., March 24, 1846. Family moved to St. Louis, Mo., then to Canesville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa. Finally he located in Nebraska, as before stated. Married in Council Bluffs, Iowa, May 5, 1868, to Miss Emma

Allison, of the latter place. They have five children--May, Grace, Lily, Louis and Ruth. Mr. McAllister is a member of the Masonic Order, and charter member Encampment I. O. O. F.; also Ancient Order of United Workmen, being one of the charter members of the latter. He was Postmaster in Grand Island for ten years, taking charge of the office in 1868, when it was worth only \$12 per year, holding it until 1878, when he resigned; it paid \$1,400 per annum.

HENRY P. MAKELEY, foreman of car repairs, and has charge of wrecking outfit on the Eastern Division of the Union Pacific Railroad and branches. He has twelve men under his supervision. He came to Grand Island December 20, 1866. He took charge of the car and building department for fifteen years. He came to Omaha October 5, 1866, and began work for the Union Pacific Railroad. He has since been in their employ. He was born in Johnstown, Fulton Co., N. Y., September 3, 1837. His parents moved to Berkshire County, Mass., where he lived some years. He then went to New Jersey, and lived there some time. He went to sea in December, 1853, making three voyages in the whaling bark "James Andrews" in the Arctic Ocean. He was promoted to boat-steerer, and was discharged in Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, in 1855. He remained there sometime, and shipped on the clipper bark "Yankee" for San Francisco, Cal. He there shipped on the steamship "Columbia" for Portland, Ore., as quartermaster, making several trips. He then took charge of a saw-mill in Willamette Valley in the fall of 1856. He then returned to San Francisco, and went on the Panama Steamship Line as quartermaster a short time. Then went to Hall county in mining and ranching until 1862. Then into mining in Virginia City, Nev., through that summer. He then returned to California, and followed mining and ranching until February, 1864. Then went to East Range Humboldt Mountains, Nev. He prospected, mined, contracted, also Indian scouting until 1865. He mined in Virginia City, Silver Bow, and Butte City, Montana Territory. He then went down the Missouri River from Fort Benton to Omaha in a Mackinaw boat. He married in Grand Island in 1867, to Mrs. Anna Page-Coran. They have one daughter, Carrie C. He is a member of all the Masonic bodies, Scottish Rights Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Grand Island. Also a member of the City Council.

JAMES MARTIN, proprietor meat market, and dealer in all kinds of fresh and salt meats. Opened trade in 1880. He located in Crete, Neb., 1877, and engaged in same kind of business for some time. Born in England, April 11, 1849. Came to America in 1868, and located in Warren, Jo Daviess Co., Ill., where he engaged in the above business; married in the latter place in 1871 to Miss Matilda M. Servis, of Warren. They have three children--James W., Charles W., and Clara Edith.

JAMES MICHELSON, dealer in real estate in Grand Island, Neb. He first settled in Omaha in 1859, where he followed blacksmithing a year. He then moved to Grand Island, where he followed blacksmithing, wagon making, and keeping ranch for travelers on the Old California Emigrant Road near Platte River for six years. In 1866 he moved into the village and built the Nebraska

House. It was the first hotel in the place. He kept it until 1872, when he erected a store, and engaged in general merchandising four years. Afterwards he went into the real estate business, and building for rent, etc. He was born in Denmark on September 18, 1819. He came to America in 1858. He was married in Denmark in 1837 to Miss Anna Lorison. They have five children--Laurena, Maria, Lena, Anker and Freddie. He is a member of the Masonic Order, and Leiderkranz Society of Grand Island, Neb.

DR. HOWARD C. MILLER, dentist. He works in all branches of dentistry. He was located in Omaha, Neb., April 8, 1880, and worked in dentistry for Dr. G. W. Wertz a year. He then traveled and practiced his profession in Eastern Nebraska, until October, 1882, when he located in Grand Island and continues his profession. He was born in Lewis County, N. Y., January 15, 1859. He moved with his parents to Frankford, Upper Canada, and lived there nine years. He then went to Oneida County, N. Y., and attended school in Rome two years. He lived in that county and studied dentistry before he came to Nebraska. He was married in Hooper, Elk Horn Valley, November, 1881, to Miss Ida Wickwire, of Winslow, Ill.

JOHN D. MOORE, Agent for the Union Pacific Railroad, Grand Island, Neb. He is a native of Greenville, Floyd Co., Ind. He was born in 1846. Served in the United States navy during the late war. Came to Omaha in 1866, when he went into the employment of the above company in 1868. He has represented their interests in various capacities since. The author of this sketch having been acquainted with Mr. M. since 1864, can recommend him as a substantial citizen of Nebraska, whose interests are coupled with those of his fellow citizens.

M. MURPHY, photographer and city mayor. He was located in Dixon County, Neb., in the spring of 1870, farmed one and one-half years. Then began the picture business in Ponca, Neb., 1872. Lived there and vicinity a year. Then went to Plattsmouth, Neb., and followed photographing until March, 1877, when he came to Grand Island, where he has since followed the business. He was elected Mayor in the spring of 1882. He was born in Ireland, March 15, 1835. He came to America in 1847 with an uncle. Lived in Galena, Ill., seven years. Moved to Maquoketa, Jackson Co., Iowa, where he lived until he came to Nebraska. He married in Maquoketa in 1868, Miss Eliza Humphrey, of Erie County, N. Y. They have two children--Eva and Earl D.; he is a member of the Masonic Order, being Master of Lodge Perfection of Scottish Rite; also K. of H.; he is a member of Grand Island Building and Loan Association; he learned the printing business in Galena, Ill., when quite a young man, and the photographic art in La Porte, Ind., in 1865.

JAMES B. MURRAY & CO., wholesale and retail dealers in groceries, provisions, queensware, wooden and willow ware, opened business March 20, 1882. Employ four men, and carry a stock of \$15,000. They have a similar store in Edgar, Neb., where they employ two men, and carry a stock of \$7,000; he

opened the latter store alone in July, 1879, Mr. Chitwood taking one-quarter interest in both stores March 20, 1882. Mr. Murray was born in Oshkosh, August 4, 1856. Lived in his native state twenty years, one year in Tennessee, and a short time in Kansas in the grocery business; he was in the hardware business six months in Belvidere, Neb.

JAMES C. PEDERSON, wholesale and retail dealer in groceries, provisions, queensware, glassware, crockery, etc., opened business August 1, 1879. Employs four men in the business, and carries an average stock of \$7,000; he was born in Denmark, Europe, July 7, 1856. The family came to America in 1868, located in Oconomowoc, Wis., where they lived two years, then moved to Chicago, Ill., where he began clerking in a retail grocery house, continuing two years; then came to Nebraska; married in Grand Island, June, 1880, to Miss Jennie Morgan, of the latter city. They have one daughter, Bessie Anna.

REV. RICHARD PHELAN, a Catholic priest; he came to Grand Island July 6, 1880, and took charge of St. Mary's Church and the missions thereto annexed. There are fifty-two families who are members of the above church; he also has charge of St. Mary's Church, on the Union Pacific Railroad, near Wood River Station, with seventy-two families, exclusively Irish, who are members. Rev. Phelan was born in Flemmingstown, Kilmacow County, Kilkenny, Ireland, Nov. 10, 1836; he began classical studies in a private school at the age of thirteen years; he remained at Kilmacow a year; he then went to Waterford in a private school two years, after which he went to Knocktopher Carmelite Seminary two years; he then entered the Catholic Diocesan College at Kilkenny, and from that he was promoted to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, where he studied for eight years, during which time being distinguished in his various classes, he was entitled to a place on the Dumboyne establishment, but, owing to a scarcity of priests, much against his will, he was called home to fill a vacancy; he spent fourteen years in various parts of his native diocese. During that time he received three addresses and testimonials expressive of the good feelings of his people. Of his own free act, he obtained letters of excommunication from his native diocese, and on November 6, 1879, he discharged duties for the last time in Ireland, and sailed November 7 to New York City, and November 18, said his first mass in Brooklyn, N. Y.; he was chaplain to a convent there for a short time; he went to London, Canada, in February, 1880, and was offered a mission, but soon went to Little Rock, Ark., and did missionary work in St. Andrew's Cathedral; he soon came to Grand Island, Neb.; he was ordained in Kilkenny, Ireland, on Quinquagesima Sunday, 1865, by Right Rev. Doctor Walsh, then Bishop of Ossory.



Portrait of W. H. Platt.

W. H. PLATT, of the firm of Thummel & Platt, attorneys at law and agents for the sale of Union Pacific Railroad lands and lots. They are the oldest established law firm in the city. Mr. Platt located in Grand Island, Neb., in the spring of 1866. Opened the drug trade and began the practice of law, continuing the former until 1870; he now has an extensive law practice; he was elected County Judge of Hall County in 1872, held the office until 1876. Was Mayor of Grand Island in 1877; he has been a member of the Board of Education since its organization, except 1881; he assisted to erect the first business house in the place in July, 1866. Born in Rochester, N. Y., October 16, 1835. Entered the Free Academy, New York City, in 1850, graduated 1853; he then went with his parents to Brighton, Livingston Co., Mich. Lived there a short time, and returned to New York City, where he engaged in the shipping business until April 19, 1861; he then became a member of the Thirteenth Regiment Brooklyn, N. Y., Light Infantry. Engaged in the war three months, mustered out in New York City July, 1861; he then returned and engaged in surveying in the Northwest until the spring of 1863, at which time he came to Nebraska with the corps of engineers and assisted in the survey of the Union Pacific Railroad. After completing the same he settled in Grand Island, where he has since been engaged in the study and practice of law. Was admitted to the bar in 1870. One notable case in which he took a prominent part was the Union Pacific Railroad

Company vs. W. H. Platt; the above company in grant of lands were required to dispose of all their land prior to 1875, Secretary Schurz holding that the Company had forfeited their rights to all unsold land after the latter date, therefore under the decision by Schurz, Mr. Platt preempted 160 acres where the city of Grand Island is now partly located, and improved upon the same. According to Schurz's decision, the Union Pacific Company began an action for trespass. Mr. Platt enjoined the trespass proceedings. The suit was tried in the United States Court at Omaha, Neb., by Judge Dundy, and decided in favor of the above Company. Mr. Platt carried it to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the above decision was sustained, which forever decided the question which might arise under the Union Pacific Railroad land grants.

JOHN GEORGE RAINE, dealer in diamonds, watches, clocks, jewelry, silver and plated ware, opened business in 1877, with a stock of \$1,500, now carries a stock of \$8,000, and employs two men; he was born in England in 1857, came to America in 1862 with his parents, and settled in Galena, Ill., where he lived until 1877, and learned the jewelry and watch trade, then came to the west.

MATTHEW REIFERS, proprietor State Central Brick-yard, opened the yard in May, 1878. Employs twenty men during business season, with a capacity of 1,200 hand-rolled brick per day; the yard occupies two acres of ground; he first came to Omaha in 1868, worked as foreman in different brick-yards until 1873. Then went to Blair as foreman brick-yard six years, then to Grand Island; he was born in Prussia, Europe, August 21, 1849, came to America in 1855; he does nearly all the brick-work in Grand Island.

JAMES R. RENIFF, foreman car department, has 100 men under his supervision. Came to Grand Island, December, 1881, took charge of above department soon after. Born in Greenfield, Mass., February 9, 1842. Lived in his native State until 1847, when his parents moved to Springfield, Mass., and lived there three years, then two years in New Haven, Conn., then to Seymour, Conn., two years, when they moved to Springfield, Ill., and lived there three years, then to Chicago, in the employ of the Illinois Central Railroad as an apprentice in car shops, then to Bloomington, Ill., in the car department of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. Was there draughtsman and general foreman about eighteen years, having charge of 125 men, then moved to Jacksonville, Ill., and was superintendent of the Jacksonville Car Company a year, then to St. Paul, Minn., as master car-builder of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad a year, then to Grand Island, Neb., as foreman car department of the Union Pacific Railroad Company's car shops. They have a capacity of turning out eight box-cars per day. Was married in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1865, to Miss Sarah E. Taylor, of the latter place. They have two daughters--Grace and Jessie; he enlisted in August 1862, in Company H, Seventy-second Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Participated in the battles of Champion Hills, Miss., two charges on Vicksburg, Atlanta, Ga., and near Goldsboro, N. C.; mustered out in

May 1865, Washington, D. C.; he is a member of Lyon Post No. 11, G. A. R., of Grand Island, Neb.

CHARLES RIEF, firm of Harrison & Rief, attorneys at law, loan, collection and insurance agents, abstracts furnished, etc.; he settled in Grand Island in the spring of 1868, taught school for six years, during which time he was a Justice of the Peace for five years, and Civil Engineer for Grand Island City, and County Surveyor four years, he was elected County Clerk in the fall of 1879; he held the office for two years; he was born in Holstein, Germany, November 13, 1842. In his seventeenth year he visited the countries of South America as a sailor. During the voyage he received a knowledge of the English language, mathematics and navigation; he returned to his native country at the age of nineteen; was then sent to a navigation school at Flensburg, Germany. After some time he passed in all the branches of navigation, and some of the higher mathematics. Was sent to sea as a mate of a vessel, and led a sea-faring life on the Mediterranean Sea, Indian and Pacific Ocean until he was 26 years of age; he resigned while in New York City, and went as passenger to South America again to seek his fortune, where he herded cattle sometime. Then went on a Chillian ship as common sailor; was promoted to mate on the vessel, and followed the sea-faring life again for a short time, then went to Hamburg, and from there to New York City, then to Nebraska; he married in Grand Island December 5, 1871, Miss Anna Catharina Sieck, of Eckel, near Rendsburg, Germany. They have three children--Helena, Carl Friederich, and Ralph Sylvester; he is a member of the Masonic Order and I. O. O. F., and the Encampment, and K. of H., of Grand Island.

DR. H. J. RING, physician and surgeon of Eclectic School, located in Hastings, Neb., in January, 1879. Practiced his profession until December, 1881, when he removed to Grand Island and continued practice; he was born in Norway, February 17, 1851, came to America alone in 1866; settled in Fillmore County, Minn., in January, 1868, he obtained a position in a drug store, and studied pharmacy four and one-half years, then began the study of medicine under a physician; he took charge of a drug-store in Whalen, and continued the study of medicine. Entered the Bennett Medical College of Chicago, Ill., in the winter of 1875-76. Graduated from that college in 1877, returned to Whalen and began the practice of medicine, and continued until he came to Nebraska. Was married in Minnesota in 1876 to Miss Ida O. Lowe, of Whalen, Minn. They have one son, Glenellyn J.

GEORGE F. RYAN, of the firm of Thomas & Co., dealers in all kinds of produce, groceries and queensware, located in Merrick County on a homestead in 1872, where he farmed for five years, and in June, 1877, moved to Grand Island, where he became book-keeper for E. R. Wiseman in the lumber business four years, then in the same capacity for H. H. Glover in the dry goods business, after which he became a partner in the above firm; he was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., March 15, 1841. Enlisted in October 5, 1861, in Company C,

Sixtieth Regiment New York Volunteer Infantry. Promoted to First Lieutenant, and participated in the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the first part of Sherman's campaign. Was wounded near Dallas, Ga., but continued in service. Was mustered out in Washington, D. C., July 17, 1865; he is a member of Lyon Post No. 11, G. A. R.

A. A. SAWYER, dealer in staple and fancy groceries at retail, opened the business December 1, 1878. Carries a stock of \$5,000 and employs three men; he located in Grand Island, Neb., at the time of beginning business. Born in Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., August 11, 1850. Lived there until sixteen years old, when he went to Chicago, Ill., and clerked in a wholesale notion store for two years, then entered the Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., attending seven years, leaving in his junior year; he returned to Chicago and entered into the real estate and insurance business for one and a half years, and then went to Geneva Lake, Wis., and married Miss Fannie Curtis in October, 1875. Clerked in a grocery store one and a half years previous to coming west. They have three children--Mary Louisa, Anna Grace and Alvah Lewis.

FRANK SEARS, County Clerk Hall County. Located in Omaha May, 1870, and went into the employ of the Union Pacific Railroad Company as clerk in their Land Office until September, 1872. Sold land in Grand Island a short time for the above company; then to Kearney, in same business, and the following year went to Overton, Dawson County, where he sold lumber on his own account until October, 1874. Then became Agent at Hastings for the above company's lands eighteen months. Farmed about one year in Alda, after which he located in Grand Island as Deputy County Clerk a few months. Clerked a short time, went to Syracuse, N. Y., 1877, remained a year, and returned to Grand Island as agent for parties in the grain business. Clerked in the United States Land Office until the fall of 1887, when he was elected County Clerk. Born near Syracuse, N. Y., August 20, 1848. Married in Gloversville, N. Y., December, 1881, to Miss Clara A. Peterson, of the latter place.

HON. FRED A. SEARS, proprietor of a large elevator and dealer in grain of all kinds, Grand Island, Neb. Mr. Sears was born in Baldwinsville, Onondaga Co., N. Y. July 23, 1854. He lost both parents before twelve years of age. Lived with an uncle a few years, then had to depend on his own resources. In 1871, he came to Omaha, and worked in a grocery store. Then went to Laramie City, W. T., clerked in the post office two years, returned to New York for a few months, came back to his present home, farmed for a time, then opened a drug store, built a good trade, and was financially very successful, and at the end of two years sold out, erected an elevator and embarked in the grain trade. Mr. Sears is a good business man, and the youngest member of the House. In the campaign he had to contend with old political veterans, but the race is not always to the swift, as he is a member of the House of Representatives of Nebraska to testify. Married in Grand Island, Neb., June 5, 1877, to Miss Carrie C. Jordan. Her parents reside in Omaha, and her father, Robert C. Jordan, is known as a

prominent Mason of Nebraska. They have two children--Fred J. and Louise. He is a member of Ashley Lodge, No. 33, A., F. & A. M., and Secretary of the Hall County Agricultural Society.

DR. A. L. STEVENSON, practicing physician and surgeon, located in Grand Island in the spring of 1877. He was born in Lanark County, Canada East, June 4, 1851. Lived in his native county until he was 19 years old, when he removed to Marion County, Iowa, where he began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. S. J. Scoles, of Knoxville, later on. He graduated from Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1875. He practiced in Iowa until spring, 1877, when he moved to Grand Island. He was married in Monroe, Iowa, in 1878, to Miss Florence A. Israel, of the latter place. They have one son, Lloyd A. In 1882 he graduated from the Jefferson Medical College, Pennsylvania. The Doctor is a member of the Grand Island Masonic order. He has a large practice, and is regarded as one of the best physicians in Central Nebraska.

WILLIAM STOLLEY, farmer, stock raiser and nurseryman. He keeps fruit and ornamental trees, etc.; he came to Hall County in 1857, with Grand Island colony, being the pilot and agent. The colony consisted of thirty-five persons, who all settled southwest and southeast of what is known now as Grand Island City, on the then wild and lonesome plains. Mr. S. has been known as one of the leading men in the above colony. He has been instrumental in bringing through two trains, each consisting of ten wagons, and the latter consisted of twenty-five persons. Mr. S. settled on a homestead on Sections 28-29, Town 11, Range 9, consisting of 160 acres, with 120 acres now under cultivation. He has now one of the finest groves of timber, orchard, and nursery in the States. He owns eighty acres of meadow land near Platte River. He makes stock raising his main business. He has not been identified with any political office. He was detailed by State Grange Relief Committee for the purpose of soliciting aid of Congress. He succeeded in obtaining \$150,000 as an appropriation for the relief of the grasshopper sufferers. He also succeeded in getting free transportation for all good donated to the grasshopper sufferers. He is a member of Hall County Agricultural Society. He was born in Holstein, Germany, April 6, 1831. He joined the revolution in 1848 between Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark; he came to America in 1849, and located in Davenport, Iowa. He engaged in various occupations until he came to Nebraska. He was married in Davenport, Iowa, July 15, 1855, to Miss Wilhelmina Fredrika Hagge. She was born in Holstein, Germany, April 21, 1837. They have nine children, Frederick, Anna, Minnie, William, Emiel, Richard, Augusta, Clara, and Otilie

GEN. JOHN M. THAYER located in Omaha in the fall of 1854, being one of the first settlers in that place. Farmed several years. In 1855 he raised volunteers and went to Fontenelle, on the then frontier, to fight and subdue the then troublesome Indians; he was at the head of 150 men, then called the Territorial militia; he made several visits to the Pawnee Indian camps for the purpose of conciliating them. In the spring of 1859 they broke out anew, and caused wide

scenes of destruction to persons and property; he again received an order from the Government, and organized a force of 194 men, with one piece of artillery, followed the Pawnees five days, coming up with them at daylight, when they surrendered without bloodshed; he was a member of the Upper House of the Nebraska Legislature from 1859 to 1860; elected a member of the Constitutional Convention in the fall of 1860. When the rebellion broke out he wrote to the Secretary of War, proposing that Nebraska should furnish one regiment; he was therefore instrumental in organizing the First Regiment Nebraska Infantry, and was appointed Colonel of the same, organized in the spring and summer of 1861, and sent to St. Louis, then to Pilot Knob, and Sedalia, Mo.; then in the expedition under Gen. John C. Fremont to Springfield, Mo. They then came to St. Louis, Mo., and were sent by steamer to Fort Henry, and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh; he was then promoted to Brigadier General, having been in command of the second Brigade of Wallace's Division, at the two latter battles. Went to Memphis, and commanded a brigade of Iowa troops in the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, leading one of the storming columns in that memorable battle; then the battle of Arkansas Post, where 4,000 to 5,000 prisoners were captured; then all through the siege of Vicksburg, was appointed Brigadier and Major General of volunteers for gallant and distinguished services; he participated in the capture of Jackson, Miss., under Gen. Sherman; he was in the Army of Arkansas under Gen. Steele, and participated in the battles of Prairie de Ann, Moscow, Jenkin's Ferry, and Saline River. Subsequently was placed in command of the Army of the Frontier, and stationed at Fort Smith some months, where he was attacked by the rebel Generals Cooper and Maxley, who were beaten off; he then commanded at Helena, on the Mississippi River, which closed his military service in July, 1865, where he was brevetted a Major General; his horse was killed under him at Arkansas Post; he then resumed his residence at Omaha, and on the admission of the State was elected United States Senator in 1866, drawing the four years ballot; took his seat March 4, 1867. In 1875 he was appointed Governor of Wyoming Territory, and served one term; he was born in Bellingham, Norfolk Co., Mass. Was married to Miss Mary T. Allen, of Mansfield, Mass., the daughter of the Rev. John Allen, a Baptist clergyman. They have three sons, George D., Herbert, and John M., Jr.

C. W. THOMAS, grain, baled hay, and produce, commenced business (groceries, and boots and shoes), January 1, 1868; sold his interest to W. R. McAllister, September 1, 1869. Bought the grocery business of Koenig & Wiebe October 19, 1869; erected a store in 1871, and carried a general stock of merchandise until 1872, when he classified his business by selling groceries, queensware, etc. and buying out the stock of dry goods and clothing of R. C. Jordan, agent, and Peterson & Ruelberg. Continued in the dry goods and clothing business until February 1, 1879, when he sold out to H. H. Glover. In August of the same year, in company with Gregg Bros., St. Joseph, Mo., and F. A. Sears, erected a steam elevator. Sold out to Mr. Sears in August, 1880, and engaged in his present business alone; he has shipped over 300 carloads of grain

since November 1, 1882, and paid out an average of \$20,000 per month; he was born in Detroit, Mich., October 2, 1845. Enlisted in Co. H, Ninth Michigan Infantry, August, 1861; Was married to Miss Elizabeth Hanford, of Detroit, in 1868. They have six children; he is a member of Ashlar Lodge, No. 33, A. F. & A. M.; Kilwinning Lodge, No. 1, A. & A. S. R.; Deuel Chapter, No. 11, R. A. M., and Mount Lebanon Commandery, No. 6, of Grand Island, Neb.

H. THOMAS, of the firm of Thomas & Co., buyers and shippers of all kinds of produce and dealers in a general line of family groceries, queensware, etc., began business in May, 1882, carrying a stock of \$4,000, and employ five men. Mr. Thomas located in Grand Island in 1871, clerked in a grocery store two years, then in the meat market business, under the firm name of Hall & Thomas one and one-half years, then in the grocery trade at Alda a few months, farmed two years, after which clerked in a grocery and hardware trade until the spring of 1880, then took charge and an interest in the produce trade until May, 1882, with his brother; he was born in Detroit, Mich., November 17, 1851; he married in Gibbon, Neb., in 1873, Miss Sarah A. Washburn, of New York. They have four children--Olive L., Herbert H., Sarah E., and Albert R.

P. TOUHEY, Road Master for Second Division Union Pacific Railroad, including St. Paul branch, making 200 miles of railroad; has charge of about two hundred men; he located in Grand Island in the spring of 1868 as a laborer, soon promoted to foreman of repairs, and filled the place three years. Was conductor of a freight train two years, since which time has been road-master. Born in Ireland in 1839. Came to America with his parents in 1845.

D. H. VAN TINE, County Superintendent of Public Instruction of Hall County, Neb., he was located in Alda, Hall Co., in 1880; he taught school five terms; he was elected County Superintendent while teaching his last term in 1881. There are sixty-three organized school districts, with sixty-three schools now in session under his supervision. There are seventy school-houses in Hall County. Average teacher's salary is, males \$35, females, \$27 per month; he was born in Chazy, Clinton Co., N. Y., in July 1853; he was raised on a farm, followed teaching and mercantile business until he came west; he is a member of Blue Lodge Chapter and Knight Templar A. F. & A. M. of his native County.

C. VON WASMER, of the firm of C. Wasmer & Bro., dealers in grain implements, etc., opened business in Omaha, Neb., in 1870, continued in general grocery business a year, then moved to Grand Island and opened a general mercantile business until the fall of 1878; sold out and opened their present large and increasing business, selling all kinds of implements and buying all kinds of grain. The firm shipped from 12,000,000 to 18,000,000 pounds of grain from August 1, 1881 to August 1, 1882. They employ fifteen men. Also have the business established at St. Paul, Neb., since spring, 1880. Mr. W. was born in Holstein, Germany, June 19, 1845. Came to America in 1862, and located in Nebraska, following farming until 1868; then went to Omaha in the employ of

H. Pundt & Co., until 1870; married in Grand Island in 1874, to Miss Emma Ivers, of Springfield, Ill. They have three children--Elfride, Herman and Margaret. Mr. W. is a member of Liederkrantz Society; has been a member of the City Board since its organization, and member of the City Council from 1876 to 1880 inclusive.

O. U. WESTCOTT, proprietor of livery, sale and feed stables. Opened business in December, 1878. Size of barn 66x48 feet. Keeps fourteen head of good horses and nice turnouts, consisting of eleven carriages, etc., and employs three men; he located in Grand Island, October, 1878. Born in Trenton, Oneida Co., N. Y., December 22, 1830. Lived in his native State until 1847, then moved to Dane County, Wis., and farmed seven years. In 1861 went to Carrollton, Freeborn Co., Minn., farmed four years, lived in Alma City until 1878, running a grist mill, mercantile and drug business. He then came to Nebraska. Was married in Fulton, Rock County, Wis., July 4, 1854, to Miss Elmira E. Coon, of Alfred, Allegany Co., N. Y. They have three children--Erford A., Charles R., and Chloe P. Mr. W. is a member of City Council of Grand Island.

J. W. WEST, dealer in general line of groceries and sewing machines. Employs two men and runs a free delivery wagon; he opened business in March, 1874, and carried a stock of \$2,000. At first he was in company with a brother three years, after which he became alone interested in the business, and now carries a stock of \$3,600; he was born in Delaware, near Smyrna in 1844. Lived in his native county until 1874; was first engaged in farming, then taught school, traveled for a notion house a year as salesman, then went west; he has been Justice of the Peace since 1877; he is a member of the Masonic Order, Knights of Honor, and the M. E. Church. Was married in Delaware in 1866, to Miss Martha A. Rutledge, of the latter State. They have nine children--Anna A., Mary E., James E. P., John W., Mattie E., Mabel L., Ella M., Robert R., and an infant daughter named Fannie. Glover & Co., dealer in general line of dry goods, ready-made clothing, etc.; he first came to Nebraska in 1862 with his parents; they located on the O. K. farm, one-half mile south of Grand Island; he was born in St. Mary's, Pottawattamie Co., Iowa, July 28, 1860; he worked for his father, Fred A. Wiebe, in the lumber and grain business, that being the first lumber business in the place, since which time he has worked for C. W. Thomas, R. C. Jordan and H. H. Glover; became a partner of the latter January 11, 1882.



Portrait of Jay. E. White.

A. H. WILHELM, dealer in all kinds of household furniture. The business was opened by M. C. Burkett in 1879, bought by Mr. W. in April, 1882. He carries a stock of \$5,000, employs two men. He first located in Alda, Hall Co., May, 1871, engaged in general merchandising until 1874, went to New York City and worked in a crockery store until 1876; returned to Grand Island and clerked in agricultural implement business until December, 1881. Born in New York City in February, 1849; lived there eighteen years, and went to Chicago, Ill., and became a commercial traveler three years, then to Nebraska. Married in Grand Island, December, 1873, to Miss Anna S. Hooper, of the latter city. Have two children--Alice and Edward. He is a member of I. O. O. F. of New York City.

CHAUNCEY WILTSE, proprietor of Grand Island Hotel, only first-class hotel in the city. Mr. W. first came to Omaha, Neb., in May, 1856, engaged in private land surveying until 1859, then into government land surveys until 1874, followed mining in Central city, Col., until 1861. Taught school in Independence, Iowa, two years. Was draughtsman four years in Surveyor General's Office in Dubuque, Iowa, and in 1867 returned to Omaha, Neb., where he took a good contract for surveying portions of Madison County, Neb., and islands in the Platt River opposite, completing his work in 1874, by establishing the northern boundary of Nebraska. Was then appointed Chief Clerk of Surveyor

General's Office of Nebraska, moving the office from Dubuque, Iowa, to Plattsmouth, Neb. Continued in charge two years, then went to Omaha and built his first home in 1869, after which he followed private and government land surveys until 1874, at which time he became editor of the *Omaha Republican*, and continued six months, after which he came to Grand Island, and rented the hotel by same name where he is now doing a thriving business. He was born in Tompkins County, N. Y., 1834. Began to study law in Omaha, Neb.; admitted at the bar in 1874. He is now president of Nance County Bank. He enlisted in Company A, Forty-fourth Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry; 100 days service, served four months; mustered out in Davenport, Iowa, September, 1864. He is now a member of Lion Post No. 11, G. A. R., and Commander of the same.

E. R. WISEMAN, dealer in grain, lumber, and building material of all kinds. He opened the business in 1873, locating in Grand Island in March of that year. He was born in Wood County, W. Va., in 1838. He lived in his native county until 1873. During the war in 1863, he moved to Ohio, where he remained a few months, and returned to his native State, and remained until he came to Nebraska. While in Virginia he was engaged in general merchandise twelve years. He was married in West Virginia in 1860, to Miss Frances Beauchamp, of Wood County, W. Va. They have four children--Alice, Lenora, Jennie and Ralph.

JAMES H. WOOLLEY, attorney at law. He came to Grand Island in September, 1878, and opened a law office and general collecting business. He now is attorney for Grand Island Banking Company. He was appointed Deputy District Attorney in July, 1881. He was born in Griggsville, Pike Co., Ill., April 16, 1853. He lived in his native State until seventeen years of age, when he lived near Poughkeepsie, N. Y., eighteen months, attending New Paltz Academy in Ulster County a part of the time; then went to Lincoln, Neb., and attended the State University for some time; then taught school four years, still continuing the study of law. He entered the office of Gen. J. R. Webster, and continued two years, when he was admitted to the bar, June 3, 1878. He then came to Grand Island and began the practice of his chosen profession. He deals in real estate, and loans money for eastern parties.

DONIPHAN.

This is a young and thriving little town situated on the south side of the Platte River, on a level and fertile prairie about twelve miles south from Grand Island, and on the line of the St. Joseph & Western Railroad. It has a population of about 200.

The town is a new one, having been started in 1879. At that time the settlers on or near the town site were W. J. Buyer and Henry Dennon, who had been living on farms here for some time. The railroad station and town were named in

honor of Col. Doniphan, of St. Joseph, who was attorney for the St. Joseph & Western Railroad.

The first settler in the town was Samuel Beidelman. He was soon followed by others. Among them were Charles Dufford, S. H. Lakins, S. Gibson and E. Upson.

The first store in the town was opened August 25, 1879, by Upson Bros., on Plum Street.

The postoffice was established sometime during the fall of 1879, and Samuel Beidelman was appointed postmaster.

The first school taught after the location of the town of Doniphan was in the fall of 1879, and was taught by Miss Emma Smith, in the old district schoolhouse, which had been built in 1874. The school is still taught in the above mentioned schoolhouse, but arrangements are now being made to erect a large building, on the townsite at an early date.

The first birth occurred on February 9, 1880. The child was named Jennie M. Stout, but she lived but a short time.

The first marriage in the town took place October 30, 1881, and the contracting parties were L. M. Brewer and Miss Anna M. Wharry.

The Doniphan flouring mills were erected in the year 1881, and began operations in November of that year. The mill was erected by W. J. Buyer, on the public square.

The first sermon preached in the village was by Rev. Rockway, Presiding Elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Buyer & McCulloch's hall, and took place on Monday evening, July 18, 1881. On the Sunday following, sermons were preached there by Rev. E. A. McCullum, of the Presbyterian Church; Rev. Mr. Sweeney, of the Christian; and Rev. Mr. Thurber of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Church societies of the three above named denominations were at once organized. There has not yet been any church building erected, but all these societies are making preparations to build at an early date.

The Doniphan *Index* is the only newspaper published here. It is a bright and newsy weekly, edited and published by Charles Kelsey. It is lively and enterprising, and has done much to aid the substantial progress of the town.

Charles Kelsey came to Nebraska, December 28, 1879, and located at Hastings. Worked there as a printer until April 1, 1881, when he removed to Doniphan, and began the publication of the *Index*. He was born at Aurora, Dearborn Co., Ind., June 13, 1853. When fifteen years old he removed to Neillville, Wis., and began learning the printer's trade. In 1874, he went to Chicago, where he worked on the *Chicago Times* two years. In 1876, he removed to Victor, Iowa, and bought an interest in the *Victor Index*, on which he worked until coming to Nebraska. He was married in Victor, Iowa, November 29, 1877, to Miss Frances E. Brown. They have two children--Paul F., born in Victor, Iowa, November 20, 1878; and Lillie B., born at Hastings, Neb., February 18, 1881.

DONIPHAN BIOGRAPHIES.

W. J. BURGER, firm of Burger & McCulloch, dealers in general merchandise, agricultural implements and all kinds of grain. Mr. B. also deals largely in live stock. He located in Doniphan in 1864; followed ranching, farming, and stock raising; opened the merchandise trade in May, 1881. He owns the town site of Doniphan, 240 acres on Section 36, Town 10, range 10, 160 cultivated; 240 acres, all cultivated, on Section 12, Town 9, Range 10 joining town site, 60 acres joining town site on north Section 5, Town 10, Range 9, with 20 acres under cultivation. He is Notary Public in the village of Doniphan. He was born in Cedar County, Mo., February 12, 1844. His parents moved to Glenwood, Iowa, in 1849. He lived there until 1860, when he went into the stock business in Colorado, Denver and that vicinity, for three years; then came to Doniphan, Neb. He was married in Glenwood, Iowa, in 1864, to Miss Martha A. Creason, of Eastern, Iowa. They have four children--Flora A., Jeanette, Albert Doniphan, and Mary Menota.

SAMUEL FRY, firm of Fry & Beidelman, dealers in groceries, boots and shoes, and farmer's produce. Opened business in the fall of 1880. Carries a stock of \$1,500. He first came to Doniphan, Neb., in 1880. Born in Holmes County, Ohio, February 1, 1839; lived in his native State until 1850, when his people moved to Winterset, Iowa. Enlisted December 11, 1862, in Co. H, 11th Regiment Illinois Cavalry. Was in several skirmishes; taken prisoner at Holly Springs, June 21, 1863; held sixteen days as prisoner. Mustered out in Memphis, Tenn.; paid off in Springfield, Ill. Went to St. Louis, Mo., and engaged in the grocery trade until he came to Nebraska. Was married in the latter city in 1870 to Miss Madeline Enders, of Baden, Germany. Have one son, named Joseph Albert. Mr. Fry owns a farm of eighty acres of land joining the town site, all under cultivation, and has a brick yard on the same.

DR. C. T. POE, physician and surgeon, Doniphan, Hall Co., Neb. He first located on a homestead on Section 2, Town 9, Range 10, South Platte Precinct. Farmed there for five years and practiced medicine. Then moved to Grand Island, where he continued practice. Was County Physician three years. He

relocated in Doniphan village in the fall of 1880, where he has since practiced. He attended a practitioners' course of lectures at the St. Joseph Hospital Medical College in the winter and spring of 1882, where he received the degree of M. D. Born in Richmond, Va., March 27, 1830. Parents moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, when he was a child; moved to Galesburg, Ill., in 1845 and lived two years. Attended a preparatory college school; then moved to Morgan County, Ill., where he made his home until he came to Nebraska. Began reading medicine in 1842. Graduated from Cincinnati Medical Institute in 1853. Practiced medicine in various places in Ohio and Illinois. Attended a course of lectures in Michigan University, Ann Arbor. Was employed as pharmacist in the Insane Hospital at Jacksonville, Ill., three years. Married in Beardstown, Cass Co., Ill., 1862, to Stella A. Beard, of Ohio. They have three children--Frederick W., Margaret B., and Ella L.

C. F. RAYMER has charge of the lumber yard of C. N. Paine & Co. He first located in Doniphan, Neb., March, 1875, and engaged in the lumber business. He is now Notary Public in Doniphan. Was born in Geneseo, N. Y., September 11, 1838. Parents moved to Stephenson County, Ill., in 1845. He enlisted in Co. B, Twenty-sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Was with Gen. William T. Sherman in all his campaigns in the Southern States, participating in twenty-five hard fought battles, besides many skirmishes. Mustered out in Louisville, Ky.; final discharge in Springfield, Ill., 1865. He then went to Ackley, Iowa, and clerked in a lumber yard until the spring of 1866. Returned home, and lived until he came to Nebraska. He is a member of G. A. R. of Doniphan, Neb.

WOOD RIVER.

This town is pleasantly located but a short distance from the banks of the river whose name it bears, on the level bottom lands and on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad. Surrounded by a fertile and well settled country, it is a prosperous little town, and is making steady progress in building, and each year the amount of business done here increases to a considerable extent.

In the very early history of the county, previous to the building of the Union Pacific Railroad, there was quite a number of settlements in this locality. The first of them was made by a number of Irishmen, among whom were Patrick, Anthony, and Richard Moore, Edward O'Brien, and the Crane brothers, all of whom lived here with their families. They were soon followed by a number of others, all thrifty and industrious farmers. Near them quite a settlement of Americans was formed. Among these were O. D. Montgomery and James Jackson. These were all farmers, and soon fine farms were opened up and considerable many improvements made. Jim Jackson, as he is familiarly called, was one of the leading spirits in this new settlement, and being quite a genius, many amusing stories are told of him. He began life here in a dug-out, and being too poor to own a team and buggy, he took the front axle off his wagon invented a rough sort of seat and shafts, and whenever he wished to ride he would hitch

up a fast-trotting ox and drive off over the prairies. He has since been County Commissioner for several years, and is one of the wealthy and prosperous merchants of Wood River.

The town of Wood River was first laid out in 1868, about two and one-half miles west of its present site, but it grew very slowly at first. A depot was located here and James Jackson kept a store. A few other buildings were erected, but the town achieved no great importance. A Catholic Church was built here and has a very large membership.

The present town of Wood River was laid out in the summer of 1874, and settlement soon commenced. The first settlers were James Jackson, W. B. and A. G. Hollister, F. J. Bowman and James Kennedy, who located early in the fall of 1874. The railroad company removed their depot from the old site. James Jackson removed his store to the new point arriving in September, and opened it with a new stock of goods in October.

The post office was established in September, 1874, with A. G. Hollister postmaster.

The first school in the new town was taught the same fall by John Allan in the school house now used as the high school department of the Wood River school. The house was built adjoining the present town site in 1872.

The first sermon was preached soon after the settlement of the town was commenced by Rev. J. N. Allen at the old school house.

The first birth was that of Charles Horn in 1875.

The first death was that of Hannah Jackson in August, 1876.

The first marriage in the village of Wood River was that of Fred Riesland and Miss Rosa Jessup, in August, 1876.

Until the year 1880 the old school house was used for religious as well as educational purposes. In May of that year the Methodist Episcopal Church was completed. It is a fine building and is the only house of worship yet erected.

In December, 1881, Thorp Brothers completed a large and substantial flouring mill in the western part of town. A good quality of flour is manufactured and the mill is already well patronized.

The Wood River *Gazette* is the lively and progressive newspaper published here. It was established the 9th of September, 1881, by R. H. Miller, who

published it until March 2, 1882, when it was purchased by James Ewing, the present editor and proprietor. The paper is a five column quarto, weekly and Republican in politics.

James Ewing came to Nebraska in May, 1871, and located near Wood River where he engaged in farming and teaching school, which he followed until January 1, 1878, when he entered upon his duties as county superintendent of schools, to which office he was elected the preceding November. Here he served two terms, retiring January 1, 1882, when he was appointed deputy county treasurer, which office he still retains in addition to editing and publishing the *Gazette*. He was born in Allegany County, New York, July 7, 1850. His boyhood days were spent on a farm with his parents. They removed to Cedar County, Iowa, in March, 1866, he went with them, and remained at home, working on a farm until he came to Nebraska in May, 1871.

At the present time the town of Wood River is in a prosperous condition, growing steadily and having the trade from a large scope of country, well settled by an industrious and thriving class of farmers. The population of the town is now about three hundred.

WOOD RIVER BIOGRAPHIES.

N. T. BRITTIN, Postmaster and dealer in merchandise. He opened business in Hall County in June, 1880. He carries a stock of \$3,000; has been Postmaster since 1880. He located on a homestead one-half mile south of Wood River in 1871, where he followed farming and stock raising until he began trade in the village. Was born in Madison County, near London, Ohio, October 4, 1838. When he was eighteen years old his parents moved to Clinton, Ill., where he lived until he came to Nebraska. He enlisted August 7, 1862, in Co. B, One Hundred and Seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry; participated in the siege of Atlanta, Resaca, Ga., Franklin and Nashville, Tenn. He was mustered out in Washington, D. C., May 20, 1865. He returned home, and followed farming until he came West. Was Precinct Assessor in 1873. He was married in Clinton, Ill, in 1862 to Miss H. J. Colwell, of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. They have five children--Letitia, born 1869; Benjamin L., born 1872; Edward E., born 1875; Frederick M., born 1878; Mamie E., born 1881.

F. C. DODGE, stock raiser and dealer, also farmer. Located in Wood River, Neb., in 1867. Took a homestead about a mile north of the village; now owns 640 acres on Sections 7 and 18, all improved; has about 400 head of stock cattle; fed about 380 head of steers during the winter of 1881-82; shipped hogs and cattle to the amount of \$40,000 in the season of 1881, and sold in Chicago; during the same time raised 16,000 bushels corn and 3,000 bushels wheat. He came to Wood River in March, 1866, \$5,000 in debt. This is a good illustration of what brains and labor will do in Nebraska if well used. He was born in

Croyden, N. H., October 13, 1840, lived in his native State until 1865. In early life he worked in factories in the east. In 1865 he went to Cattaraugus County, N. Y., and followed various occupations a short time, then went to Oil city, Pa., and boated lumber on the Allegheny River during the summer. He then went to Sheffield, Ill., remained a short time, and then came to Nebraska. Married in Wood River, May, 1867, to Miss Ellen Abbott, of Canada East. They have one daughter--Gertrude.

JOHN S. DONALDSON, farmer and stock raiser, first came to Hall County in 1869, and worked at the dairy business three years. In 1872, he located on Section 10, Town 10, Range 11, a pre-emption of 160 acres, now he has 150 acres under cultivation. There was not a house on the north side of Wood River at that time in his vicinity until he erected a house of logs in 1872. He was born in the Western Reserve, Ohio, November 20, 1843. He lived in his native State until seventeen years of age, when he went to California, where he lived nearly all the time for fourteen years; was about one and a half years of that time in Oregon, Washington Territory, and British Columbia; followed mining six years, and the balance of the time in various other occupations. He returned to the Eastern States, where he remained two years, and learned how to manufacture cheese. Was married at Sloan Station, Iowa, in 1869, to Miss Delia D. Lovell, formerly of Vermont. They have four children--Cora Belle, Neva Lida, Eva May, and Lillie Maude. He was a member of the Butte Rangers of California three years during his life there.

DR. CORODON D. W. GIBSON, physician and surgeon and dealer in a general line of drugs and medicines, oils, etc. He located in Wood River in the fall of 1878, and began the practice of his profession. He began the drug trade in March, 1880, in Wood River. Was born in Avon, N. Y., November 17, 1840; lived in his native county until 1847, and moved to Genesee County, Mich., where he lived some time with his parents. He entered the Genesee M. E. College as a student. Studied medicine in New York City in 1863-64. He then returned to Detroit, Mich., in the pursuit of his medical studies with Drs. G. W. Booth, C. S. Smith and Soper for some time; then went to Rossenville, Milford, and in various other places until 1874, when he went in company with Dr. J. Camp, and practiced medicine in Bangor, Mich., until he came to Nebraska. He was married in Michigan, January 1, 1861. His wife died in 1870; He again married in 1872 to Miss Mary E. Watkins, of Lima, N. Y. He has three children by his first wife--Horace G. W., Willie F., Winnie F., and Howard R. by his second wife.

WILLIAM B. HOLLISTER, dealer in a general line of hardware and agricultural implements, opened trade June 1, 1882. Carries a \$4,000 stock of hardware and all kinds of implements. He is also agent for Randolph, Hedder & Nichols' Shepard Thresher. Employs two men. He first came to North Platte May 1, 1868, and took charge of the Union Pacific Company's telegraph office a year. Then went to Wood River as station agent, and remained in the employ of

the Union Pacific Railroad Company at that place until May 1, 1882. Born in Hartford, Conn., July 1, 1845. Parents moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived until the rebellion broke out, when he enlisted as musician in the Forty-second Regiment Ohio Infantry, under James A. Garfield. Served until a general order disposed of regimental bands. He then became a member of a brass band, and was stationed at Gen. Thomas' headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. Remained until the close of the war. Mustered out in Columbus, Ohio, in the spring of 1865. Returned soon home; went to Pithole, Penn., where he engaged in contracting. Took charge of an oil well, remained a year, and went to Detroit, Mich., in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company; then to Owosso, Mich., as operator and ticket agent until he came to Nebraska. Married in Flint, Mich., February 14, 1870, to Miss Carrie M. Smith, of Milan, Ohio. They have one son--Freddie M. Mr. H. has a farm one and a quarter miles south of Wood River village consisting of 450 acres, 200 of which are under cultivation and 250 meadow land; he also has 240 acres on Section 21, 200 of which are under cultivation; also a farm of eighty acres, one mile north of village, forty of which is under cultivation.

JAMES JACKSON, dealer in general merchandise, Wood River, Hall County, Neb. He opened the business in 1864, beginning with a stock of \$2,000; he now carries a stock of \$6,000; he also deals largely in grain and coal. He was born in England, April 21, 1837; came with his parents to America in 1844, and settled in Bureau County, Ill. Lived there until 1849, and moved to Alamakee County, in Northeastern Iowa, where they lived until 1855. They then moved to Floyd County, Iowa, until 1860, when he moved to Wood River, Neb.; he built the first store building and opened the sale of the first goods; he rebuilt his present large store in 1870. When he first located he farmed and raised stock until 1874; he sold 450 head of cattle when he closed out stock business; he now owns 320 acres of land five miles from Wood River, eighty acres of which is improved; he served as County Commissioner since 1870, being the second Commissioner elected in Hall County. He was married in Floyd County, Iowa, in 1858, to Miss Mary J. Clark. they had two children--Henry J. and Anna D.; his wife died February 18, 1880; he is a member of the Masonic Order of Grand Island. Mr. Jackson is one of the enterprising men of Wood River, and has done much to aid in building up his village; he was one of the early pioneers of Hall county. In 1869 he killed a wild buffalo on the ground where the village now stands.

ROBERT KERR, dealer in all kinds of grain and produce, opened the business in the fall of 1881, in Wood River, Neb., under the firm name of Johnson & Kerr. They have a large warehouse, and handle nearly 10,000 bushels of grain per month. Mr. Kerr first located in Wood River in the fall of 1869; worked for the Union Pacific Railroad seven years as foreman of track repairs, farmed six years, and then went into the grain trade. Born in Rochester, N. Y., April 17, 1833; moved to Canada in 1848, where he lived six years, then mined in California some time. Went to Port Austin, and engaged as engineer. Followed that and lumbering until he came to Nebraska.

N. M. LEWTON, dealer in a general line of household furniture, also dealer in livestock; he first located on the island near the Platte River in 1872, where he remained for a few months; he then moved on a farm four miles northwest of Wood River village on Section 2, Jackson Precinct, consisting of 320 acres, 250 of which is under cultivation, with good barn, 24x40 feet, costing \$350; he was born in Pike County, Ill., May 15, 1841; he lived in his native State until 1872 where he followed various kinds of business; he was raised on a farm; followed photographing, and kept hotel; he enlisted in Co. C, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Illinois Volunteer Infantry in 1863; in 100 days' services, and served about six months; he then embarked in the grocery business a few months; he then went into the picture business, after which he went to Davenport, Iowa, and farmed; he returned to Illinois, and followed different occupations, and finally located in Nebraska; he was married in Hancock County, Ill., August 1867, to Miss Sarah Nesbit, of Kentucky. They have three children--Emma, Charley, and Salina.

JOHN MAHER, farmer and stock raiser, came to what is now Jackson Precinct, formerly Wood River, June 28, 1862, and settled on Section 23; he now owns 240 acres, 180 of which are under cultivation; he also owns eighty acres on Section 36, forty of which are improved; he located close to the old California emigrant wagon road. There were only a few settlers in the whole county; herds of buffalo, deer, antelope, wolves, and bands of Indians roamed the plains in undisputed control of the vast sea of prairie land. They were obliged to leave home for fifteen months at one time on account of the Indian troubles; he was born in Ireland March 12, 1822; came to America in 1847; he was married in 1852 to Elizabeth Collins, who was born in Ireland, January 28, 1826. She came to America at the same time, and married in Springfield, Mass. They have six children--Honora E., Patrick, William A., Dennis A., John L., and James M. They are all members of the Catholic Church; he has been a member of the School Board of his district.