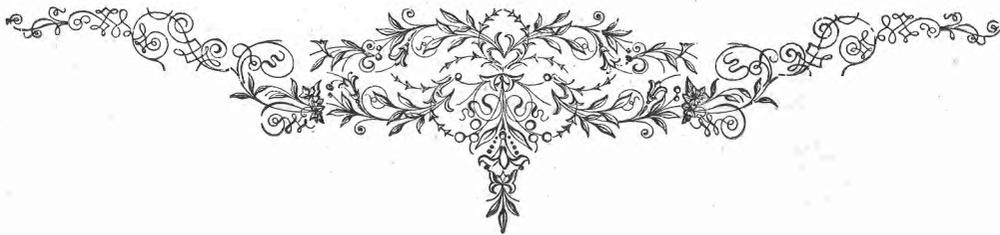
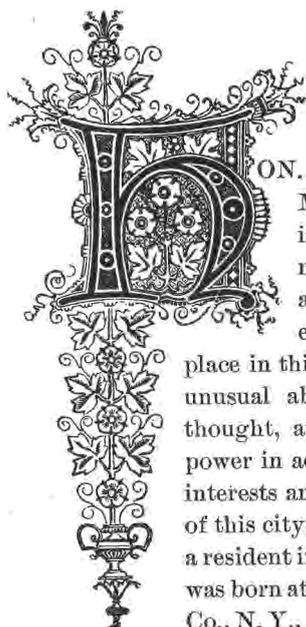


OTOE COUNTY,  
NEBRASKA.





## BIOGRAPHICAL.



**D**ON. DEFOREST P. ROLFE, Mayor of Nebraska City, is one of the leading business men of Otoe County, and his portrait is justly entitled to an honorable

place in this work. He is a man of unusual ability, energy and forethought, and he has been a great power in advancing the commercial interests and promoting the growth of this city, of which he first became a resident in pioneer days. Mr. Rolfe was born at Cooper's Plains, Steuben

Co., N. Y., July 20, 1839. His father, Joseph Rolfe, was a native of Monmouth County, N. J., born May 12, 1800, and was a son of Moses Rolfe, who was born in Virginia, and a descendant of an old English family.

The grandfather of our subject removed to Monmouth, N. J., and later to Ovid, Seneca Co., N. Y., and was one of the early settlers of the county. He subsequently moved from there to Steuben County, where he spent the remainder of his life. The father of DeForest was a mere boy when his parents removed to the State of New York. He was reared and married in that State, Mrs. Eliza (Reed) Manrose, of Dutchess County, becoming his wife. Her father, Gilbert Reed, was born in Kinderhook, N. Y., and, as a boy, remembered many scenes of the Revolution, his father being connected with the

Commissary Department of the Continental Army at Valley Forge, and spent large sums of his own money in supplying the patriotic soldiers, and in return received Continental script. Mr. Reed passed his last days at Avoca, N. Y., being upward of ninety at his death.

Joseph Rolfe established himself in the lumber trade in early manhood, and built up a large business, buying extensive tracts of timber land in Western New York, manufacturing lumber and rafting it down the Susquehanna River and its tributaries to tide water, where he sold it. He finally retired to private life, having secured a comfortable competency, and spent his declining years in the home of a son in Lawrenceville, on the Pennsylvania State line, dying there in January, 1878, having survived his wife, who died in Avoca, N. Y., in November, 1866. He was a man of undoubted probity of character, well gifted with mental and physical vigor, and throughout a long and honorable career his course was such as to command the highest respect of his fellowmen. Socially, he was a member of the I. O. O. F.; politically, he was a Whig until the organization of the Republican party, when he joined its ranks, and was ever after a steadfast supporter of its policy.

DeForest P. Rolfe, of whom we write, was reared in his native county, receiving his education in the public schools. At the age of sixteen he entered the office of the *Steuben Farmers' Advocate*, a weekly paper published at Bath, N. Y., and there

learned the art preservative, working in that office for four years. He then went to St. Louis, Mo., where, failing to get employment at his trade, he accepted a position as clerk in the auction and commission house of F. A. Kennon, remaining with that gentleman until February, 1861. He then returned to New York and visited home and friends for a few weeks, when he once more set his face toward the setting sun, and on the 14th of April in that year he arrived in Nebraska City, which was at that time the headquarters of the freighters who teamed goods across the plains, the Government having buildings here in which the goods were stored that were to be distributed to the military posts and to the Indians. The surrounding country was in a very wild condition, there being no settlements in the interior of Nebraska, only a few venturesome settlers had made claims away from the settlements, which were on the Missouri River, and had improved a little of the land; almost the whole of the territory was then owned by the Government, and for sale at \$1.25 per acre. St. Joseph, Mo., was the nearest railway station, and all travel and transportation was by way of the Missouri or overland with teams, the stages making daily trips to St. Joseph during the winter season. Wild game was very plentiful; deer, elks and wolves roamed the prairies, and but a few miles westward the buffaloes still lingered. There were Indians in the vicinity, and members of the Otoe, Omaha and Pawnee tribes were frequent visitors to the place. The old block house, which was a part of old Ft. Kearney, and built by the Government, was standing, and was used by the city as a calaboose.

Shortly after his arrival here our subject engaged in the grocery business with his brother R. M., and they continued together until 1863, when DeForest P. formed a partnership with William Fulton to establish a clothing and outfitting store. In 1867 he sold out his interest in the business and removed to Chicago, where he lived for two years. He then returned to this city and engaged in the lumber business until 1874, when he became interested in the Reed Plow Company. At the end of a year he severed his connection with that company to engage in the sale of agricultural implements, and was appointed general agent for Nebraska and Southern

Iowa for the D. M. Osborne & Co. harvesting machinery. He held that agency until 1879, when he again took up the lumber business, which he has continued to the present time with great financial success, and he has built up a large trade, necessitating a branch yard at Julian, Nemaha County.

Mr. Rolfe was married, Dec. 6, 1866, to Miss Susan Gilmore, a native of Bath, Steuben Co., N. Y., and a daughter of Perez and Susan (Towle) Gilmore. Mrs. Rolfe is an intelligent, benevolent, well-informed lady, with easy, pleasant manners, rendering her an important factor in the social circles of this city and county.

Our subject has occupied an influential position in regard to the administration of public affairs in Otoe County almost from the very first, as his fellow-citizens early recognized his superior tact and good executive powers, and that, withal, he is a safe leader, as he is possessed of sound judgment, and his acts are ever controlled by the highest principles. His geniality, ready wit and liberality have won for him hosts of friends and make him very popular with the people. Politically, he has always affiliated with the Democratic party. He was appointed County Treasurer to fill a vacancy in 1863, was a member of the last Territorial Legislature, and was elected to the first State Legislature. He did not, however, take his seat in the latter body, as he differed with his constituents on the question that was to be decided that session as to the best site for the State capital, they preferring that it should be situated on Salt Creek, and he, with his usual tact, foreseeing the fact that another city built up so near Nebraska City on the west would naturally retard the growth of the latter and blight her then bright prospects, would not vote for its location there, and not wishing to misrepresent his constituency in the legislative deliberations he resigned, thus showing that he cared more for principle than for empty honors. The people of this city have since been brought to a realizing sense that he was right, and that it would have been much better for their city if the capital had been located at a greater distance. In 1885 he was elected to the office of Mayor, but he refused to be a candidate in 1886. In 1888 he was again elected on a non-partisan ticket by an overwhelming majority, so great is his

popularity and the confidence of his fellow-citizens in his integrity and capability.

Mr. Rolfe is a prominent member of the Board of Trade, of which organization he was the first Secretary, and afterward President, and also of the Building and Loan Association, of which he is President, and he has been identified with every public enterprise for years, was instrumental in securing the water-works, and in the organization of the company was made its President; he has ever been active in aiding industrial enterprises for the building up of the city. Mr. Rolfe is also a prominent Mason, and has from time to time occupied many of the leading stations, from the Blue Lodge to Consistory.

**J**OHN H. DAMMA holds a high place among the prominent and successful merchants of Talmage, and is one of the best and most favorably known German-American citizens in this part of the county. He owns and occupies a fine brick building on Main street, which stands 22x80 feet, and carries a full and varied stock of general merchandise, such as is in constant demand in the town and country surrounding. He came to Talmage in the year 1882, to start a timber-yard for the Chicago Lumber Company, and sold the first lumber that was bought here; he came when there was scarcely a house to mark the place where now stands the populous and thriving town of Talmage.

Recognizing the well-nigh inevitable future of State and county, with far-sighted business enterprise Mr. Damma determined to enter into business at this place, and erected a store and put in a stock of goods, which was in charge of a confidential clerk whenever he was compelled to be absent in the interests of the lumber trade.

In 1885 Mr. Damma left the lumber-yard, and then gave his entire attention to mercantile pursuits. He is now by far the leading merchant in his line in the town, and has a business of not less than \$25,000 per annum. He came to this place from Nebraska City, where he had been engaged for the previous five years as clerk in a general store. He has been in the State since 1875, and in

the beginning worked for two years in Delaware Precinct on the farm of Reuben Whittaker, an old settler and extensive agriculturist.

Our subject was born in Franklin County, Mo., on the 21st of September, 1853. He is of German descent, his father, William Damma, having come from that country when eleven years of age. He located in Franklin County, Mo., and there attained his majority. He was united in marriage with Miss Caroline Holtgrewe. This lady was born in Germany, and accompanied her parents to the United States when she was fifteen years of age. They made their home in Franklin County, and there she was educated and brought up from the time she attained the above-mentioned age.

William Damma, the father of our subject, began life as a farmer, and is now living upon his own property in Franklin County, Mo., operating a tract of 320 acres. This farm his father, Henry Damma, had entered when he first came to the United States with his family, in the year 1840. It was then in an entirely native condition, unbroken and undeveloped. There Henry Damma made his home and spent the remainder of his life, dying when about forty years of age. Mr. and Mrs. William Damma are active members of the German Evangelical Church; he is strongly attached to the Republican party, and almost invariably votes its ticket.

The subject of our sketch is the eldest son of a family that comprises five sons and six daughters, all of whom are living; six of them are married and have homes of their own. He was educated and reared in Franklin County, and there received all needed instruction regarding the operation of a farm. In the year 1874 he crossed the Atlantic and made a visit to the old home in Germany, where he spent several months renewing his acquaintance with kinsfolk and friends of the family, who were for the most part engaged in agricultural pursuits. Upon returning from his trip Mr. Damma went to Franklin County, but shortly afterward removed to this county. In 1884 our subject was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Holtgrewe. This lady was born in Lyons Township, Franklin Co., Mo., on the 17th of August, 1864, and is the daughter of John H. and Catherina

(Pohlman) Holtgrewe. Of this union there has been born one child, who bears the name John H.. Our subject and wife are earnest members of the Evangelical Church, and both there and in the community generally they are very highly esteemed. Mr. Damma has for three years been President of the Village Board. He is a man of character, energy, and unquestioned reputation, and is an excellent representative of his constituents in any and every matter that is for their interest.

**J**OSEPH HENDRICKS, one of the earliest settlers of Hendricks Precinct, is numbered among its most enterprising farmers. His homestead, comprising 120 acres of land on section 17, is one of the most desirable in this part of the county, the land being in a fine state of cultivation, and the buildings amply adapted to the purposes of rural life. Both the farm and the dwelling are conspicuous for neatness and good order, evincing that intelligent supervision which is the greatest charm of any home.

Our subject is the brother of George Hendricks, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work, together with the parental history. The family is of substantial ancestry, and have proved excellent citizens wherever they have lived. Joseph was born in Jackson County, Iowa, April 24, 1853, and when a child three years of age came with his parents to this county. Young as he was he still remembers crossing the Missouri River on a flatboat before the days of steam in this section. He continued with his parents until a youth of nineteen years, acquiring his education in the district school. At this age also he was married, and his father having died rented the homestead for a period of two years. Then, purchasing a tract of wild land he began in earnest the development of a homestead of his own. In connection with other labors he planted a large number of maple and cottonwood trees, which have added greatly to the value and beauty of his property. He also has 160 rods of hedge fence, which forms a most pleasing feature of the landscape, dividing the fields at once in the most beautiful and substantial manner. He put up a house and barn,

planted an orchard, and gradually brought about the other improvements essential to the comfort of himself and family. He has six acres of native grass.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married March 10, 1871, at her home in Hendricks Precinct, was formerly Miss Sophia, the daughter of Daniel and Jane (Balch) Livingston. The former was a native of British America, his early home being along the Red River Valley, which stream he often crossed by swimming. The mother was a native of Indiana. The parents were married in Jones County, Ohio, where the father carried on farming a period of twenty-five years, and also worked as a carpenter. They came to Nebraska in 1870, and are still living on a farm in Hendricks Precinct. Their nine children were named respectively: John, Sophia, Calvin, Neal, Lincoln, Daniel, Ann, Alex and Archie.

Mrs. Hendricks was born in Jones County, Iowa, May 4, 1851. Of her marriage with our subject there are three children: Oscar Nile, born Feb. 17, 1873; Leona, Oct. 15, 1875; and Dora Nellie, Nov. 9, 1884. Mr. Hendricks is a staunch supporter of Democratic principles, while the sympathies of his estimable wife are with the Republican party. He was Postmaster at Solon in 1883, and until its removal to Hendricks, and is a member of the School Board of his district.

**J**OHN D. EIS. This gentleman is numbered among the most enterprising young farmers of Russell Precinct, where he owns and operates the southwest quarter of section 31. He comes of an excellent family, being the brother of Walter S. Eis, a sketch of whom, together with that of the parents, will be found on another page of this volume.

Mr. Eis was born Sept. 4, 1854, in Muscatine, Iowa, where he received a common-school education, and worked with his father until reaching his majority. He then began farming on his own account in Iowa, where he remained until the spring of 1884, then determined to go farther West. He came by rail from Muscatine to Unadilla, and in a

short time selected his location, which was then a tract of uncultivated land. He has himself perfected all the improvements which we behold to-day, and which comprise all the appurtenances of a well-regulated homestead, including a good set of farm buildings, an apple orchard, and the smaller fruit trees, and groves of boxwood and maple. His farm is provided with running water, and possesses many natural advantages which have made his labors as a tiller of the soil easy and remunerative. The proprietor has accomplished much in a comparatively short period.

The lady who presides with grace and dignity over the home of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine, daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth (Eis) Welsh. The parents of Mrs. Eis were of German birth and parentage, their birthplace having been in one of the Provinces of Prussia, whence they emigrated to America before their marriage. They settled first in Ohio, then removed to Muscatine County, Iowa, where they still reside, surrounded by all the comforts of life on a well-improved farm of 155 acres. Their ten children are all living, and were named respectively: Catherine, Fredricka, Charles, John, Mary, Laura, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Lilly and Louisa.

Mrs. Eis, the eldest child of her parents, was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1855. She was educated in the common school, and remained under the home roof until her marriage, removing in the meantime with her parents to Iowa. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, one of whom, a son, Charles, died when eight months old. The survivors are Mary, Pearl, Rebecca and Lizzie. They are all at home. Mr. Eis cast his first Presidential vote for Hayes, and is the uniform supporter of Republican principles.



**J**AMES CUMMINS. The name of this gentleman is familiar among the extensive operators in live stock in this county, he having his headquarters in the village of Talmage. He came to this section of the country during the period of its early settlement, and has proved himself one of its most useful and enterprising pio-

neers. He was on the spot at the laying out of the village of Talmage, which became the nucleus of his future operations, and with whose interests he has since been continuously identified. Here and at Burr Station he feeds and fattens large numbers of animals each year, having his market mostly at Talmage. In 1882 he laid off twenty acres which is now known as Cummins' Addition, and which comprises sixty-four lots, now all sold and improved. In addition to his town property Mr. Cummins owns a fine farm of 120 acres adjoining the village limits. The land has been brought to a good state of cultivation, and thereon have been erected neat and substantial buildings, in keeping with the spirit of enterprise which has always characterized the proprietor. He has been a resident of McWilliams Precinct since 1866, and the first ten years of his residence here gave his attention to agricultural pursuits. He settled upon an unbroken prairie from which he built up his farm, effecting all the improvements which the passer-by observes to-day with admiring interest. Mr. Cummins first came to Nebraska in the fall of 1866, making his way hither from Pennsylvania. A year later, desiring to see something more of the Great West, he migrated to Montana, and subsequently, in 1869, proceeded to Dakota Territory, where he engaged in farming, and continued a resident until the spring of 1871.

While in Dakota Mr. Cummins had been engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Ft. C. F. Smith, Mont., and also operated a stock ranch in Montana, besides speculating in lands. Upon his return to this county the spirit of adventure departed from him and he concluded to settle down, and construct for himself a homestead. He is a descendant of excellent Pennsylvania stock, and was born in Bradford County, that State, Nov. 8, 1844. His father, Caleb Cummins, also a native of the Keystone State, was the son of John Cummins, who was born in the Scottish Highlands, and emigrated to America during his young manhood. Settling in Pennsylvania he married Miss Mary Covell, a native of that State, and they became the parents of nine children. They spent the remainder of their lives upon a farm in Bradford County, where Grandfather Cummins departed this life at

the ripe old age of eighty-two years, and his wife when about two years younger.

Caleb Cummins, the father of our subject, was reared a farmer's boy among his native hills, and upon reaching manhood married a maiden of his own county, Miss Lucy, daughter of Mansor Chamberlain. The latter was a native of Vermont and a member of a well-known old New England family which had been represented for several generations in the Green Mountain State. Mansor Chamberlain died in Bradford County, Pa., of apoplexy, at the age of sixty-six years. He was a farmer by occupation, and possessed all the stern and sturdy traits of a substantial ancestry.

Caleb Cummins and his wife began the journey of life together on a farm in Ridgebury Township, Bradford County, where they lived until the death of the mother in the spring of 1848. The father subsequently married Miss Mary Fuller, and in 1855, leaving Pennsylvania, migrated to Dakota Territory, settling among the earliest pioneers of Union County. After residing there a number of years they moved to Lyonsville, in Buffalo County, where they now live, the father being seventy-four years old and the stepmother fifty-one.

The subject of this sketch was the youngest of two sons and one daughter born to his parents, the latter of whom, Margaret by name, died in DeKalb County, Ill., when an interesting young lady of nineteen summers. Warren, the brother, is married, and a resident of Phillips County, Kan., where he is successfully engaged in farming.

After the death of his mother our subject was taken to the home of his grandfather, where he lived ten years and until the death of the latter. The boy was then thrown upon his own resources, and employed himself at whatever he could find to do. He continued a resident of Bradford County, and lived with one man, George W. Cooper, for a period of four years, beginning at the munificent salary of \$4 per month. As his services became more valuable his wages were raised, and in the meantime he acquired a thorough knowledge of farming pursuits. He first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska in 1866, and when ready to establish a home of his own was married, in McWilliams Precinct, this county, to Miss Jennie Nelson. This

lady was born in Henry County, Ill., May 12, 1855, and is the daughter of Augustus Nelson, who, with his wife, is a native of Sweden, and now living upon a farm in Johnson County, this State, in the enjoyment of a competence. Mr. Nelson is one of the most successful and skillful agriculturists of his time, and has always been an excellent manager financially. He came to Nebraska in 1868, when his daughter Jennie was a young girl of thirteen years.

Mrs. Cummins received her education in the district schools of Henry County, Ill., and remained under the home roof until her marriage. She is now the mother of two interesting children, daughters, Minnie and Clara. Mr. Cummins, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been a member of the Village Board for a period of four years. He is a man who makes friends wherever he goes, being courteous and companionable, well informed, and a man interesting to converse with.



**D**R. G. M. BRINKER. For twenty years this gentleman has been recognized as a leader of medical science in Nebraska City, and also as a citizen. He was born in Frederick County, Va., on the 27th of June, 1813. His early years were spent in the Shenandoah Valley. His middle name, Madison, is derived from the President of that name, who was in office at the time of his birth.

The parents of our subject, George and Elizabeth (Kendrick) Brinker, were Virginians by birth. His father followed agricultural pursuits chiefly throughout a life that extended over eighty-two years, while his mother lived to be almost ninety-six. The latter years of her life were spent in the home of her only daughter, Mrs. Ann R. Rhodes, at Denver, Col. Besides this daughter there were four sons in the family. Our subject was the oldest boy and second child.

Dr. Brinker was fortunate in having good educational advantages presented to him in his youth. As he progressed in his studies, and approached the years when the question was presented as to what should be the chosen occupation of his life, he

elected to read medicine, and began to do so under the care of a preceptor, Dr. Anderton Brown, of Middletown, Va., when nineteen years of age. This gentleman was one of the bright lights of the profession, and was an acknowledged able physician and instructor.

When twenty-two years of age the subject of our sketch entered the University of Pennsylvania, pursuing his studies with much care until he was graduated in the year 1837, receiving the usual diploma. His first experience as a practitioner was at Strasburg, Shenandoah Co., Va. There he continued very successfully engaged for seventeen years, and won for himself quite a reputation as a diagnostician and prescriber.

During the above-mentioned period the Doctor was married. This important and deeply interesting event was celebrated at Strasburg, Va., March 7, 1839, the lady of his regard being Mary A. H. Bowman, the excellent daughter of Capt. Isaac Bowman, of Revolutionary War fame. She was born in the vicinity of Strasburg, Va. From childhood up they had been friends and companions, and almost naturally they came to decide that that which had been begun in early years, and which continued so long, should go on till death should separate, and they be bound by strongest ties. There have been born to them eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: George I. is an extensive mine owner in Breckenridge, Col.; Mary E. is the wife of E. Humphrey, the well-known grocer of Denver, Col.; Ella R. remains at home with her parents; Arthur is a partner of E. Humphrey in the grocery business, in Denver, Col.; Lucie is still at home, as is also Annie, who is a widow; James M. died when fourteen years of age, and Joseph is Superintendent of the Utah Western Division of the Rio Grande Railroad, and lives at Ogden, Utah.

In 1854 Dr. Brinker migrated to Missouri with his family, locating at Brunswick, Chariton County, where he continued in the practice of medicine for fully ten years. Then, leaving in 1865 he came to Nebraska City, which from that time has continued to be his place of residence. He bought himself a very comfortable and cozy little home on Eleventh street and First avenue. The Doctor owns a farm

of 160 acres about six and one-half miles south-east of this city, which is managed by renters, and is utilized for general purposes.

Being a true and patriotic American citizen the Doctor has always taken the greatest possible interest in the political economy of the district he might be a resident of as well as that of the Nation at large; usually he has voted with the Democratic party, but has always considered it his first duty to consider the person and principles, rather than the policy or party. In spite of the weight of years upon him, and although attending to a very extensive practice, our subject carries himself and effectually attends to all the demands upon him with a brightness and vigor that shame many younger men. It were very hard to find a more esteemed and in every way respected man or citizen, a truer friend, or more uniformly genial and courtly gentleman.



**W**ILLIAM E. INGALLS. If a continued extension of business and solidifying of financial interests mean anything, the case of the gentleman whose life story is herein presented, would show that in his bakery store and restaurant he is an able caterer of gastronomic necessities and luxuries, and moreover that his efforts are fully appreciated, which is undoubtedly the case. Mr. Ingalls was born in Jacksonville, Morgan Co., Ill. His father, Hart Ingalls, is a native of Niagara County, N. Y., where his father, Darius Ingalls, was for many years a resident and prosperous farmer. He moved from that State to Illinois in 1832, and became a pioneer of the latter State. He took a tract of Government land and improved it, but to-day it is absorbed in the city of Jacksonville. The village of Jacksonville had just been laid out. There was but one store and a blacksmith-shop in the place. The nearest market for many years was at Meredosia on the Illinois River, some twenty-five miles distant, and not infrequently the journey to St. Louis, which was 110 miles away, had to be made for special market purposes. The entire journey was performed always with ox-teams.

The father of our subject was fifteen years old

when his parents moved to Illinois. He was reared amid agricultural pursuits, and from his boyhood was used to farm life. He chose this for his life occupation, and continued to follow the same until his death, which occurred in 1846, when he was but twenty-nine years of age. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth J. Elledge. She was born in Indiana, and is the daughter of Benjamin and Catharine Elledge, of Indiana. She was married a second time, to W. A. Wise, and now lives in Griggsville, Pike Co., Ill.

The subject of our sketch was but an infant when his father died. After his mother's second marriage he went to reside with her. His stepfather was by trade a gunsmith, and almost naturally he was fond of handling the tools, and from the time he left school worked with his father and learned the trade. His education previously obtained was received in the public schools of Griggsville. In 1863, when but seventeen years of age, our subject enlisted, becoming a member of Company B, of the 68th Illinois Infantry, in which he served for one year, and then was discharged with the rest of his regiment. They were first stationed at Camp Butler for about five months, and then did garrison duty at Washington, D. C., for a few weeks. From there they were sent to Alexandria, Va., and from that place to Fairfax Seminary, where he did garrison duty for the remainder of his term of service. After that he went to St. Louis, and was engaged for two years in the United States Arsenal in that city.

Upon leaving that employment Mr. Ingalls engaged in a broom factory and learned the trade, and continued to work in St. Louis for five years, when he returned to Griggsville and commenced to learn the baker's trade. He worked there for one year, and then went to Naples for a short time, and from there to Jacksonville, where he established himself in business, and continued until 1879. Then he went to Atchison, Kan., and worked for Poehler Bros., remaining for seven years. He then came to Nebraska City and embarked in his present business.

The subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Adelaide Ireland, a native of Illinois. She was the daughter of James Ireland, of Massachu-

setts. She died in the year 1877, leaving three children, whose names are mentioned as follows: Luther Clyde, George L. and Harry. A second alliance was contracted in the year 1879, the name of the lady being Mrs. Anna (Cook) Hulett. This lady was born at Lambertville, N. J., and is the daughter of Phillip and Martha Deltz. Her first husband was Henry Hulett, of Illinois, by whom she became the mother of two children. To our subject there have been given five children, viz: Henry, Lee, Mamie, Parker and Jessie.



**G**EORGE CONKLIN, an early pioneer of this county, is now numbered among her wealthiest farmers and most extensive land-owners. He has a large farm in Otoe Precinct, where he resides, and he has been more than ordinarily successful in his life work. He was born near Sidney Plains, Delaware Co., N. Y., on the 19th of December, 1831. His parents were Thomas and Clarissa (Smith) Conklin. His father died in Delaware County in 1834, ere he had passed the prime of life.

The mother of our subject married a second time a few years later, and her son went to live with an uncle for a few years. He then returned to live with his mother, but the high-spirited lad found his nature and his stepfather's incompatible, and as they could not agree, he would not live under the same roof with him, and went to work for a farmer by the month, receiving \$8 a month for a year. He worked hard and steadily, and saved all of his earnings that year, and after that was employed by the day or month a part of the time on a farm, and a part of the time in rafting lumber down the Susquehanna River, being thus employed until the year 1856. In that year, with four others, he came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by the way of the river from St. Louis, there being no railroad then west of Iowa City. The journey consumed many days, as it took them five days to get to St. Louis, and from there to Nebraska City thirteen days, fare and board being \$60. The country around here at that time presented a very wild appearance,

a marked contrast to its well-settled, flourishing condition of to-day. Indians still lingered here, and deer, wild turkeys and other kinds of game were very plentiful. His companions staid but a week, and apparently not liking the prospect, returned to Pennsylvania. Our subject, with more pluck and enterprise, perhaps, decided to try his life here, and see what it held for him, as he was then young and unmarried, and had no strong ties to bind him elsewhere. When he first came here, he and his friends, having heard of Prairie City, started out to find it. Having walked about eight miles from Nebraska City, they stopped at an isolated log cabin to inquire the way to the city they were in search of, and they were very much surprised on being told that they were already in Prairie City. Much disgusted, they passed on up the creek for a few miles, and staying all night at a log cabin, they returned to Nebraska City the next day. Mr. Conklin soon found employment on a farm, prudently saving his earnings, and in the fall of 1856 he took up a claim on the banks of the Nemaha, in Otoe County. He built a log house, in which he staid until his finances were reduced to \$2.50, and he then returned to Nebraska City to find employment, whereby he might replenish his purse. All the following winter he was engaged in teaming logs to a sawmill, but owing to the failure of the men who employed him, he lost most of his wages, or rather, did not get them at all. In the summer he worked in another mill, and in the succeeding winter worked by the day and job until spring opened, when he rented a farm in Four Mile Precinct. He engaged in agricultural pursuits there until 1858, when he bought a tract of land in the same precinct. But he could not pay for it, and so traded it for a pair of horses. He continued to rent land for three years, and then bought eighty acres in Four Mile Precinct. He built a house and lived on his land a year, and then sold it, purchased another eighty acres near by, and resided on that two or three years. At the end of that time he also disposed of that at a handsome profit, and soon purchased another 80-acre tract of land in that precinct, but almost immediately sold it. After that he rented a farm until 1870, when he bought the place where he

now resides. His first purchase was of eighty acres of wild land, and he has since added to it, until he has 520 acres in one body in Otoe Precinct. It comprises some of the best farming land in the vicinity, and the greater part of it is improved, although eighty acres of it is in fine timber. He has erected suitable buildings, has good machinery, and everthing about bears the mark of a skillful and practical farmer.

Mr. Conklin was married, Jan. 27, 1859, to Miss Martha Shelenbarger, a native of Fayette County, Pa. Her father, Isaac Shelenbarger, who was a farmer, spent his last years in Fayette County, Pa. The maiden name of his wife was Susan Shelenbarger, of the same name though no relative, and she was a native of Fayette County, and is now a resident of Thomas County, Kan. She makes her home with her children, and is eighty years old. The pleasant married life of Mr. and Mrs. Conklin has been blessed to them by the birth of eight children, as follows: Emma, the wife of Charles Hall; John, Frank, Lizzie; Susie, wife of Mason Ricker; Hester, Jacob and O. P.

Mr. Conklin is eminently a self-made man, as from the time when he was a small lad he has had to make his own way in the world unassisted. He has been a hard and constant worker, doing well whatsoever his hand has found to do. Through it all he has preserved the integrity of his character unblemished, and is entitled to the respect of his fellow-citizens. In politics he is a stanch Republican.



**F**REDERICK W. RODENBROCK. The tourist making his first trip to Germany may pass through the beaten paths of tourist travel, and, when he has finished all, if he will but turn his face toward the historic Province of Westphalia, although but about 8,000 square miles in its area, and therefore small as compared with the ground already covered by him, he will appreciate the fact that in many regards he has left the best until the last. It must suffice here merely to remark that its climate is most excellent, agreeable and healthful; its center and more northern part is

comparatively level, and possesses some stretches of heather that would make the heart of the Scotchman beat wildly with delight. Coming down to the southwestern portion of the Province, the face of the country changes and becomes undulating, but shortly the traveler finds himself surrounded by most beautiful and fertile hills, and not a few grand and towering mountains. Nestled in one of the prettiest and most fertile valleys is the village of Halle, and from its streets, as we look up on either hand, the eye ranges over the hillsides and to the distant mountain tops, and we realize somewhat of the beauty and sublimity of that scene, and are convinced that for scenery it is very difficult to surpass it. The village is about ten miles from Bielefeld, a picturesque, walled Prussian town, and the center of commerce, trade and society of this district.

In this beautiful village of Halle above referred to, and amid the beauties with which nature has endowed that place, there was born upon the 15th of October, 1840, in the home of one of its most honorable and respected citizens, a son, who received the name that stands at the commencement of this sketch. The parents of our subject were Frederick W. and Katrina Rodenbrock, and the father followed the occupation of farming upon property that had been owned by the family for many generations. As their forefathers had done before them for the most part, he and his wife were born, brought up, and ran the entire course of life in their native valley. Our subject and his brother, John Frederick, were the only members of the family who came to the United States.

As soon as our subject was old enough to attend school opportunity was afforded him to do so, and he continued thus engaged until he had reached his fourteenth year. During that time he began to develop those qualities and powers that have, under the congenial influences and amid the favorable surroundings of American life and commerce, made him the success he is. After leaving school our subject was his father's assistant upon the farm, and then, as was customary, he entered the army, and served for three years. During this time the Sleswick-Holstein War took place, during which time he did garrison duty on the Island of Reegan to

guard it from the naval forces. At the termination of the required period of military service he received an honorable discharge, and returned home to find that during his absence his father had been removed by death.

Realizing how much more than ever he was required at home, and recognizing that upon him to a large extent his mother would lean, now that her husband's arm could no longer support her, our subject nobly set to work to do everything in his power to make her life bright and restful, and has the pleasurable consciousness of knowing how large his efforts have been. He remained with her until 1865, and then, satisfactory arrangements having been made for her comfort, and with the hope of a larger success in the New World than the old could extend, in the fall of that year set sail from Bremen, and after a comparatively lengthy ocean trip landed at New York, and went on thence to St. Louis.

Life amid the strange and in many regards novel surroundings in this to him new city, was begun by our subject engaging with J. H. Rottman in the wholesale business. After a few months he came to Nebraska City, and accepted a position as clerk in the grocery store of F. W. Rottmann, and there continued for about five years, during which period his energy, integrity, business push and tact, so favorably impressed his employers that at its close he was accepted as a partner in the firm, which arrangement continued for over three years. Then the stock was divided, and Mr. Rodenbrock removed his portion to the store where he is at present located; viz., upon the northwest corner of Central avenue and Twelfth street. From that time until the present success has continued to attend him, and to-day it were, perhaps, not beyond the bounds of truth to say that he is one of, if not the most, solid and successful business men in the city.

There are few better able to appreciate the felicitous pleasures and quiet healthfulness of home, and it was the good fortune of our subject in selecting a partner in life to make such decision as assured him in the companionship of his wife all that could be desired for that sacred relationship. On the 4th of September, 1873, Mr. Rodenbrock and Miss Lena Kregel were united in holy matrimony. This estimable lady was born in Clayton County,

Iowa, and is the daughter of Henry and Mary Kregel, both natives of Germany. There have been born to our subject six children, whose bright vivacity and merriment have made his home more inviting and happy than any other place to him, and, as they are developing traits of character and mental powers that promise much, there is doubtless a bright and happy future yet in store for both them and their parents. The names they have received are Amanda, Minnie, Henry, also Laura and Lewis, twins, and a baby unnamed.

Before closing this compendium mention might be made for the encouragement of those readers who may be beginning life, of some indicators of the success that has crowned the efforts of our subject. In addition to his business house Mr. Rodenbrock has erected a large two-story building on the southeast corner of Central avenue and Twelfth street, upon a site of 50x60 feet; also another, if anything more handsome in its exterior and complete in its internal arrangements; this likewise is a two-story building, upon the southwest corner of Central and Eleventh streets, and having an elegant front on Central avenue of 100 feet.

The early religious connection of our subject was with the Lutheran Church of his native country, and to this he has continued his adherence, and, with his wife and family, is numbered among its most firm adherents and hearty supporters. In questions civic and governmental he is usually found voting with the Republican party, which recognizes in him an oft-tried and stanch friend. As a citizen, he is ever ready to aid and support in every way possible every enterprise, project or plan that will assure the people of the city, precinct or county any improvement, privilege or progress.

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**F**RED DUERSCHNER, the pastor of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of Rock Creek, is a gentleman of fine capabilities, good education, and more than ordinarily intelligent. He assumed charge of this parish in July, 1882, and in the discharge of his duties has acquitted himself in that creditable manner which has secured for him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has

associated. The parish at this time comprises thirty families, an increase from eighteen since the time the present pastor became connected with it. He also conducts the school in connection with the church, having an average attendance of about forty students.

Mr. Duerschner was born at Galena, Ill., Dec. 27, 1861, and completed his education in the seminary at Mendota. The main secret of his success has been his deep interest in his work, laboring conscientiously and faithfully for the best good of his people. His father, Rev. C. Duerschner, was a native of the Kingdom of Bavaria, Germany, whence he emigrated to the United States when a young man, and completed his studies in the University of Iowa, soon afterward entering the ministry and devoting the remainder of his life to the service of the church. He, however, only lived to be middle aged, his death occurring about 1878, in Illinois, at the age of forty-five years.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine Hammerand, also a native of Bavaria, and who came to America in her girlhood, settling with her parents in Iowa. She is still living, making her home in Pymont, Mo., with her son John, and has about attained her threescore years.

Our subject is one of the younger members of a family of five sons and one daughter born to his parents. His brother John, also a minister of the Lutheran Church, stationed at Pymont, and himself, are the only ones living. Frederick H., like his brothers, pursued his studies in the common schools of Galena, Ill., where he prepared himself for his college course. Upon reaching manhood he was married, at Wilton, Iowa, Oct. 13, 1886, to Miss Sophia List, who was born in Madison, Wis., Sept. 14, 1864. Mrs. Duerschner is the daughter of John and Wilhelmina (Hahnen) List, who are now residents of Wilton, Iowa, and the father a minister of the Lutheran Church. They were natives of the German Empire, the father of Bavaria and the mother of Wurtemberg, and came to the United States in early youth, and were married in Des Moines County, Iowa. Mr. List is a minister also warmly devoted to his work, and is the means of doing much good in his community.

Mrs. Duerschner was carefully trained and edu-

cated, and is amply fitted to be the companion and helpmate of her husband. She is a favorite in church and social circles, and the little household has been brightened by the birth of one child, a daughter Tilly. Their home is very pleasantly situated, and is an attractive resort for the many friends they have gathered about them.



**G**EORGE W. DOANE. The farming and stock-raising interests of Otoe County have a lively representative in the subject of this sketch, who owns 280 acres of fine land on the southeast corner of section 4, South Branch Precinct. He evidently has made the most of his experiences as an agriculturist, and in reward for his thrift and industry is surrounded by all the comforts of life with many of its luxuries, and with an ample competence for his old age.

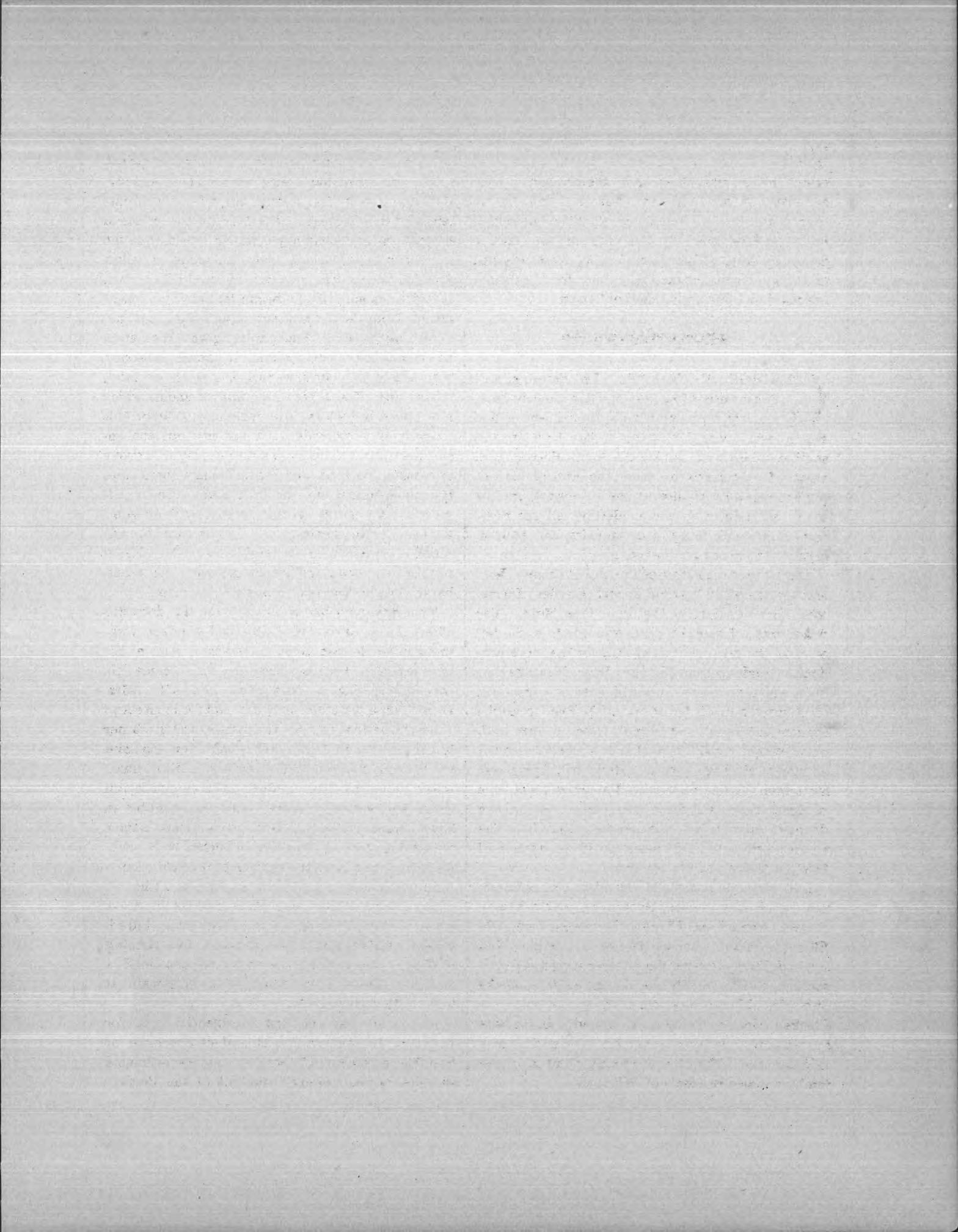
Our subject is a native of Penobscot County, Me., and the son of Joshua and Rachel (Hayden) Doane, who were also born in the Pine Tree State. The father was a farmer by occupation, but in the fall of 1849 left his own rugged hills for the more productive lands of Dane County, Wis. Near the land upon which he located in the pioneer days the town of Stoughton finally grew up, and he lived to see the country around him developed from its first wild, uncultivated condition to that of a prosperous community of civilized people. He is still living near Stoughton, having now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years, and for a long period has been a devoted member of the Baptist Church. The mother died at the old homestead in the spring of 1886, at the age of seventy-four.

The parental household included ten children, namely: Hiram, Nelson, George W. (our subject), Rozella; Hannah and Charles (deceased); Jeremiah, Ellen, Luke and Louisa (deceased). Hiram, Nelson and Charles during the late war served as Union soldiers, and frequently met the enemy in the smoke of battle. Hiram was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, and Nelson was wounded in the neck at Pittsburg. Both recovered, however, and are now in Wisconsin. The other surviving members of the family are also residents of Wisconsin.

The subject of this sketch was born Dec. 4, 1837, and was a lad twelve years of age when his parents removed to Wisconsin. He attended the common schools, and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, becoming familiar with the various employments of rural life. Upon reaching his majority he began farming for himself not far from the old homestead, and was thus occupied until 1865. Then, crossing the Mississippi he came to this State, making the journey overland with teams, and homesteading 160 acres of land, settled upon it and began the improvements which now reflect in such an admirable manner upon his industry and enterprise. He has brought the entire tract to a productive condition, planted a grove of cottonwood trees, and has an orchard three acres in extent, besides the smaller fruits. The land is watered by a living stream, and stocked with good grades of cattle, horses, etc. He purchased the additional 120 acres in the spring of 1883. He is fond of fine horses, and has an interest in the valuable full-blood Norman "Romulus" imported.

The lady who has presided over the domestic affairs of our subject with wise and prudent forethought for the last twenty-nine years, was in her girlhood Miss Frances Wheeler, and became his wife in Dane County, Wis., Feb. 27, 1859. Mrs. Doane is the daughter of Henry and Sarah (Kelley) Wheeler, natives of New Hampshire, and the father is a shoemaker by trade. They left New England for Wisconsin about 1853, settling in Stoughton, where the father died in 1864. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her daughter in South Branch, Otoe Co., Neb. Mrs. Doane is their only living child, and was born in Sutton, N. H., Feb. 8, 1840. She is now the mother of five children—Arthur N., Halsey A., Henry E., Elva and Charles. Arthur married Miss Jane Reed, resides in Knox County, and is the father of one child, a son, Alfred. Halsey married Miss Sylvia Jones, is also farming in Knox County, and is the father of one child, a daughter, Hope. The other children remain at home with their parents.

Mr. Doane cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and is an ardent supporter of Republican principles. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Presby-





*Yours truly*  
*Geo. F. Lee*

terian Church, attending at Hopewell. Mr. D. has been a member of the School Board since the formation of the district, and Road Supervisor a number of years. He is warmly interested in the success of the temperance cause, and a member of the society in South Branch. He has built up a record of an honest man and a good citizen, one who enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of his community.



**G**EORGE F. LEE, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is well known in this section of the country, not only as a pioneer of Otoe County, who has been identified with its agricultural interests for many years, but also as a true Christian gentleman, than which no higher praise can be bestowed. By his influence and example he has done much to elevate the moral, social and religious status of the community where he resides. He has borne an honorable part in the public affairs of his adopted county, serving as its representative in the Territorial Legislature of 1858, as County Commissioner for three years, and he was Justice of the Peace for Otoe Precinct for sixteen years. He is now living a somewhat more retired life in one of the pleasantest homes in Otoe Precinct, where he has a valuable farm, from which, under his able and skillful management, he derives an ample income.

Mr. Lee is of New England origin and ancestry, having been born in the town of Guilford, New Haven Co., Conn., Dec. 16, 1830. His father, Eli Lee, and his grandfather, Eber Lee, were both natives of that town, and of English descent. His grandfather was a farmer in his native State, and always followed that pursuit. He spent his last years with his only daughter, in Meriden, Conn., and died at the advanced age of ninety-four years.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his native town, Lydia Everts, a native of Killingworth, Conn., becoming his wife. In 1833 Mr. Lee left his old New England home with his family to take up his abode in Ohio. They traveled by water to New York, thence up the Hudson to Troy, from there to Buffalo on the Erie Canal, and from there by lake to Cleveland. Mr. Lee bought

a tract of timber land in Twinsburg, Cuyahoga (now Summit) County, built a small frame house to shelter his family, and at once entered upon the task of improving a farm. There were no railways there then, and Cleveland, twenty miles distant, was the nearest market. In 1847 he sold his place there and removed to Hiram, where he invested in village property, and resided there and in his native State many years. In 1862 he came to Nebraska, and made his home with our subject until his death, in 1876. His wife had preceded him to the better world during their residence in Twinsburg, in 1842.

The subject of this sketch was two and one-half years old when his parents moved to Ohio, and he continued to live with his father until his sixteenth year. He then went to reside with a farmer for two and a half years. He was a bright, thoughtful youth, and early evinced a strong thirst for knowledge, which was at the end of that time gratified by his admission to the High School, which he attended for two years. He was an earnest student, and he afterward entered the academy at Brockport, N. Y., where he pursued a course for six months. He thus secured an excellent education, and, returning to his native State, engaged in teaching in the winter and in farming in the summer until 1854. He then turned his attention to the trade of carpenter, which he followed until 1856. In September of that year he came to Nebraska by way of the railway to St. Louis, and thence by boat up the Missouri to Otoe City. Here he soon found employment at his trade, and in the same fall made a claim to the southwest quarter of section 13, Otoe Precinct. He erected a small frame house, and in the spring of 1857 his wife joined him, and they settled on the place and commenced to improve a farm. They resided there until 1872, and in the meantime he had bought the place where he now resides, and in that year built the house he now occupies. It is a tasty, modern frame structure, veneered with brick. He also erected a conveniently arranged frame barn, and other substantial farm buildings. All his buildings are octagon in shape. His farm comprises 160 acres of well-improved land, with a good supply of fruit.

Mr. Lee was married, April 17, 1855, to Miss

Betsy W. Strong, who was born in New Hartford, Conn., in 1835. Her family since early Colonial times had been residents of Connecticut. Her father, Edward W. Strong, was born in the same town as herself, May 18, 1804, being the date of his birth. His father, Elijah Strong, was born in Coventry, Conn., in 1776, and his father, likewise named Elijah, was, it is thought, born near New Coventry, Conn., and spent his last years in New Hartford. Mrs. Lee's grandfather was reared in his native State, and there married to Betsy W. Sadd, a daughter of Noah Sadd. She was, it is thought, born in East Windsor, Conn., and she died in the village of New Hartford, March 4, 1821. Mr. Strong was a carpenter by trade, and later became a farmer. He was a good singer, and during the winter seasons taught a singing-school in the county. He died in New Hartford, Conn., Sept. 1, 1850.

Mrs. Lee's father was reared and married in Connecticut, and removed from there to New York in 1847. He took up his residence in Beekmantown, where he worked at the cabinet-maker's trade for several years. He then moved to Highgate, Vt., and made his home there until 1874, when he came to Nebraska, and spent his last years with Mrs. Lee, dying Jan. 24, 1886. The maiden name of his wife was Sally A. Shepard; she was born in New Hartford, March 19, 1802, and died in the same place March 16, 1842. The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Lee was Alvin Shepard, and he was born in New Hartford, Conn., Nov. 30, 1773, a son of Daniel and Jerusha (Ensign) Shepard. He was a wood-turner by trade, but he subsequently became a fur dealer, going as far north as Montreal for his stock. Later in life he settled on a small farm near New Hartford, and died there May 3, 1854. The maiden name of his wife, Mrs. Lee's grandmother, was Sevila Holcomb. She was born in Granby, Hartford Co., Conn., and died on the home farm near New Hartford, in August, 1836.

Mr. Lee has been an interested witness of the growth and progress of Otoe County almost from the very beginning of its settlement by the white men. When he first came here the land had not come into market, and the settlements were confined to the streams. The first settlers had taken up the timber land, thinking that the most valuable, and

most of the land was held by squatters who were ready to sell their claims, whenever opportunity occurred, for from two to three times what the Government charged for it. The country round about was in a state of almost primeval wildness. Deer were plentiful, and wild turkeys and prairie chickens furnished many a delicious meal for the pioneers. No railways penetrated the Territory for some years, and steamers were constantly plying on the river. Our subject and his fellow-pioneers may well be proud that they have assisted in the development of such a grand and noble State as the Nebraska of to-day, from the sparsely settled, wild Territory of less than thirty years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee are active and influential members of the Congregational Church, he having joined in Ohio and she in Connecticut. They were charter members of the church in Nebraska City, and were active in securing the establishment of the church in their own neighborhood. They helped to organize the church, and he has been Deacon, Trustee and Treasurer, and Superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years. Mr. Lee is a strong temperance man, and so firmly believes that the temperance question is one of the great issues of the day that he carries it into politics like many others of his fellow-countrymen, and, whereas he was formerly for many years a Republican, he is now a Prohibitionist. Mr. Lee is Secretary of the Camp Creek Cemetery Association, and he has been connected with it in some official capacity since its organization in 1866. The cemetery was at that time laid out on a part of his farm. It is beautifully located on the southwest quarter of section 13, on a rise of ground that secures good drainage. It is tastefully laid out, and is indeed a lovely resting-place for the dead, and, with its sad and sacred associations, a hallowed spot for the living.

CAPT. FRED PAHDE. This is one of the best known and respected names in McWilliams Precinct, we had almost said in the county, and the gentleman who bears it is one of the most enterprising and successful farmers in the district, and also one of the most extensive stock-

raisers within the confines of Otoe County. He has lived in that precinct since the year 1863, and bought his land when the settlements made in the precinct might have been almost counted upon the fingers. He is one of the busy workers who seem never to tire of toil, always planning or executing, and here lies the secret of his success, if it be but understood and borne in mind that a bright, keen intelligence has directed him in his efforts.

Capt. Pahde first purchased 320 acres on sections 13 and 24, building his residence on the former section, on the North Branch of Nemaha Creek. He first lived in a log cabin, and continued to live in it for nine years. It is still in good preservation, and stands upon the original site. After that time it gave place to a better and more commodious structure, and he now has one of the best residences in the county, a large two-story brick house, with basement and all other buildings in keeping. His farm and ranch include over 700 acres of excellent land for his purposes, all being splendidly cultivated or otherwise improved. He has already given away to his children some 300 acres, and at one time owned over 1,000 acres in this county alone.

Previous to coming to Talmage our subject had lived in Gasconade County, Mo., for many years, in fact for the greater part of the time since he came to the United States, and also for a short time in the States of Illinois and Iowa. Until he came here he had followed agriculture, and owned 280 acres of land in Gasconade County. He was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 14th of December, 1808. His father, Zachariah Pahde, was a farmer, and had been from his youth. He died at the age of sixty-six years. The maiden name of his wife was Charlotta Overwertmann; she also attained the same advanced age.

The subject of our sketch was the eldest of four children born to his parents. He came to the United States two years before his brother August, who died later in Franklin County, after he had been married but a few years, leaving two children. When twenty years of age our subject enlisted in the German Army, and continued in the service for three years, and was retained as a militiaman until he came to the United States in the year 1838. He

landed upon American soil on New Year's Day, after a voyage in the sailing-vessel "Joanna," under charge of Capt. Minard Master. The trip lasted eight weeks and two days, and entered the port of New Orleans as above mentioned.

Upon starting life in this country our subject first proceeded up the Mississippi River to St. Louis, Mo.; the first three years he traveled around the country, working in different places as a farm laborer. At the end of that period he was married, and then settled in Gasconade County, and worked at teaming for about five years, when he bought his first land comprising 120 acres, upon which he lived until he came to this State, but not until after he had, at the outbreak of the war, raised a company of German citizens which was called Company J, and attached to the 54th Missouri Infantry. Of this company he was commissioned Captain on the 25th of August, 1862, and remained in command until the latter part of the year 1863, when, owing to a little difficulty with Col. Jail who was in command, he resigned his commission and left the regiment. Shortly after returning home he received a request from a daughter who was living in this State, which led him hither.

The record of our subject as a military man is that of a careful, but brave and daring soldier. His former experiences in his native country had done much to help him in service here. The principles that have governed his whole life controlled him while in the army. He made many friends, and was held in much respect by his men.

Capt. Pahde was married in Franklin County, Mo., in the year 1842, the lady of his choice being Miss Henrietta Krute. She also was born in Westphalia, and came to the United States alone in 1839. She was brought up and educated in her native country, and throughout her life manifested the results and fruit of her home training. She died at her home in this precinct, in 1888. She was then seventy-three years, four months and ten days old. Nine children had come to call her mother, three of whom are now deceased, viz: Henry, Frederick and Maria H. The surviving children bear the following names: Louisa Charlotte, now the wife of Henry Damma, of McWilliams Precinct; Fredericka W., wife of Henry M. Demme, of Wayne

County, Neb.; Catherina, wife of William Nemann, of Johnson County; John H., one of the prosperous farmers of McWilliams Precinct; Charlotte H., now Mrs. William Hustmann; John F., Jr., who is the husband of Louisa Batters, of this precinct. Each member of this family is strongly attached to the German Evangelical Church, and they have been members of the same from their youth.

Our subject is one of the staunch and doughty supporters of the Republican party, and does not feel right excepting when doing his utmost to advance the interests of the party when active work is required, as in the time of campaigns. He is energetic in such undertakings, and always works in a truly loyal and patriotic spirit.

**D**WIGHT A. PLYMPTON. This gentleman is a worthy representative of a family that has had every occasion to be proud of its lineage, descent and name. He is a very highly esteemed citizen and prosperous farmer on the southwest quarter of section 17, South Branch Precinct. Frederick Plympton, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Massachusetts, and was one of the prominent citizens in the closing decades of the last century and the early part of the present. His son Frederick, the father of our subject, was born in Sturbridge, Mass., in the year 1790. He served in the War of 1812 on the Canadian frontier. The chosen occupation of his life was that of a shoemaker, which he carried on for several years in Utica, N. Y. He became the husband of Mary Jones, who was born in Rutland, Vt., in 1795, after which they removed to Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where they made their home until 1847. The subsequent four or five years found them in Wood County, W. Va. In 1855 he settled on a piece of land in Clear Lake, Steuben Co., Ind., where the mother of our subject died Sept. 15, 1855; the father came to Nebraska in 1862 to live with his son Dwight, and here he made his home until his death, which occurred Jan. 14, 1875.

The family of which our subject was a member included three children, he being the eldest; Mar-

guerette L. and Benjamin J. He was born in Burton, Cattaraugus Co., N. Y., on the 28th of May, 1829. He continued at home with his father until he attained his majority. After leaving school, which he was not privileged to attend for long and the opportunities of which were quite limited, he went with his parents to Ohio. In 1852 the removal was made to Clinton County, Iowa, where 160 acres of land were purchased in 1863. He did not do the farming work himself, but was in the employ of the Sioux Indian Agency, and continued thus for two years. Then he moved to Keokuk County and engaged in farming for about four years.

In 1870 our subject came to this county, filed on forty acres of land near Palmyra, but staid there less than two years. He then went back to Nebraska City, and purchased eighty acres of land in its vicinity. There he continued farming until 1882, and then bought his present property of 160 acres, which he has thoroughly improved by buildings, orchards, shade trees, hedging, fencing, residence, etc. All this work has been done in a very thorough and perfect manner, with a view both to utility, duration, and as far as such was possible the beauty of effect and finish.

The marriage of Mr. Plympton was celebrated in Keokuk County, Iowa, on the 16th of February, 1865. He then received in marriage the hand of Abigail Badger, who was born in Oakland County, Mich., on the 8th of February, 1844, to Lester S. and Saphronia H. (Rockwell) Plympton, both of whom were natives of New York State. The calling of her father was that of farming; his death occurred when he was sixty-nine years of age, in Iowa, in 1864. Her mother, who is still living, and at the age of seventy-four, is now making her home in California with her son Ralph, who is a Methodist minister. She is the mother of thirteen children, whose names are recorded as follows: John, an infant deceased and unnamed, Hulda, David, Juliet, Abigail, Mariett, Rensellaer, Lydia, Armina, Clarrie, Charles and Sherman. David served through the late war in the 18th Iowa Infantry, serving chiefly in Missouri and Arkansas.

Four children have come to bless the union of Mr. and Mrs. Plympton, who bear the following names: Ethel, Frederick D., Robert M. and Saphro-

nia M. Ethel is happily married to James R. Colon, a farmer in Thomas County, Kan., and is the mother of one child, Elmer R. Mrs. Plympton is at present Postmistress in Burr Oak, and has held the position since 1885.

Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the South Russell Baptist Church. They are held in high esteem by the people of the district, and are much liked by all who know them. Politically, Mr. Plympton is and has always been a staunch friend of Democratic principles, and usually indorses its actions of diplomatic policy, supporting it by his influence and ballot.

**F**RED DEUTSCH. Among the respected German-American citizens of McWilliams Precinct our subject occupies an honorable position. He is very successful as a farmer and stock-raiser, and operates 160 acres of land on section 34. His land is well improved and provided with the various buildings, etc., necessary for his work. He has lived upon his present farm since the year 1871, and has made the property what it is.

Mr. Deutsch came to this place from Lee County, Iowa, which had been his home for twenty years, and had been engaged in farming for the greater part of the time. He was born in the Rhine Province of Byrnone, Germany, in the year 1822. His father, John Deutsch, was a prosperous German farmer. He died at the age of fifty-five years, in his native land, as did his wife, although she attained the riper age of seventy years before her demise. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Lena Bear.

Our subject was one of a large family; he lived with his parents in the old country home until he was about twenty years of age, when he came to this country and located in Lee County, where, May 8, 1851, he was married to Miss Lena Herstein, whose birthplace was almost identical with that of her husband. She was born on the 1st of May, 1821, to Christ and Mary (Gable) Herstein, both of whom died in Germany, about middle life. Mrs. Deutsch was reared by certain members of the Mennonite faith, who also instructed our subject.

She came to this country when thirty years old, and with other of her acquaintances settled in Lee County. She has been a true and faithful wife and noble woman, receiving the highest regard of her friends and neighbors and warmest affection of her husband and family. She is the mother of nine children, of whom five are now dead, viz: John, who was married to Minnie Brehmn, who is also deceased; they were the parents of two children—William F. and Lydia. The next child was Katie, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Mary, whose demise occurred when she was seventeen months old; Fred, who died when seven months old, and Jacob, when an infant of six weeks. The names of the living members of the family are: Lizzie, now Mrs. Herman Wendel, of Talmage; Mary, wife of Frank Meyer (see sketch of this gentleman); Anna and Fred.

In the year 1843, when about twenty-one years of age, and before his marriage, Mr. Deutsch, with a few companions, started out with an ox-team to explore the country west of the Missouri River, and traveled a considerable distance west of the Platte River, where they met the western explorer, Gen. John C. Fremont. The memory of our subject supplies many pleasing recollections and recalls numerous experiences connected with this trip, one of the happiest being connected with this meeting. They did not stop on their western journey until they reached the Pacific Slope and had gone through Oregon. In the spring of the following year the little band of thirty-six returned to Iowa, taking the journey on horseback. It was then that he determined to secure a home, which he has never regretted doing.

**T**HEODORE R. FRERICHS, Cashier of the Bank of Talmage, which is a State Bank, is, with the President, Peter Berlet, Esq., the successor of James Sweet & Co., who disposed of their interests in this institution in the fall of 1885. It is now successfully operated under a capital of \$20,000, with a surplus of \$4,000, and is numbered among the leading institutions of its kind in Southern Nebraska. The present management is ac-

credited with honesty and forethought, and the bank is patronized by the best business men and farmers on the southern line of the county.

The subject of this sketch came to Talmage from Nebraska City five years ago, and soon afterward was taken into the employ of James Sweet & Co. In consideration of strict attention to his duties, and the unquestioned honesty which has marked his career, he was chosen cashier under the former management, in which position he has been retained. He commenced his business career as a mercantile clerk in Nebraska City, of which he was a resident two years.

The native place of our subject, however, was in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, where he first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 20, 1859. At the age of twenty-one years he emigrated to America. He was the youngest child of his parents, whose family consisted of five sons and one daughter. The father, Frederick F. Frerichs, followed the trade of a shoemaker successfully, and died in his native Province in 1873, at the age of fifty-six years. In accordance with the laws of his country he had given a service of three years to the German Army before his marriage. His wife, the mother of our subject, was in her girlhood Miss Talka Teten, a native of the same Province as her husband, and of pure German ancestry. She is now a resident of the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, and is sixty-four years of age.

The brothers and sister of our subject are natives mostly of Germany. Theodore R., like them, was given a good education, and at the age of fourteen years commenced learning the confectionery trade, but did not follow it after setting foot upon American soil. He readily acquired American customs and the English language, the latter especially, being now able to read, write and talk with great fluency. After becoming a resident of Talmage he was married, Nov. 28, 1883, to Miss Mary Teten, a native of his own country, also born in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, on the 8th of June, 1865. She was brought to this country by her parents, Herman J. and Talca Mary (Kruse) Teten, when a child two years of age. They located in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, settling upon a tract of prairie land, from which the father built up a good

homestead and where the parents lived until the spring of 1879. Thence they removed to Barton County, Kan., and are now living at their ease in the village of Albert.

Mrs. Frerichs was reared to womanhood in this county and was educated in the common schools. Of her union with our subject there have been born two sons and one daughter—Richard T., Herman A. and Pearl A. Mr. and Mrs. F. began the journey of life together in Talmage, where they have lived since their marriage, and have gathered around them many friends. Our subject, politically, is an earnest supporter of Republican principles, and for three years has been Village Treasurer, also Treasurer of the School Board. He takes kindly to the institutions of his adopted country, having become thoroughly Americanized and identified with its interests. He has kept his eyes open to what was going on around him in the world, and is fast attaining to the position of a leading citizen in his community.

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**E**UZENIUS WILHELM, the owner of a farm of 320 acres on section 25, Belmont Precinct, was born in Saxony, Prussia, on the 3d of May, 1817, to Anton and Ephie Wilhelm. Our subject was brought up and educated in his native place, and came to the United States in 1837. Upon arriving at New York he made his way to Philadelphia, where he remained for about one year, and then went to Indiana, and from that State, later, proceeded to New Orleans, where he continued for four years, working at his trade, which was that of a carpenter. Leaving New Orleans our subject went to Atchison County, Mo., in the year 1841, and from there in 1850 to California, where he was mining gold for four years, after which he returned to Missouri, and in the fall of 1855 came to this county, which presented a very different appearance to what it does at present.

On the site of Nebraska City at the time Mr. Wilhelm arrived there was nothing excepting the old empty dismantled fort and a few log cabins, but very shortly after building began and settlers arrived. Our subject has been a very hard worker,

and has been largely connected with the lumber and milling interests. He put up the first steam sawmill in Nebraska City, and was the first to saw lumber by the aid of steam in that city, if not, indeed, in the State. He continued to run the mill for about twenty years, and made a large amount of money there. He settled upon his present farm in 1870, but had owned it since 1862, and gradually improved it as he found opportunity.

The subject of this sketch was married, in January, 1837, to Martha Herget, who, like himself, is a native of Prussia. Six children have been born to them, but only two are now living, viz: Mary and John. Mary married Gust Mitchner, of Rock Creek Precinct, and has five children, whose names are as follows: William, Henry, Rosa, Josephine and Mary. John married Eva Warton, and lives in Four Mile Precinct, and they are the parents of three children.

Mr. Wilhelm and his family are members of the Catholic Church, and attend the services at Nebraska City. He has made whatever has attended his life by simply continuous hard work and excellent thrift, in which he has always been assisted by his excellent wife. Politically, he is a member of the Democratic body, and votes the ticket presented by it. Mr. Wilhelm also has 320 acres of good land in Palmyra Precinct, this county.



**J**OSEPH DAVIS, well known among the business men of Nebraska City, has officiated as night watchman around its leading business houses for the past eight years. This fact alone indicates his reliability, and the standing which he occupies in the community. He has a remarkably pleasant home in the northwestern part of the city, a neat dwelling handsomely furnished, and presided over by a very estimable lady, who has for some time carried on a very successful dressmaking establishment, which is patronized by the fashionable ladies of the city.

The subject of this sketch was born on the farm of his father near Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 11, 1833, and was there reared until a youth of seventeen years. He is the son of Joseph and Lucy

(Herrin) Davis, the former a native of South Carolina and the latter of Scotland. The mother came with her parents to the United States early in life, and after their marriage Joseph and Lucy Davis settled on a farm in Hopkins County, Ky., where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father, a slave-holder, carried on agriculture successfully, and died in 1869, at the age of seventy-seven years. The mother preceded her husband to the silent land, her death taking place when she was scarcely middle-aged, being forty years old.

Joseph Davis occupied his Kentucky homestead for more than fifty years, and in the meantime drew around him a large circle of friends and acquaintances. The parental household included seven children, namely: John, David, William D., Robert H., Verine, Daniel H. and Joseph. They were given a common-school education, and Joseph, upon leaving home, began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade. The father was wealthy, but Joseph realized that riches sometimes take wings, and resolved to secure himself against future want by becoming master of a trade. One spring, however, when work was very pressing, he overheated himself, and at the same time was injured by a horse which he was shoeing, and for a long time afterward suffered a serious illness, which threatened to place him in an early grave.

About this time the California gold fever was raging at its height, and young Davis, more in quest of health than riches, determined to seek the Pacific Slope. He set out in company with nineteen of his acquaintances, and proceeded first to New York City, whence they boarded a steamer, intending to make the trip via the Isthmus of Panama. The steamer became disabled before reaching her destination, and was only able to proceed very slowly, during which time both passengers and crew were almost starved. They, however, finally safely arrived in San Francisco, and in due time the bracing air of California had its desired effect upon our subject, strengthening him to such an extent that he was soon enabled to work in the mines. He purchased a claim in the Placer diggings, which proved very profitable, and became member of a stock company of four, who labored together until late in the season, and then retired into winter quarters,

with the agreement that each should appear promptly on their respective claims April 2d of the following spring.

This compact was, however, very difficult to carry out, as the snowdrifts impeded the passage, so that our subject was delayed a day, not being able to put in an appearance until April 3. He found his claim taken by other parties, and thus lost it. He then turned his attention to mining in other districts of California, where he continued for a period of six years with results quite satisfactory.

Our subject, while a resident of California, made the acquaintance of a charming young lady, Miss Nellie McCallum, who became his wife Jan. 22, 1866, their marriage taking place on Vancouver's Island. Afterward they took an extensive tour on the Pacific Slope, traveling through California, Oregon and Washington Territory, visiting the city of Portland and other important points, and finally started for the old home of our subject in Kentucky. Arriving there, Mr. Davis found his father seriously ill, and he remained with him until his death, which took place in October, 1867.

After this sad event Mr. and Mrs. Davis started on the return trip to California, taking in St. Louis and Nebraska City on the way. At this latter point Mr. Davis was taken desperately ill with smallpox, which for days threatened his life, but he finally recovered, about one month from the time of being taken down, and then decided to tarry awhile in this region. He accordingly purchased three lots and a small house in the vicinity of his present residence, and occupied himself as a painter, which trade he had learned in California. He continued at this a number of years with excellent results. By writing he learned that his property had passed out of his hands by default. He, however, resolved to make the best of circumstances, and, by the assistance of his excellent and sensible wife, has an attractive and comfortable home and is surrounded by the good things of life. The family residence, which was put up by our subject in the summer of 1887, is a tasteful and substantial structure in the midst of pleasant surroundings, and is in a choice locality on Second avenue.

Mr. Davis, like all genuine Kentuckians, is a

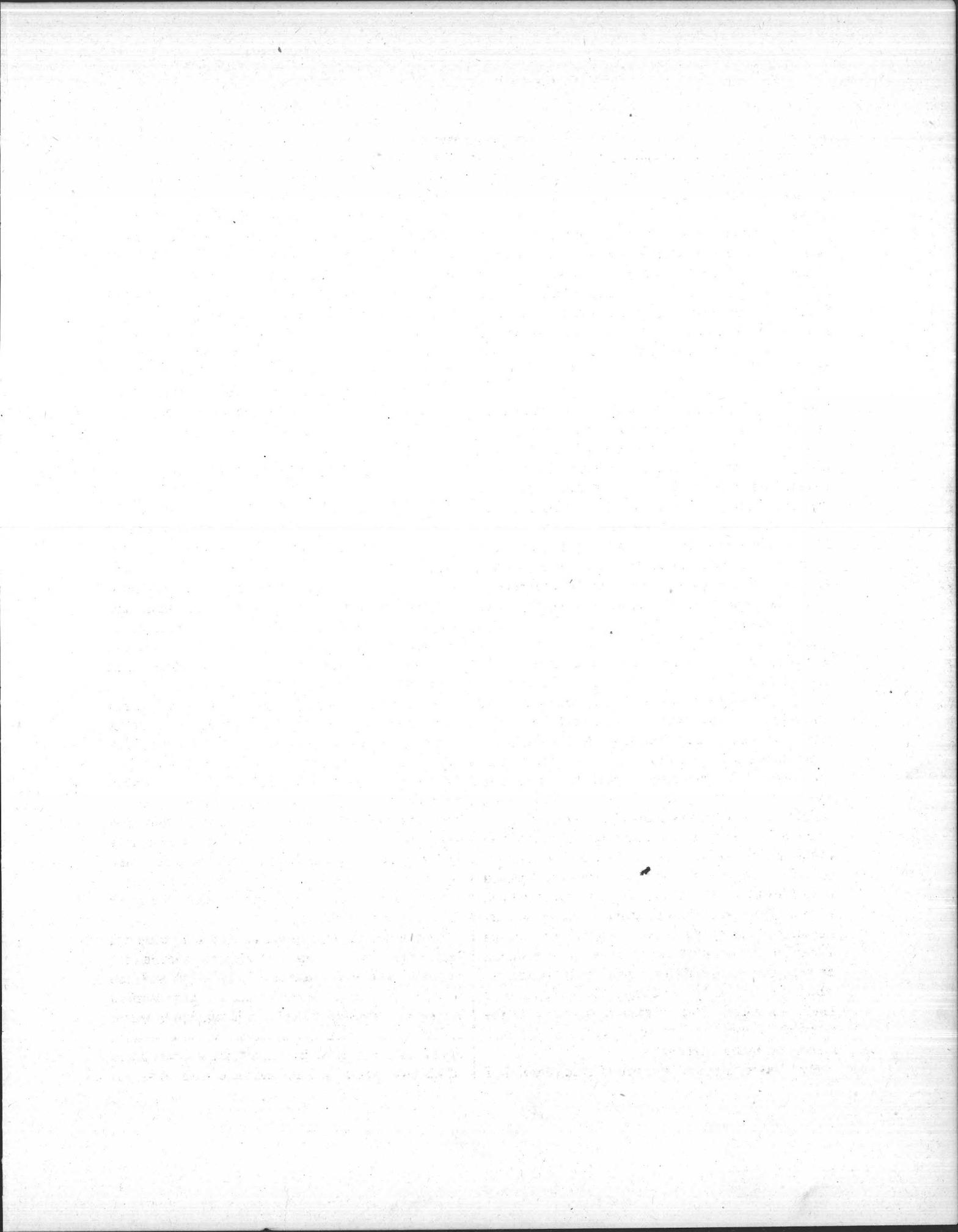
great lover of good horses and cattle, and, although living in the heart of the city, points with pardonable pride to the inmates of his barn, which include some fine Jersey cows and a span of beautiful and valuable horses. Our subject and his excellent wife have no children of their own, but are performing the part of kind parents to an adopted daughter, Dora, who is now thirteen years of age. Mr. Davis has an interest in some of the silver mines of Colorado, from the proceeds of which he realizes sufficiently to pay him for his time and trouble in looking after them. He is a man of decided views, and a staunch supporter of Democratic principles.

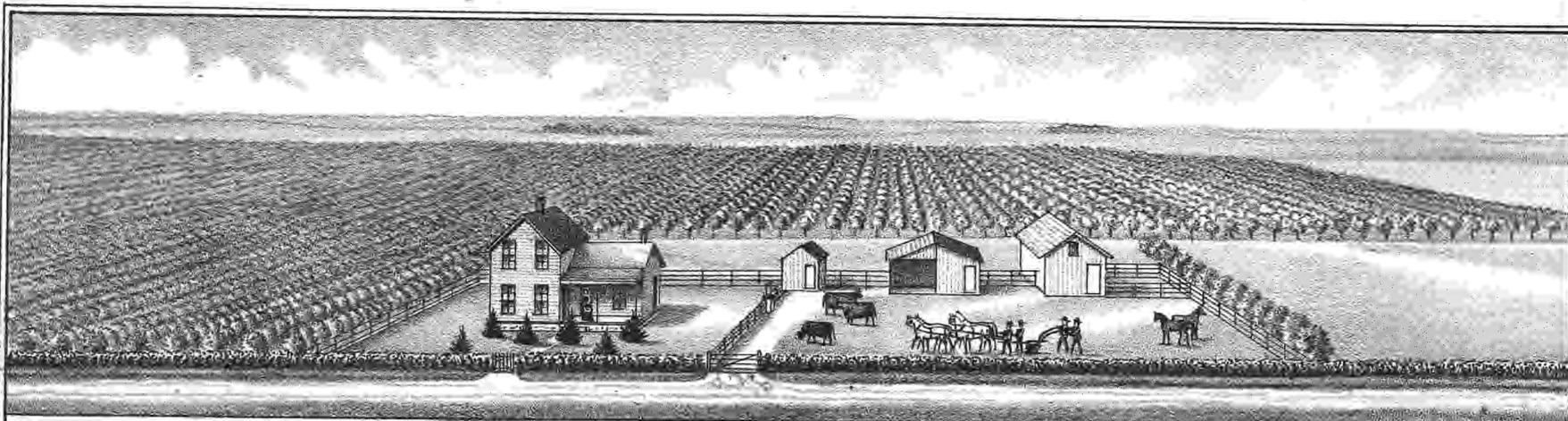


**J**OHN SCHMITZ, who is prominently known throughout Rock Creek Precinct, is one of its most successful and progressive farmers, and the owner of 240 acres of valuable land, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. He has a set of substantial frame buildings, including a dwelling, with barn and outhouses, an orchard of apple trees and the smaller fruits, and everything calculated for his own comfort and those dependent upon him.

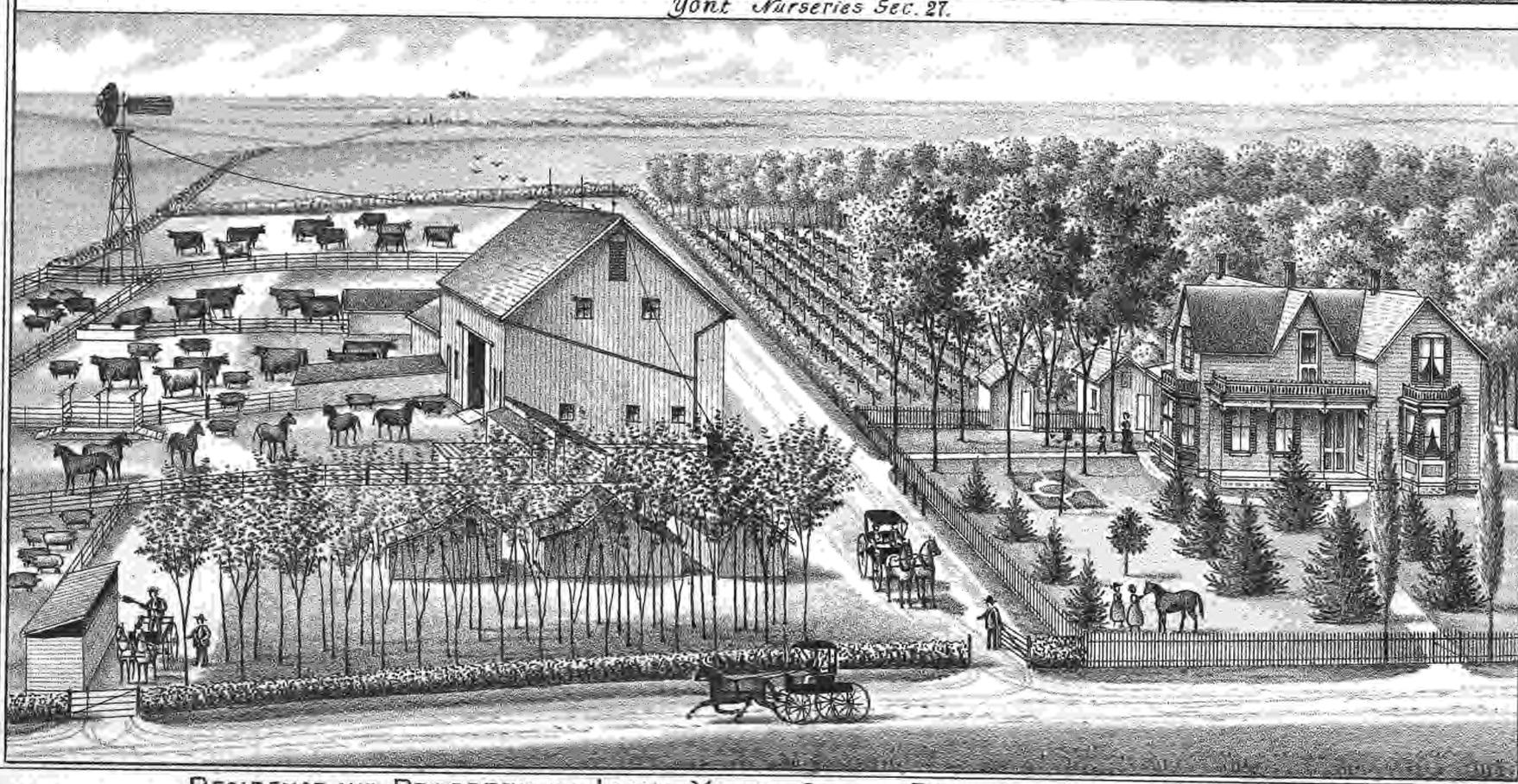
Mr. Schmitz came to Nebraska from Lorain County, Ohio, of which he had been a resident for a period of ten years. His native State was Wisconsin, and he was born in Jefferson County, Oct. 14, 1842. While a young child, his parents removed to Fond du Lac County, where he was reared and educated, and whence he emigrated to Ohio after reaching his majority. He came to this county in the spring of 1874, locating on the land which he now owns and occupies, and which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie land to one of the best farms in the precinct.

Our subject is of substantial German ancestry, being the son of Peter and Margret (Schneider) Schmitz, who were natives of Germany, and are now living in Rock Creek Precinct. The parental household consisted of eight children, five of whom are living, and making their homes in Otoe County. John, after laying the foundation for a future home of his own, was united in marriage with Miss Jo-





*Yont Nurseries Sec. 27.*



RESIDENCE AND PROPERTY OF JOHN YONT, SEC. 28. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT, OTOE CO.

hanna Seifert, a native of Prussia, who emigrated to America with her parents when a young woman. After setting foot upon American soil they came directly to the West, and located at once in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where they are still living in the enjoyment of a comfortable home, the father successfully carrying on farming.

Mrs. Schmitz received an excellent education in the German tongue, and has been the true helpmate of her husband in all respects. She is a lady possessing many womanly virtues, intelligent as a companion, methodical and careful as a housekeeper. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: Henry, born Dec. 6, 1875, and Emanuel, Dec. 1, 1885. Mr. Schmitz, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the German Catholic Church, attending religious services in Rock Creek Precinct. He is a member of the School Board of his district, and is imbued with the sentiments of his ancestry in regard to the thorough education of the young. As a farmer, he is thorough and skillful, and as a business man, prompt to meet his obligations, thus distinguishing himself as an honest man and a good citizen, and, possessing these qualities, is considered one of the most valued members of his community. His farm is not only a credit to himself but to this county, with whose interests he has been identified now for a period of thirteen years.



**J**OHN YONT. There are few more intelligent and well-informed men in the farming community of Rock Creek Precinct than the subject of this sketch. In addition to the tilling of the soil he is quite extensively engaged in stock-raising, and has one of the finest homesteads in the precinct. His property embraces 480 acres of land, on sections 27, 28, 33 and 34. The homestead proper comprises the southeast quarter of section 28, his first possession in this county, and is supplied with first-class buildings. The residence is particularly noticeable, being of a pleasing style of architecture, handsomely furnished, and attract-

ive in its surroundings. There is an abundance of fruit and shade trees, and an apple orchard of 700 trees in good bearing condition.

Mr. Yont crossed the Mississippi in the spring of 1857, and lived one year in Des Moines County, Iowa. He came to Nebraska in 1858, and on the 19th of July, 1859, secured his pre-emption claim, although he did not take up his residence here until ten years later. During the first four years of his residence in Nebraska he worked by the month; after that he bought a team and began freighting across the plains from Nebraska City to various points in the West, frequently going as far as Julesburg, Col. This business he followed about eight years. In the meantime he became fully acquainted with the dangers and difficulties of life on the frontier, meeting all sorts of men, and frequently having to use considerable strategy to keep out of trouble. While camping out and keeping bachelor's hall he also learned to be a good cook. He first began the improvement of his farm in the spring of 1871, putting up his first substantial building that year. He had prior to this erected a shanty, and made things as comfortable as possible until he could do better.

Our subject, a native of Pennsylvania, was born near the city of Pittsburgh, April 25, 1838. His parents, John and Agatha (Derterly) Yont, were natives of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, the father born in 1800. They were reared and married in their native Province, and John Yont, Sr., learned the trade of stonemason, which he followed considerably, and also engaged in farming. After coming to the United States the parents settled in Pennsylvania, and the father occupied himself at his trade and at farming near the city of Pittsburgh. He was prospered in his labors, and made many friends among the people of his community.

The mother died there after having nearly attained her threescore years. The father later joined his son, our subject, in Nebraska, and died at the home of the latter, Oct. 19, 1877, at the age of seventy years. Both he and his excellent wife were members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and the father for a time after coming to this country voted with the old Whig party. Later, how-

ever, he identified himself with the Democracy, the principles of which he supported until his death.

John Yont was the seventh child in a family of three sons and seven daughters, of whom himself and three of his sisters are living. Two of these continue residents of Pennsylvania, and one lives in Nemaha County, this State. John remained under the home roof until coming to the West. On the 24th of December, 1865, he was married, in Sidney, Iowa, to Miss Sophia Atkinson, who was born in Pennsylvania near the childhood home of our subject, Nov. 10, 1842. Her parents, James and Elizabeth (Miller) Atkinson, were of American birth, but of Irish and Dutch descent respectively. They lived in Pennsylvania after their marriage for a time, and then emigrated with their little family to the West, while Mrs. Yont was a small child. They first took up their residence in Fremont County, Iowa, the father pre-empting land near the embryo town of Sidney, where he improved a good farm, and where the mother died ripe in years, Oct. 15, 1872. The father later joined his children in Nebraska, and now makes his home with his daughter, Mrs. Muir, of Rock Creek Precinct, this county, being seventy-eight years old. After coming West one more child was added to the household circle, and the family in all consisted of four sons and three daughters. Five of these are living, one resides in Washington Territory, one in Minneapolis, and the others in Nebraska.

Mrs. Yont received her education in the pioneer schools of Fremont County, Iowa, and remained with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of eight children. The eldest son, Charles A., is a successful teacher in the public schools of this county; Edwin C., Jesse G., Alonzo E., Rose and Lilly (twins), Victor and Etta are all at home with their parents. They are a very intelligent and interesting group, and will be given the advantages in keeping with their station in life. Edwin C. and Jesse are graduates of the Business College at Lincoln; Charles A. attended the Nebraska State University and also the Normal School, and is thoroughly qualified for his chosen profession.

The wife of our subject is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Yont takes a warm

interest in the temperance movement, and since 1885 has voted with the Prohibitionists. He is a man in whom his fellow-citizens have abundant confidence, and has held various local offices. The family are widely known and highly respected for their intelligence and sterling worth, and their handsome home, a view of which is shown on another page, is one of the most pleasant and hospitable resorts to be found in the State of Nebraska.



**W**ALTER S. EIS, one of the most energetic and prosperous farmers of Russell Precinct, owns and operates 160 acres of land comprising the southeast quarter of section 31. During the six years of his residence here he has effected good improvements, and distinguished himself as a man of more than ordinary business abilities, besides being a thorough and skillful agriculturist. The home and its surroundings is one of the most attractive in this part of the county. The wife of our subject, a very intelligent and capable lady, presides over his domestic affairs in the most praiseworthy manner, and performs her part in maintaining the reputation of the homestead as a place to which it is very pleasant to repair both for friend and stranger.

Our subject is of German ancestry on the father's side, Jacob Eis having been born in Prussia, whence he emigrated with his father when a youth of sixteen years. They settled first in Ohio, and Jacob, six years later, desiring to see something of the Great West made his way across the Mississippi into Muscatine County, Iowa, where he was employed by the month on a farm until 1861. He had in the meantime with genuine German thrift and prudence saved up a snug sum of money, which he invested in forty acres of land, and began farming on his own account. He made considerable improvement, and as time passed on added to his real estate, so that he is now the owner of 220 acres, all of which he has brought to a good state of cultivation, and now has first-class buildings, all the modern machinery, a fair assortment of live stock, and the general appurtenances of a modern country estate. In short, he has accumulated a competence for his old age.

Jacob Eis in early manhood had married Miss Mary Irwin, who was born near the city of Pittsburgh, Pa. She came with her family to the Hawkeye State, and died in Muscatine County, in April, 1861. Of this union there were born four children—John D., Charles H., Walter S. (our subject) and Boardman A. The three brothers of Walter S. are residents of Nebraska.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Eis was married to her sister Rebecca, who died at her home in Muscatine County, Iowa, May 27, 1884. Of this union there were born eight children, namely: Elry J., Albert N., Abraham L., Gracie E., Jacob M., Rosa, Alice and Arthur G.

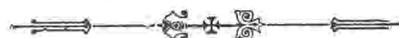
Walter S. Eis was born in Muscatine County, Iowa, Jan. 24, 1858, and remained upon the farm with his father until twenty-four years of age. He had in the meantime acquired a common-school education, and became familiar with the various details of farm life. He was now married, and in the spring of 1882 came to this county and located on his present farm in Russell Precinct. The improvements which the passing traveler admires with interest are the result of the industry of the proprietor, and indicate that he has spent very few idle hours. He has considerable wire fencing around his fields, an orchard embracing three acres, and the choicest of apple trees besides the smaller fruits, while the healthy groves form a shelter from the heat of summer and the winds of winter, both to man and beast.

Our subject was first married in his native county Feb. 2, 1882, to Miss Effie M., daughter of Andrew and Mary (Eaton) Baker. Her father farms on eighty acres of land in Muscatine County. The mother died in November, 1880, at the age of forty-nine years. The household circle included four children, three sons and one daughter, the brothers of Mrs. Eis being John, Theodore and Charles. Mrs. E. was born in Muscatine County, June 2, 1862, and by her union with our subject became the mother of two children, sons—Hugh and Boardman. She departed this life at her home in Russell Precinct, Oct. 12, 1885.

Mr. Eis contracted a second matrimonial alliance on the 10th of November, 1886, with Miss Jennie Palmer, who was born near Fowlersville, Mich., June 5, 1863. Mrs. Jennie Eis is the daughter of

S. S. and Hattie L. (Evans) Palmer, the former a native of Baltimore, Md., and the latter of Michigan. They are both living, and reside near Davenport, Iowa, where the father is engaged in farming. The family consists of four children, three daughters and one son, namely: Jennie, Clara, Eugene and Eva.

To our subject and his present wife there has been born one child, a son, Guy R. Mrs. Eis is a member in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has been quite active in local politics, and in the fall of 1887 was sent as a delegate to the Republican County Convention. He has served as School Director in his district for a term of five years.



**W**ALLACE MUNN, a well-to-do farmer of Berlin Precinct, is in possession of one of its best regulated farms and most attractive homes. He owns and operates the northeast quarter of section 12, and his household is presided over by his daughter Laura, a very intelligent and well-educated young lady, formerly a teacher.

Wayne County, Ohio, was the early tramping ground of our subject, and where his birth took place at the modest homestead of his parents, Sept. 12, 1838. The latter were Bethuel and Arvilla (Jones) Munn, natives of New York State. Grandfather Munn was of Scotch descent, and a butcher by trade, which he followed in New York City for a number of years. Bethuel Munn in early life learned millwrighting, which he followed in his native State until his removal to the West. This journey was accomplished about 1829, he locating among the pioneers of Wayne County, Ohio, where he took up 160 acres of timber land, upon which he lived and labored until his death, in 1854, at the age of sixty-two years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land ten years, her death taking place in 1844, when she was but thirty-nine years old. Their family consisted of nine children, who were named respectively: Darwin, deceased; Abijah; Silas, deceased; Mortimer, Eugene; Wallace, our subject, and his twin brother

Warren, who, in the fall of 1888, moved to Florida; Jane and Arvilla. Seven of these are living, making their homes mostly in Nebraska.

Our subject after the death of his father began an apprenticeship at the cabinet trade, in Wooster, Ohio. His education had comprised a period of three years spent in the common school. He continued in his native State until the spring of 1859, then made his way across the Mississippi to Pettis County, Mo., where he spent the following summer, and thence migrated to Des Moines, Iowa. Being seized with a fit of homesickness he started back to Missouri on foot, but at Indianola met a party coming to Nebraska City and joined them, but after reaching this place concluded to move on, and went down the Missouri to Georgetown, Mo., where he resumed his trade, forming a partnership with William Dorsey in the cabinet and undertaking business, and lived there until 1861.

Mr. Munn now decided to revisit Nebraska, but again took in Ft. Des Moines, and remained there until December, 1861, and from there returned to his native State. He farmed on the old homestead thereafter for two years, and in the spring of 1865 went overland to Salt Lake, and from there to Virginia City, Mont., and wintered in Boulder Valley, Mont.; he then began freighting across the plains through Wyoming to Helena, Mont. In the fall of 1866 our subject returned to Ohio, where he was married in 1867, and, settling in Defiance County, was employed in an oar factory until the fall of 1867.

Mr. Munn, in the spring of 1868, came to this county, determined to make permanent settlement, and purchased the land which he now owns and occupies, paying for it the sum of \$1,750. He at once commenced the improvement of his purchase, hauling building material from Nebraska City. He set out groves, an orchard of apple and cherry trees, put up a house and barn, and has added those little embellishments from time to time which have so much to do in promoting the comfort and enjoyment of a family. His land possesses many natural advantages, among them one of the finest springs in the county. His fields are divided by hedge and wire fencing, and, besides raising corn and grain in large quantities, Mr. Munn makes a

specialty of stock-raising, and feeds annually large numbers of cattle and swine, while he has a number of good horses. Besides his property in this county he has a timber claim in Thomas County, Kan. He has suffered most of the hardships of life in a new county, battling with grasshoppers, drouth, etc., but has come out of it all with flying colors.

Our subject was married in Wayne County, Ohio, Feb. 28, 1867, to Miss Mary Groff, who was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Feb. 2, 1842. This lady became the mother of five children, and departed this life at her home in Berlin Precinct, Dec. 10, 1887. The eldest child of our subject is his only son, Silas. The daughters are Laura, Edith, Iola and Maude; they are all at home with their father. Mr. Munn votes the straight Democratic ticket, has served on the Grand and Petit Juries, and has been an efficient worker in his party, being frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He has also served on the School Board of his precinct several years. His children are bright and intelligent, are being given a thorough education, and trained in the principles of religion and morality. They attend the Good Will Sunday-school. The daughter Laura, who has taken the mother's place in the household, is discharging her filial duties in a most creditable and praiseworthy manner. Mr. Munn has been quite a traveler in his time, his journeyings extending over a large portion of the West.



**J**OHN F. RENKEN. The career of this old and highly respected resident of Rock Creek Precinct has been that of an industrious and successful farmer, who, having secured a competency, is now living retired from active labor at his fine homestead on section 30. Upon this he has lived for a period of twenty-nine years, having settled upon the land which he had pre-empted from the Government in the spring of 1859. The farm is 146 acres in extent, has been brought to a fine state of cultivation, and is well supplied with good buildings. Stock-raising has formed one of the important features of the place.

In addition to the home farm Mr. Renken owns

other land in this county to the extent of 224 acres, all of which is improved and in a productive condition. He came to this county during the period of its early settlement, and when the small town of Nebraska City was his nearest market. He migrated to Nebraska from Madison County, Ill., of which he had been a resident five years, and where he had settled upon his emigration from his native land. He was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, April 6, 1827, and is the son of Henry Renken, who was of pure German ancestry, and joined his son, John F., in this country in the spring of 1868, when quite well advanced in years. He had been accompanied across the Atlantic by another son, and settled in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where his death took place in 1872, after he had arrived at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He had followed farming all his life, and had presented the example of an honest man and good citizen. He had been trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran religion, and to these adhered faithfully until he passed away. The mother, Mrs. Anna (Engle) Renken, died at the old home in Germany in 1860, at the age of seventy years.

The subject of this sketch was reared at home with his two brothers and one sister, and received a fair education in the schools of his native Kingdom. After leaving school he was employed at farming mostly, and was twenty-seven years of age and unmarried when he came to the United States. Not long after settling in Madison County, Ill., he took unto himself a wife and helpmate, Miss Catherine Tietken, who was born in Germany not far from the childhood home of her husband. Her father died in 1887, and her mother in 1872, in Germany. She joined her brother in the United States in 1856, when she was twenty-five years old. Of her marriage with our subject there have been born eight children, four of whom are deceased, namely: Herman (1st), John, Herman and Anna E. Those surviving are: Henry, who is employed as a clerk in a general store at Talmage; E. Margaret, at home with her parents; John F., Jr., a teacher in a school of the Lutheran Church in Woodford County, Ill., and William, who remains with his parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Renken not long after their marriage settled upon a farm in Madison County, Ill.,

but in 1859 crossed the Mississippi. Our subject has given his attention strictly to agricultural pursuits since coming to America. He and his family are connected with the Lutheran Church, in which Mrs. Renken is a Class-Leader and an interested worker, warmly devoted to her religious duties. Politically, our subject votes the straight Republican ticket. He meddles very little with politics and has no aspirations for office. Mr. Renken held the office of School Director for a term of eighteen years.



**E**NOCH G. KING, the young, competent and enterprising pharmacist at Dunbar, Delaware Precinct, was born on the 27th of June, 1860, in Logan County, Ill., near Atlanta. His father, Cyrus King, was born in Clarke County, Ohio, in the year 1822, and by occupation was a farmer. The maiden name of his mother was Mary George. She was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, in the year 1824. After their marriage his parents made their home in Illinois. Their home circle included four children—our subject, James E., Robert C. and Elnora.

The subject of our sketch was reared upon a farm and received his education in the district schools, after which he attended the Northern Indiana Normal School, at Valparaiso, Ind. In the year 1884 he came to this State and stopped at Dunbar. Until the following spring he engaged in teaching in that vicinity, and then went to Berlin, in this county. There he continued teaching for six months, which made two years he had been thus engaged. He then entered the store of Mr. Allen as drug clerk, continuing until March of 1886, when he became the partner of Mr. Allen in the drug-store at Dunbar. The following March he purchased the entire business, and has since that time run it alone. He carries a full line of drugs and medicines, which he supplements with such articles as are usually found in similar stores in towns of the same size as Dunbar, including clocks, watches and jewelry, various articles used in house decoration, books, stationery, etc.

On the 20th of September, 1887, our subject was joined in matrimony with Miss Lou Jones, the

daughter of Robert and Mercy Jones, of Dunbar. Her father being deceased, her mother is living with them. Mrs. King is a devout member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and our subject attends the same congregation. Although not a church member, he is a liberal supporter of religious and benevolent institutions.

Mr. King is a staunch Republican, and the fact that, entirely unsought by him, he was appointed Postmaster here on the 25th of September, 1888, testifies abundantly to the esteem in which he is held and his popularity as a man and citizen. Prior to her marriage the wife of our subject held the office of Postmistress for three years.



**F**OLKERT FASS, Recorder of Deeds of Otoe County, is performing the duties of his office with honor to himself and to the satisfaction of his constituents. He is a resident of Nebraska City, and has made his home here for several years. He is an intelligent, well-informed man, has traveled quite extensively in the Western States and Territories, and has seen much of frontier life. He was born in the Province of Hanover, Germany, March 26, 1849. His father, Conrad Fass, was born in the same locality, and there spent his entire life, being for many years actively engaged in the general mercantile business. He was an upright, honest man, well worthy of the confidence in which he was held by his fellow-citizens. His estimable wife, whose maiden name was Annie Margaret Farkers, was a native of the same place as himself, and a lifelong resident there. Six of the children born to her and her husband grew to maturity, namely: John B., Mary C., Herman H., Folkert, Annie M. and Gesine Fredericka. The subject of this sketch and his brother Herman are the only members of the family who live in America. The latter is married and lives in Nebraska City.

Folkert Fass, of whom we write, obtained a liberal education in the schools of his native land, which he attended quite steadily until he was sixteen years of age. In 1868, when he was but nineteen years of age, he ambitiously decided to try his fortunes in the New World, and immediately after

landing in this country he made his way directly to Missouri. He staid there but a short time, however, and then came to Nebraska City, arriving here in the fall of that year. In December he returned to Missouri, and in the following summer, in company with a number of others, started from that point, with a pair of mules and a wagon, to drive to Dallas, Tex., then a small town. After spending a short time there our subject started on a pedestrian tour to Louisville, Denton County, taking provisions with him and cooking and camping by the way. He lived there nearly a year, and then resumed his journey across the wilds of Texas to the Rio Grande. A part of the journey lay through an uncultivated country, where antelopes, deer and other wild game abounded, and Indians still made their homes there. He soon returned to Louisville, and from there went to the Indian Territory and visited Ft. Smith, from whence he crossed the mountains to Arkansas, and at Marysville, that State, sold his team and took passage in a stage for Missouri. At that time there was a line of railway completed to Indian Territory, and in 1872 Mr. Fass went by rail to that part of the country, whence he went to Ft. Scott, Kan., and from there to Kansas City. In December of that year he again returned to Carrolton, Mo., and once more started with a team from there and came to Nebraska City, of which he has since been a continuous resident.

Thus ended our subject's travels, which had taken him over many hundred miles of this country, and he being an observing, wide-awake man, profited much by his fine opportunities for gaining knowledge of its many and varied resources, laying up a good fund of information, besides having a thorough experience of life on the frontier. We are sorry that the brief limits of this sketch will not permit us to record some of the interesting incidents of his journeyings to and fro, or to describe some of the scenes that he passed through. In the fall of 1887 Mr. Fass was elected to his present office as Recorder of Deeds, and by his faithful and conscientious discharge of his work has shown himself well worthy of the trust reposed in him by his fellow-citizens, and proved himself to be an efficient public official.

Our subject has a pleasant home, rendered cozy

and comfortable by the wife to whom he was united in marriage in May, 1876. Mrs. Fass was formerly Miss Mary Winkler, a native of Germany, who came to America with her mother and grandmother when she was five years of age, and was reared in Chicago, Ill. Of their union three children have been born—Gesine M., George C. F. and Elbe. In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Fass returned to their old home in Germany, and spent a few pleasant weeks amid the scenes of their youth.



**HON. DAUERSE NEFF.** This name will bring before the minds of many readers of this volume a face and character well known, and that by no means unfavorably, for the subject of this sketch is one of the most valued citizens of Syracuse. Through years of manhood he has toiled in order to better his position in life, but has always found time and opportunity to give expression to his devotion to the interests of the community of which he is a resident. In the comparative retirement from active affairs which he elects to enjoy he finds the reward of former years of untiring effort and persevering industry. He has been a resident of Otoe County since 1877, and in the years since that time has impressed all who know him with a sense of his high character, large business capacity and sterling worth.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 21st of May, 1834, in New Lisbon, Otsego Co., N. Y., and is the son of Silas and Polly Neff, who were likewise natives of the Empire State, and died in New Lisbon. Our subject was one of four children born to them, one of whom was a daughter. By a former marriage Mr. Neff, Sr., had become the parent of eight other children. By trade he was a carpenter, which he followed with considerable success. He died when our subject was but eleven years of age, leaving his widow to bring up unassisted the children whom it had been his hope to have seen enter their various paths in life and to have helped them in the same.

Until he attained his majority the subject of this sketch continued to work upon a farm, and there laid the foundation, in habits of thought and industry, for

future success and prosperity. In December, 1854, he went to LaFayette County, Wis., where he followed the joint occupations of farming and school teaching. Three years later he purchased an interest in a general store at Calamine, Wis., which continued for five years under the firm name of Smith & Neff; later he became the sole proprietor, and so continued until 1877, by which time the business had very largely increased, and he had become interested in the lumber trade, and also in grain. In each of these enterprises fortune favored our subject, and he continued to progress in them year by year. He came to Syracuse, as was noted above, in 1877, and immediately engaged in mercantile pursuits. Somewhat later he associated with a gentleman in business under the firm name of D. Neff & Co., after which he again embarked in the grain trade. This he continued until January, 1887, when he removed from a direct interest in the business, and has since lived a somewhat retired life. Two reasons led up to this step—first, that he had a competency sufficient to warrant the step; secondly, and chiefly, because his hearing failed him very rapidly, leaving him almost without any power in that direction.

Mr. Neff is still the owner of two well-improved and admirably cultivated farms, each of 160 acres in extent; also a half-interest in a store at Hildreth, in this State, which is operated by his brother Franklin, under the firm name of Neff Bros. This was the first store established in that place, and is still one of the leading houses of business. He is also a Director of the First National Bank of Syracuse, the responsibilities of which office, linked with his other business interests, leave him sufficient to do to relieve the tedium of a life that would otherwise be exceedingly dull to one who has been so constantly active as our subject.

Mr. Neff was married, on the 9th of February, 1863, to Harriet A., daughter of Rev. Hewitt and Julia M. (Howell) Fitch. The father of this lady was a native of New Lisbon, N. Y., and a clergyman of the Baptist Church. He served in this sacred office for a period of thirteen years at Edmundton Centre, N. Y. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Neff has been blessed and its felicities much augmented by the birth of four children, of whom

they have been privileged to rear three, viz: Clarence, Homer and Walter. Their daughter Mattie died at the age of ten years.

Mrs. Neff is an earnest, devoted member of the Baptist Church, and is most highly esteemed by reason of the beautiful Christian life which adorns her profession. Our subject, although not a member of the church, is a true friend of good morals and every social virtue. His own character and social status were such as to commend him to his fellow-citizens, so much so that he was called upon to represent them in his district while a resident in the State of Wisconsin, in the Legislature of that State. He also served as Justice of the Peace, and since coming to Nebraska has held several offices and trusts. He is a staunch Republican, and has always been accounted a true friend to the party and a loyal citizen. It is his pleasure to number among his friends all the best citizens of the county, by whom also he is much respected. His life is an instance of what may be accomplished by noble, vigorous, manly effort and endeavor.



**R**EV. THOMAS L. AUSTIN, a resident of Rock Creek Precinct, and Postmaster at Julian, labored for a number of years in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, but of late has given his attention largely to agricultural pursuits. He has a fine farm of 240 acres, located on section 36, of which he took possession in May, 1870, when its condition was in wide contrast to that of the present. It was then an unbroken stretch of prairie, undisturbed by the plowshare, but is now one of the most valuable farms in this part of the county. In bringing it to its present condition it is hardly necessary to say there have been employed years of time and labor, and no small outlay of money. The buildings are neat and substantial, the dwelling is admirably adapted to all the comforts of rural life, and the barns and out-buildings conveniently arranged for the storing of grain and the shelter of stock.

Our subject, a native of Virginia, was born near

the city of Lynchburg in Campbell County, Sept. 29, 1822. His father, Alex Austin, was a surveyor by profession, which he followed partially, but also carried on farming. He also was a native of the Old Dominion, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter emigrating to America from the North of Ireland prior to the Revolutionary War.

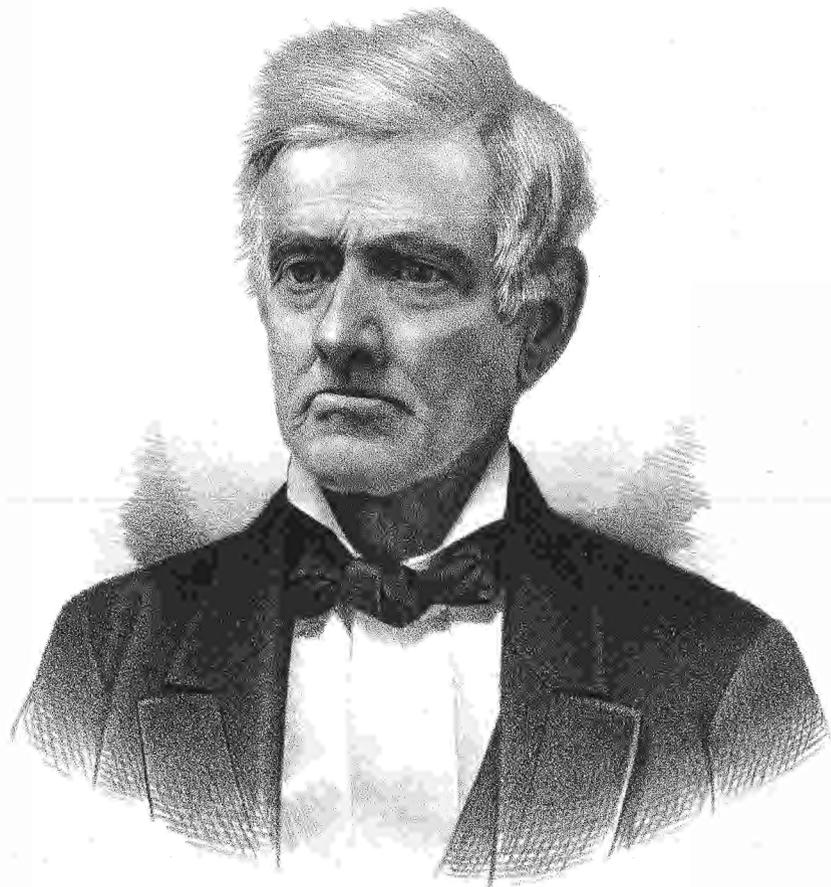
The father of our subject was reared and educated in his native State, but went over into North Carolina for his bride, being married there to Miss Elizabeth Burgess, a daughter of one of the prominent families of the State. She was of English ancestry, and her paternal grandfather was a preacher under the reign of King George III. The parents after their marriage settled in Virginia, the father carrying on agriculture in Campbell County, and both spending there the remainder of their days. The mother died when about sixty-five years of age. Alex Austin survived his excellent wife many years, his death taking place when ninety-one years old. During the War of 1812 he did gallant service as a Colonel of the 53d Virginia Infantry, and in politics was a member of the old Whig party. Both parents were members of the Episcopal Church. Their family consisted of nine children, eight sons and one daughter, three of whom are living, making their homes mostly in Campbell County, Va.

Our subject received a good education in his native county, and at an early age exhibited unusual thoughtfulness and intelligence. He was ordained a minister of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church about 1844, and since that time has labored more or less in the Master's vineyard. He was married in Campbell County to Miss Mattie Ward, who was born there in 1824, and is the daughter of Seth and Martha (Noble) Ward, the former of English descent, and a farmer by occupation. He died in middle life when his daughter Mattie was a small child. The mother continued a resident of the Old Dominion, and died in Mississippi about 1882.

Mrs. Austin was reared mostly by her paternal grandparents, receiving a common-school education, and being trained carefully to all housewifely duties. She is now the mother of nine children, of whom William A. and Elizabeth are married, and residents of Nebraska. The others, Susan M., Sally



*Ulatilda W. Meckan*



*J. W. Meekins*

B., Mary E., Lucy W., George E. and Roberta L., are at home with their parents. Mr. Austin, politically, is a sound Democrat, and in 1887 was appointed to his present office.



**J**OHAN H. McMECHAN is a practical, prosperous farmer and stock-raiser of Four Mile Precinct, and he is managing with marked success the old homestead that was once the property of his father, the late John McMechan, a well-known and widely respected pioneer of Otoe County. Our subject was born in Zanesville, Ohio, Feb. 22, 1839, coming of good old stock, his ancestors representing an ancient Scotch family, one of whose members, the great-grandfather of our subject, during the Reformation settled near Belfast, Ireland, and became one of the large land-owners of the Kingdom. Later, in the early years of this century, one of the scions of that house, the grandfather of our subject, a brave, high-spirited, energetic man, emigrated to America and cast in his lot with the pioneers of Ohio.

We are pleased to be able to give so much interesting history of the life of John McMechan, the father of our subject:

John McMechan died Nov. 3, 1883, at "Headwood," the family residence in Otoe County, near Nebraska City, of the infirmities incident to old age, being eighty-three years and twenty-three days old. The McMechan family is of Scotch origin, and lived in Ayrshire, but being active and leading members of the "Solemn League and Covenant," was forced by religious persecution to leave Scotland in 1650, and settled in County Antrim in Ireland, near "White Abbey," five miles from the city of Belfast. John McMechan, the father of the subject of our sketch, was a wealthy land-owner, and the family estate in Ayrshire and Antrim County numbered several thousand acres of grazing and tillable land. His wife was a Miss Mary Ballentine, daughter of David Ballentine, of Ayrshire, and grandniece of Lord John Ballentine, a cousin of Mary Queen of Scots. John McMechan was born on the 10th of October, 1800, at the fam-

ily homestead, "Carmonia," near the "White Abbey," five miles from Belfast. He had four brothers and five sisters. He survived all of his brothers and two of his sisters. In 1810 the family came to America and settled in Belmont County, Ohio, eight miles from Wheeling, Va., and his father in the same year purchased the "Indian Springs" farm, so called from the springs at which the Indians camped previous to attacking Wheeling. His parents being Covenanters, were remarkably reverent in their observances of the teachings of divine truth, and he being early impressed with them grew up with an abiding sense of duty and right, and a strong hostility to false pretenses. He received a good and thorough common-school education, the best to be had in those days in that new and sparsely settled country. He also learned the lessons of a high moral culture and of industrial habits, constituting the basis of integrity and fidelity to duty, which marked his career. At the age of seventeen he engaged in mercantile pursuits, for which he was by nature admirably fitted.

When twenty-one years of age he moved to Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, and engaged in merchandising, where he remained until 1826, when he went to Zanesville, in the same State, and on the 24th of April, 1827, he married Miss Matilda Ballentine, the second daughter of David Ballentine, of that town.

This happy union was blessed with a family of six sons and four daughters, of whom one son and one daughter died in infancy. During his residence in Zanesville he engaged in the flouring-mill and mercantile business. In 1842 he removed from Zanesville to Glasgow, Mo., where he continued merchandising, and at this place he built and conducted the first packing-house on the Missouri River. In 1846 he removed with his family to St. Louis, Mo., where he embarked in the wholesale grocery business, under the firm name of J. S. Thompson & Co., afterward Hammill & McMechan, Worthington & McMechan, and later John McMechan, until the summer of 1853, when he closed out his business in St. Louis.

In September, 1853, he removed to Council Bluffs, Iowa, then the principal outfitting and starting point for Utah and California emigrants,

and there he engaged in the wholesale grocery and outfitting business, and in freighting across the plains to Salt Lake City, Utah. His was the first exclusively wholesale grocery store in Council Bluffs, Iowa. When Nebraska was opened for settlement, in 1854, he was offered a portion of the town site of Omaha, but not liking the social element then predominating, on account of the Mormon element, he declined, but purchased several lots on the original town site, and for him was built one of the first business houses erected in Omaha. He closed out his business and sold his real estate at Omaha and Council Bluffs in the autumn of 1854, came to Nebraska, and became one of the original proprietors and one of the founders of Kearney City, which is now part of Nebraska City, Otoe Co., Neb. He surveyed and laid out the town site, and when the land was subject to entry, entered the same in the land-office at Omaha. In the autumn of 1854 he purchased of Hall, Platt & Co. the steam sawmill at Civil Bend, Fremont Co., Iowa, and in the spring of 1855 moved the same to the new town in Nebraska, it being the first steam sawmill erected in that place.

On the 5th of April, 1855, the family removed to Kearney City, where the subject of this sketch built the first frame dwelling-house erected in that town. In 1857 he purchased of Ephraim White a farm two miles south of Nebraska City, in Otoe County, where the family has resided since 1863, and which when purchased was named "Headwood." Soon after buying this farm Mr. McMechan set out a fine orchard, which was one of the first planted in that part of the Territory. Mr. McMechan was a man of indomitable energy, and for him were built the "Planters' House," the first and only hotel in Kearney, now a part of Nebraska City, Neb., the business houses of T. H. & L. C. Winn & Co., Kalkman & Wessells, and the hardware store of D. B. McMechan, the first hardware store in Kearney or Nebraska City, and a large number of dwellings.

In 1820 the elder McMechan united with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian (now United Presbyterian) Church, presided over by Rev. Samuel Findley, D. D., in St. Clairsville, Ohio, and was a Ruling Elder and Trustee for seven years in the United Presbyterian Church in St. Louis, Mo.,

during his residence in that city. He was an earnest, energetic, zealous, consistent and generous Christian, exemplary in all the duties of religion, and putting in practice his religious belief, always encouraging churches, religion and charitable societies, and one of his first acts after settling in Nebraska was to establish a Sabbath-school, under the auspices of the church of which he was a working member. This was the first denominational Sabbath-school established in the Territory. At the same time Rev. R. H. Allen, of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, came to Nebraska by invitation of Mr. McMechan, and held divine service in Kearney, now one of the wards of Nebraska City, and preached the first sermon delivered in the new town. The subject of this sketch possessed a truly modest, retiring, cheerful, quiet, contented, charitable and unassuming disposition; his mind was clear and his judgment had much weight, and these qualities, together with his Christian life, won for him the highest esteem of all who knew him. He possessed that stability of character which is the distinguishing mark of his countrymen. In business he was active, prompt and punctual. He gave often and lavishly to the poor and needy, and no appeal in behalf of suffering humanity ever passed him unheeded, and although a Presbyterian in his belief and views, he gave liberally to all denominations wherever he lived. The poor of this section never knew a better friend than he who has gone from them forever. Socially, he was agreeable, entertaining and hospitable to a fault. His peculiarly happy temperament continued to the last. His perseverance in active well doing was not ostentatious, but fruitful and unceasing.

As a citizen and town proprietor Mr. McMechan was solid and substantial, just, obliging and honorable, courteous and accommodating, heartily engaging in every movement which seemed calculated to benefit the community or society at large. He gave liberally of his property and means to everything which tended to the advancement of religious or public good, to the encouragement of men struggling in business, and to those starting in life, or to the unfortunate and deserving. In friendship his attachments were sincere, strong and confiding. As a church member he was liberal, ever ready and

cheerful in his contributions for the support of the Gospel. As an Elder and church officer he was careful and diligent, cautious in forming a judgment, but his opinion when formed was the result of careful consideration. Good will was in his heart, and ever found expression in his words and acts of kindly helpfulness. He was a man of sterling worth and uncompromising fidelity to principle. In the simplicity of his manner there was a grandeur and strength of character not to be mistaken, and in the broad and generous sympathies of his heart there was that true sincerity that crowns the greatness of Christian manhood. He was a faithful, fond, loving and tender husband; a good, kind, consistent, indulgent and affectionate father. He was never absorbed with worldly affairs. He was always intent on the life of the mind and of the heart for himself and his family. He spared no pains in the training of his children, and was earnest in the cultivation of piety in his family. He lived to see a large, prosperous and enterprising town grow, aided by his own work, where had been dense woods and a wilderness; fruitful fields and prosperous villages where naught but the bare prairies were to be seen when he came to the then infant Territory. In his old age he could not boast of worldly success, but enjoyed a moderate competence, and he gathered around his Thanksgiving table nearly a score of children and grandchildren, who looked up to him with reverence and affection. By all who knew him, but especially by the inner circle of his own home, will he be ever remembered as a man of unswerving trust, inflexible integrity, of unflinching fidelity in all life's relations, and of tender, ever-deepening affections. No richer heritage could any parent bequeath to a child than the memory of such a character.

As a Christian Mr. McMechan was deeply attached to and interested in the welfare of the church of his choice, devoted, earnest, zealous and faithful, and his religious life was not one of ostentatious profession, but of humility and quiet piety. He made the Bible a study, and could recite whole chapters, which he had committed to memory in his youth. His love for the Psalms was peculiarly strong, and he had memorized the entire metrical version, as sung in the United Presbyterian Church,

and taught them to his children. Of his life and its successes let it be written: "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." When his evening came the clouds in his sky were golden. The setting sun of life lighted them up with a radiance that heralded a blessed immortality.

Mrs. Matilda McMechan, relict of John McMechan, died Feb. 5, 1886, from the effect of a fall consequent to paralysis, at "Headwood," the family residence in Otoe County, near Nebraska City, aged seventy-eight years, ten months and twenty-three days. She was the eldest daughter of David Ballentine, and a direct descendant of Lord John Ballentine; she was born March 12, 1807, at "Headwood," the family estate near Belfast, Ireland. In 1814 the family came to the United States and settled in Ogdensburg, N. Y., where she and her only sister, Agnes (Nancy), and her four brothers, William, John, Henry and David, the two latter twins, were educated. When she was seventeen years of age the family removed to Zanesville, Ohio, and there, when eighteen years old, she united with the United Presbyterian Church. She was united in marriage with John McMechan, April 24, 1827, at Zanesville.

The family moved to the West in 1842, living at Glasgow, Mo., until 1846, then removed to St. Louis, living there until 1853, and in the autumn of that year moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and in October, 1854, they came to Nebraska Territory, settling in Kearney City, which Mr. McMechan laid out, and which is to-day part of Nebraska City. Mrs. McMechan had ten children, six sons and four daughters. Of these, two walked before her "through the valley of the shadow of death;" John and Rachel died in infancy. The eight living are: Mary Jane, now Mrs. Alexander E. McCormett, in New Orleans, La.; Annie Clarke, residing at "Headwood," the family residence; David Ballentine, in Kansas City, Mo.; John Henry, living at "Headwood," the family residence; Andrew Charles, Lieutenant U. S. N.; Matilda, Mrs. S. H. Calhoun, in Nebraska City, Neb.; William Ballentine and Edwin Elbridge, in Kansas City, Mo. Two of her brothers survive her: William Ballentine, of Kansas City, Mo., and Henry Ballentine, of Mariposa County, Cal. David Me-

Mechan, in 1857, opened the first hardware store in Nebraska City, and was also the first south of the Platte.

Mrs. McMechan was possessed of an amiable, loving, retiring and charitable disposition, gentle in manners, kind and sympathetic, refined and intelligent to the highest degree, and endowed with excellent judgment, active and efficient in every good work. As a Christian woman, a Christian wife and a Christian mother, she was a model, and truly worthy of imitation. While she "rests from her labors," by her life we may hear her saying to us, in words of inspiration: "Be diligent, that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless." When she went to Council Bluffs, Iowa, there was no Bible Class in the Presbyterian Sabbath-school there, but she soon organized one and taught it during her residence in that place. When the family removed to Nebraska she, with her husband and family, organized in Kearney City the first denominational (United Presbyterian) Sabbath-school in the then infant Territory, and she taught the first Bible Class. In 1877 she and her husband united with the Presbyterian Church at Nebraska City, there being no United Presbyterian Church there.

For three years before her death Mrs. McMechan was unable, because of physical weakness and failing sight, to attend church, but while thus deprived of the privileges of meeting with God's people in His own house, doubtless He made her own home a little sanctuary, where He met with her and blessed her. It was her custom to gather her family together and have them read the Bible, which was read through yearly, and afterward would be read several sermons from the bound volumes of the *Pulpit*, a United Presbyterian periodical. She had very clear views of Gospel truth, being a diligent Bible student all her life until within ten years of her death, when failing sight prevented her searching the Scriptures. In her girlhood she had memorized the Gospels and the metrical version of David's Psalms, as sung in the United Presbyterian Church. These with the catechism she taught her children, and when she could no longer see to read she would repeat entire passages of Scripture and the Psalms from memory; her joy was to sing the twenty-third Psalm.

While rising from her seat in her sitting-room on the afternoon of the 19th of January, 1886, to receive some visitors, she fell, fracturing the right thigh bone, the fall being caused by a paralytic stroke of the lower limbs. She lingered until the afternoon of the 5th of February, bearing her suffering with great fortitude, and with full possession of all her reasoning faculties, and conscious until a few hours of her death, which she, like a good and true Christian, calmly awaited, sleeping quietly and sweetly away without pain or struggle. She needs no eulogy to hallow her memory, no marble monument to keep her in remembrance. She lives in the hearts of all who knew her. Her monument is already built: a noble, intelligent, charitable and consistent Christian character. Upon it in letters of light are inscribed the words for us all to read: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

The subject of this sketch was but an infant when his parents moved to Missouri; he was twelve years of age when they took up their residence in Council Bluffs, and fifteen years old when they moved to Nebraska. The wild, sparsely settled Territory of that day bore but little resemblance to the wealthy and populous State of to-day. The settlements were then mostly confined to the river, and the whole interior of the State was a wild, open prairie inhabited by Indians. Deer were plentiful on the plains only a short distance from the city, and with other wild game often set forth the table of the pioneer. In 1859 Mr. McMechan commenced freighting across the plains, taking corn that he had raised himself on the farm, in two wagons, with a pair of horses to each wagon, and delivering it in Denver at fourteen cents a pound. He made but one trip that year, and during the winter was engaged in teaming flour from Winterset, Iowa. From 1860 until 1863 he had charge of his father's freighting business. In the fall of 1860 he engaged in a wholesale grocery business in Denver, with his brother David. In the spring of 1863 they were burned out there, and then they returned to Nebraska City and established themselves in the hardware business, which they continued together until 1869, when our subject took charge of his father's homestead, and he has ever

since been engaged in general farming with gratifying success. The farm is located two miles south of the court-house in Nebraska City, and contains 160 acres of the richest and most productive land to be found in this locality. The residence is a commodious brick house, pleasantly located on a rise of ground, overlooking a beautiful stretch of country. There is quite a variety of trees in the yard, some of which were planted by the father of our subject, and all of them were planted during his lifetime.

Mr. McMechan's shrewd common sense, and his industrious, methodical habits have been prominent factors in his success in life. He is upright and conscientious in his dealings, and his neighbors find in him a man to respect and esteem.

The portraits of John and Matilda McMechan are presented in connection with this sketch.



**C**HARLES C. COWLES, prominent and successful as a farmer, intelligent and capable as a business man, and one of the most valued members of his community, is numbered among the old and honored residents of Wyoming Precinct, where he has a fine tract of 320 acres of land, on section 14, and which is familiarly known as "Sunnyside Farm." Some idea of its beauty and value may be obtained from the fact that at one of the State Fairs it was awarded the first prize in point of improvement and natural resources. The residence is a handsome two-story frame structure with basement, finished and furnished in modern style, and with its surroundings forms one of the most complete homes to be seen within the boundaries of the county. The barn and other out-buildings are equipped with all conveniences required for the proper sheltering of stock and storing of grain. Adjacent to these is a fine apple orchard of 1,200 bearing trees, in prime condition and yielding bountifully. There is also an abundance of smaller fruits in their season. The property lies about seven miles northwest of Nebraska City, and forms one of the most attractive pictures in the landscape of this region.

Our subject came to this part of the county in the spring of 1857, ten years before Nebraska was

admitted into the Union as a State, and when his youthful companions were little Indian boys of the Otoe tribe. They had their little "set-to's," as youngsters will, and when the battle raged too strong the squaws came out and chased away the white boys. Upon one occasion, when the conflict was a little more serious than usual, our subject was threatened by an old warrior with losing his scalp, and, as may be supposed, hied himself to a place of safety as soon as convenient.

The entire life of Mr. Cowles has mostly been spent on the banks of the Missouri, except the period spent in the mountains, he having been born in Atchison County, Mo., Dec. 18, 1849. His parents were Charles H. and Mary (Martin) Cowles, and he was the second son and child. The father, a farmer by occupation, died at his home in Wyoming Precinct, April 14, 1888, when nearly seventy years old. (See sketch of C. H. Cowles.) He had been a resident of Nebraska for a period of thirty-four years, coming here in the spring of 1854. Until 1857 he lived in Nebraska City, when it was but a hamlet, but finally moved onto a farm in Wyoming Precinct, where he followed agricultural pursuits and became a prominent man in his community. The wife and mother is still living at the old homestead.

Mr. Cowles after leaving the district school entered Tabor College, Iowa, but in the meantime had taken a course in the Normal School at Peru. He was naturally fond of study, and made the most of his opportunities, and at the close of his last school term was well fitted for the future business of life. The first employment to which he turned his attention was in connection with a nursery at Bloomington, Ill., which he operated about five years.

In the fall of 1876 Mr. Cowles, desirous of seeing something more of the Great West, crossed the plains by rail, and spending some time in Colorado, returned home in the fall of 1880. He then took a trip East, traveling considerably over the Eastern States, then returning home again, set out for New Mexico, and spent some time in its mining regions, where he invested a portion of his capital, and from which he realized good returns. About 1887 he returned to this county, and took possession of the land which he now owns and occupies.

While residing in New Mexico Mr. Cowles engaged quite largely in stock-raising and ranching. He owns four separate ranches, which he still operates, besides owning a sixth interest in a large company doing an extensive ranch business. His home place was thirty miles west of Socorro, at Magdalena, the terminus of the Magdalena Branch of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad. He also owns some valuable mining property in that district.

Our subject, on the 7th of July, 1885, was united in marriage with Miss Lilly White, at Zanesville, Ohio. This lady was born there Feb. 13, 1859, and is the daughter of Homer and Sarah J. (Cassidy) White, who are still living, and residents of Zanesville. Mr. White is a prominent insurance man, having been connected with some of the best companies in the United States, and being particularly expert in the adjustment of claims.

Mrs. Cowles was carefully educated in her native town, and was graduated from Zanesville High School in the class of '78. Later she became a teacher, and was very successful, occupying a position in the public schools of her native city for a period of seven years before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are two children: Fayzette Mae, who was born Sept. 17, 1886, and Clayton Earl, July 13, 1888. Mrs. C. is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church, and a very estimable lady, who has hosts of friends in this vicinity. Our subject is a sound Republican, politically, but has no aspirations for office, and has very little to do with matters beyond the boundaries of his large estate, which can only be properly managed by close attention and calculation.

**G**EORGE W. BROWN is one of the prominent farmers in Otoe Precinct, and one of the early pioneers of Nemaha County in 1865. He removed to this county in 1867, and established himself on his present farm, which comprises 160 acres, and is situated on section 17. Upon this he has made excellent improvements, and is one of the well-to-do citizens. He played no mean part in the earlier history of the Territory,

which is all the more creditable to him, because whatever has been accomplished in his life has been the result of his own ambition and continued effort, in which he has been supported by his wife, a most excellent lady, devoted to her husband and children.

The parents of our subject were Thomas and Margaret (Phillips) Brown, both natives of Cumberland County, Pa. There they were married and lived until 1856, when they came to this State, bringing with them their two sons, John P. and George, the latter being at that time about twenty years of age. Besides these they had two other children, viz: Mary S. and Eliza Jane, who were born in Pennsylvania. Mary is the wife of Martin L. Smith, of Federalsburg, Md., and Eliza Jane is the wife of Dr. John Cleland, of Davenport, Iowa.

The native place of our subject is Bloomfield, Perry Co., Pa., and the date of his birth the 22d of February, 1832. He grew up at Carlisle, Pa., where his father had a farm, upon which, especially after school days had passed, the two brothers assisted their father, and continued until the older brother went to Washington City to learn the carpentry trade.

In 1853 the subject of our sketch joined his brother at Davenport, Iowa, where he was established in business. There he engaged in milling and worked by the month. In 1865 he came to Nemaha County and engaged in farm work, two years later removing to this county, where he rented a farm, but was shortly established upon his present property.

Our subject had not been long in Otoe County before he made the acquaintance of Myra, daughter of J. G. and Julia (Layman) Carmichael (see sketch of Mr. Carmichael). Mrs. Brown was born on the 8th of December, 1844, in Mifflin County, Pa., and was nine years of age when her parents removed West. After passing through the classes of the common school, she took the High School course at Nebraska City, and made exceedingly good progress. Mr. and Mrs. Brown were married at the residence of her parents, on the 26th of September, 1861, at Minersville, Otoe Precinct.

There have come to Mr. and Mrs. Brown eleven children, whose names are as follows: Abbie T.,

Mary; Eddie, who died when six months old; Thomas. Jennie; Lora, who died at the age of four years; George Franklin, William, Ida, Maude and Carl. Abbie T. is the wife of Jewett Thomas, one of the successful merchants of Nebraska City, and they are the parents of two children—Minnie and Harry. Mr. and Mrs. Brown may be justly proud of their children, to whom they have been enabled to give a good education, and who appreciate all the care and provision made for them by their parents.

When Mr. Brown looks back to his beginning in Nebraska, it must be with exceeding thankfulness, remembering that he started with but \$2.50, and that to-day, with his productive, well-kept farm, his beautiful home, his wife and children, he is among the most prospered and happily situated of the citizens of the county. During the past year (1888) he erected a very fine two-story frame house, very commodious and comfortable. It is supplied with the numerous appliances and conveniences generally considered almost indispensable to the modern home. Beloved by his family, and respected in the community at large, he stands in the front of Otoe's citizens. In politics he is a staunch Republican. The family attend the Southern Methodist Church.

**F**RED SHRADER, an extensive land-owner of Berlin Precinct, possesses the warrantee deed to 1,000 acres, and operates 200 besides, his home being within two miles of the town. He is a popular and public-spirited citizen, intelligent and liberal, and in all respects a useful member of his community. Of German birth and ancestry, he is the son of Christ and Sophia (Harra) Shrader, who were natives of the Prussian Province of Mecklenburg, the father born in 1795 and the mother in 1805. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Shrader, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying at a ripe old age.

The father of our subject, when a youth of seventeen years, enlisted in the German Army, serving against Napoleon. After the war was over he returned to his native town and became a weaver of custom work, which trade he prosecuted success-

fully until the year 1862, and became owner of a small farm. On the 15th of October of the year mentioned Christ Shrader started with his family for America, and shortly after landing in New York City proceeded to Cleveland, Ohio, where he settled and lived seven months. Next he moved to Lee County, Ill., and spent his last years with his children near Dixon, his death occurring in September, 1869. The mother survived her husband until 1875, coming to Nebraska and spending her last days with her children; she died when seventy years old. The six children of the parental family were: Sophia, a resident of this county; Mary, who lives in Cleveland, Ohio; Dora, living in this county; John, in Valparaiso, this State; Fred, our subject, and Henry, in Berlin.

Our subject was born in the Province of Mecklenburg, Prussia, Sept. 20, 1843, and remained with his parents on their little farm until a youth of eighteen years, in the meantime receiving a thorough education in his native town. He came to America with his parents, crossing the Atlantic on the sailing-vessel "Columbus," taking passage at Hamburg, and after a two-months voyage, in which they encountered several severe storms, landed safely in New York City. Fred remained with his parents in Cleveland during their stay there, then accompanied them to Lee County, Ill., and subsequently was employed on a farm two years. He then began operating rented land, and was thus occupied until March, 1869, when he determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Mississippi River.

The first purchase of Mr. Shrader in this county was eighty acres of land in Berlin Precinct, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. There was then not a mile of railroad west of the Missouri River. Mr. Shrader landed in this county with a cash capital of \$4.75, and for two years after coming here operated rented land until he could begin the improvement of his purchase. Upon this he built a house, into which he removed in the spring of 1871, and thereafter proceeded vigorously in the task of building up a homestead. The nearest market was Nebraska City, and he battled with drouth, grasshoppers and other difficulties, making considerable headway, notwithstanding. He set out

groves of cottonwood and willow trees, and planted an orchard of 250 apple trees, and in due time the first humble dwelling was replaced by a substantial and modern residence, with barns and the other necessary out-buildings. Later he added to his landed area, buying in 1874 eighty acres adjoining his first purchase at \$6.50 per acre; two years later he bought 160 acres adjoining which was improved, and for which he paid \$2,000; in 1879 he bought 120 acres for \$1,000; in 1880 he added 200 acres to his estate, paying for this the sum of \$1,550; in 1882 he secured 160 acres for \$2,200; in 1883 he bought the 160 acres adjoining for \$1,850, and the year following he added 120 acres of highly improved land, for which he paid \$2,800; his last purchase was in the spring of 1887, and comprised a quarter-section under a high state of cultivation, for which he paid \$5,000. His land altogether is now placed at an average value of \$30 per acre.

In the spring of 1888 our subject invested a portion of his spare capital in the merchandise store of Shrader Bros., in Berlin, an establishment which now carries \$10,000 worth of goods, the largest stock in town, and enjoys a good patronage. In his farming transactions Mr. Shrader makes a specialty of live stock, buying and feeding cattle, and shipping annually about three cars of these, besides two or three cars of swine; he keeps about eighteen head of horses. To this industry is devoted about 480 acres of his land, while he lets the balance to a tenant.

Our subject, while a resident of Lee County, Ill., was married, Feb. 14, 1869, to Miss Katie Albright, who was born in Somerset County, Pa., May 4, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. S. began their wedded life together in this county, and here their seven children were born, four sons and three daughters, namely: Emma, Ella, Albert, Charles, Fred, Sarah and Levi. Ella officiates as clerk in her father's store at Berlin; Charles also spends some of his time there. The other children remain at home with their father.

On the 9th of March, 1888, our subject and his family were called to mourn the loss of the devoted wife and mother, a loss which was not only deeply felt by them, but by all who knew her. Mrs. Shrader was a lady possessing all the womanly virtues,

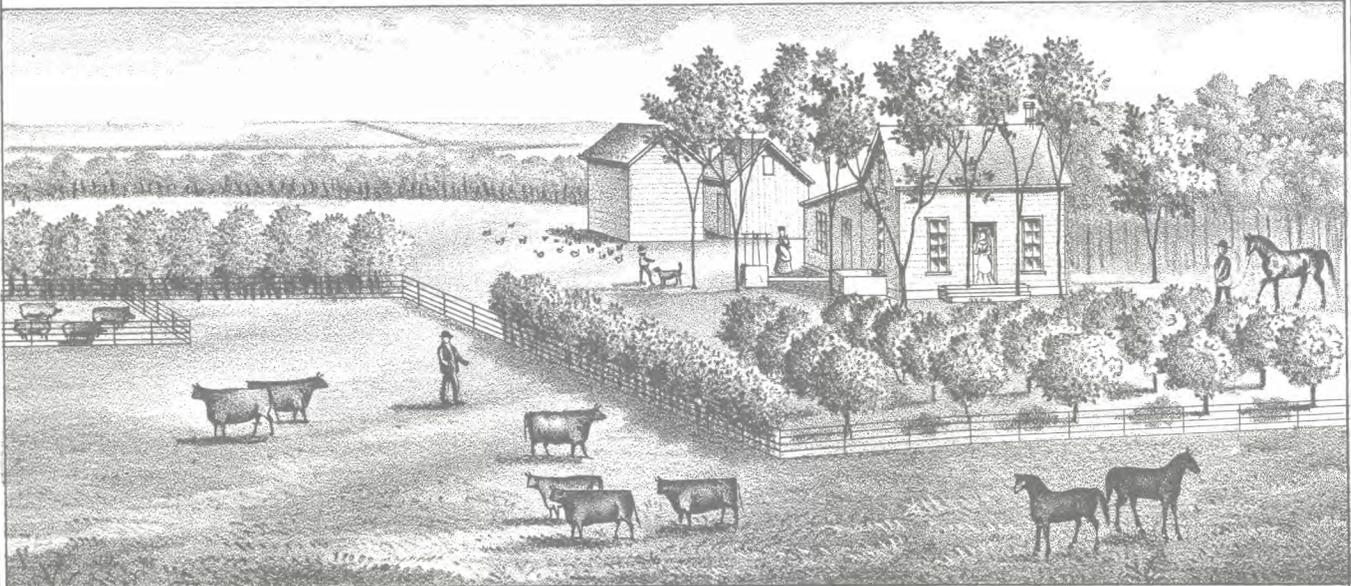
fulfilling the duties of wife and mother in the most praiseworthy manner, being kind and gentle in her household and having the welfare of her children deeply at heart. She stood bravely by the side of her husband during his early struggles, being his efficient helpmate, a most kind counselor and wise adviser. She lived to see the country around them developed into a prosperous community, and to enjoy those home comforts which she had so justly earned by her toils and sacrifices, and her name is held in kindly remembrance not only by her family, but hosts of friends and acquaintances.

Mr. Shrader has always kept himself well posted upon current events, and votes the straight Republican ticket. He takes considerable interest in politics, and has done good service for his party in this section, frequently being sent as a delegate to the county and State conventions. He has been a member of the School Board ten years, was Supervisor eight years, and Assessor two years. He was a charter member of the German Lutheran Church at Berlin, with which he is still connected, and gives liberally and cheerfully to its support. He is a Trustee of the church property, and besides contributing largely in the erection of the building, solicited money outside, and has given freely of his time and means in the general welfare and prosperity of the church. Berlin Precinct has within its borders no more useful or praiseworthy citizen.

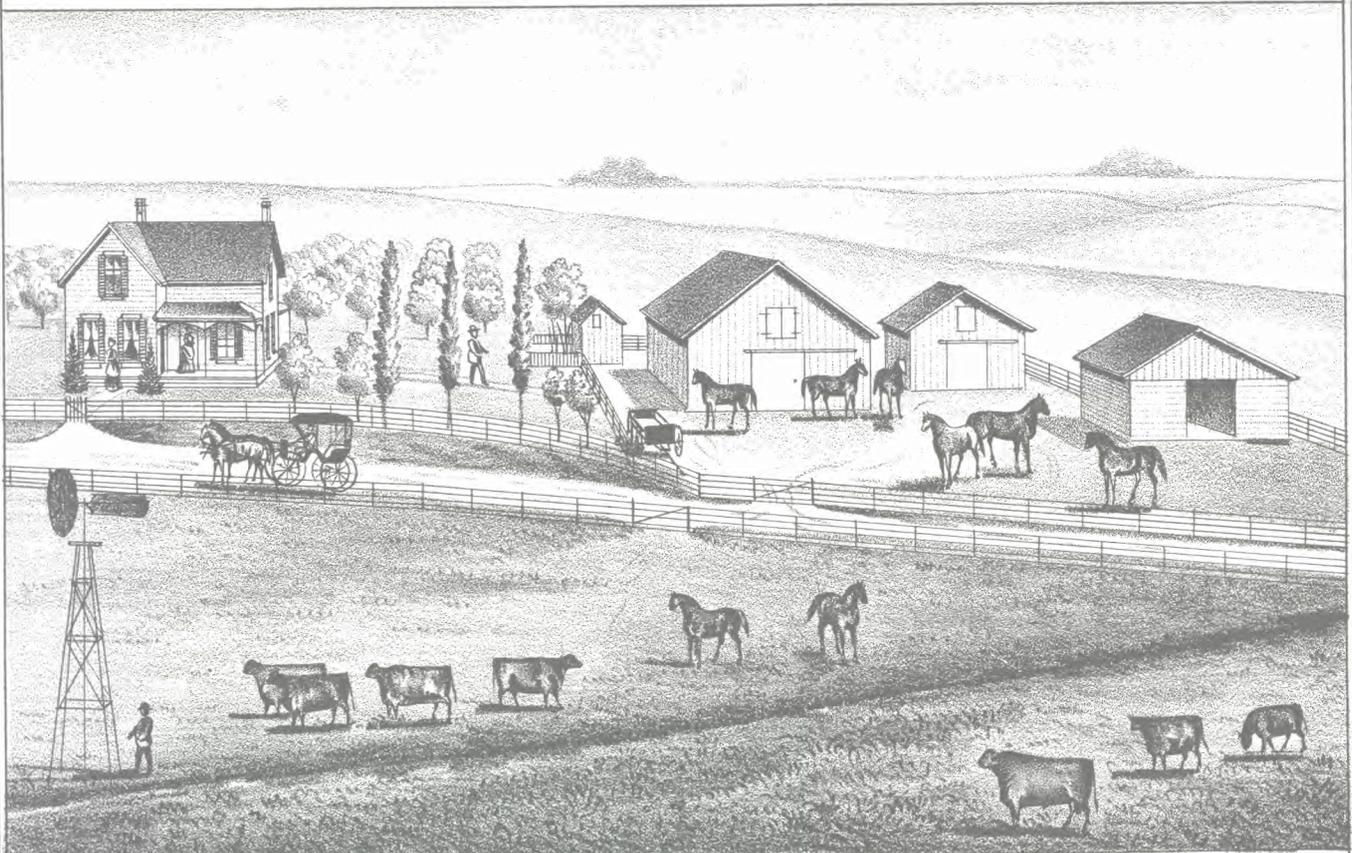


**h**ON. GEORGE FERGUSON, who is widely known throughout the county in his political relations, and who is at the head of a very successful business as dealer in stock, farm implements and vehicles in Dunbar, was born in the city of Glasgow, Scotland, on the 14th of August, 1845. He is the son of William and Agnes Ferguson, who were natives of the same country and district. His father, who is now deceased, came with his family to New York in 1848, and settled nineteen miles south of Buffalo, removing in the year 1854 to Guernsey County, Ohio.





RESIDENCE OF ISAAC FARLEY, SEC. 19. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. CATHERINE M<sup>E</sup> ALEER, SEC. 23. (NORTH) RUSSELL PRECINCT.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the schools of Guernsey County, Ohio, and qualified himself for teaching. In the year 1871 he went to Polk County, Iowa, and taught school until the following spring; then he attended the Iowa Agricultural College at Ames, in that State, continuing until the summer of 1873, when he came to this county and engaged in teaching in Wyoming and the vicinity, continuing thus for five terms. Leaving the school-house and teacher's desk, he engaged in farming about six miles north of Syracuse. Here he found every opportunity to put into practice the instruction received both from his father and at Ames. He continued there until April, 1888, and still owns the farm of eighty acres.

Upon the 4th of August, 1881, Mr. Ferguson was united in marriage with Lorinda E. Gale, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Gale, of Sheboygan Falls, Wis. Their marriage has been consummated by the birth of four children, of whom three still live, viz: Maude A., Wallace J. and Helen E.

In former years Mr. Ferguson was active in the ranks of the Republican party, and was elected in the fall of 1878 on the Republican ticket to represent Otoe County, Neb., in the Legislature. He served his term of office with satisfaction. Since that time, however, his political opinions have undergone a change, and he is now a prominent and active worker with the Prohibitionists, and holds the position of Chairman of the Prohibition party in Otoe County. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson are both members of the United Presbyterian Church, of which our subject has been an adherent about twenty years, and his wife about two.



**THOMAS F. McALEER.** Among the young farmers and citizens of Russell Precinct and Otoe County Mr. McAleer takes a prominent position. He is the owner of 160 acres of splendidly cultivated land on section 23, and operates 640. He is extensively engaged as a horse and cattle dealer, and has been unusually successful in business in that connection. It goes without say-

ing that there is before him a very propitious career.

James McAleer, the father of our subject, was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in the year 1810, and his mother, whose maiden name was Catherine Darcy, was born in County Leitrim of the same country. His father was an agriculturist prior to leaving his native country, which he did in 1839, coming to America. The voyage which promised so fair ended disastrously, for the vessel was wrecked on the Island of Nova Scotia, and he only escaped by swimming ashore. Obtaining work as a baker he continued there for two years, and then went to Boston, where he went into the marble business and worked as a polisher, which he had learned as a young man in Ireland. He continued there until 1849, then removed to Providence, continuing in the same business. Thence he went to Princeton, Ill., in 1863, and there operated forty acres of land in addition to his polishing, which was not discontinued.

Coming to Nebraska in 1873, Mr. McAleer, Sr., purchased 160 acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company, and went to work to improve the same, and at his death in 1888 had 480 acres of splendidly cultivated land. In politics he was a Democrat and faithful to his party. His wife came to America in 1846 alone, and landed in New York. From there she removed to Providence, where she met her husband, to whom she was united on the 17th of July, 1853. She was the mother of seven children, whose names are as follows: Mary E., James, Miles, John, Thomas, Frank and Bernard.

The subject of our sketch was born in Providence, R. I., on the 11th of May, 1863, and was about a year old at the time his parents removed to Illinois. He grew up upon the farm and was early made acquainted with all the various duties and labors connected therewith. His parents saw that he obtained a good practical education in the common school, and was thus in some measure fitted to take up his share of the activities of life. When in 1873 his parents removed to Nebraska, he was ten years of age, and he continued at work upon the home farm until he was about twenty-one, when he entered with zest into the conflict of life

upon his own account, and has been so successful as to become the owner of a quarter-section of very valuable farming land. He usually buys and feeds, preparatory to marketing, two carloads of cattle and five of hogs per annum. He has taken much pains to procure and raise Short-horns and Polled-Angus cattle, and has six very valuable animals of the former variety, but his chief delight so far as stock is concerned is in raising Clydesdale roadsters. He owns forty head of horses and ten fine mules. His property in cattle is quite valuable and worthy of all the care he bestows upon them.

Our subject is a member of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and was prominent in the organization of the society and building of the church. The parents are also of the same religious faith. Politically, Mr. McAleer is a Democrat, and takes an active interest in political affairs. Twice he has been called upon to act as delegate to the County Conventions.

A view of the McAleer homestead is given on an adjoining page.



**S**AAC FARLEY, the present Assessor of Rock Creek Precinct, and one of its most successful agriculturists, owns and occupies a fine homestead on section 19, which embraces 160 acres of well-improved land with neat and substantial buildings. He has a goodly assortment of live stock, and all the machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of his chosen calling. He has groves of fruit trees and shrubbery, and has surrounded himself and family with all the other comforts of modern life. A view of his fine farm residence with its environments is presented to our readers.

Mr. Farley settled upon his farm in the fall of 1882, having moved here from another in the same precinct. He came to Otoe County as early as 1869, of which he has since been a resident, and continuously engaged in farming pursuits. His native place is the Province of Ontario, Canada, he having been born in Peterboro, April 1, 1837. There he was reared and educated, making his home with his parents, Patrick and Mary (O'Rielly) Farley. They were natives of Ireland, and spent their last

years in the Dominion, both dying at an advanced age, the father having reached ninety-five years. The latter served under the Duke of Wellington during the French War, and was married before coming to America. The parental family included eight children, seven of whom are living. The parents were members of the German Catholic Church.

Our subject was one of the younger members of the large family of children, and grew to manhood in his native Province, receiving a common-school education. He was married there to Miss Mary A. Nolan, who was also a native of the Province of Ontario, and was born in September, 1839. She made her home with her parents until her marriage, acquiring her education in the common schools. Her parents were natives of Ireland, whence they emigrated to the Dominion of Canada after their marriage, where they spent the remainder of their lives, and the father followed farming pursuits. They were members in good standing of the Catholic Church, people careful and conscientious in their lives, and respected by their neighbors.

Mrs. Farley has stood bravely by the side of her husband in his efforts to build up a home, laboring equally with him early and late for the comfort and well-being of their little family. They are the parents of six children, namely: Edward, Mary, Josephine, Helen, Joseph and John. Mr. and Mrs. F. are consistent members of the Catholic Church, in the doctrines of which they were reared in early childhood. Our subject, politically, is a sound Democrat, and is serving his seventh term in his present office.



**W**ASH GILES is well known throughout Wyoming Precinct as proprietor of the "Living Water Stock Farm," and the "Arlington" herd of Poland-China swine, comprising some of the finest specimens of Poland-Chinas to be found in this section of the State. At the head of the herd of Poland-Chinas is Messenger, No. 1884, S. P. C. R., and although only fifteen months old has already made an admirable record. Mr. Giles has six other animals of the Poland-China

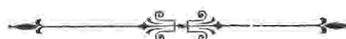
breed, and registered as follows: Ett, No. 2822; Grace (1st), No. 2820; Grace (2d), No. 2825; Cala, No. 2821; Arlington Maid, No. 2823, and Topsy G., No. 3171. The herd was established in 1882 with Otoe Prince, No. 2335, at the head. Mr. Giles has competed successfully with breeders all over this section of the country at the State and county fairs, in which many of his animals have come home with blue ribbons.

The farm of our subject is finely adapted to stock-raising, and in this industry he has been remarkably successful during his residence in this county, which dates from the spring of 1860. He was born in Peoria, Ill., April 28, 1854, and is the son of Joseph Giles, a native of the Island of St. Helena. His paternal grandfather, Thomas Giles, was with the exile Napoleon at the time of the latter's death.

Joseph Giles came to the United States when a young man, and located in Peoria, Ill., where he married Miss Susanna Redfern. This lady, like her husband, was of English descent, and came to the United States when a child of thirteen years, locating in Peoria, Ill., with her parents. After marriage Joseph and Susanna Giles lived in Peoria, Ill., until coming to Nebraska, in the spring of 1860. The father purchased a tract of new land on section 11, in Wyoming Precinct, where, with his estimable wife, he labored industriously, and lived until March, 1885, when, retiring from active labor, they moved to Nebraska City, where they are now spending their declining years surrounded by all the comforts of life.

Our subject was the youngest child and only son of a family of six children, one of whom, a daughter, Ann, died when very young. He lived at home until his marriage in Wyoming Precinct, Dec. 14, 1876, to Miss Mary Martin. This lady was born in Utica, Venango Co., Pa., Oct. 4, 1852, and is the daughter of John F. and Maria (Reynolds) Martin, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. They came to Nebraska in 1857, and the education of their daughter Mary was conducted in the common schools at first and completed in the Normal School at Peru. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: J. Roy, Oct. 1, 1877, and Carl M., June

8, 1879. The family residence is a comfortable structure, and the out-buildings all that are desirable for the prosecution of both agriculture and stock-raising. The pens for the swine are equipped with everything that is necessary for their comfort and the success of the industry to which Mr. Giles gives especial attention. He is a man of decided views, keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen, and votes the Republican ticket.



**C**APT. BEN S. PINDAR, who is one of the practical farmers of South Branch Precinct, farming 160 acres on the northwest quarter of section 33, and also well and favorably known throughout the county, was born in Washington County, Md., on the 21st of May, 1836. He is the son of Benjamin and Sarah (Small) Pindar. His father was born in Camden County, Del., in 1800, and his mother five years later in Berkeley County, Va. The grandfather of our subject, Edward Pindar, made quite a record as a soldier of the Revolution under Washington, and was a nephew of Charles Lee of Revolutionary fame. The maternal grandfather, Samuel Small, was of English descent but born in Virginia. He also was one of the patriot heroes of 1776.

The parents of our subject were married in Virginia, and there made their home. The father was an overseer of a plantation, and so continued for many years. Afterward they moved to Maryland, where he engaged in farming. In 1847 the family removed to Henry County, Ohio, and eighty acres were purchased in the vicinity of Napoleon. There farming was carried on until 1867, when the property was sold, and the family removed to South Branch Precinct of this county, where in 1886 the father died. He had been bereaved of his wife in 1867, when she had reached the advanced age of sixty-two years. They were the parents of four children, viz: Susan, Annie, Ben S. and Perry, the latter deceased; he was in the war, and served in the same regiment as our subject, was taken with brain fever, and died at Nashville in 1862.

The subject of our sketch staid at home until

he attained his majority, the years of his boyhood being spent in the usual occupations of the common school, after which he attended the full High School course, being graduated therefrom, and afterward becoming his father's assistant upon the farm. He was eleven years of age when the removal was made to Ohio. After that change of residence the chief work of his education was attended to, for his High School course and more preparatory education were supplemented by three years in Heidelberg College at Tiffin. Until he was twenty-five years of age he taught school in various districts, and held a very high certificate of ability.

In 1861, at the time the first call for troops was made by President Lincoln, Mr. Pindar enlisted in the 14th Ohio Infantry, and served in Company F. The enlistment was made for three months, as was the case with nearly all the men, it being supposed that the war would be settled by that time. He was mustered in at Cleveland, Ohio, under Col. Stedman and Gens. Rosecrans and McClellan, and served chiefly in West Virginia. He was in the first battle of the war at Phillippi, then at Laurel Hill, Cheat River and Canick Ford, which ended the campaign in Virginia, and the term having expired, he, with others, was mustered out at Toledo, Ohio, on the 18th of August, 1861.

Re-enlisting the following day in the 38th Ohio Infantry, our subject was mustered in at Defiance, received the commission of a Lieutenant, and then went into service in Kentucky under E. D. Bradley. The first of the series of battles of that campaign was the battle of Wildcat, after which they were sent to Mills Springs, and became part of Gen. Thomas' division; then followed the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chattanooga, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge. At Nashville he was promoted to be Captain, and served in that capacity from that time. He was with Sherman throughout the Atlanta campaign, en route to the sea, and took part in all the engagements of that campaign. The hardest fighting experienced by the regiment which he served was at Jonesboro. At Chickamauga he was stunned by the explosion of a shell immediately above his head. Although he recovered sufficiently to leave the field, he never fully recovered his hearing, and when at Savannah in Febru-

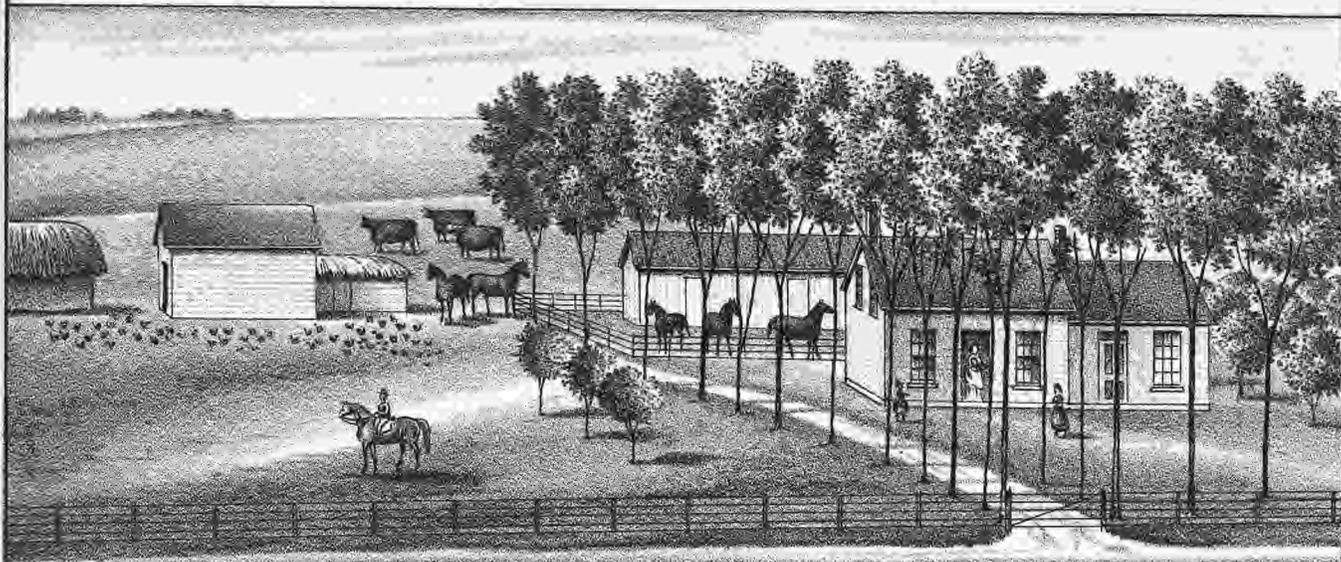
ary of 1865, his trouble had become so bad that he received an honorable discharge, with congratulations for gallant service. His discharge was procured at his own request, as he felt it impossible for him to do good service, having almost entirely lost the power of hearing.

Leaving the military service, our subject returned to New York by steamer, and from there he went to Ohio. He purchased forty acres of land, and for one year continued farming. In the spring of 1867 he started for this State, going by rail to St. Joseph, and from there by steamer to Nebraska City. Again taking the train at that place he came to this county and to South Branch. Here he entered a homestead claim for the 160 acres of prairie land which he has now made such a beautiful and productive farm. His property is well watered by a branch of the Nemaha River that winds its way through it.

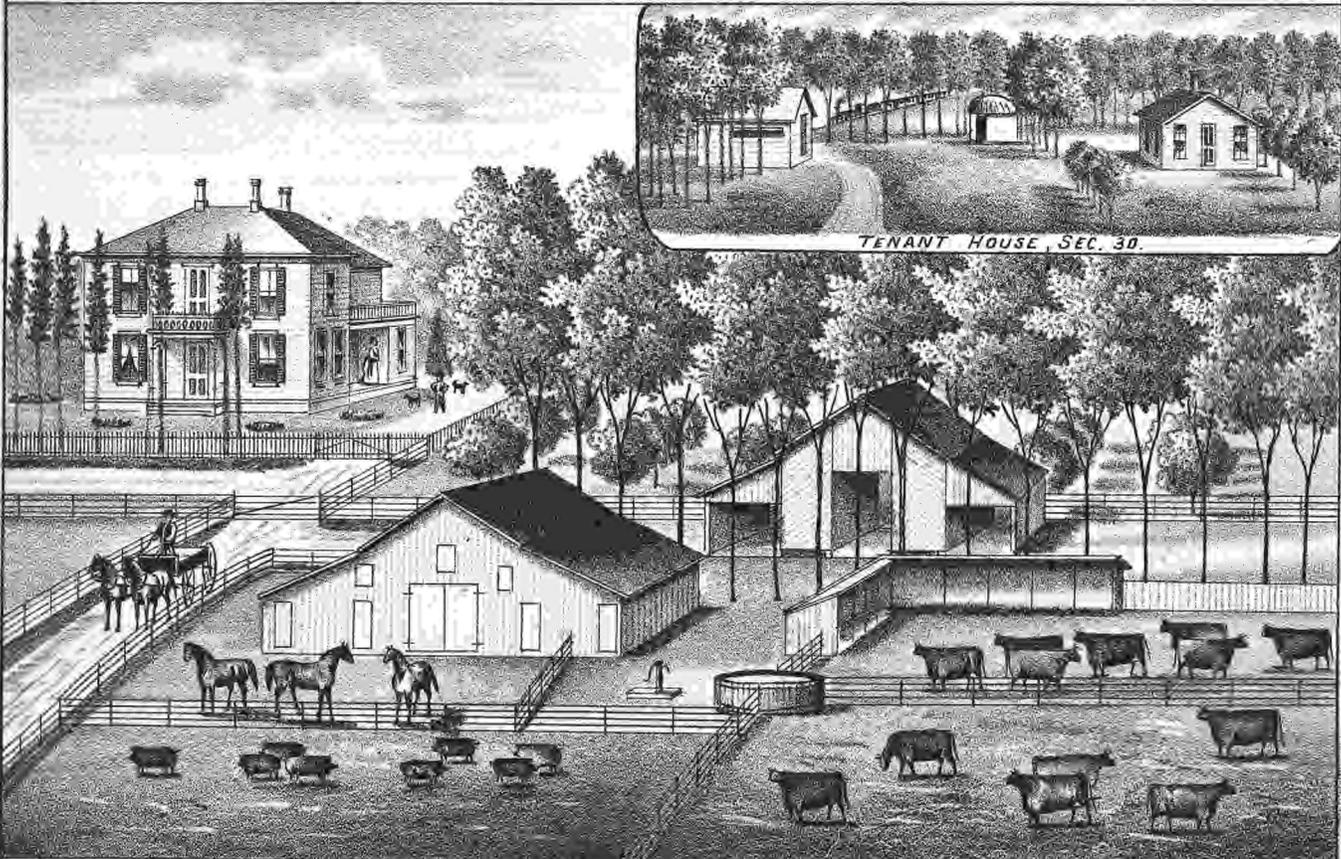
At Napoleon, in February, 1864, in order the better to enjoy his veteran furlough Capt. Pindar was united in marriage with Miss Eva H. Choat, the daughter of Thomas and Louisa (Randall) Choat, both of whom were born in Maine, of English descent. They removed afterward to Seneca County, Ohio, and took eighty acres of land before it was at all settled for many miles around his home. The parents are both dead, but have left three children—William A., Liza J. and Eva H. William A. Choat was Colonel of the 38th Ohio Infantry, and did gallant service. He was shot in the breast upon the 1st of September, 1864, at the battle of Jonesboro, and fell upon the field.

The wife of our subject was born in Thomaston, Me., in January of 1836. She was well educated and carefully nurtured and trained at home. For three years she attended the college at Oberlin, Ohio, of National renown, and afterward served as a teacher; during the war she filled an appointment in the post-office department at Napoleon. There have been born to Capt. and Mrs. Pindar three children—Maud, Hazzard and Maggie. Maud is attending school at Toledo, Ohio, and the rest of the family are at home.

Ever since the School Board District was organized Capt. Pindar has been one of its members; for sixteen years he has been the Assessor of the pre-



RESIDENCE OF C. A. SMITH, SEC. 20. HENDRICS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. H. BEHREND'S, SEC. 19, FOUR MILE PRECINCT.

inct, and continues to hold the position. In the G. A. R. also he takes a prominent part; he is a member at Sterling of the Wadsworth Post No. 99. His political relations have always been with the Republican party, of which he is a staunch adherent and hearty supporter. Mrs. Pindar has been a member of the Universalist Church in Ohio since the year 1859, and has never united with any organization locally. As a family, as well as individuals, they are much respected by all who know them, and enjoy the hearty esteem of the community at large.



**J**OHAN H. BEHREND'S is a fine representative of the farmers of Otoe County, and his large and valuable farm in Four Mile Precinct is one of the best managed and most attractive places within a radius of many miles. A view of this the publishers give in connection with this outline history of its respected proprietor. Mr. Behrends was born April 21, 1835, in Hanover, Germany, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Bernhard Behrends, who spent his entire life there engaged in farming. The mother of our subject was also born in Hanover. She also died in Germany. There were but two children, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Albert J., who resides in Nemaha County.

Our subject was reared in his native land, and received the benefits of a sound education in its excellent schools, which he attended quite steadily until he was fourteen years old. He then went to work on a farm, and from that time until 1853 toiled hard to acquire a practical knowledge of agriculture. In that year he came to America to try life in the New World, hoping to be able to lay up a competence and to live in the comfort and ease that would be denied him under the existing state of affairs in the Fatherland. He set sail from Bremerhaven in June, and landed in New Orleans seven weeks and two days later, with but a few dollars in his pocket. He went directly to Madison County, Ill., and there found employment on a farm at \$12 a month. He continued to work by the month there and in Sangamon County until

1856, when the alluring accounts of the wonderful fertility of the soil of the wild prairies of Nebraska, its bracing climate, and many other natural advantages, determined him to come here and engage in agriculture, and he was soon voyaging up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to his destination. He landed at Brownville in the month of July of that year, and shortly after selected a desirable location in Nemaha County, and when the land came into the market he entered his claim from the Government, paying \$1.25 an acre for the land. He erected a log cabin to shelter him, and proceeded to develop his land. The country around was then mostly in a wild, unsettled state, deer and other kinds of game were plentiful, and Indians were often seen lingering about their old homes. Brownville, fourteen miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Behrends continued to live there for four years, and, at the expiration of that time, he sold his partly improved claim at a good advance on the cost price, and bought 160 acres in Rock Creek Precinct. Thirty acres of this tract were broken, but there were no buildings, and he at once erected a house, and for two years he was actively engaged in agriculture in that precinct. At the end of that time he had a good chance to sell his place and make quite a sum of money, and he took advantage of it. He then bought a tract of wild prairie in the same precinct, built a comfortable house, broke the entire tract of land, and resided thereon until 1877. He then bought his present farm, which comprises 360 acres of land, exceedingly rich in all the elements that go to make it one of the most productive estates in Otoe County. It is finely located in Four Mile Precinct, four miles southwest of Nebraska City, and its nearness to a thriving city and to good markets makes it of additional value. Mr. Behrends is a business-like, skillful agriculturist, and already has his land under good cultivation, and has erected a substantial and conveniently arranged set of farm buildings, and has one of the best and among the finest farmhouses in the precinct.

Mr. Behrends was married, in 1860, to Miss Annie Sophia Arends, a native of Hanover, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of sixteen children, only three now living,

namely: Bernhard B., Maggie and Herman. They have a cozy, attractive home, and friend and stranger alike receive a cordial welcome and enjoy a generous and unstinted hospitality from host and hostess while under its sheltering roof. Mr. and Mrs. Behrends are esteemed members of the Lutheran Church. In his political sentiments Mr. Behrends is decidedly independent. As a man of practical habits, sound principles and genial manners, our subject exerts a good influence in this community, and is greatly respected by his fellow-citizens.



**C**AMILLUS A. SMITH, Justice of the Peace of Hendricks Precinct, and one of its most prosperous and public-spirited citizens, owns a valuable farm on section 20. He is considerably interested in stock-raising, and ships numbers of cattle and hogs each year to the markets.

The first recollections of our subject are of the modest home of his parents in Spring Township, Crawford Co., Pa., where his birth took place Dec. 11, 1843. He attended the village school, and his father having died when he was a lad, remained with his mother until the outbreak of the Civil War. The family at that time having removed to Wisconsin, he enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry, and in the battle of Perryville, Ky., was wounded in the left fore-arm, by reason of which he was confined in the hospital three months. Anxious, however, to rejoin his regiment, he returned to it while his arm was still in a sling, and participated thereafter in the battles of Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain and Mission Ridge. Then, under command of Gen. Sherman, he marched to the sea, taking part in the meantime in most of the engagements of the Atlanta campaign. On the 25th of July, 1864, he was wounded at Atlanta in the right leg, and off duty one month. Upon rejoining his regiment he met the enemy in the fight at Bentonville, and was with Sherman at the time of Johnston's surrender at Raleigh. He continued in the army until the close of the war, and received his honorable discharge at the city of Washington, D. C.,

then went with his regiment to Milwaukee, where it was disbanded.

Our subject now began farming near Trenton, Dodge Co., Wis., on a small tract of land which he had purchased, and where he continued until coming to this county. He started for Nebraska on the 1st of May, 1867, and made the entire journey overland in a wagon. He crossed the Missouri on the 3d of June, and seven days later homesteaded the land which he now owns and occupies. After providing a shelter for his family he began the improvement of his purchase, setting out groves and an orchard of 150 trees, besides adding from time to time the various conveniences required for the comfort of the family. The land is watered by running streams and is highly productive.

Our subject was married at Beaver Dam, Wis., May 1, 1867, to Miss Anna Robinson, who was born in Dodge County, that State, Sept. 2, 1848. Her father, Ichabod Robinson, a native of England, was born in 1816, and emigrated to America with his brothers when but a lad seventeen years old. They settled first in Ohio, then removed to Kentucky, but after his marriage Mr. Robinson located in Dodge County, Wis., where he carried on farming until his death, in 1885. The wife and mother was in her girlhood Miss Sarah A. Davis, a native of Kentucky. Her death took place in Dodge County, Wis., in 1851. The household circle comprised the following children: Mary, Eliza, Samuel, David, Annie, Mattie and Sarah. The latter died when about thirty-three years old. Samuel and David served as soldiers in the late war, from which they came out uninjured, but upon the return home after receiving his honorable discharge, Samuel fell between the cars of a moving train and was instantly killed.

To our subject and his wife there have been born five children, namely: Mattie, Arthur, Elmer, Anna and Ada. With the exception of Arthur, who is engaged in brickmaking at Lincoln, they are all at home with their parents. Mr. Smith is a true blue Republican, politically, one of the warmest supporters of the principles of his party. Soon after the war he identified himself with the G. A. R., and is a member of Mansfield Post No. 56, at Palmyra. He has served as School Moderator in his district

since the time of its organization, and has officiated as Justice of the Peace since the spring of 1881.

The father of our subject was born in New York, in 1807. He served an apprenticeship at the shoemaker's trade during his early manhood, but later became interested in agricultural pursuits, which he followed in Crawford County, Pa., where his death took place in 1846. The paternal grandfather, Israel Smith, served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and subsequently received a pension from the Government. The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Perthina Bail. She was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1815, and after the death of her husband lived in Pennsylvania until 1859. Her death took place in 1879. The parental household included six children, namely: Harriet, Sarah, Americus, Orphilia, Camillus (our subject) and Orion. Americus enlisted in the same regiment in which his brother Camillus served, and was shot through the heart at the battle of Perryville; his remains now fill a soldier's grave at Perryville, Ky.

Mr. Smith commenced at the foot of the ladder in life, and has seen many years of hard labor with drawbacks and privations. Now in the enjoyment of a pleasant and comfortable home, he is simply in possession of what he is honestly entitled to by reason of his industry and perseverance. Mrs. Smith is a lady of many amiable qualities, cultured and hospitable, and their home, one of the most attractive in this region, is the frequent resort of hosts of friends.

The view of Squire Smith's residence is presented in connection with this brief sketch of his life.



**T**ALTON MASSEY, one of the substantial men of Otoe Precinct, enterprising and public-spirited, is essentially a Western man, having been born on this side of the Mississippi, in Gasconade County, Mo., forty miles from Jefferson City, April 15, 1837. His paternal grandfather was one of the first settlers of that State, taking up a tract of wild land and following the pursuit of agriculture. He spent his last years in Missouri.

The subject of this sketch took up his residence

in Otoe Precinct in the fall of 1862. His parents, George and Margaret (Branson) Massey, were also natives of Missouri, and there they both spent their entire lives, except a three-years residence in Texas, the father engaged in farming pursuits. Their family consisted of eight children, namely: Charles, Talton; Ann and Elizabeth, both deceased; Thomas, who died young; Nancy, deceased; Sarah is the wife of James Russell, and they live in Idaho; and William.

Mr. Massey, our subject, was the second child of his parents, of whom he was deprived by death when but a boy. The children were then scattered, and our subject was taken into the home of his uncle, Benjamin Simpson, in Barton County, Mo., where he lived until able to do for himself. He now commenced freighting (this was in 1857) across the plains, transporting merchandise from Westport, Mo., in wagons to Santa Fe, N. M. This was an experience in which he saw much of life in the wild West, meeting all kinds of men, and often making his way through difficulties and dangers. He was thus occupied two years, then returned to Barton County, Mo., where he purchased land and resolved to settle down.

The next important event in the life of our subject was his marriage with Miss Martha Ann Lucas, which occurred near the town of Lamar, in February, 1859. Mrs. Massey was born in Sangamon County, Ill., Aug. 10, 1840, and was the only living child of Allison and Louisa (Harper) Lucas. Mrs. Lucas died when her daughter, Mrs. Massey, was an infant.

Mr. Lucas, after the death of his wife, moved to Pike County, Ill., where Mrs. Massey was principally reared; then she removed with her father to Barton County, Mo. The Lucas family left Illinois and moved into Gasconade County, Mo., but, becoming discontented, returned later to Illinois. They afterward moved back to Missouri, settling this time in Barton County, where Mr. and Mrs. M. were married.

Our subject and his wife continued residents of Missouri until the fall of 1862, and then, on account of the troubles connected with the Civil War, decided to go farther North. On their way to Illinois Mrs. Massey was taken quite ill at Nebraska City,

and they were obliged to halt. Mr. M. engaged himself as a farm laborer, thinking to stay only until his wife was sufficiently recovered to proceed on their journey. He became pleased with the country and the people, and finally resolved to stay here, although not purchasing land until the spring of 1866. He first secured 160 acres, and has now one of the best cultivated farms in Otoe Precinct. The twenty-two years of his residence upon it have been devoted to its improvement, and, looking over his fields and buildings, the proprietor has abundant reason to congratulate himself upon the result of his labors.

To Mr. and Mrs. Massey there have been born eight children, the two eldest, Mary Jane and William H., in Missouri; the other six, Charles W., Louisa A., Isadora, George W., Sarah E. and Nancy A., were born in Otoe Precinct, this county. The eldest daughter is at home with her parents. William is a resident of Sterling, Jefferson Co., Neb; he married Miss Ina R. Crook, of Nebraska City, and they have three children—Clarence C., Oda Pearl and Viya B. Charles W. is at home; Louisa A. became the wife of T. L. Nipps, and the mother of one child, Mary A., and died on the 6th of March, 1888. Mary A. is now living with her grandparents. Isadora is pursuing her studies in Nebraska City. George W., Sarah E. and Nancy A. are at home with their parents.

Mr. Massey is a staunch supporter of the principles of the Democratic party. He has given especial attention to the education of his children, and they form a bright and interesting group whom the parents regard with pardonable pride.



**E**LIJAH W. ROSS ranks high among the successful, hard-working and manly citizens of Palmyra Precinct. He is one who does not live for himself alone, but has large interests in every enterprise or plan that will advance the prosperity of the district in which he resides, whether they be of an educational, religious, or merely political character. He successfully farms 160 acres

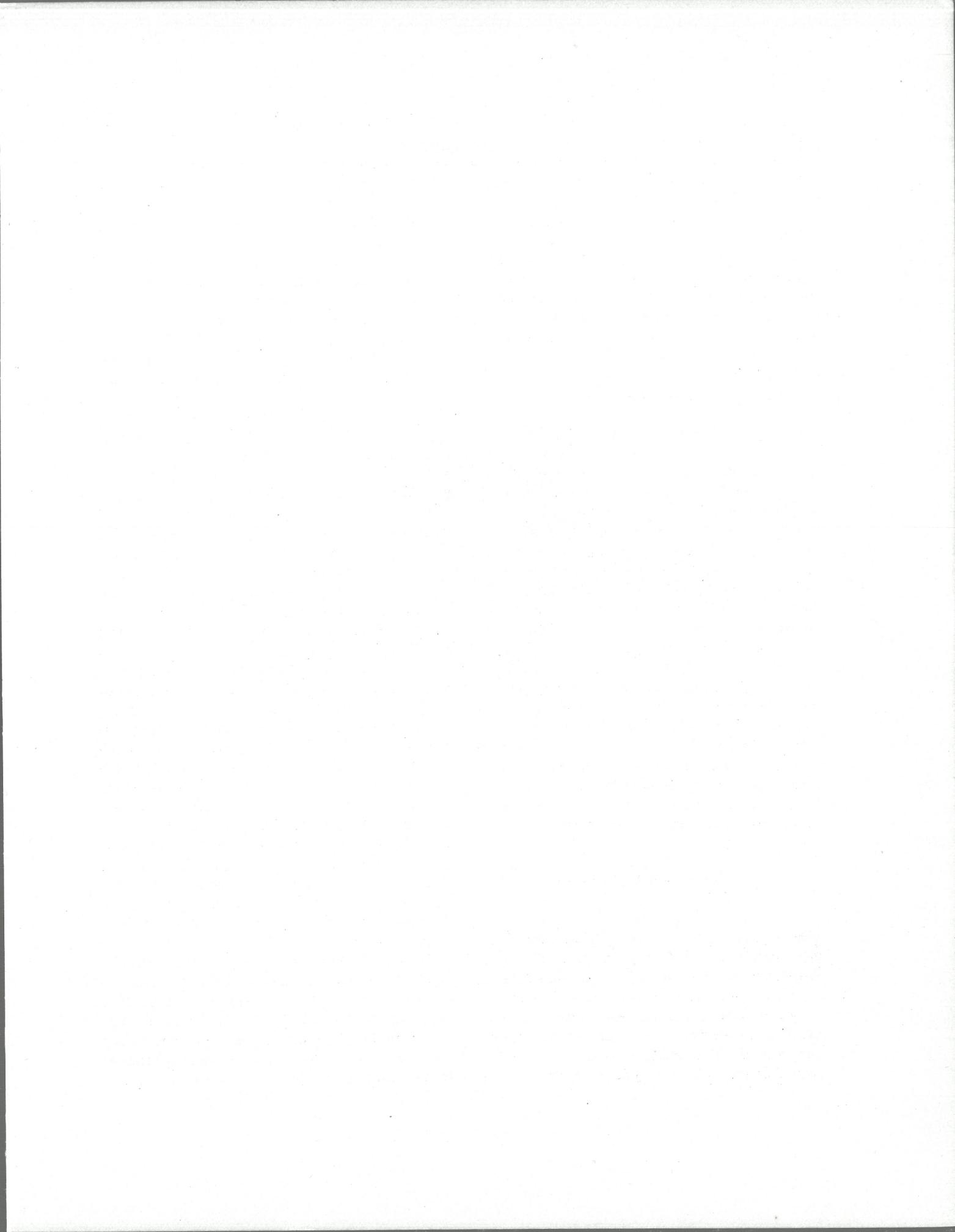
of good land on sections 20 and 29, and other things being equal, sees a large return for every investment of strength or finances that he may make.

Our subject is the son of James and Priscilla (Young) Ross, both of whom were natives of New York State. In this family commingles both Scotch and German blood. His father, who is an agriculturist, is now seventy-two years of age, and his mother seventy-four. Grandfather Ross was in the War of 1812 as a Captain, and merited special mention for gallant service.

The subject of our sketch was the third of six children born to his parents, whose names we mention as follows: Peter, Artemus, Elijah W., Betsey A., Ella and Artemus. The second child and Ella are deceased. Elijah was born on the 12th of March, 1839, in Oswego, N. Y. He was brought up on a farm, and continued at home until 1861, when he was united in marriage with Miss Jane Dunlap, daughter of William Robert Dunlap, whose sketch appears on another page in this volume. Mrs. Ross was born on the 7th of August, 1841.

After their marriage our subject and his wife made their home in New York State until 1871, when they came to this State with their three children. Until that time Mr. Ross had been engaged in sawmill work and in the general lumber trade, but since he came to Nebraska has given his attention almost entirely to stock. The first experience in Nebraska in home life was in a dug-out, which served them for the first year and a half, after which they removed to their more commodious, comfortable and pleasant home. They are the parents of seven children, whose names we mention as follows: Ella, Emerson, Emery, Manly, Ida, William and John. Ella is happily married to Samuel Fullwider, and is a resident of Sharon, Kan.; they are the parents of two children. Emerson is a farmer at Turlington.

Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, of which organization he has been the Treasurer. His political principles are those of the Prohibition party, and he takes a lively and active interest therein. They are both highly esteemed, and are cordially received in the most select circles of local society.





*Yours Truly*

*L. A. Ashton, M.D.*

**F**REDERICK BORCHERDING is the owner of a very fine and productive farm on section 3 of Delaware Precinct, and is one of the most worthy representatives of that usually most desirable class of citizens, viz., those who have emigrated to this country from Germany. He bears the national characteristics of intelligent, earnest, persevering and thrifty labor, and to this, doubtless, is owing the success that has attended his agricultural efforts.

Our subject was born in Hanover, on the 22d of November, 1842. He came to this country with his father in the spring of 1860; a settlement was made in Clayton County, Iowa. The dawn of life in America was shrouded with gloom, overcast by the clouds of trouble and enveloped in the shadows of death, for within two weeks after reaching Iowa Frederick Borcherding, Sr., was taken sick and died.

The subject of our sketch never was privileged to attend the American schools, but at the same time has obtained a fair English education. He came to this county in the fall of 1868, and lived in Berlin Precinct until the fall of 1879, when he came to his present farm, which he has since cultivated with assiduous care, seeing as a result thereof a continuously growing success.

While residing in Clayton County, Iowa, our subject was married, on the 10th of October, 1866, to Eliza Abker. She was born in Clayton County, Iowa, of German parentage, and remained with her parents until her marriage. To Mr. and Mrs. Borcherding have been given seven children, of whom six survive, viz: Maggie, Annie, Edward, Jennie, Alfred and Josie. Alfred had a twin sister, who died at the age of one year and a half; she bore the name Alice.

The total acreage owned by our subject is 480, all well improved and utilized for farming and stock-raising purposes. In starting our subject had practically nothing; what has been obtained is the result of hard work, good management and thrifty care. He now has a good farmhouse and an excellent barn that has recently been put up, standing 40x42 feet and 34 feet high from the basement, which is eight feet from floor to ceiling. The basement walls are all of rock, and stand upon a good foundation. The cost of this building, exclusive

of his own work, was \$1,400. The quarrying of the stone and the hauling of the same a distance of nine miles, besides other work upon the actual building, he did himself. Our subject and his wife are both members of the Lutheran Church and in good standing. They are well respected in the neighborhood, and enjoy the perfect confidence and esteem of all who know them.



**T**HOMAS H. ASHTON, M. D., an able and popular physician of Syracuse, located in this city in the month of March, 1886. He is a native of Brown County, Ohio, and was born to James and Cassandra (Sly) Ashton, on the 8th of March, 1841. His father was a native of Bucks County, Pa., and his mother of Clermont County, Ohio. The great-grandfather of the Doctor emigrated from Ashton, England, at an early day, and settled in Pennsylvania. There his son Samuel was born, brought up, and in early manhood married. He continued after that interesting event to follow the pursuits of husbandry until the year 1806. He then migrated to Ohio, and three years later settled in Clermont County, making it his home for the remainder of his days.

The father of our subject was four years of age when his parents removed from Bucks County, Pa., and settled in the Buckeye State, where he grew to manhood. Upon leaving school he learned the trade of blacksmith, in connection with which he also followed farming. He removed to Defiance County in the same State in 1851, where he continued to live until 1886, when he died at a very advanced age. The longevity of this family has been perhaps one of the striking features connected with its history, for almost every member has attained more than the usually allotted term of life.

The mother of our subject is of Scotch and Holland-Dutch ancestry, and the family may be traced for several generations in Virginia. The maternal grandfather of Dr. Ashton, Jacob Sly, with several friends and neighbors, migrated in the year 1791 to Cincinnati, Ohio. At the time of the Indian troubles of that region he was with Gen. St. Clair as a wagonmaster, and while thus engaged was in-

jured and left the service. Proceeding to Clermont County, he settled down to farming, and it was at that homestead the mother of our subject was born. There she made her home until her marriage. Her death occurred in the year 1883, in Defiance County, Ohio, when she had reached the age of about eighty years.

The subject of our sketch was the seventh of nine children born to his parents. He was reared on the home farm, and pursued his early studies in the district school. At the age of eighteen he attended school at Defiance, and besides the studies of the prescribed curriculum also received instruction in Latin, the higher mathematics and literature. In 1861 he entered the university at Ann Arbor, Mich., and was graduated from the department of medicine in 1863. Soon after this he received a commission from Gov. Morton, of Indiana, as Special Surgeon to the Army of the Cumberland, and after thirty days of service was tendered a position upon the regular medical staff, serving thereon until the close of the war.

During the time the Doctor was stationed at Nashville, Tenn., he attended the university in that city, from which he was also graduated. Later, and while stationed at Murfreesboro, he was taken with smallpox, and lay for several weeks battling with that dread disease. His splendid constitution now did him good service, and in due time he recovered and returned to duty, when he was given the charge of the pest hospital in that city, which contained usually upward of 100 patients. After holding this position for some time, he was transferred to the United States General Hospital No. 4, at Murfreesboro. This hospital contained 284 beds, and was full nearly the entire time of his service, which continued until November, 1865, when the hospital was closed, and our subject returned to Defiance, Ohio.

Dr. Ashton now began to practice his profession in his native place, where he soon achieved an enviable reputation, and resided until 1882. He then went to Colorado to take charge of a health resort, but that not being a financial success, he came to Nebraska. Upon looking over the city of Syracuse and the surrounding country he was favorably impressed with the outlook, soon opened an office, and

speedily had made a reputation, entering upon a lucrative practice.

The Doctor was married in Ohio in 1865, and is the parent of two children—Merrill and Ethel. As a fair exponent of the intelligence and ability of the medical profession in Southern Nebraska, we give his portrait, which, with those of his compeers, will be looked upon in later years with no less interest than that of the present time.



**G**EORGE B. HENDRICKS, of Hendricks Precinct, enjoys the distinction of being one of its earliest pioneers. He is pleasantly located on section 8, where he has resided for a period of over thirty years. His land, 160 acres in extent, has been carefully and skillfully cultivated, and yields in abundance the choicest crops of Southern Nebraska. Mr. Hendricks served as a soldier of the Union during the Rebellion, and his life has been that of the careful, conscientious and industrious citizen, one who has done good as he has had opportunity, and lived at peace among his neighbors.

Our subject is descended from two excellent Southern families, his father having been Hiram Hendricks, a native of Virginia, and his mother in her girlhood Sicily Thompson, who was born in Kentucky. Later they removed with their parents to Indiana, where their marriage took place. In the fall of 1847 they removed to Iowa, where the father carried on farming until 1856, and during that year cast his lot among the earliest pioneers of Southern Nebraska. Coming to this county he pre-empted 160 acres of land not far from its southwestern lines, and the new precinct then in process of organization was named in his honor. He was chosen Justice of the Peace not long afterward, in which office he served acceptably several years. He assisted in the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, being one of its charter members, and his house was always open for religious services, and as the home of the itinerant preacher.

This good man passed away in the fall of 1861, at the early age of forty-eight years. The mother is still living, and has remained a widow for a period

of twenty-seven years. She makes her home with her son at the old farm. Their children, eleven in number, were named respectively: Jane M., Louisa, David, Sarah; George B., our subject; Hannah, who died when about thirteen years old; Catherine; John, who died at the age of about one year; Joseph, Maggie and Hiram. Those who survive, with the exception of two, are residents of Hendricks Precinct.

The subject of this sketch was born in Delaware County, Ind., Aug. 7, 1842. He came with his parents to Iowa, and continued on the farm, pursuing his studies in the district school. He was a lad of fourteen years when the family came to this county, and has a clear recollection of the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life. In 1864, during the progress of the Civil War, he enlisted in a company of scouts sent out against the Indians under the command of Gen. Sully, and saw much of border warfare, being among other engagements in the battles of Bad Lands, which continued three days without intermission. At the close of the war he received his honorable discharge, and was mustered out at Sioux City, Iowa.

After returning from the army our subject took up a homestead claim of 160 acres in Hendricks Precinct, but later crossed the plains four times to Denver, and once went as far as New Mexico for the purpose of freighting. Upon his return to Nebraska he confined his attention closely to his farm, and in time effected the improvements which have made his home one of the most desirable in this section. He planted cottonwood, ash and elm trees, an orchard of 100 apple trees besides the smaller fruits, and quite an extent of hedge for fencing. He put up a neat and substantial dwelling, has a good barn and a vineyard. He keeps a goodly assortment of live stock, and has the improved farm machinery necessary for the prosecution of agriculture in a profitable manner.

The lady who has been the close counselor and companion of our subject for a period of nearly twenty years, was in her girlhood Miss Melinda E. Allstot, and they were wedded on the 28th of August, 1870. Mrs. H. was born in Dubuque, Iowa, March 22, 1854, and is the daughter of George and Nancy (Morgan) Allstot, the father a

native of Kentucky, and the mother of Virginia. They were married in Indiana. Mr. A. was a wheelwright by trade, which he followed in that State until his removal to Iowa, when he turned his attention to farming. In 1870 he came to Lancaster County, Neb., where he homesteaded 160 acres of land, but on account of failing health was obliged to abandon active labor. He was finally placed in the Insane Asylum at Lincoln, where his death took place in the fall of 1884. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her son in Lancaster County.

The parents of Mrs. Hendricks had a family of ten children, namely: Susan, Kate, Sarah, John, George, James, Hannah, Melinda, Albert and Robert. The latter is now deceased. To our subject and his wife there have been born seven children: Laura, May, Charles, William, Raymond, Nettie and Frank, all of whom are at home with their parents. Both parents and children attend the Methodist Episcopal Church at Solon, and Mr. Hendricks, politically, gives his support to the Democratic party.



**F**RANK P. HAZELTON, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and pleasantly located on section 16, came to Nebraska in the spring of 1872, and purchased the eighty acres upon which he has since labored and made good improvements. His farm buildings are neat and comfortable. He has a stream of living water, with a good supply of shade trees and an orchard of apples and the smaller fruits, besides the other necessities for the comfort of his family.

Our subject is of New England ancestry, his parents, Otis and Melissa (Graves) Hazelton, having been born in New Hampshire, the father in Springfield, and the mother in Andover. After marriage they lived upon a farm in the Old Granite State until 1866, then migrated to Iowa, settling near the present town of Farmersburg, in Clayton County, where they remained five years. Thence, in 1871, they removed to Lancaster County, Neb., where the father homesteaded 160 acres of land, and where they now live.

The father of our subject, in 1862, during the

progress of the Civil War, enlisted in the 11th New Hampshire Infantry, being mustered in at Concord, and served until the close, participating in many important battles. These included Fredericksburg, the siege of Vicksburg, and most of the engagements of the Army of the Potomac. He received his honorable discharge at Washington, D. C. He is now a resident of Panama, Lancaster Co., Neb., where he has been Postmaster for some years, and is now arrived at the age of sixty. The mother died when comparatively a young woman, in 1862, aged forty-one years. Their family consisted of three children, all sons: Frank P., our subject; Frederick, a real-estate dealer at Norton, Kan., and Sidney, who lives with his parents.

The subject of this sketch was born in Springfield, N. H., July 11, 1853. His first recollections are of the mountains around his boyhood home, where he remained until a lad of thirteen years, the family then moving to Iowa. There he passed several years, following after the manner of the sons of pioneer farmers, assisting his father and attending the district school. Later he became a student of the Western College, of Iowa, taking the scientific course and remaining two years. He was eighteen years old when the family came to Lancaster County, this State, and continued under the parental roof until twenty. Subsequently he taught school for a period of five years. He was married in Panama, Neb., Oct. 12, 1879, to Miss Dora Brewer, who was born in Missouri, July 3, 1862. The parents of Mrs. Hazelton were Jacob and Susan (Smith) Brewer, the father a native of West Virginia, and the mother of Ohio. Jacob Brewer migrated to the Buckeye State early in life, where he was married, and for a time carried on farming. During the first years of the Rebellion he commenced freighting across the plains. In 1865 he settled in the vicinity of Hendricks, this county, where he engaged in farming, then sold out and removed to Seward County, where he now lives in retirement upon a competence. Mrs. H. was the youngest of the ten children born to her parents. Of her brothers and sisters six are living, and residents of Nebraska.

Otis Hazelton, the elder child of our subject and his wife, was born Nov. 9, 1880, and Clyde, the

younger, Oct. 13, 1885. These interesting children complete the household circle. Mr. H. votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been Assessor of Hendricks Precinct three years, serving also as School Director in his district. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., being a member of Nemaha Lodge No. 32, at Bennet, in which he has passed all the Chairs.



**J**URGEN F. KRAMER. The farm of this gentleman occupies a portion of section 20 in North Branch Precinct, and comprises 840 broad acres. It has for a period of eleven years been subjected to that careful course of cultivation which has made it one of the most valuable tracts of land in this section of Otoe County. It was but a stretch of wild prairie when it came into the possession of its present proprietor, who settled upon it March 1, 1877. That he has made good use of his time is apparent from the fine improvements, including substantial buildings, the fruit and shade trees, the well-kept fences, the machinery and the live stock, the whole of which comprises a picture delightful to the eye.

In viewing the extent and value of this property the reader will not be surprised to learn that it belongs to a native of the German Empire, hundreds of whose sons have assisted so greatly in the development of the great State of Nebraska. Mr. Kramer was born in the Province of Holstein, Oct. 3, 1840, and is the son of Henry and Sophia Kramer, who were natives of the same Province as their son, and who spent their entire lives upon their native soil. Their family included thirteen children, two only of whom are living, who came together to the United States, and Jacob, the brother of our subject, is now living on a portion of the farm of the latter, and possesses much of the industry and enterprise which have distinguished our subject.

Mr. Kramer received a good education in his native tongue, having been, in accordance with the laws and customs of his native country, placed in school at an early age, where he pursued his studies until a lad of fourteen years. The few years intervening between that time and manhood were em-

ployed at farming. At the age of twenty young Kramer determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic, and bidding farewell to the friends and companions of his youth, sailed from Hamburg in the month of May, and after a comparatively brief voyage set foot upon American soil at Castle Garden, New York City.

Our subject from the great metropolis proceeded westward to Chicago, Ill, near which city he worked for a time in a hay-pressing establishment. Thence he migrated across the Mississippi River into Scott County, Iowa, where he was employed as a farm laborer first, and afterward in a steam gristmill about eighteen months. After his departure from the Hawkeye State we next find him working on a farm in Cooper County, Mo., and from there he came to Nebraska City in the spring of 1868.

The first employment of Mr. Kramer in this county was as a farm hand near Nebraska City, but he determined to become his own man as soon as possible. His first step in this direction was the purchase of a team, by which means he engaged in a general transportation business, and later secured part ownership in a threshing-machine. Next he rented a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, upon which he operated as a tenant for a period of seven years. At the expiration of that time, having accumulated a snug sum of money, he purchased the 320 acres included in his present farm. The stimulus of ownership enabled him to make exceedingly good headway, and in the course of a few years he found himself on the highway to prosperity. In 1883 he added a quarter-section to his purchase, which is devoted largely to the growing of grain, while he has no small number of cattle, horses and swine. These he feeds, and has all the facilities for the most profitable prosecution of this industry. He has thus been the means of developing a large area of North Branch Precinct, and in this manner contributed to its growth and prosperity. He has been a man of strict integrity and fair dealing, and enjoys in a marked degree the confidence of his neighbors.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Mary Rodway took place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City, and of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Lizzie, Charles, Isabelle, George, Eugene, Lulu, Maggie, Minnie and Mark.

The eldest is sixteen years of age, and the youngest seven. They are all living at home. Mrs. Kramer is the daughter of Samuel and Mariah Rodway, natives of England, and was born May 1, 1853, in England. Her father is now deceased; the mother is a resident of this county. Mr. Kramer cast his first Presidential vote for Seymour, and although meddling very little with politics keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen.

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**J**OHN MCGINLEY. In the career of this gentleman is illustrated that of the self-made man, who was thrown early in life upon his own resources, and has by a course of persevering industry attained a good position, socially and financially. He is now the owner of an extensive tract of land, consisting of 680 acres in Hendricks Precinct, and 172 in Delaware. His homestead is provided with handsome and substantial buildings, and all the farm machinery necessary to the carrying on of agriculture after the most approved methods. Mr. McGinley as a citizen is liberal and public-spirited, and uniformly the encourager of those enterprises calculated to advance the welfare of the community, socially, morally and financially.

The subject of our sketch was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1830, and is the son of Patrick and Rosa (Kennie) McGinley, who were natives of the same county as their son. They emigrated to America in 1866, and coming directly to the West, settled in Delaware Precinct, this county, where the father died the year following at the age of fifty-six years. The mother is still living, and a resident of Hendricks. The parental household included nine children, five of whom are living and residents of Nebraska. John was a young man twenty-two years of age when coming to the United States, having preceded the family a number of years. He sailed from Liverpool and landed in New Orleans, and thence proceeded to Cincinnati by steamboat.

In 1878 our subject purchased 680 acres of land in Hendricks Precinct, this county, and has made all the improvements which have constituted his home-

stead one of the most valuable in this part of Otoe County. The land is well watered with running streams, and pleasant groves scattered here and there form a grateful shade in summer and protect both man and beast from the blasts of winter. Ten acres are planted to orchards, and numerous other fine fruits add to the comfort and enjoyment of the family.

Mr. McGinley was married in Cincinnati, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1858, to Miss Mary, daughter of James and Ellen (McKinne) Sheridan, who were also natives of Ireland, born in County Donegal. The family started out for America in July, 1855, and the father died on the ocean. The family settled first in Cincinnati, where Mrs. McGinley was reared to womanhood, and remained with her mother until her marriage. The latter subsequently made her home with this daughter, and died at Dunbar, June 25, 1888, at the advanced age of eighty-four years. The parental family included nine children, of whom Mrs. McGinley was the fifth in order of birth. She was born in County Donegal, Ireland, May 12, 1835, and was nineteen years old when she crossed the Atlantic.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. McGinley, ten in number, were named respectively: Rosanna, Ellen, Lizzie, Mary, James, William, George, Francis, Maggie and Jessie. They are all living at home with the exception of Lizzie, who is the wife of Charles Flynn, a well-to-do farmer of Delaware Precinct. They have one child, a daughter, Jessie. Mr. McGinley has been quite prominent in local affairs; he has served as Road Supervisor for a period of ten years, and is still holding the office. He has also operated considerably as a contractor for railroads and county bridges. He fulfilled several contracts during the building of the Missouri Pacific. He and his excellent wife were reared in the faith of the Catholic Church, of which they still remain devoted adherents, and attend services both at Palmyra and Nebraska City. Mr. McGinley, politically, is a staunch Democrat, and a warm supporter of the principles of his party. Mrs. McGinley is a lady greatly esteemed in her community, intelligent, refined, and possessing all the womanly virtues.

When our subject came to this county Nebraska

City was a hamlet of a few houses. He was one of the earliest settlers of Delaware Precinct, and has here upon his farm much valuable timber. He is considerably interested in stock, feeding extensively from sixty to 100 head each year, and is breeding mules, having on hand usually about twelve head. A man wide-awake and energetic, he has long been recognized as one of the most important and successful farmers of the county, in whose development and prosperity he has been no unimportant factor. He has watched its growth with the interest which is felt by every intelligent citizen, and in the development of one of its finest farms has added greatly to the value of its landed estate.



**J**OHAN B. HOSTETTER, a gentleman of more than ordinary intelligence, and a local preacher of the United Brethren Church, is also greatly interested in agricultural pursuits. He owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 9 in Palmyra Precinct, and possesses all the qualities of an honest man and a good citizen, one who has built up for himself a record on which in coming years his children will look with pride.

The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery County, Ind., Aug. 11, 1843, and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons in the pioneer days, conning his lessons during the winter season in the little log school-house, and assisting his father during the seasons of sowing and reaping around the homestead. He is the son of Sherman and Mary A. (Byrd) Hostetter, the father a native of Rockbridge County, Va., and the mother born in Kentucky.

The paternal grandfather, David Hostetter, when quite small took up his residence in Pennsylvania, thence emigrating to Ohio, and later to Montgomery County, Ind., about 1829. He was consequently one of the earliest pioneers of that region, and there he spent his last days. Sherman Hostetter's family consisted of the following children by his two marriages: Mary; two infants who died unnamed; William H.; Aaron B., who died young;

John B., our subject; Armilda, also deceased; Melissa R.; Fronissa C.; Sherman A.; James D.; Louis W.; Margaret E.; Allen H. and Edgar C. Of these nine are living, and residents of Nebraska and Indiana.

Our subject claims that the scenes drawn by Eggleston in the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" frequently resemble those which occurred during his boyhood and youth. He was a bright and observant lad, more than ordinarily mischievous, it is believed, and never losing an opportunity of playing a harmless joke on his parents or comrades. His father was a leading man in the community, foremost in his encouragement of religion and education, and was the Trustee of Scott Township for a number of years. John B. grew to manhood on the farm, and before reaching his majority was married, Jan. 20, 1864, to Miss Clarissa Wall, a native of Putnam County, Ind., and born July 12, 1842. She also was the daughter of a farmer, and had been carefully trained to all housewifely duties, receiving her education in the district school. Our subject after becoming the father of one child was constrained to offer his services as a Union soldier, feeling it his duty to leave home and family, as at that time there seemed little prospect of an immediate termination of the war. He enlisted for a term of one year in Company F, 11th Indiana Infantry, and went with his regiment first to Baltimore. He saw very little of active service, and at the time of Lee's surrender the regiment was stationed upon the outskirts of the city of Baltimore, which city like scores of others in the North was made the scene of general rejoicing. In that city he received his honorable discharge in August, 1865.

Our subject now returned home. His father at that time was a member of the Indiana Legislature, and by his advice, which coincided with the convictions and wishes of our subject, the latter identified himself with the Methodist Episcopal Church as a local preacher, his pious labors engaging the most of his time from that period until he came to Nebraska in the fall of 1881. He had never lost his love for rural pursuits and life in the country, and accordingly sought his home in the agricultural districts, purchasing eighty acres of land from the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company.

Upon this there were no buildings and no improvements. Mr. Hostetter proceeded after the manner of the pioneer settler to build up a home for himself and family, in which labor he has met with success. Naturally industrious, and possessing excellent judgment, he has labored with his hands to good advantage, while at the same time, by constant reading and study, he keeps himself well posted upon the various questions of the day. Following in the footsteps of his honored father, who was first a Whig and then a Republican, he has striven to cast his influence in favor of the passage of those laws which should give to the people their highest freedom and most even justice. He has the satisfaction of reflecting upon the fact that his father assisted in the defeat of the Military Bill during his services as a Legislator, and thereby enjoyed the warm friendship of Gov. Morton and other eminent men.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter there have been born nine children, namely: Ida R., Lillian A., Sherman F., Marshall E., Earl J., Eunice C., Mary E., Raymond E. and Addison L. The oldest daughter is now the wife of Samuel Pollett, a well-to-do farmer of Palmyra Precinct; they have one child, Lena I. The other children are at home with their parents. Mr. Hostetter is a strong advocate of temperance, and during the existence of slavery was bitterly opposed to the "peculiar institution," having had his convictions greatly strengthened by the reading of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" when a boy. He is a prominent member of the G. A. R., at Palmyra, in which he has served as Junior Vice and Chaplain.

The father of our subject departed this life at his home in Indiana, Dec. 6, 1868, when about sixty-one years of age. In the Legislature he was the Republican Representative from Boone County, Ind., at a time when the Union members were in the minority. At the time of the introduction of the Military Bill, over which there was so much controversy, the only hope of the Union men lay in "bolting" so as to prevent a quorum. It was agreed by the Democrats that the doors should be closed to prevent the departure of the Republicans. The father of our subject at the risk of his life coolly placed himself at one of the doors, and by main force kept it open. To his great relief and

joy the projected bill was thus defeated, and he received the congratulations of his constituents and brother members. Gov. Morton in person commended him highly, and thereafter remained his earnest and admiring friend.



**R**ODOLPHUS J. VAUGHAN, of Russell Precinct, although a blacksmith and wagon-maker by trade, is also fond of agricultural pursuits, and consequently upon coming to this county established himself on a tract of land comprising the southeast quarter of section 16. Here he has built up a valuable and attractive homestead, and has surrounded himself with all the comforts of life. He has a blacksmith-shop on his place, and in this during the year saves himself a good many dollars, being able to repair his own implements and shoe his own horses, and perform the same offices for his neighbors. His chief characteristics are industry and perseverance, in the exercise of which he has obtained a competency—something for a rainy day and for his declining years.

Greene County, Ill., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place over fifty-one years ago, on the 18th of June, 1837. His father was a farmer by occupation, and the early life of Rodolphus J. was thus spent amid the quiet scenes of country life, where he became thoroughly familiar with farm employments as carried on in times that were comparatively early in the settlement of the Prairie State. At the age of twenty-one years he began farming for himself in Marshall County, Ill., to which he removed with his father in 1885. In the biography of Charles E. Vaughan found elsewhere in this volume appears a sketch of the parental history.

Mr. Vaughan remained a resident of Marshall County, Ill., until after the outbreak of the late Rebellion, and in 1864 enlisted as a Union soldier in Company D, 11th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Camp Butler, Springfield, and was assigned to the Army of the Mississippi, and under the command of Gen. Grant went to the South. Soon afterward they joined the Red River expedition, and our subject participated in the battles of

Ft. Blakely, Spanish Fort, and some other minor engagements, obtaining a good idea of the hardships and privations of life in the army. At the close of the war he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, La., and later received his honorable discharge in Springfield, Ill.

Returning to his old haunts in Marshall County, Ill., our subject resumed farming there, continuing thus employed until the spring of 1872. He then determined upon a change of location and occupation, and going to Washburn, Ill., purchased a blacksmith-shop, which he conducted until the spring of 1878, then returned to the farm. In the spring of 1881 he came across the Mississippi into this county, and located upon the land which he now owns and occupies. His farm and his shop together are the source of a handsome income.

Our subject found his wife in Marshall County, Ill., Miss Annette Sweet, to whom he was married Dec. 2, 1858. Mrs. Vaughan was born in Sangamon County, Ill., March 10, 1840, and is the daughter of Daniel and Elsie (Sweet) Sweet, who were natives of New York State, the father born at Burlington, Otsego County, in 1809, and the mother in Otsego County, in the year 1816. The maternal grandfather, a native of New York, was of Scotch ancestry and an old Revolutionary soldier. The father of Mrs. Vaughan removed to Illinois in 1820, and eight years later to St. Louis, Mo., where he engaged in brickmaking. He followed this occupation a number of years thereafter, manufacturing brick in the counties of Morgan, Greene, Sangamon and Scott, Ill. In McLean County, Ill., he followed butchering about twenty years, and at one period in his life engaged in farming. He is still living, making his home with his daughter, Mrs. Vaughan. His career has been quite eventful, he having when a young man served in the Black Hawk War under Gen. Henry. The mother died in Sangamon County, Ill., when middle aged, in 1849. Their family consisted of the following children: Oscar, Annette, Atheline, Martha L. and William B.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan commenced the journey of life together in Marshall County, Ill. There have been born to them six children, two only of whom are living. The son, Alva B., makes his home in the city of Lincoln, and is in the employ of the

Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. The daughter, Cora L., is the wife of Mr. Frank Hull, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct.

In politics Mr. Vaughan votes the straight Republican ticket. Religiously, both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at South Russell, in the organization of which Mr. V. performed an important part and of which he is a Deacon. He has served as Road Supervisor two years, and socially, belongs to the I. O. O. F. being a member of Lodge No. 447, at Washburn, Ill.



**L**OUIS DAMME. The subject of this narration became a resident of this county in December, 1864, and has signalized himself as a hard-working and enterprising citizen. This course has not been without its good results, for by it he has become the owner of one of the finest farms in McWilliams Precinct. This property is pleasantly located on section 31, and comprises 273 acres of improved land, with a set of good farm buildings. Mr. Damme located upon his land in the spring of 1868, with little means save his strong muscle and stout heart, and from that very modest beginning has arisen to an enviable position, socially and financially.

Our subject was born April 1, 1843, in Franklin County, Mo., and is of German parentage. His father, Henry Damme, was born in Germany, and married a lady of his own country. After the birth of four children they emigrated to the United States, and soon after setting foot upon American soil made their way to the southwest, across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. Here the father engaged in farming, and died of the cholera early in the fifties, when about fifty-five years old. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, and Louis when a lad ten years of age was thus left an orphan.

After the death of his parents our subject was taken into the home of his brother, William Damme, who lived in Franklin County, Mo., and with whom he remained until a youth of seventeen. After the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in the

4th Missouri Infantry, Company E, under command of Capt. Montwiler, mostly doing guard duty, and serving a period of eighteen months. Upon leaving the army he returned to his native county and soon afterward came to Nebraska. In Otoe County he was married, Feb. 17, 1870, to Miss Dora Reimers, a native of Germany, and who came to the United States with her parents when a young woman. They first settled in St. Louis, thence came to this county, and afterward moved to Kansas, settling on a farm in Barton County, where the father, Henry Reimers, is yet living. The mother, Mrs. Mary Reimers, died in the spring of 1888, aged about fifty-five years.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born six children, namely: Anna, Alvina, Julius, Bertha, Amy and Louis. The eldest is seventeen years of age and the youngest seventeen months. They all continue under the home roof. Mr. Damme votes the straight Republican ticket, and both he and his wife are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, and takes very little interest in political matters. His chief pride is in being a first-class farmer, and in this respect his career has been one of which he may be proud.



**E**DWARD F. THORP is one who is familiar with every phase of pioneer life, having always lived upon the frontier. He was born in Cayuga County, Ohio, on the 31st of August, 1834, to Garrett and Loranna Thorp, who were natives of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Benjamin Thorp, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey, and reared in that State upon a farm, but migrated to Pennsylvania, and was one of the pioneers of Washington County, whence he removed to Cayuga County in 1808, and helped to develop that district. He entered a tract of Government land which lay about eight miles from the site of the present city of Cleveland, where he cleared a farm, and made his home until his death.

The father of our subject was eight years of age when the above-mentioned removal to Ohio was made. That supplied the scenes of his early life

and also of his early manhood. In that district he was married, purchased a tract of land near the old homestead, and cleared a farm from the wilderness, and made his residence there until the year 1846, when he went to Allen Township, Hillsdale Co., Mich., and there repeated the process. He was in Michigan until 1856, and then again started West with team and wagon, taking his journey through Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, stopping in the latter State at Marshalltown, where he bought a tract of land and started to improve the same. He there made his home until the death of his wife in 1865, then he sold out, and now resides with our subject. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Loranna Scoville. She was born in Medina County, Ohio, and was a daughter of Ansil and Sarah Scoville. She became the mother of eight children. Our subject was twelve years of age when his parents went to Michigan, and attended the schools both of that State and Ohio, and received such instruction as they were capable of affording. As he grew stronger he became his father's assistant on the farm, and continued to live with his parents until 1857. In starting in life for himself he assisted in a sawmill at Eastport, which became a town of about 400 families, but the river having changed its course and taken the town site in its way, Eastport does not now exist. He was in that place for about two years, and then went to Marshalltown and improved a tract of land that he had bought there. In 1860 he returned and worked in the same mill until 1861. From that time until the fall of 1868 he was working in the flouring-mill at the same place.

Leaving the State of Iowa in 1868 our subject came to Nebraska City, where he formed a partnership with N. R. and M. E. Pinney, his former employers, and bought the city mills, which he continued to operate until the 26th of December, 1877. Upon that day the mills were burned and became a total loss. Since that time he refitted and operated a mill at Palmyra and another at Hamburg. In July, 1887, he commenced keeping hotel, and opened the Thorp House, and was abundantly successful. His excellent wife managed the hotel until June, 1888, when our subject received injuries that incapacitated him from working further at his

trade, and from that time he has taken charge. It is only due to his wife, however, to say that her admirable management and happy manner secured for the house many friends and customers.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated in the year 1863. He was then united in wedlock with Martha A. Nicholson, of Indiana. To them have been born four children, whose names are as follows: Milton R., Minnie E., Nora and Clyde A. In the Masonic fraternity our subject is quite well and favorably known, being a member of Western Lodge No. 2, the Alpha Council No. 2, Keystone Chapter No. 2 and Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 2.



**C** FREDERICK SMALLFOOT, one of the most enterprising German farmers of Berlin Precinct, is pleasantly located on the south-east quarter of section 26, where he has a well-developed farm and an attractive home. He has worked his way upward from an humble position in life and may be properly numbered among the self-made men of Otoe County, whose prosperity has been the result of their own industry and perseverance. Our subject when landing upon American soil was alone and among strangers, with very little money in his pocket, and no friends to assist him to employment. His own honest face, however, soon secured him a position by which he was enabled to make his way comfortably, and since that day he has been climbing upward.

Our subject was the fifth child and only son of C. F., Sr., and Johanna (Miller) Smallfoot, and was born in the Kingdom of Saxony on the 2d of March, 1830. He was reared in the town of Sweckau, where he attended school until he was fourteen years of age, was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church, and later apprenticed to the trade of wagon-maker. At this he was occupied until the year before coming to the United States, and that year he employed in traveling over his native Empire.

In the spring of 1854 our subject, then a young man of twenty-four years, made his way to the port of Bremen, and resolved to emigrate to America. He took passage on a sailing-vessel, which,

after forty-two days, and lying still four or five days in a calm, landed safely in New York City. Thence he made his way to Milwaukee, Wis., where he secured employment at his trade, and later was occupied at this in Madison, Wis., for four years. At the expiration of this time he went onto a farm in Middleton Township, Dane County, where he had purchased forty acres, and where he lived until 1869. In the spring of that year, selling out, he came to this county.

Settling in Delaware Precinct, Mr. Smallfoot operated on rented land for a period of eight years, and in 1877 purchased the land which he now owns and occupies. This was a tract of raw prairie without a fence or building, and Mr. S. therefore commenced at first principles to build up a homestead. He devoted four acres to groves, set out an orchard of 100 apple trees, put up a house and barn, and in due time turned his attention largely to stock-raising. He now has besides his fine draft horses, good grades of cattle and Poland-China swine. His fields are laid off with hedge and wire fencing. He raises large corn crops, and is generally successful.

Our subject found a wife and helpmate in Dane County, Wis., being married there in April, 1866, to Miss Johanna Miller, who was born in the city of Leipsic, Germany, Feb. 28, 1834. Mrs. S. came to America with two brothers in 1853. Of her union with our subject there have been born six children, namely: August, Amelia, Ida, Edward, Augusta and Emma. The eldest son is farming in Delaware Precinct; Amelia is the wife of William Gass, also lives in Delaware Precinct, and is the mother of three children; Ida, Mrs. Robert Buchanan, is the wife of a well-to-do farmer of South Branch Precinct, and the mother of one child; Emma married George Haffner, a farmer of Lancaster County, Neb., residing near Firth. The other children are at home with their parents.

Mr. Smallfoot cast his first Presidential vote for Buchanan, and is one of the most reliable supporters of the Republican party. Coming from a land believing in the thorough education of its children, he is always interested in the maintenance of schools, and has been a member of the School Board in his precinct for a period of six years.

He is quite prominent in local affairs, and has served on the Grand Jury. He is a member of the German Lutheran Church in Berlin Precinct, to the support of which he contributes liberally, assisting in the building of the church edifice, and is esteemed as one of the pillars of the society.



**G**ERHART HENRY MEYER is a member of the firm of Noelting & Meyer, the leading hardware merchants of Nebraska City. He was born in Garnavillo, Clayton Co., Iowa, April 11, 1858. His father, Deitrich Meyer, was a native of Germany, where he was reared and educated. When attaining to manhood he decided that the New World held more attractions for him than the old, as he thought that here he could better earn his way to a competence and to a life of ease than in his native land. Accordingly he crossed the waters, and making his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, he found employment there as a stair-builder. He remained in that city until 1857, when he turned his face westward, and set out for Iowa with his family, going by the way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and landing at Guttenberg. He located in the town of Garnavillo, where he engaged in the mercantile business, opening a general store. There were no railways in that section of Iowa at that time, and he received his goods by way of the river. He continued prosperously engaged in business there until his death in 1870. Since that time his wife and one of his sons have managed the business interests successfully. In his death his adopted county lost a valued and useful citizen, one who, as a good financier and a man of probity, was identified with its best interests. His wife, to whom he was greatly indebted for his high standing, was formerly Margaret Kregel, a native of Germany. Her father, Gerhart Kregel, was likewise a German by birth, and he served in the German army during the Russian War. He came to America with his family and lived for a time in Cincinnati, Ohio. From there he went to Clayton County, Iowa, in 1857, going by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He bought a tract of wild prairie land and improved quite a farm. He died in 1886, having attained

the remarkable age of ninety-six years. He had four sons and one daughter. Of the nine children born to the parents of our subject, six grew to maturity: Margaret, wife of William Kregel; John D.; William; Gerhart H.; Emma and Lena, twins. Lena died in 1886.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native town, and received his early education in its public schools. He further advanced his education by attendance at a select private school, where he had the advantage of superior instruction. As soon as he was large enough to be useful he commenced to assist his father in the store, and thus laid the foundation for an excellent mercantile training. When he was sixteen he went to work in a carriage-shop, remaining thus employed for three years. He made his home with his parents until 1878, when he came to Otoe County, Neb., and the ensuing three years was engaged as a clerk in the establishment of William Beckman. He then started in business for himself by opening a clothing and gentleman's furnishing goods store in Syracuse. That he managed very profitably in that town until 1883, when, seizing the fine opportunity offered to him in this city to enter the hardware business, he came here and purchased a half-interest in it, and consummated the present partnership, by which arrangement both parties have been greatly benefited. They are men of enterprise; have a fine establishment, well stocked with the best articles in the line of goods that they carry, and they are extensively patronized, as their moderate charges and honest dealings deserve.

Mr. Meyer was united in marriage with Miss Anna L. Mohrman, Nov. 18, 1881. Mrs. Meyer is a native of Clayton County, Iowa, and a daughter of J. H. and Mary Mohrman. The great sorrow of the married life of our subject and his wife was the death of their only child, their little daughter, Lulu Grace, who was born July 23, 1885, and died April 26, 1887.

"Dear little Lulu, by how tender a tie

She links home upon earth to home in the sky."

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and their influence and cordial co-operation are always extended to aid in any good or charitable work. Mr. Meyer is a

young man of decided business talent, keen, prompt and fair in his dealings, and he has already gained an assured place among the solid, reliable merchants of Nebraska City, although he began at the bottom of the ladder, and is an entirely self-made man. He takes an intelligent interest in politics, and stands with the Republican party.



**O**LIVER H. BUMFORD, one of the older residents of Palmyra Precinct, and a man who has scores of friends in this vicinity, owns and occupies with his estimable wife a pleasant and comfortable home, which comprises a small farm of eighty acres on section 16, Palmyra Precinct. He was born near the town of Pompeii, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Jan. 19, 1836, his home being about ten miles from the city of Syracuse. When a lad ten years of age his parents removed to Florence Township, St. Joseph Co., Mich., where the father, a blacksmith by trade, purchased twenty acres of land, and building up a good home, spent the remainder of his life. He retired from business a few years before his death, and passed away on the 29th of August, 1859, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother has since made her home with her son, our subject, and has now reached the advanced age of eighty-five.

The parents of our subject, John and Patty Bumford, were natives of Massachusetts, and the father during his early manhood served as a Lieutenant in the War of 1812. The home circle was completed by the birth of ten children. William is still living, and George died at the age of thirteen. The survivors are: Mary A., William, Paulina, Martha, and Oliver, of our sketch. The latter is the youngest of his parents' living children, and remained with them in St. Joseph County, Mich., until twenty-nine years of age. In 1864 he purchased a half-interest in a sawmill in Ionia County, but four years later removed to Mitchell County, Iowa, and settled upon a farm. Thence he came to Nebraska in 1872, and homesteaded eighty acres in Palmyra Precinct. In 1878, changing his location and occupation, he assumed charge of a hotel at

Bennet, which he conducted one year, then withdrew, and engaged for two years following as clerk in a general store.

We next find our subject engaged in general merchandising at Roca, where he operated successfully two years, then unfortunately admitted a partner to the business, who proved to be a rascal, and who involved our subject in great loss. In 1882, therefore, he returned to his farm, where he has since lived.

Mr. Bumford, on the 13th of September, 1863, was united in marriage with Miss Georgiana Henderson, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Sturgis, Mich. Mrs. Bumford was born in July, 1844, in Constantine, St. Joseph Co., Mich., and is the daughter of Adam and Margaret Henderson, who were natives of Ireland and New York State respectively, and spent their last years in Michigan. The family consisted of four children, namely: John, Oliver, Charles and Georgiana. Of these Mrs. Bumford is the only one living.

Our subject has always taken a warm interest in political matters, and has been a member of the Republican party since its organization. He was elected Assessor in the spring of 1887, and has also served as Justice of the Peace two terms in Bennet. He was appointed a delegate to the Otoe County Republican Convention in 1886. He is at present a School Director in his district. Socially, he belongs to the A. F. & A. M. and I. O. O. F. He is a man who has lived quietly and unostentatiously, pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and a good citizen, his interests centering mostly around his fireside. Mr. and Mrs. B. have no children.



**WILLIAM BECKMAN.** The mercantile interests of the city of Syracuse find a most worthy and enterprising representative in the subject of this sketch. He has been a resident of this county for a period of twenty years, pitching his tent here in the fall of 1877. He first opened his eyes to the light near the town of Edwardsville, Madison Co., Ill., Oct. 6, 1853. His parents were natives of Berlin, Germany, and the father, Rudolph

Beckman, was a farmer by occupation. Our subject was left motherless when an infant, and thus has no remembrance of her who bore him. When but a lad of seven years he was doubly orphaned by the death of his father. He was then given a home among strangers, and knows but little of his own people. He has no brothers, and his only sister, Dinah, Mrs. Frederickson, is a resident of Johnson County, this State.

Young Beckman [after the death of his father continued at the homestead two years, then went to the city of St. Louis, Mo., with J. H. Wagoner. His early education had been extremely limited and he was thrown upon his own resources. He accepted the first position which presented itself as an employe in a coal yard, and was occupied four years. Then coming to this State, he located in Nebraska City, in the fall of 1868 becoming the employe of Buck & Jones, hardware merchants, intending to learn the tinner's trade. The firm, however, soon closed up their business, and our subject was again left without a job.

Mr. Beckman, however, continued his connection with the hardware business with the firm of Mohrensticker & Clober, remaining with them sixty days, and then this firm also closed its doors. About this time he had the misfortune to sprain his ankle, and being unable to work contracted a board bill with M. T. Johnson, and to pay this was employed by Mr. J. in the dining-room of his hotel. Subsequently he occupied the clerk's desk in the office six months, but feeling that he was not adapted to the position of a hotel clerk withdrew, and became a clerk in a grocery store. From this he drifted into a store of general merchandising, where he was employed until 1877.

Realizing most sadly the disadvantages of his neglected education, Mr. Beckman in the winter of 1875 entered the Commercial College at St. Louis, Mo., and after diligent study was graduated from that institution six months later. Then returning to Nebraska City, he entered the employ of the same firm, the gentleman above mentioned, with whom he continued until the 1st of August, 1877. His plan then was to establish himself at Tecumseh, in Johnson County, in business, but failing to secure a desirable location he returned to Syracuse, and be-

came successor of J. S. McConnega, and has since been engaged in general merchandising with marked success. He has a neat and substantial residence in the eastern part of the city, and is the owner of other valuable town property. With the exception of \$500 from his father's estate, he has attained his present position, financially, by his own resolution and energy. During the time he was employed as a clerk he saved \$1,000, having in the meanwhile lived economically and deprived himself of many of those things which the young man of to-day imagines he cannot do without.

The lady who has presided over the household of our subject for a period of nearly ten years was in her girlhood Miss Minnie E. Risser, to whom he was wedded Jan. 7, 1879. Mrs. Beckman was born in Franklin Center, Lee Co., Iowa, in 1856, and is the daughter of David and Christina (Hubach) Risser, who were natives of Germany, and are now residents of Otoe County, where the father is carrying on farming. To Mr. and Mrs. Beckman there have been born five children, namely: Leona A., Edward D., Frederick W., Grover R. and Amelia C. They are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, and Mr. Beckman, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket. He takes a warm interest in local politics, and is frequently chosen a delegate to the State Conventions.



**J**ASPER A. WARE lives in one of the pleasantest homes in Nebraska City, a commodious brick structure, which is finely located on an eminence, sloping gently back from the street, one mile from the court-house, overlooking a beautiful stretch of country. Mr. Ware was for many years the leading banker of Nebraska City, and was actively identified with its business interests, but he now devotes himself to marketing and gardening.

Mr. Ware was born in Todd County, Ky., March 5, 1831. His father, Edmund Ware, was a native of Virginia, but his grandfather, Lewis Ware, was, it is thought, born in England, emigrating from there to America and settling in Virginia. He subsequently moved from there to Kentucky, and located

near Frankfort, where he spent his last years. The father of our subject was a boy when his parents moved to Kentucky, and there he grew to manhood and married, Laura V. Anderson, a native of Virginia, becoming his wife. Her father, Nicholas Anderson, who, so far as known, was of Virginian birth, was of English ancestry, and was a pioneer of Kentucky. After marriage Mr. Ware moved to Todd County, Ky., and there bought a large tract of timber land, eight miles from Elkton and one and a half miles from Trenton. He cleared quite a large farm, and resided there until his death in 1855. When he first settled there he erected a set of log buildings, but before his death he replaced them by a good set of frame buildings. His wife died on the home farm in 1847. They were well known, and greatly beloved by the many who often shared the generous hospitality of their comfortable home. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Sarah J., Charles W., Mary A., Jasper A., Gertude, Susan B., Nicholas M. and Louisa.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and received a good, practical education in its schools. He remained in the home of his parents until he was nineteen, when he entered the mercantile business as a clerk in a general store with his brother in Trenton. He remained with him five years as a clerk, and then bought an interest in the store, but in 1857 he sold out his share in the business and started West, coming directly to the Territory of Nebraska, arriving here on the 8th of May, that year. He bought a squatter's claim to nearly a section of land located in different parts of the county. He was at that time a single man, so did not establish a home, but boarded at the Planters' Hotel in Nebraska City for a time, and dealt in real estate. In 1859 he opened a bank, and was engaged in banking until 1871, doing an extensive business. In 1866 he went to Omaha to make arrangements for opening a bank there in partnership with P. S. Wilson and J. W. Hugus, and operated that bank in connection with the one in Nebraska City until 1870. He invested large sums of money in realty, and at last found himself encumbered with over \$10,000 worth of land at the very time when the markets were dull.

est, indeed at a complete standstill. In consequence of this he closed his banking business, and has since devoted his time to farming and gardening, at which he makes large profits.

Mr. Ware was married, Oct. 10, 1861, to Miss Ellen H. Kinney, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of four children; Florence I., the wife of Richard S. Hall, of Omaha; Ellen, Grace L. and Norton. Mr. and Mrs. Ware and their family are devoted members of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Ware is a man of easy, dignified presence, and his genial, kindly manners have won him scores of friends. He is exceedingly public-spirited and liberal, and his record in all the relations of life shows him to be a tender husband, a devoted father, an obliging neighbor, a tried and trusty friend, and a loyal citizen. He is a Democrat in his political views, and has done his adopted city good service as Treasurer.



**W**ILLIAM P. REDFIELD. The subject of this sketch, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, was born in Parke County, Ind., Nov. 14, 1838, and is the son of Peleg and Silena (Shewel) Redfield, of Middletown, Conn., and now deceased. The paternal grandfather, William Redfield, was of English ancestry, and served as a soldier first in the Revolutionary War, and later in the War of 1812. His ancestors settled in America about 1640, and his father, Samuel Redfield, was the son of Capt. William Redfield, who was the seventh son of Theophilus, and he the eldest son of James, the name then being Redfin. The latter was a son of William Redfin, also spelled "Redfen," "Redfyn" and "Redfyne." Between 1630 and 1639 members of the family were found on the south side of the Charles River, six miles from the city of Boston, where they owned four acres of land near the foot of what is known now as Normanton Hills, where the renowned Elliott preached his first sermon to the Indians. He was awarded a clear title to this in 1642 by the proprietors of Cambridge, as the records show, and in 1646 he sold to Edward Jackson, and then his name disappeared from the

records of Massachusetts, when it is supposed he became identified with the Connecticut family.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, received a common-school education, and became familiar with farming pursuits. He came to this county in 1856, while Nebraska was a Territory, settling on the northeast quarter of section 29, near where his son now lives. The mother passed away in 1858, and the father surviving his wife a period of eighteen years, died in 1876.

Mr. Redfield is the owner of eighty-six acres of well-cultivated land, and makes a specialty of fruit-raising. He is also fond of fine stock, and has a herd of handsome Jersey cattle besides Poland-China swine.

Mr. Redfield was married, Nov. 19, 1862, to Miss Ernestine, daughter of Marshall Pratt, now deceased, who was a native of New York State, and who settled in this county in 1859. Of this union there were born five children, four of whom are living, namely: Marshall, Nellie, Emma and Grace. Marshall married Miss Leota Jackson, is the father of one child, a son William, and lives in Wisner, this State; Nellie is the wife of Mr. Frank Sargent, of Otoe Precinct, and the mother of one child, a daughter, Edna. Emma is attending High School in Nebraska City; Grace, the baby, seven years of age, is at home with her parents.

Mr. Redfield has been a useful man in his community, intelligent and public-spirited, and served as Justice of the Peace a period of four years. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**J**OHAN DEIDRICH STÜTT. A fine body of land thoroughly improved, under good management, and embellished with neat and substantial buildings, forms a picture of rural life most delightful to the eye. Such a homestead has the subject of this sketch built up in North Branch Precinct, the residence and main buildings being located on the southeast quarter of section 5. The entire estate of our subject, however, includes 600 broad acres lying on sections 4, 5, 8 and 9. Everything that the hand of industry and taste

could suggest has been utilized for carrying on agriculture in the most thorough and skilled manner. Mr. Stutt makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in the prosecution of this industry has provided himself with all modern conveniences, among the most conspicuous being a series of tanks by which the stock is watered with great ease and with regularity. The pens and sheds are in keeping with the balance of the premises, and comprise ample room for shelter and feeding.

The subject of this sketch is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, having been finely educated in his native tongue, and has also adapted himself to the intricacies of the English language. He is a constant reader, and keeps himself well informed upon topics of general interest. He is a man who has traveled a great deal, seen much of the world, and has the faculty of making the most of his opportunities. He was given a thorough musical education, an art of which he was extremely fond and in which he was very proficient, but was obliged to resign his Professorship on account of an affection of the eyes, which threatened him with great inconvenience, if not total loss of sight.

Mr. Stutt is one of the oldest settlers of North Branch Precinct, and it is possible is its oldest living resident. His native country was the little Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, which during the war between France and Prussia was made a Province. There he first opened his eyes to the light Feb. 21, 1821, in the town of Fredeburg, where he was placed in school at an early age, and received a thorough education in the German tongue. Upon completing his studies he commenced teaching, and was thus occupied a period of ten years, six of these as Principal. His close application to books and music, especially, resulted in a partial loss of sight at times, and there being nothing else desirable at which he could engage in his native land, he resolved in 1847 to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

Mr. Stutt in the fall of the year mentioned bade adieu to the scenes of his childhood and youth, and embarking on a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen, made an ocean voyage of eight weeks' duration, landing in the city of New Orleans. Thence by steamer he proceeded to St. Louis, Mo., where

he employed himself in a furniture factory for six months. We next find him in Sangamon County, Ill., where he was occupied in a hemp mill two and one-half years. Later, in company with his brother Henry, he purchased 320 acres of unimproved land in Scott County, upon which they operated three years, then our subject, leaving the farm to the supervision of his brother, returned to Missouri and purchased 100 acres of land in the vicinity of St. Louis, where he operated successfully three years as a gardener.

At the expiration of this time, Mr. Stutt, selling this property, made his way to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent a winter, and thereafter purchased land in Canton County, Ky., eighteen acres, for the sum of \$110 an acre, which he devoted to gardening purposes. During the panic of 1857 business becoming far from being remunerative, he sold out at \$60 per acre, and repairing to Chicago, Ill., embarked in the retail grocery trade. One year of this, however, sufficed, and selling out his stock he returned to his Illinois farm, and prosecuted agriculture there until 1862. In the spring of that year he sold out to his brother, and coming to this county homesteaded 160 acres of land in North Branch Precinct, raw prairie on sections 23 and 24. To this he secured a legal title, and then traded with Silas Gray for 120 acres on section 4. Prior to this, however, he had purchased 160 acres on section 5, and to this had moved and already begun improvements.

Nebraska City at this time was but a lumber-yard, with no machinery for dressing building material, and Mr. Stutt accordingly had to have his building material dressed at Kenosha. A part of the first dwelling he erected is still standing, but was deserted for the newer and more modern residence in 1883. This latter is now flanked by a fine barn and an expensive windmill. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, while groves, orchards, and choice shade and other fruit trees stand upon what was once the lonely prairie. Mr. Stutt has twelve acres devoted to an apple orchard and ten acres of native timber. His entire landed possessions aggregated at one time 720 acres, 120 of which he sold in 1886. He superintends the operation of all his land, which is nearly all utilized in

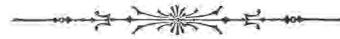
his live-stock operations. Mr. Stutt ships usually every year two cars each of cattle and swine, and keeps about ten high-grade horses. His fields are laid off with neat wire and hedge fencing.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Catherine Aden took place at the home of the bride in Davenport, Iowa, May 15, 1855. Mrs. Stutt, like her husband, is also a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born May 2, 1840. She came to America with her parents in 1846, they settling in St. Louis, where they lived until 1848. Of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Adelia, Adolph, Minnie, Arnold, Clara, Ernest, Otoe, Octavia and Eugene. Adelia is the wife of Gustav Witt, a farmer of North Branch Precinct, and they have two children; Adolph is married, is also farming in North Branch Precinct, and is the father of four children; Minnie is the wife of Charles Bush, a merchant of Ashland; Arnold is farming in North Branch; Clara is the wife of Charles Witt, a farmer of Syracuse Precinct; Ernest continues at home with his parents; Clara was graduated from the Peru Normal School, and has been engaged as a teacher for the last four years.

Mr. Stutt has been a member of the School Board of his district since its organization twenty years ago. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat, and socially, is a member in good standing of the I. O. O. F. He has been Superintendent of a Sunday-school, and, with his estimable wife, belongs to the German Lutheran Church. His example is one from which the young men of to-day may take a useful lesson.

The parents of our subject were Henry and Adelaide (Wiegung) Stutt, who were also natives of Hanover. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Stutt, fought against the first Napoleon in the war between France and Germany. Grandfather John Ulick Wiegung was blacksmith and farmer combined, and being a very engaging young man, married a wealthy lady, whose estate he afterward managed. Her first name was Elizabeth, but the latter name has not been preserved. The grandparents spent their entire lives in their native Empire. Henry Stutt, the father of our subject, was a very talented man, a professor of music, and for more than ordinary proficiency in his art received a

medal from the King. The fiftieth year of his residence and labors at one place was made the occasion of a fine celebration. He followed his profession until the advanced age of eighty-three years, retiring ten years before his death, which occurred in August, 1882, he thus being ninety-three years old. The mother passed away a year previous to the decease of her husband, she also attaining the ripe old age of ninety three years. The four children of the parental family were: Mary, who died when sixty years old; J. Diedrich, our subject; Henry, who is farming in Scott County, Iowa, and John, who died at the age of twenty-nine years.



**J**OHN WEBER is one of the successful stock-raisers and general farmers of McWilliams Precinct, where he owns 344 acres on section 30, all well-improved and cultivated, fully provided with buildings, miscellaneous machines and implements that are indispensable to the modern farmer. The pasture and stables also are fully stocked with high-grade animals of considerable value.

Mr. Weber has lived upon his present property since the year 1877, although he had obtained it one year previously. Before that time he had been a resident of Lee County, Iowa, and was born in Charleston Township of that county on the 2d of February, 1852, of German parentage.

The father of our subject, John Weber, Sr., was born in Wurtemberg. There he was brought up, and learned the tailoring trade, and as a young man was married to Lizzie Rhode, a native of the same Kingdom. They made their first home in the same district until after the birth of their two first children, then with their little ones came to this country, and settled upon a farm in Lee County, Iowa. There he continued, and was numbered among the prosperous farmers and worthy citizens. Recently he has retired from the active work of the farm, and has reached the good old age of seventy-two years; his wife, who is still living, is sixty-six years of age. They are lifelong members of the Lutheran Church, and have instructed their children in the same faith. Mr. Weber is and has been for many years a mem-

ber of the Democratic party, and was at one time somewhat active in political circles.

The subject of our sketch is one of a large family of children, six only of whom are now living. He was brought up in Lee County, and attended the common schools there, after which he remained upon the farm with his father, whom he assisted until he became of age. He observed the twenty-third anniversary of his birth by celebrating his marriage with Miss Catharine Hopp, who was born in Charleston Township Aug. 31, 1853. She is the daughter of Phillip and Lizzie (Frelk) Hopp, who are now living upon a farm in Osage Precinct of this county, which they obtained in 1877.

The family of our subject and wife includes eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: Charles, William, Bertha, Lewis, John, Edward, Eda and Herman. Mr. and Mrs. Weber are attendants of the Lutheran Evangelical Church, and are well received in religious circles, as they are also in society at large. Our subject espouses the Democracy, and is deeply interested in political matters.



JOSEPH S. GRAY, an old resident of Palmyra Precinct, settled on the western line of this county twenty-seven years ago, and for a time his house was the resort of the weary traveler through this region when public places of rest and refreshment were few and far between. Many were the travelers who sought a grateful shelter under his roof while on their way from Nebraska City to Denver, Col. Of late years he has given his attention strictly to farming, and has the oldest apple orchard in Palmyra Precinct. He has brought his land to a fine state of cultivation, has a fair assortment of live stock, and although not living elegantly by any means is in the enjoyment of the comforts of life.

Our subject, a native of Durham County, England, was born in Pitlington Parish, Nov. 18, 1823, and received his education in the common school. His parents, John and Jane (Sheldon) Gray, were natives of the same county, and of pure English descent. His father was deputy foreman of a coal mine, and the parental family included the

following children: Joseph S., our subject; Hannah, John and William, all in England; Robert in Iowa, William in Kentucky, Thomas and Isabella in Raymond, Neb. Three died in infancy.

Our subject when twenty-five years old resolved to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, on the 28th of March, 1848, he embarked at Liverpool on the sailing-vessel "Sawataro," and set foot upon American soil in New York City on the 10th of May, 1848. Thence he proceeded directly to Carbon County, Pa., where he engaged in coal mining. He had been accompanied by his wife, to whom he was married in England, April 13, 1846, and who in her girlhood was Miss Isabella Hughes. She was also a native of Durham County, and born May 1, 1826. Her parents were John and Dorothy Hughes, and the father was a coal miner by occupation. They spent their last years in England.

To Mr. and Mrs. Gray were born two children, both of whom died in infancy in England. Our subject and his wife after a two-years residence in the Keystone State, removed to Ohio, and thence to Lawrence County in the same State, Mr. Gray still prosecuting his calling of coal miner. In due time he was promoted to agent and salesman, where he disposed of large quantities of coal, which were shipped by steamboats down the Ohio River, and in which business he was occupied until 1855.

In the spring of the above-mentioned year Mr. Gray crossed the Mississippi and located in Fremont County, Iowa, where he engaged in farming, and continued to reside until after the election of 1860. Then, having become a naturalized citizen, he cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He was a warm admirer of the great emancipator who so thoroughly carried out his anti-slavery sentiments. Upon coming to the Hawkeye State he had purchased forty acres of land, and this he sold out, at a good profit in 1861. With the proceeds he came to this county, and homesteaded 160 acres, for the cultivation of which he was amply fitted, having brought from Iowa three ox-teams. He also brought six head of other cattle and twenty-five head of hogs, the latter being about the first of their kind brought into the precinct. He was looked upon by the neighbors as

quite wealthy. The nearest of these was Peter Sibert, and continued so for many years thereafter.

To our subject and his estimable wife there were born seven children, namely: Dorothy J., Joseph S., Jr., James, Thomas, Belle, Hannah and Eliza, all of whom are living and are now residents of Nebraska. Mr. Gray during the earlier years of his residence here was quite prominent in local affairs, served as a member of the School Board, and was generally active in the enterprises set on foot for the good of the community. He is a member of the Old Settlers' Association, has served as Road Supervisor, and been sent as a delegate to the County Convention by the Republican party, of whose principles he still continues a warm supporter.



**R**M. KIRKHAM. Among the early pioneers of Nebraska who have been instrumental in developing her great agricultural resources, and are still active members of her farming community, is the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He was an early settler of Nebraska City Precinct, locating on his present farm in the year 1856, and has ever since been numbered among the most industrious and thrifty citizens of this community. He is a native of Corydon, the county seat of Harrison County, Ind., his birth occurring in that city on the 20th of October, 1818. His father, Michael Kirkham, was born in Kentucky, a son of Henry Kirkham, a native of Ireland, and a pioneer of Kentucky, whither he went from his native land in early manhood, and casting in his lot with the early settlers, passed, it is supposed, the remainder of his life there.

The father of our subject, it is thought, was reared in his Kentucky birthplace, but after marriage moved to Indiana, and became a pioneer of Harrison County. He was quite a trader, and used to traffic on the rivers. When our subject was an infant the father went down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and died while away from home. He left a widow and two children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and loving parent. Our subject's mother was thus left in poverty with two small children to care for, but she nobly shouldered her

burden, and kept a shelter over their heads and provided them with food and clothing by taking in sewing. She subsequently married again, and continued to live in Harrison County until her death.

The subject of our sketch lived with his mother a part of the time, and with friends some of the time, until he was fourteen years old. Then, being a strong, well-developed lad, ready and willing to work, he chose a guardian, and was bound to learn a trade, that of carpenter and joiner, at which he was employed until he was twenty-one, receiving in return his board and clothes. He then started out in life for himself with two new suits of clothes, \$5 worth of tools, \$5 in cash, and plenty of pluck and resolution to make his own way in the world very successfully. He began his independent life in Laynesville, Ky., where he found work at his trade, and was busily employed there until 1841. He then returned to Indiana, and was engaged at carpentering in Harrison County until the following year, when he decided to seek work at his trade in some of the new and growing towns beyond the Mississippi River. He proceeded on his journey down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Liberty, Mo., and thence on foot to Union Mills, where he visited a few weeks. He then proceeded by wagon to his destination, the town of Savannah, in Andrew County, which was then a new village, with but few houses. He at once obtained work as a carpenter, and actively pursued his trade there until 1849. In the meantime, in the year 1843, he was united in marriage to Miss Tryphena Holland, who has actively aided him in the establishment of the comfortable, pleasant home in which they are passing their declining years. When Mr. Kirkham left Savannah he located in Kansas City, then only an insignificant hamlet, comprising a few small houses, of which more were built of logs than of sawed timber. He followed his trade there until the spring of 1850, when he caught the gold fever, and started with others for California in the month of May. Making the journey overland, he arrived at Diamond Springs in August, and the ensuing two years was busily engaged in mining. In May, 1852, he abandoned the rough, hard life of the mining camp, and with his savings started for home, going by the way of the

Isthmus of Panama and New York, and thence to Platte County, Mo., where he bought a tract of improved land, and devoted himself to farming. In 1856 Mr. Kirkham rented his farm, and came to the then almost uninhabited Territory of Nebraska, to seek on its fertile soil a location more suited to his purposes. He came with a horse and buggy to Nebraska City, and after examining the country roundabout, he selected the claim now comprising his present farm, and as soon as the Government threw the land on the market he entered it at the land-office at Nebraska City. After buying his land and securing a title to it, he went back to Missouri for his family, and returned with them to their new home in September, 1856, bringing a part of their household goods in the wagon that served as a conveyance. Ever since that time Mr. Kirkham has been an esteemed resident of Nebraska City Precinct. He is a prudent, hard-working man, and by his energetic perseverance has improved the once wild prairie land that he purchased from the Government more than thirty years ago into a valuable farm, comparing favorably with his neighbors in respect to cultivation, neat and substantial buildings, and all else that goes to make up a first-class farm.

Mr. Kirkham is a sober, honest, upright man, and the respect felt for him by his fellow-citizens is but the just reward of a good life. In his religious opinions he is a believer in the doctrines of the Seventh-Day Adventists; in his political sentiments he is a Democrat.



**D**AVID M. HARP, farmer and carpenter combined, has a fine tract of land located on the southwest quarter of section 6, Hendricks Precinct, and watered by a branch of the Nemaha. He pursues his trade during the summer season, at the same time superintending the operations of his farm. He is a genial and intelligent man and a useful citizen, taking an active interest in church matters, and casting his influence on the side of morality and good order.

The parents of our subject, Daniel and Betsy (Young) Harp, were natives of New York State,

where they were married, and where the father pursued his trade of carpenter during his early manhood. In 1840 he emigrated to Henry County, Ill., where he turned his attention to farming, and acquired a good property. In 1860 he changed his residence to Monroe County, Wis., where with his estimable wife he is still living, retired from active labor.

The parental household of our subject included nine children, four of whom are living, and residing mostly in Wisconsin. David M. was the third in order of birth, and was a little lad six years of age when his parents removed to Illinois. He was born in New York, Dec. 16, 1834. He remained under the home roof until attaining his majority, and learned the trade of a carpenter under the instruction of his excellent father. In 1857 he took up his residence in Clayton County, Iowa, where he followed his trade until 1863. From the Hawkeye State he came to the western part of this county, making the trip overland with an ox-team, and homesteaded the land upon which he now resides.

It is hardly necessary to say that our subject has labored most industriously to effect the improvements which the passing traveler now looks upon with admiration. He has two houses on his farm, his residence and a tenement. He planted ten acres of forest trees, making a fine grove, and has two acres of choice apple trees. His farm machinery and live stock are fully in keeping with the demands of the progressive agriculturist. He purposes in due time to retire from active labor, having purchased ground in the city of Hendricks, where he intends building.

Mr. Harp was married in Clayton County, Iowa, Oct. 22, 1859, to Miss Bessie Gould, who was born in Monroe County, Wis., Aug. 15, 1844. Mrs. Harp is the daughter of Solomon and Lucinda (Stanford) Gould, both natives of New York State, and the father engaged in the lumber trade, at the same time carrying on a sawmill. The family came to Nebraska about 1862, and the father died in Johnson County in 1874; the mother died some time before. Mrs. Harp was the youngest of their seven children.

To our subject and his wife there have been born

four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Julia, died at the age of eight. The survivors are Edward, Josephine and Adah. The eldest is twenty-five years of age, and the youngest sixteen. Edward married Miss Lulu Nunn, and is a carpenter by trade, the father of one child, and a resident of Hendricks; Josephine is the wife of William Ratliff, of Hendricks, and the mother of three children—Bessie, Freddie and David.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Harp are members of the United Brethren Church, and usually attend services at Mt. Zion. Mr. Harp has officiated as Class-Leader a number of years, is a Trustee, and Superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is one of the warmest advocates of Prohibition, and a zealous member of this political party. He has served as Constable in Hendricks Precinct for the last three years, and been a member of the School Board for a period of twenty years.



**H**ON. GEORGE W. McKEE. This gentleman is established in business in Syracuse as a dealer in grain and live stock. He is one of the very early pioneers of the county, having settled with his mother, in the year 1857, about two miles west of the site of the city, at that time of course unfounded. He is a native of Delaware County, Ohio, and was born on the 10th of June, 1837. He is the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kellen) McKee. The paternal grandparents of our subject were natives of Scotland, and in 1804 emigrated to this country, crossing the Atlantic in the month of October, in a sailing-vessel, thus obtaining an experience in the realm of Father Neptune not entirely delectable, seeing that the equinoctial gales were in full force, but these moving experiences were banished from their minds by an event more absorbing in interest, for while on the voyage a son was born to them, to whom was given the name Henry.

Henry McKee grew to manhood, receiving his education and first instruction in trade in the State of Delaware. He was apprenticed to that of civil engineer, to which he seemed more attracted than any other. He was a careful and intelligent ap-

prentice, and it was not long before he made his mark in his business. He became the husband of Miss Kellen, who was born in the State of Delaware. Of her family she knew but little, having been left an orphan in early childhood. Her husband removed to New York not long after their marriage, and was one of the surveyors of the first railroad in the United States. This work accomplished, he settled in Ithaca in the State of New York, and later removed to Ohio. In the latter State he died in 1853, having reached the age of forty-eight years. Mrs. McKee came to Nebraska, and died upon the farm near Syracuse.

To Mr. and Mrs. Henry McKee were born nine children, eight of whom it was their privilege to bring to mature years. These are as follows: James H., who was murdered in Texas during the war on account of his pro-slavery ideas; Sarah A., now the wife of John Roberts, of Long Beach, Cal.; George W., our subject; John R., of Palmyra, Neb.; Clark Thomas, who died in 1861, in Leadville, Col.; Maria J., who died in Ohio; Belle, happily married to W. W. Lowe, and residing in Long Beach, Cal., and William L., of Syracuse.

The subject of our sketch passed his early life upon a farm, and at the age of twenty came to Nebraska, and helped to bring the farm to a high state of cultivation. In 1860, like many others, he went to Pike's Peak, but returned disappointed. In 1863 he engaged in freighting on the plains, which calling he pursued until the year 1868, when he returned to Syracuse and settled to the pursuit of agriculture. Shortly afterward, in addition to his farm, he purchased an interest in a gristmill, which he operated for about eleven years, also carrying on a grain business, which he still continues. He is, perhaps, at once one of the most extensive and successful dealers in the county. He is the owner of about 500 acres of well-improved farming land in Otoe County, also an elevator in Syracuse, and his farm of 180 acres a little west of town, where he resides. He has spared neither time, trouble nor expense in making this a most desirable residence, and has upon it everything apparently that is necessary for pleasure, comfort and convenience. His property has been acquired by his thrift and assiduous labor, for he received nothing from his

parents, saving, perhaps, 100 acres of land near Palmyra, upon the death of his mother.

Mr. McKee was married in the year 1868, and has become the parent of three children—Cora, Elmer and Blanche B. In all matters, enterprises and projects that have looked toward the advancement of the interest of the community and county his policy has been most liberal. He has always been deeply interested in educational matters, and the welfare generally of the rising generation. He was one of the organizers of the Otoe County Fair and Driving Association, of which he was the President the first two terms. He was also instrumental in organizing the Syracuse Lodge of the Knights of Honor, and is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity. In this he has served as Worshipful Master of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57, A. F. & A. M., of Syracuse, and in that office was always an able worker. He has initiated many into the mysteries of the order and brought them into the light of its triluminous altar.

Upon his farm our subject has given special attention to the raising and feeding of beef cattle and hogs for Eastern markets, and usually ships quite a large number annually. So successful has he been in this and his grain business that he is counted among the wealthy citizens of the district. His political aspirations and principles are symphonious with those of the Republican party, and he has frequently been called upon to act as delegate to County, District and State Conventions, his reputation among his fellows being that of a true, honorable, loyal and faithful Republican and citizen. In 1876 and 1877 Mr. McKee was honored by his fellow-citizens, who elected him to represent them in the State Legislature. This he did in a manner that has shown the wisdom of the choice and given all parties concerned every satisfaction.



**J**OHN MALLAR is one of the prominent and worthy representatives of the genus German-American citizen, and is alike a credit to his native country and also that of his adoption. He is a capable and prosperous stock-raiser in Russell Precinct, and in that connection utilizes 160

acres of some of the best land in the county. His property is situated upon section 34 of that precinct.

The father of our subject, Henry Mallar, was a native of Holstein, Germany, where he was a well-to-do merchant, continuing in his business until death claimed him in the year 1872, when he was but forty-nine years of age. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, who was also born in Holstein, was Anna Runpf. She was but twenty-eight years of age when she departed this life, in the year 1858, leaving to the care of her husband four children, viz.: Geashen; Annie, now of Chicago; Henry, who followed the nautical profession, and was drowned at sea after being shipwrecked; and John.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 12th of April, 1844, in the same district as his parents. Until he was twenty-one years of age he made his home with his father. His time until that period was occupied by the accumulation of knowledge and development of his intellectual faculties, and afterward he assisted his father in business and upon the farm. In beginning life for himself, upon attaining man's estate, he followed agriculture until the fall of 1870, then concluded to try his fortunes upon trans-Atlantic soil. He therefore sailed from Hamburg on the good ship "Simbrog," which landed him safely in New York after about fourteen days.

Leaving New York our subject went to Davenport, Iowa, where he worked upon a farm for nine months, then went to DuPage County, Iowa, and there worked on a farm for two years, and for the next six years rented land; 1880 witnessed his removal and his settlement in McWilliams Precinct, where for three years he continued to rent land. At the end of that period he purchased 160 acres of prairie land still in all the wild picturesqueness of its virgin state, which he has transformed by the subtle alchemy of persevering, intelligent labor until it has become one of the finest farms in the district. Many points would present themselves for detailed mention, the difficulty would be in the selection. His property is made beautiful by shady groves of well-developed and valuable forest trees, covering perhaps three acres, and no less so by the well-kept hedges and other fencing. The orchard, which con-

tains over 150 trees, would invite more careful and close attention, while his barn and other farm buildings would be found fully to meet the varied requirements for the storage of grain and feed, and shelter for stock.

The special efforts of our subject are in the direction of raising high-grade cattle and horses, although large numbers of the best breeds of hogs are always on hand. Of horses he is perhaps more inclined to favor the Clydesdales, and is the owner of several magnificent creatures of that breed.

The beautiful home of Mr. Mallar, splendidly located upon a fine, grassy slope, has its chief attraction in the most excellent wife and happy children of our subject. The maiden name of his companion in life was Emma Hostick, one of Nebraska City's fair daughters. She has presented her husband with three children, whose names are as follows: Annie, Andalia and Bertie.

Mr. and Mrs. Mallar are members of the German Lutheran Church in Syracuse, and our subject holds the position of Trustee of the property. Ever since his naturalization in the year 1880 he has elected to vote the Democratic ticket, and is now accounted one of the stanch friends of that party in this county.



**J**OHN L. HARRIS, one of the intelligent thinkers and capable citizens of Palmyra Precinct, is a descendant of one of the good old families of Virginia, in which State he figured somewhat conspicuously in other years. He now resides on section 22, where he operates eighty acres of good farming land. He is the son of James N. and Elizabeth W. (Allen) Harris, who were born in Orange and Fluvanna Counties, Va.

The great-grandfather of our subject, Samuel Harris, was a Government appointee in the Colonial days, and was of English family. He came from England in the eighteenth century, in order to fill the position assigned to him, and has left a record of faithful service. His son Samuel D., the grandfather of John L. Harris, was of Virginian birth. He followed the occupation of civil engineer, and was on his way to the Territory of Kentucky for the purpose of engaging in land surveying,

and died; this occurred in 1816. The father of our subject was an agriculturist, and resided upon the old Harris homestead, cultivating the broad acres of the old home farm. He died there in the year 1872, being then sixty-nine years of age. His wife departed this life in the year 1880, at the advanced age of sixty-eight years. They were the parents of six children, who bore the following names: John L.; Mary E., who died in infancy; Sarah J., Emily M., Brown and Letiza D.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 7th of September, 1829, near Lexington, Rockbridge Co., Va. He grew up on a farm and assisted his father at blacksmithing, learning the business. The common school provided him with an education. Until he was twenty-two years of age he resided at home, and about that time was united in marriage with Miss Mary E., daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Camden) Eskew, who were also Virginians.

The wife of our subject was born in February, 1831, and was therefore twenty years of age when she was married. The young couple settled in their new home, which was at Lexington, where Mr. Harris continued his blacksmithing business, which was quite extensive and kept him fully employed. After two years he was induced to go to Southwestern Virginia in company with two partners, with the intention of manufacturing agricultural implements, including not simply plows and harrows, but those more complicated, such as feed-cutters, feed-mills, etc., under the firm name of W. J. Keller & Co. They erected factories at Wytheville in 1854, and made excellent progress until the crash of 1857, caused by Buchanan's free trade policy; then, being unable to collect from the farmers, the firm became financially embarrassed.

Not long afterward the wave of secessionist feeling and agitation ran high, and in due course was followed by the war. Therefore Mr. Harris emigrated to Missouri and settled in Pike County. Although a Virginian, and therefore presumably a Southern sympathizer, he never for one moment wavered in his loyalty to the Union. His business interests being established in Missouri, he was in haste to return to his wife and children, whom he had left at the old home with the promise of returning within three or four weeks. Being a first-class me-

chanic he was exempt from service in the Confederate Army, but he was kept in Virginia by first one thing and then another, and was finally prevented from returning to Missouri.

In 1869 Mr. Harris engaged quite extensively and successfully in the lumber business in Rockbridge County, Va., where he continued until 1874. The following five years he occupied himself in agricultural pursuits, linking, however, with that such work as might come to him in the line of his trade, which grew to be very extensive, and in time included the manufacture of carriages and wagons. When he went into the lumber business he involved himself in debt to the amount of several thousand dollars, but entering with heart and soul into every circumstance connected therewith, he came out very successfully. In the fall of 1880 he left Virginia for Nebraska, coming to this county and to his present farm.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Harris includes seven children, three of whom, however, died in infancy. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Sandy, Adison V., Louis E. and Jessie. Sandy was united in marriage with Miss Moxley, of Virginia, who has presented him with one son, John M.; Adison V. resides in Dawes County, this State, and is married to Miss Mary Meecham; they are the parents of two children, viz: Lelia and Albert V.; he is engaged in the hardware and agricultural implement business at Whitney in this State. Louis E. is the owner of 320 acres of land, and proprietor of the White Clay Ranch in Dawes County; the maiden name of his wife was Miss Nannia Oliver. Jessie is still at home.

The subject of our sketch has always been a strict Republican and a doughty defender of the principles of his party. At the same time he has never sought political preferment. He was appointed Judge of Elections of the Buffalo district of his native county for ten consecutive years, from 1870 to 1880, accepting the position out of loyalty and earnest desire to promote fair play. For several years he has given the labor problem careful study, and is the recipient of communications from the Bureau of Industrial Statistics for the State of Nebraska, indicating that his labor has not been in vain, and that his views, sound and practical, are

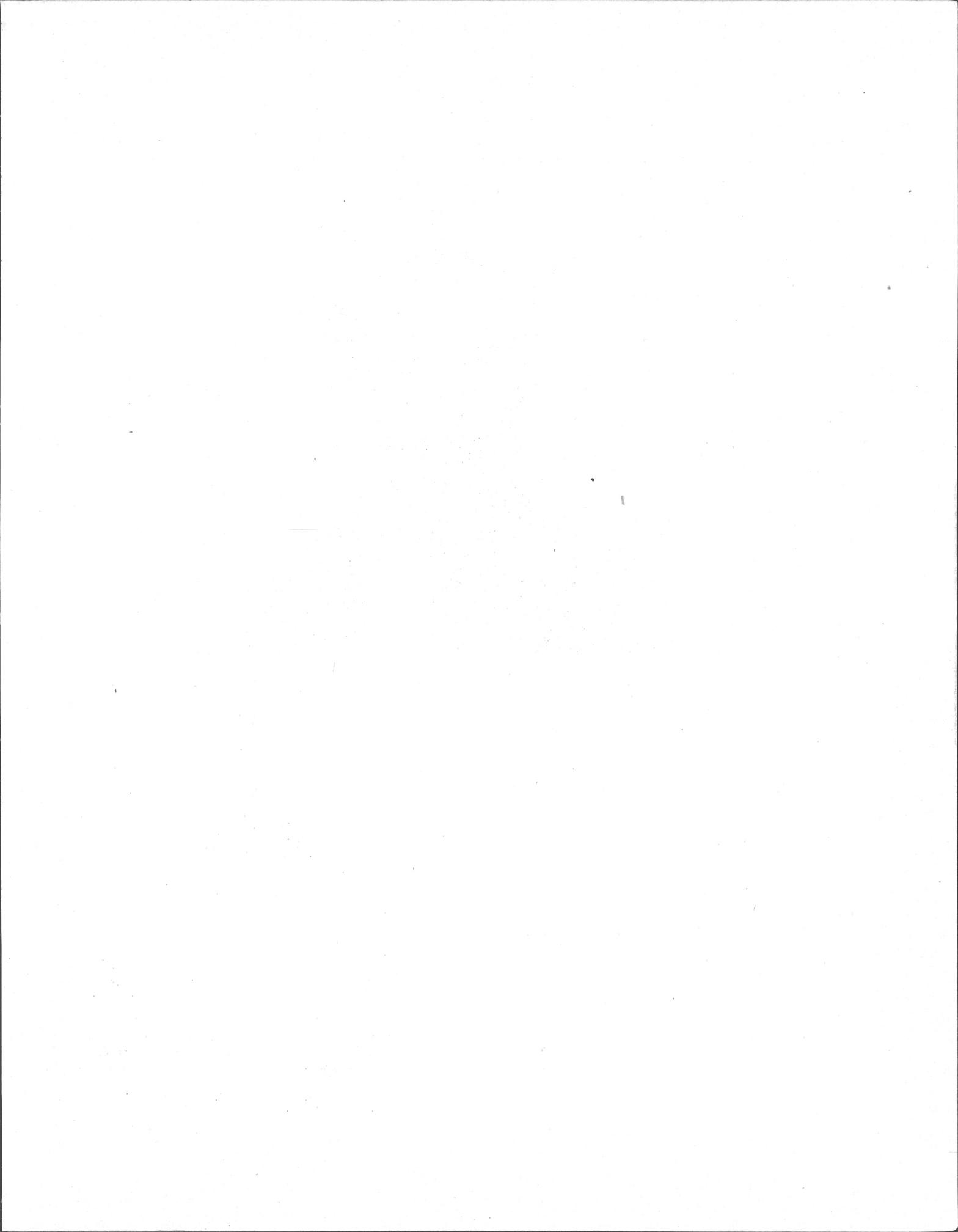
calculated to nearly meet the demands of the case.

Religiously, Mr. Harris is allied to the Presbyterian Church, although he was reared in the doctrines of the Methodist Church, and has always respected its teachings. He has had to contend with the common difficulties of life, financial and otherwise, but in spite of all he may be pronounced a success.



JACOB PENN, who has farmed successfully in Delaware Precinct for a number of years, is the regular type of the honest Pennsylvanian, and was born in Washington County, that State, on the 3d of August, 1825. His father, William Penn, was a native of Maryland, and is still living in Washington County, Pa., being now ninety years of age. The mother of our subject, who in her girlhood was Miss Phebe Bane, was also a native of Washington County, that State, and is still living, having arrived at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Jacob was educated in the common school, and spent much of his early life assisting in a flouring-mill, and operating a carding-machine. Soon after reaching his majority he was married, Nov. 19, 1846, to Miss Emeline, daughter of William and Maria (Clawson) McClory. Of this union there have been born five children, all of whom, with one exception, died when young. The survivor is a son, William H. The others were named respectively: Ann E., Mary E., Abner B. and John N.

Mr. Penn came to this county in the fall of 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory, purchased a tract of land, and was joined by his family in the following spring. The country was wild and new, and, like most of the people around them, Mr. and Mrs. Penn had little save their courageous hearts with which to begin the struggle of life in a new country. Their goods unfortunately were destroyed by fire in a warehouse in Nebraska City, and this at that time was indeed a calamity. They endured many hardships and privations during the first few years, at a time when their neighbors were few and far between, and Indians and wild animals were numerous. Deer and wolves roamed unrestrained





Yours Truly  
C. R. Stedman

over the prairies, and it was necessary, both on account of wolves and Indians, for the family to be safely housed at night. Our subject had selected a home on the North Branch of the Little Nemaha, also called Wilson Creek, and in the course of a few years there grew up around them a population of intelligent people. The pioneers all assisted each other, and were hospitable and kind, far beyond the people of the present day.

The pioneers amid their hardships and trials sought to train their children in the ways of morality and religion, and preaching was held at the private houses, conducted first by a United Presbyterian minister and later by a Baptist. A Baptist society was first organized in the valley, and services were often held in the house of Mr. Penn, he and his excellent wife being prominently identified with the organization of the church of which they have now been members for a period of thirty-six years. They have watched the growth and development of Nebraska with warm interest, and during the course of well-spent lives have gathered around them hosts of friends.

**C**HARLES R. STEDMAN, a leading merchant of Unadilla, commands a lucrative patronage, keeping a stock of general merchandise, including about everything necessary to the village or country household. He is a native of Tioga County, N. Y., where his birth took place April 4, 1843. When a lad of twelve years he removed with his parents to Lee County, Ill., where he acquired a common-school education and continued on the farm until a youth of nineteen.

The Civil War being then in progress, our subject in the summer of 1862 enlisted in Company D, 75th Illinois Infantry, the regiment being under command of Col. John E. Bennett. He also served under Gens. Buell, Rosecrans and Thomas, and participated in many of the important battles of the war, namely: Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Ringgold. The privations and hardships incident to army life had the effect to undermine his health, and for a period of six months, during the year

1864, he was confined in the hospital at New Albany, Ind. Later he returned home on a three-weeks furlough, then rejoined his regiment, remaining in the service until the close of the war, and being mustered out at Chicago, in June, 1865.

Our subject, upon returning to civil life, began farming in partnership with his father, in Lee County, Ill., where he lived until 1875. In the spring of that year, with a desire to see the land west of the Mississippi, he came to this county, and in company with his father purchased 320 acres of land in Russell Precinct. Here they effected fine improvements, putting up good buildings, setting out groves and an orchard, and gathering about them all the conveniences and comforts of modern rural life. In the fall of 1886 our subject, desirous once more of a change, traded his farm for a stock of general merchandise, and established in his present business at Unadilla, of which he has since been a resident. He has had a good trade from the start, being a man straightforward in his business transactions and prompt to meet his obligations.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Clara M. Wells was celebrated at the home of the bride in South Branch, Nov. 30, 1876. Mrs. Stedman is the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Kelley) Wells, old and highly respected citizens of this county, and a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work. She was born near Warner, N. H., June 29, 1856, and after perfecting her studies in the Peru Normal School, developed into a teacher, which profession she followed for a time before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are two daughters, Nellie and Alma, who are at home. Mr. Stedman cast his first Presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln, and since becoming a voter has kept himself well posted upon matters of State and National interest. For a number of years he supported the principles of the Republican party, but his warm interest in the temperance movement led him, in 1888, to identify himself with the Prohibitionists. He has been a member of the School Board of his district three years, was Deputy County Treasurer two years, and has twice been sent as a delegate to the Nebraska State Convention. In all the offices which he has been called to fill he has discharged his duties in a most praiseworthy and con-

scientific manner. During the existence of the G. A. R. Post in Unadilla he was identified with it, and is also a member of the I. O. G. T., at Unadilla.

The parents of our subject, Enos C. and Malina D. (Wall) Stedman, like their son, were also natives of Tioga County, N. Y. The paternal grandfather was of English descent, and a native of Vermont. The great-grandfather served under Washington in the Revolutionary War. Enos Stedman was a farmer by occupation, and also operated a sawmill on the Susquehanna River. He was greatly prospered, accumulating a snug fortune. In 1855, leaving the Empire State, he emigrated to Illinois, and purchased land in Lee County near the then embryo town of Dixon. He remained a resident of that section for a period of eighteen years, then, selling out, took up his residence in Freeport, but two years later, in 1875, crossed the Mississippi, and coming into this county located in Russell Precinct, taking the east half of section 32. He improved the raw prairie into a well-cultivated farm, set out groves, an apple orchard and the smaller fruit trees, and effected all the improvements necessary for the comfort of the modern and progressive agriculturist. After a well-spent life he departed hence Aug. 1, 1886, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. The mother is still living on the old homestead, being now seventy years old.

Enos Stedman was a strong Republican, and a member in good standing of the Baptist Church. The mother of our subject was his second wife, he having been first married to Miss Eliza Wolvertón, who became the mother of five children. These were named respectively: Ann, Alma, Elizabeth, Mary and Clinton. The latter, during the late war, did efficient service for the Union cause as a spy. He experienced many hairbreadth escapes unharmed, and is now a resident of Texas. At the outbreak of the Rebellion he was a resident of the Lone Star State, and was pressed into the rebel service. He deserted, however, and as soon as possible joined the Union forces. In the discharge of his duties he was captured several times by the rebels, but succeeded each time in making his escape. Of the marriage of Enos Stedman with the mother of our subject there were born eight children, of whom Charles R. was the eldest. The others were

named respectively: Enos J., Ezra F., Eva F., Minnie E., Herbert E., Carrie A. (deceased) and Wallace E. In this connection we present a portrait of Mr. Stedman.



IRA D. CHATFIELD is one of the capable and much esteemed citizens of Palmyra Precinct, and is the owner of an admirably cultivated fertile farm of 160 acres on section 10. His parents, Abraham and Jerusha (Cotton) Chatfield, were born in Connecticut and Massachusetts, respectively. Both were taken by their parents to the State of New York when they were children. They were married in Greene County of that State. His father died in 1864, aged sixty-four years, while his mother survived until 1885, and then passed to her long home after a life of eighty-eight years. They were the parents of five children, viz: Ira D., Caroline, Samuel W., Emma and John H.

It will be observed that Ira was the eldest child in the family of which he was a member. He was born in Delaware County, N. Y., on the 15th of February, 1821. Upon leaving school he engaged in the glove and mitten business, and the manufacture of tanned goods. After getting fairly started in business, he was taken sick with bilious fever, and after an illness of three months he recovered, but only to find that his partner had in the interim swindled him out of all his property.

Starting afresh, our subject accepted the agency for Gen. H. Sampson and George W. Pratt, wholesale tanners and leather dealers, becoming their head clerk, and remained with them for twelve years. He was also connected for some years with the Whitney Chair Manufacturing Company, and served them in the capacity of chief clerk.

Mr. Chatfield has been twice married. By his first wife, whose maiden name was Eliza Case, he became the parent of two children, Eli P., and Eliza, who died when she was three months old. Upon the 1st of January, 1849, he was united in wedlock with Lydia Patterson, who was born at Greenwich, Washington Co., N. Y., March 12, 1826. This marriage has been fruitful in the birth of six children, viz: George H., who was drowned when

thirteen years old; Clara A., Julia E., Emma J., Irene P. and William N. Julia E. is happily married to Morris Dennis, of Syracuse, and is the mother of two children—Margaret and Emma; Emma J. is the wife of Mr. Page, of Syracuse, and is the mother of one child, John; Irene P., now Mrs. Michael McFall, of Cass County, has one little daughter, Anna Laura; Eli P. is at Washburn, Bayfield Co., Wis., where he is a successful merchant; he married Miss Idia Parker, and their home circle includes three little ones—Eli P., Jr., Anna and John M. William N. is a teacher in the public schools of this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Chatfield are members of the Episcopal Church in this precinct, and in that circle are highly esteemed, as they are indeed in every other relation. Our subject has served the county as a Justice of the Peace, Assessor, Overseer of Highways and School Director, and in every instance has done good work. In political matters he espouses the Republican cause, and is looked up to somewhat as a leader. He enjoys the heartiest confidence and esteem of his fellows, and is much valued as a citizen in the community.

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**H**ORACE W. MAXAM. Among the prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies no unimportant position, being a wide-awake, intelligent citizen, and having as the result of years of industry and good management accumulated a fine property. The greater part of this represents a fine farm on section 20, where he has a commodious and tasteful residence, good barn and other out-buildings, a fair assortment of live stock, modern machinery, and all the other appurtenances of the well-regulated country home. At the head of his household is one of the most estimable and intelligent of ladies, who, from a ripe experience in life, which has not been unmingled with many hardships and difficulties, has emerged an admirable specimen of womanhood, and in possession of those qualities of mind and heart which have secured her the homage and respect of all who know her.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, be-

ing the son of William T. and Hannah (Howland) Maxam, who were natives respectively of Jefferson and Herkimer Counties, N. Y. Grandfather Maxam, a native of Massachusetts, was of Welsh ancestry, and carried a musket in the War of 1812, doing good service with his regiment at Sackett's Harbor. The mother's family also was of Welsh ancestry, and Grandfather Howland, also a soldier in the War of 1812, yielded up his life on the battle-field at Greenbush.

The father of our subject left the Empire State in 1833 and emigrated to Ohio, locating in Summit County, where he has since lived. During the years of his active life he followed the occupation of a farmer, but is now retired, having reached the advanced age of seventy-seven years. The mother died at the homestead there in 1873, when sixty-eight years old. They were the parents of four sons: Horace W., our subject, Alonzo A., who continues a resident of the Buckeye State; Samuel H., in Van Buren County, Mich., and Lewis L., who is engaged in farming, and resides near the city of Lincoln, in this State.

The subject of this sketch was born in Adams Township, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Oct. 31, 1832. He was an infant of eleven months when his parents removed to Ohio, where his earliest recollections center, and which embrace some events which occurred when he was but two years old. He was reared to farm pursuits in Summit County, and was the typical boy, being mischievous, agile as a squirrel, and giving his parents no end of harmless trouble and annoyance. He studied his first lessons in the district school, and later spent five terms at Twinsburg Academy. Subsequently he officiated as a pedagogue two terms.

Upon reaching his majority, young Maxam, leaving the home roof, migrated to Van Buren County, Mich., where he still followed farming, and met his fate in the person of Miss Mary E. McKay, to whom he was married Sept. 10, 1855. He continued a resident of the Wolverine State until after the outbreak of the Civil War. He had now a little family upon his hands, and for this reason watched the conflict without participating in it until February, 1865. He could then rest easy no longer, and leaving his wife and three children in

good hands, enlisted in the 1st Michigan Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Potomac. He was not called upon to engage in active fighting, and the close of the war found him at Remount Camp, near Harper's Ferry, where he was mustered out, and later received his honorable discharge at Cumberland, Md.

Mr. Maxam now returned to his home and family in Van Buren County, Mich., where not long afterward occurred the death of his wife, who left four children, namely: Frank W., John N., George H. and Mary E. The latter died when six months old. The bereaved husband and father, taking his motherless children, now returned to Ohio, and lived with his father one year. In the spring of 1868 he came to Nebraska, bringing his two eldest children with him, and for two years thereafter presided over his household affairs himself, and homesteaded eighty acres of land which is now included in his present farm.

In the meantime Mr. Maxam formed the acquaintance of Mrs. Hannah E. (Howard) Robey, to whom he was married Nov. 1, 1870, and who since that time has continued his faithful and affectionate partner, steadily alive to his best interests and those of their family. Mrs. Maxam was born in Boston, Mass., on July 29, 1828, and is the daughter of Sylvester and Betsey (Hayden) Howard, the former a native of Jefferson County, N. Y., and the latter of Hopkinton, Mass. Sylvester Howard was a farmer by occupation, and served as a minute man at Sackett's Harbor during the War of 1812. The Howards were of English ancestry, and the first representatives in this country—three brothers—crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. To the parents of Mrs. Maxam there were born ten children, namely: Maynard, who died young; Charles A., Mary W., Amasa, Emery, Eda, Hannah E., Sylvester, Elizabeth and Abel T. Sylvester Howard, when his daughter Hannah E. was a child four years of age, removed to Penobscot County, Me., and thence, in 1845, to Rock County, Wis. The now flourishing city of Janesville was then a hamlet of two or three houses, although the primitive court-house had been erected. Hannah E., in 1847, was married to C. K. Robey, and they took up their residence near the embryo

town of Stoughton, where there were born to them four children, namely: Jerome A., Mary F., John and Melvin. After the death of her husband Mrs. Robey in the spring of 1868, came to this county, bringing with her two of her children, and homesteaded a claim on section 20, having for one of her nearest neighbors Mr. H. W. Maxam. The lonely condition of each, one with his two motherless children, and the other with her two fatherless little ones, suggested at not a very late date in the period of their acquaintance that the households might be combined with both pleasurable and beneficial results, and their marriage accordingly followed in due time. Mr. Maxam in the summer of 1883 put up their present commodious dwelling, and has from time to time added those comforts and conveniences naturally suggested to himself and his excellent wife. He has now eighty acres of good land, and a homestead which invariably attracts the attention of the passing traveler as one combining all the elements of comfort and plenty.

Mr. Maxam remembers distinctly the campaign of 1840, when he shouted for "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." He has been a member of the Republican party since its organization, is a strict temperance man, and has held the various school offices of his district. He has been greatly interested in the veterinary science, to which he has given considerable study, and practices quite successfully among the equines of his precinct. He has also a good knowledge of human ailments, and is often called upon to prescribe for his neighbors. His treatment is always very simple, he being strongly in favor of the homeopathic system of medicine.

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**R**OBERT STAFFORD, one of the early settlers of Nebraska City, was born in Burton Caggles, Lincolnshire, England, Oct. 26, 1818. His parents were Robert and Christina (Wilkinson) Stafford, both also natives of England, where they spent their entire lives. Our subject was the youngest of ten children, and the only one coming to the United States. His father died when he was a little lad eight years of age, and as soon as old enough Robert commenced to

work out and assist his mother in the maintenance of the family.

For a time after the death of his father our subject made his home with an Episcopal clergyman, where he received his board and clothes in repayment for the light labor he was enabled to perform. Next he went onto a farm, living with one man four years, and later was employed in a flouring-mill until twenty years of age. He then entered the employ of a very wealthy gentleman, who owned a large number of horses, and of these young Stafford was given charge. He was thus occupied until 1853, when, resolving to seek his fortunes in America, he resigned his position, and, accompanied by his bride, set sail for the United States, leaving Liverpool the last of March on the good ship, "Plantagenet," and landing in New York City after a voyage of seven weeks and three days.

Our subject now proceeded to the State of Ohio, and purchased a farm in Richland County, three miles from Shelby. This he sold in 1857, and started for the Territory of Nebraska, making the journey by rail to Davenport, Iowa, and thence by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Nebraska City, where he arrived on the 29th of April. This place was then but a hamlet, and the land a few miles west still owned by the Government. Deer, antelopes and wolves roamed over the prairies, but the young town was the headquarters for many emigrants and freighters, and business was already beginning to assume a lively aspect.

Mr. Stafford took up a claim of Government land about ten miles west of the embryo town, and upon it erected a small house, but lived there, however, only about two months. He then moved to Nebraska City, renting a log house on what is now North street, and purchasing a team, engaged in teaming and freighting. In 1858 he began the cultivation of his land, putting in first a crop of corn. Although the season was late, he realized handsome returns.

During his residence in the Buckeye State Mr. Stafford had visited Iowa and entered 320 acres of land in Benton County. This he now traded for eight acres of land with a good frame house, near Nebraska City, and into this moved his family. In 1859 he traded that property for his present home,

at the corner of Sixteenth street and First avenue. Three years later he sold the land he had pre-empted, and with the proceeds erected a building on Main street, where he engaged in business for a period of fourteen or fifteen years. He had for years previously practiced considerably as a veterinary surgeon, and to this still gives considerable attention, meeting with good success.

Our subject was married in his native Lincolnshire in March, 1853, to Miss Louisa Pepper, who was born there, and is, like himself, of pure English ancestry. Of this union there are four children living, namely: Annis; Ida, the wife of Rev. A. R. Lemon; Frederick and Nellie. A little girl named Florence died at the age of six years.



**T**K. BRADLEY, who is engaged in the real-estate and insurance business, is classed among the most active and enterprising of the citizens of Nebraska City who are taking a prominent part in promoting its growth. He is a native of Lexington, Ky., his birth occurring in that city April 13, 1827. His father, James F. Bradley, was born in Franklin County, Ky., but his grandfather, Thomas Bradley, was a native of Virginia, the date of his birth being March 5, 1761. The great-grandfather of our subject, Robert Bradley, was, it is thought, also born in Virginia. He was a descendant of an ancient English family, who were among the early settlers of Virginia, coming to this country with the Botetourt Colony, which located at Fincastle, Botetourt County, and were the founders of that town. The grandfather of our subject was reared in Virginia, and moved from there to Kentucky, and was a pioneer in Franklin County. He took up a tract of land near the capital of the State, and cleared a farm from the wilderness, which he made his home until death. His wife also died on the home farm; her maiden name was Philadelphia Ficklin, and she was born Dec. 15, 1768.

The father of our subject was reared amid the pioneer scenes of Franklin County, and, although but a boy, he served in the War of 1812. After he had grown to manhood he went to Lexington, and

was clerk in the post-office there for many years. In 1836 he gathered together his family and his household effects, and with two wagons and six horses journeyed to Indiana, where he had decided to locate, and they cooked and camped by the way-side until they had reached their destination in Rush County. The family lived there four years, during which time Mr. Bradley taught school. In 1840 they again started westward, traveling by the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to a point in Platte County, Mo. There Mr. Bradley cast in his lot with the other pioneers, and buying a tract of timber land, built a log cabin, and commenced the arduous task of clearing a farm. There were no railways in the West at that time, and all transportation was done on rivers. Hemp and tobacco were the principal products of the country. Mr. Bradley improved a fine farm, and spent his remaining years in the State of his adoption, dying in 1878, at an advanced age. He was a man of much intelligence, well educated, of a strictly upright character, and was an influence for much good. He lived to see the wild, sparsely settled country, of which he was a pioneer, become populous and prosperous through the efforts of such men as he. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Nancy Keller, and she was a native of Fayette County, Ky. Her father, Jacob Keller, a Pennsylvanian by birth, became an early settler of Fayette County, where he was quite extensively engaged in the distillery business. He was of German ancestry, and spent his last years in Fayette County. The mother of our subject survived her husband but a few months. She was in many respects a notable woman of marked character; she worked hard during her early life, and many weary hours found her cooking over the old-fashioned fireplace, or at the spinning wheel and weaving loom, that her family might be made comfortable. No sacrifice was too great for her to make for her household, which comprised, besides her husband and herself, their twelve children, all of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of this sketch was the second child of his parents, and he was but nine years old when they moved to Indiana, and thirteen years old when they went to Missouri to make their home in that

State for the remainder of their lives. He was educated in the country schools, which were conducted on the subscription plan. He assisted his father on the farm, and remained an inmate of the parental home until he was seventeen years old. He then went back to Lexington, Ky., to live with his uncle, Joseph Ficklin, who was then Postmaster of that city, and he clerked in the post-office until 1849. Then, in the opening years of early manhood, full of desires, ambitions, and energy of youth and health, he determined to try life amid the exciting scenes of California. He went by the overland route, starting from Liberty, Mo., in the month of August, with about 100 others and nearly thirty teams, and arriving in San Diego, Cal., the last of the following December. From there he proceeded on a steamer to San Francisco, and thence to Placerville, then called Hangtown, and in that place he engaged in the mercantile business until 1851. He then disposed of his interests in the Golden State and returned to his old home and friends in Missouri, going by the Nicaragua route to New Orleans, and thence up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. He engaged in the mercantile business at Liberty, Mo., and later in Plattsburg, Mo., until 1864, when he came to Nebraska City, where he opened a general store. This city was at that time, before the introduction of railways in the State, the headquarters of the freighters across the plains to the mountains, and the greater part of his trade was with them. He continued in that business several years, and later engaged in buying and shipping grain until 1884, when he established himself in his present business as a real-estate dealer and an insurance agent. He has been prospered in his various business ventures, and is now one of the moneyed men of the city.

Mr. Bradley was married, June 5, 1853, to Miss Lucy Lincoln, a native of Liberty, Mo. Her father, George Lincoln, a native of Kentucky, in 1820 removed from that State to Clay County, Mo., of which he was one of the first settlers. He improved a farm there, on which he made his home until death. The maiden name of his wife was Julia Ann Gatewood, and she is a native of Fayette County, Ky.; she is now living with a daughter in Plattsburg, Mo. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs.

Bradley has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, namely: Eugene K., Graham L., George, Marshall and Julia. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are members of the Christian Church, and their standing in the community is of the highest. Mr. Bradley is a Democrat in his political beliefs, and is a strong advocate of the policy of his party.



**O**THNIEL HORNE, Cashier of the Bank of Syracuse, owns one-third of the stock in this institution, the balance being divided among nine others. It was organized as a private bank in 1880, by Messrs. Louis Hoeble and W. T. Peet, who conducted it until July, 1882. Mr. Horne then purchased the interest of Mr. Peet, and in June, 1886, the bank was incorporated under the State law of Nebraska, with a paid-up capital of \$30,000. Louis Hoeble was chosen President, and Mr. Horne Cashier, but as the former is absent most of the time Mr. Horne has full charge of the business, which, under his skillful management, is now in the enjoyment of a large patronage from the leading business men of the county. It has paid its regular dividends, and has a good surplus. The building is owned by the bank, and the offices devoted to the transaction of business connected therewith are fitted up with modern furnishings and all the necessary appliances.

The subject of this sketch began life at the modest homestead of his parents in Ontario County, N. Y., March 5, 1841. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Niece) Horne, the former a native of New Jersey and the latter of New York State. The family is supposed to be of German and English ancestry, but having pursued their lives quietly and unostentatiously, and not being exceedingly prolific, little has been preserved of the family records. John Horne was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life in the Empire State, passing away at the homestead in Ontario County about 1852. The mother after the death of her husband removed to Illinois, and died at her home in Lockport, Will County, about 1858. The parental household included four children, the eldest of whom, a son, Richmond, was a wagon and carriage maker by

trade, and died in Medina, Ohio, in 1886; Mary E. is the wife of William Samson, of Lockport, Ill.; Othniel, of our sketch, was the third child; Addie F. is the widow of George Hall, and resides in Chicago.

At the time of the death of his father our subject was a lad of eleven years, and two years later the family removed to Medina, Ohio. They lived there until 1856, then took up their residence in Lockport, Ill. Othniel, in common with his brothers and sisters, acquired a common-school education, and began his business career in Lockport, Ill., in 1856, as clerk in a general store. He was thus occupied until the summer of 1862, and in June of that year, the Civil War being in progress, he enlisted as a Union soldier in Company G, 100th Illinois Infantry, and prepared to fight the enemies of his country.

The regiment to which our subject was assigned was ordered first to Louisville, Ky., where it was made a portion of the Army of the Cumberland. Mr. Horne participated with his comrades in many of the important battles of the war, being at Stone River and in all the battles of that campaign. The 100th Illinois was first a part of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division and 21st Army Corps, and afterward a part of the 2d Brigade, 2d Division and 4th Army Corps. Mr. Horne at an early date was promoted to Sergeant, and immediately after the battle of Stone River in January, 1863, was commissioned as Sergeant Major. On the 15th of December, 1863, he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and on the 3d of August, 1864, commissioned Adjutant, with which rank he was mustered out in July, 1865, the war having then terminated.

Mr. Horne was in all the battles of the Atlanta campaign with the exception of the first engagement at Atlanta, in which the brave Gen. McPherson was killed. From Lovejoy Station, in the vicinity of the beleaguered city, the 100th Illinois Infantry with the balance of the command returned to look after the army of the rebel General, Hood, and for this reason did not participate in the famous march to the sea. Mr. Horne was at the battles of Chickamauga and Mission Ridge, and by his brave and faithful service secured not only the approval of his superior officers, but the friendship and goodwill of his subordinates.

After his retirement from the service Lieut. Horne returned to Lockport, Ill., and resumed his old position as clerk in the store which he left previous to his enlistment. A year later he went from there to the Union stockyards, Chicago, as book-keeper for a commission firm, but in the fall of 1866 crossed the Mississippi into Blairstown, Iowa, where he was engaged in merchandising and the milling trade until January, 1874. The reason of the subsequent change was that he had been elected Treasurer of Benton County in the fall of 1873, and at the date above mentioned assumed charge of his office, now taking up his residence in Vinton, Iowa. The duties of this he discharged until the 1st of January, 1877, then resigned, and became partner of a banking firm in Blairstown, where he continued to live and do business until coming to this State.

Mr. Horne devotes his whole time and attention to the business of the Syracuse Bank, and is the owner of a good property, including a pleasant home within the city limits, and land outside. All that he possesses he has accumulated through his own industry, having at an early age been thrown upon his own resources, and is thus a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. His early experiences, however, instead of being a drawback, only developed within him those qualities which have formed the basis of a most successful career, and have been the means of enabling him to take a position among the liberal-minded and progressive men of the day. He has always taken considerable interest in politics, and is an industrious worker in support of the Republican party, whose principles he believes to be those which shall sustain the Nation in its onward career to fame and glory. He has held various offices of responsibility and trust in connection with local affairs, and at the convention which assembled in September, 1888, was nominated by his party as their candidate for the State Legislature, and was elected in the November following.

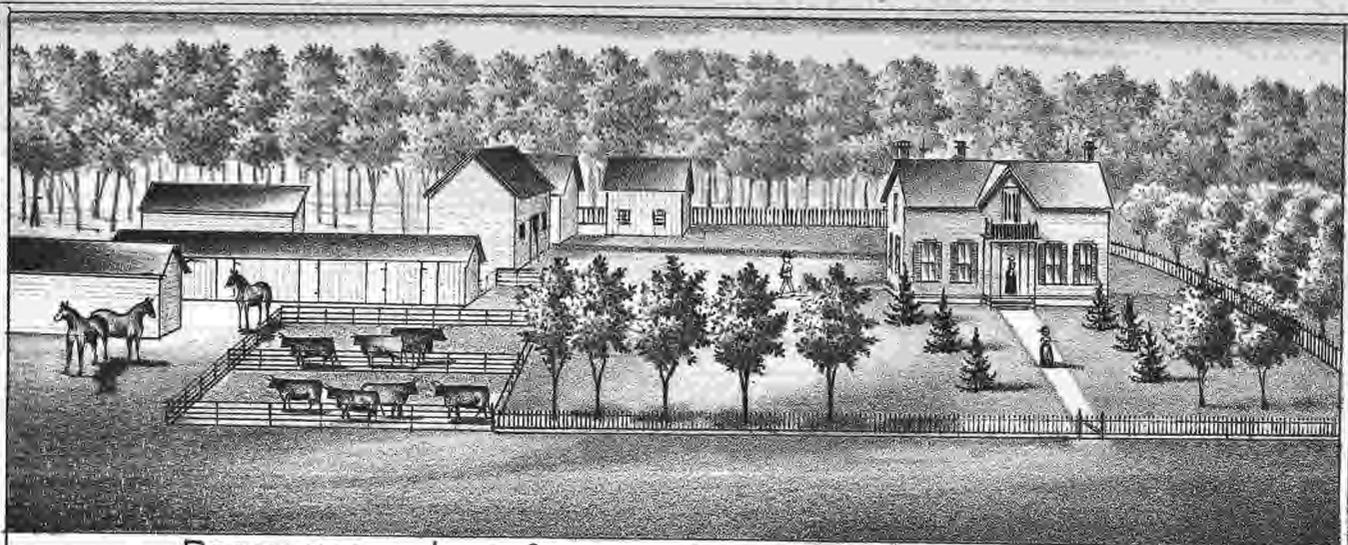
Miss Nellie Heidy, of LaFayette County, Wis., became the wife of our subject Sept. 15, 1870. She was born April 3, 1850, received a fair education, and remained a member of the parental household until her marriage with our subject. Of this union

there have been born three children, one of whom died in infancy. The survivors are sons, Frank and Othniel, the former born July 25, 1872, and the latter Aug. 13, 1879. The family residence is very pleasantly situated in the eastern part of the city, and forms one of its pleasantest and most attractive homes. Mr. Horne, socially, belongs to the G. A. R., being Past Commander of Wadsworth Post No. 21, in Syracuse, is a member of the military order of the Loyal Legion, a Knight Templar, and Past Master of the Masonic lodges at Blairstown, Iowa, and Syracuse, Neb., and a member of the A. O. U. W., with which he has been identified since 1873, at which time he obtained membership in Lodge No. 21, at Blairstown, Iowa. He is a favorite both in social and business circles, and a man always destined to be of note in his community.

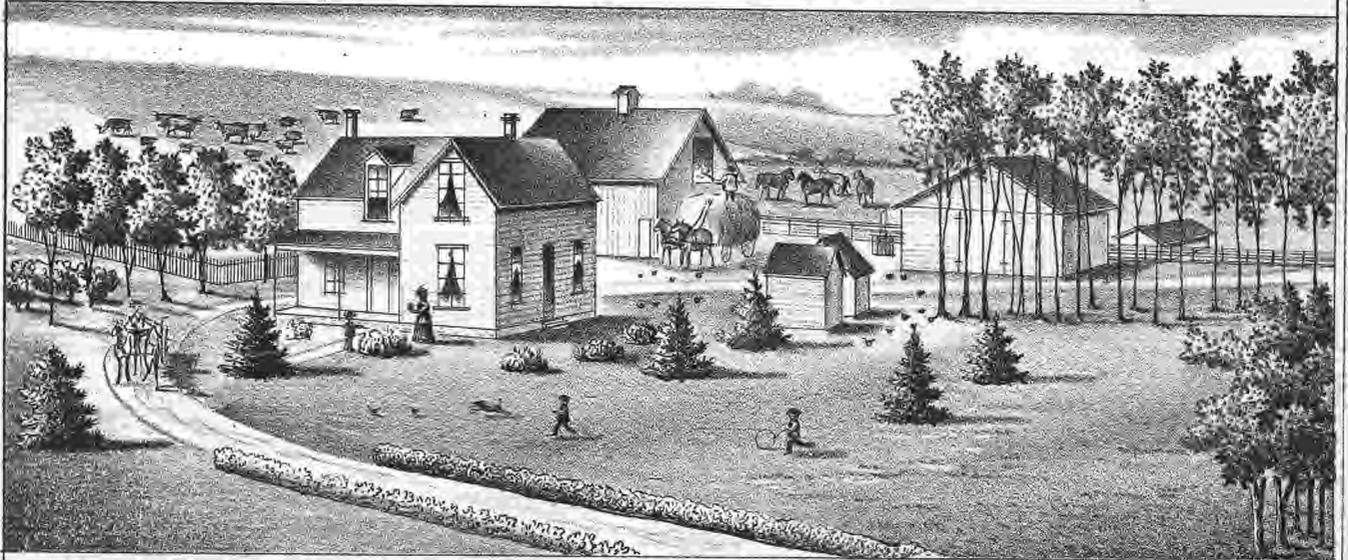


**THOMAS THOMAS**, who is prosperously engaged in the transfer business, is one of Nebraska City's solid, reliable citizens. He was born July 11, 1830, in Champaign County, Ohio, which was likewise the birthplace of his father, Daniel Thomas. His grandfather, Thomas Thomas, was born either in Scotland or Wales, and, coming to America, he became one of the first settlers of Champaign County, Ohio. He kept a tavern in the town of Urbana for some years until his removal to Illinois, where he identified himself with the early pioneers of the State, and there passed the remainder of his life.

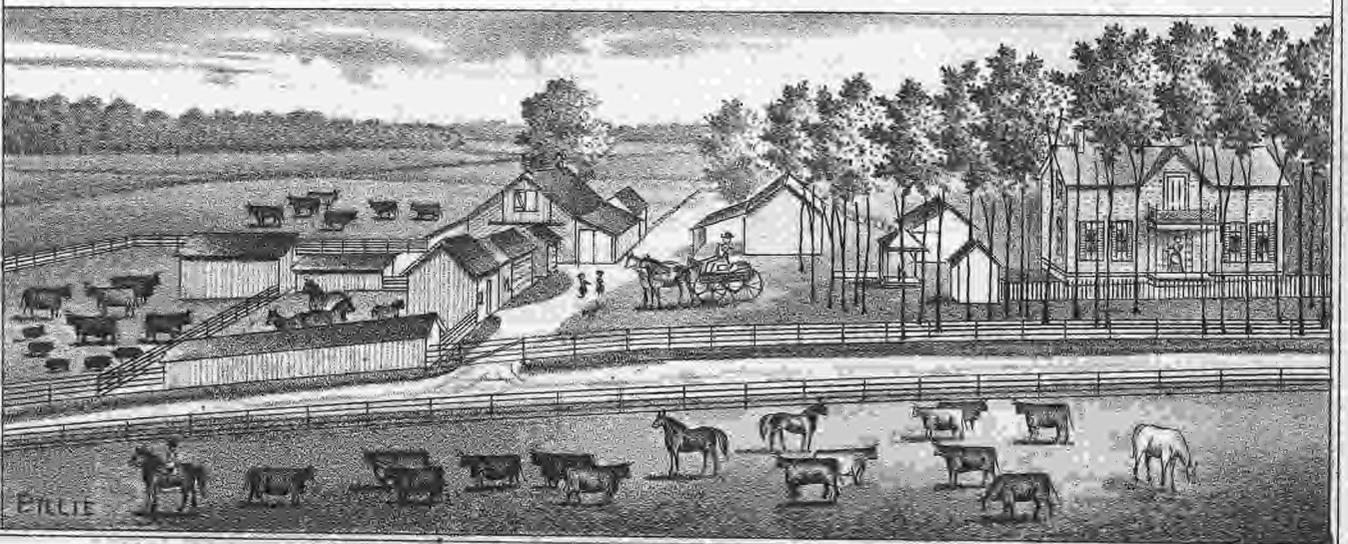
The father of our subject grew to manhood in his native county, and after his marriage with Elizabeth Traverse, he moved to Hancock County, and became one of its pioneers. The country was for the most part a sparsely settled wilderness, with Indians still lingering about their old homes, and bears, wolves and other animals lurking in the swamps and woods. He bought a tract of timber land, and during his residence there of nearly twenty years was busily engaged in improving a farm in the primeval forests of Ohio. He finally removed to Toledo, and resided there until about 1860, when he came to Nebraska City. While the war was in progress he enlisted in an independent com-



RESIDENCE OF JOHN CASPERS, SEC. 32. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF M. H. WILES, SEC. 14. DELAWARE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF HERMANN ARENDS, SEC. 32. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

pany, and went forth to defend the frontier. At the close of the Rebellion he took up his residence in St. Joseph, Mo., and there his last years were passed. His good wife had preceded him many years before, dying in 1841. There were six children born of their marriage, five of whom grew to maturity, but our subject is the only one now living.

The latter was in his eleventh year when he was deprived of the care and instruction of a kind, wise mother, and shortly after that sad occurrence his father broke up housekeeping, and the little lad was thrown on his own resources. But the plucky, self-reliant boy soon found employment as a driver of horses on the towpath of the Miami Canal. He subsequently engaged in boating on Lake Erie one season, and two seasons on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. He worked on the canal until the railway came, and continued his residence in Ohio until the fall of 1857, when he came to Nebraska City, by way of the canal from Toledo to Terre Haute, Ind., from there to Alton, Ill., by rail, and thence by team to this State across Missouri and a corner of Iowa.

During his residence in Ohio Mr. Thomas had married, in 1851, Miss Louisa Newhouse, a native of Switzerland. Her father, William Newhouse, was likewise of Swiss birth, and passed his entire life in his native land. After his death his widow, with the seven of the eight children born to her, came to America, the other child coming later. She located in Madison County, Ill., and bought a tract of land, which her children farmed for her, and she resided there until her death. The pleasant wedded life of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas has been blessed to them by the birth of three children, as follows: George H.; Ada, the wife of John Myers, and Solomon J., all of whom reside in Nebraska City.

The first winter of his stay in this part of the country Mr. Thomas was employed in a sawmill on the Iowa side of the boundary line. In the spring of 1858 he rented a farm five miles from Nebraska City. He had taken up a homestead claim the first winter that he was here, and broke a few acres and built a small house thereon, but early in 1860 he went to the mountains to drive a

team with a load of powder for the mines, and while he was gone some rascal jumped his claim. After that he employed his time wholly in teaming in Nebraska City for three or four years. Subsequently he engaged in a wholesale grocery house shipping goods for about two years. After that he was employed in the store of Hawke Brothers for some time, and was then elected City Marshal. He served in that responsible office for eight years, and during that time the city was greatly indebted to him for the preservation of peace, and for its general prosperity, as he was a faithful and efficient officer. Since retiring from office he has confined his attention strictly to the transfer business, from which he derives a good income. He is a man of much force and energy, of sound principles, and is trusted by all who know him.



**J**OHN PETERSON. This gentleman, a resident of Russell Precinct, hails from Denmark and was born at Le Mark on the Place Moen, Feb. 20, 1830. He was the eldest of nine children born to Peter and Christine Peterson; the former died in 1876, being seventy-one years of age, and the latter, whose years told the same number, in 1879. The names of their children are as follows: John, Lora, Peter, Frederick, Hans P., Mary C., Sophia, Karn C. and Christian.

The subject of our sketch remained upon the home farm until he was twenty-two years of age, and then had to serve four years in the regular army, after which he returned to the farm, remaining until 1862, when he determined to emigrate to America, and set sail from Hamburg for New York City. The voyage lasted eight weeks and four days. The tiresome and not altogether pleasant journey over, he found work in a brickyard at Perth Amboy, N. J., where he worked three months. He next went to Buffalo to work upon the railroad, at which he continued throughout the summer. From Buffalo he emigrated to Bedford County, Pa., and before long found work there also.

On the 22d of September, 1864, the Civil War being in progress, Mr. Peterson enlisted in Company B, 1st Pennsylvania Cavalry, which became

part of the army under Sheridan. He was mustered in at Chambersburg, and from there went to Washington and took part in nearly every one of the larger battles of the campaign, besides doing duty in reconnoitering and skirmishing. He was mustered out and discharged at Alexandria, June 9, 1865, after a service of nine months, in which time he had fought in many of the important battles of the war. Upon leaving the military service our subject went back to Pennsylvania, and worked in a foundry until 1867; he then repaired to Chicago, Ill., and thence to Iowa City, continuing at work in various foundries in these places until 1877, when he came to this State and settled in Russell Precinct, purchasing eighty acres of land on section 12. This he at once began to improve, and succeeded in his labors beyond his expectations.

Finally, in 1884, receiving what he believed to be an advantageous offer for his farm, our subject traded it for his present property, and moved onto it. The house, barns, groves, orchard, and in fact all the improvements, have been made since that time, Mr. Peterson having prospered greatly. He is an esteemed member of the community, a consistent adherent of the Lutheran Church, and active in the ranks of the Democratic party, the principles of which he has defended since becoming a citizen of this Republic.

It is gratifying to note the results of a persistent industry, and the view which is shown of the Peterson homestead, perhaps, is the most forcible illustration of this which could be presented. It forms a reminder which will stand for years to come and do him honor.



**T**HOMAS DEWEY, the owner of 240 acres of fine farming land on section 32 in Palmyra Precinct, is a very intelligent English gentleman of good education, who seldom meets his equal in matters of history and general practical information. Among his many excellent qualities is the careful attention which he gives to the education of his children and his strong advocacy of temperance, he being a pronounced Prohibitionist.

A native of Dorsetshire, England, our subject

was born March 25, 1819, and is a son of George and Margaret (White) Dewey, who were also of English birth and parentage, and the father a local politician of considerable note, holding the office of High Constable, Court Bailiff, etc. He lived to be seventy years of age, and, with his excellent wife spent his entire life upon his native soil. The father survived his wife, she being seventy-three years old at the time of her death. Their family consisted of two sons only, Charles W., and Thomas, our subject. The former is now deceased.

Young Dewey grew up amid the quiet scenes of country life, and at the age of twenty years commenced to learn the trades of carpenter and wheel-right. These he pursued in the cities of Lynn, Southampton, Portsmouth, Brighton, Sussex, Seaford and other places. He developed rare genius as a machinist, and in due time was given a position in the civil engineering department of the Government.

Mr. Dewey when twenty-nine years of age was married, March 4, 1848, to Miss Mary Ann Howell, who was born in Sussex, Sept 17, 1830, and whose grandfather was a native of Wales. She was the eldest of four children and the daughter of Richard and Mary (Elphick) Howell, who were natives of England, and spent their last years there. Their family consisted of seven children, four now living.

Our subject and his wife began the journey of life together in the city of Lewis, England, where they lived until after the birth of four children. Mr. Dewey then decided to seek his fortune on another continent, and with his little family set sail from Liverpool on the 1st of May, 1867. Soon after landing upon American soil he made his way directly across the Mississippi to the newly admitted State of Nebraska, and bought 160 acres of land in Hendricks Township. Two years later he homesteaded eighty acres of his present farm, upon which he has lived now for a period of nineteen years. The household circle after the emigration to America was enlarged by the birth of one more child. George, the eldest son, when about twenty-eight years old, went to Montana, and was murdered by the Indians; Margaret is married; Charles died in England at the age of six years; Annie is married; Thomas, a bright and promising youth, is a

student at the seminary in Bennet, from which he expects to graduate in the class of '91. William, born in America, died at the age of nineteen years. Miss Margaret Dewey became the wife of Hiram Pound, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and is now the mother of three daughters—Clara, Mary and Bertha. Miss Annie Dewey married Ora Woods, another farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and is the mother of one child, Charles Albert.



**T**HOMAS H. ASHTON, of Syracuse Precinct, settled upon the land which he now occupies in the winter of 1870. It embraces 160 acres on section 33, and presents to the admiring eye of the passing traveler an admirably regulated homestead, indicating on all sides the supervision of a man of more than ordinary good taste and business capacities. As a tiller of the soil Mr. Ashton has long been recognized as a success, and now, while passing down the sunset hill of life, is in the enjoyment of those comforts and luxuries which are the legitimate reward of industry, perseverance and a well-ordered life. As a pioneer of the county, one who looked upon it in its primitive days, and whose labors have contributed in a large measure toward its present wealth and prosperity, he is regarded with that tacit reverence and respect which can only be accorded men of his worth and standing.

The childhood home of our subject was in Monmouth County, N. J., where his birth took place Nov. 30, 1797. His father, Samuel, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his mother, Mrs. Hannah (Johnson) Ashton, was, like her son, born in New Jersey. Both the Ashtons and Johnsons are of English extraction. Thomas H. was but a year old when his parents removed from New Jersey to Fayette County, Pa., and the father was obliged to pay \$7 per 100 pounds for the transportation of his family and goods over the mountains.

In the spring of 1807 the Ashton family decided upon another removal, and this time took up their line of march to the vicinity of Marietta, Washington Co., Ohio. The mother only lived three years afterward, her death taking place in the fall of 1810, by which calamity eight children, six sons and two

daughters, were deprived of her affectionate care. Of these Thomas H. is now the only survivor. The family after the death of the mother removed to Clermont County before its division, by which a part of it became Brown County.

The subject of this sketch pursued his first studies at New Haven, Fayette Co., Pa., in 1806. He attained his majority in Brown County, Ohio, and soon afterward purchased a tract of land at \$1.50 per acre, which he declared he would retain possession of until offered \$20 per acre for it. The people around him made fun of this asseveration, but in the fall of 1851 he proudly disposed of his quarter-section of land for the snug sum of \$3,000, an amount very near his expectations, which would have been fully realized probably had he waited a year or two longer.

Mr. Ashton, now desirous of a change of occupation, repaired to the town of Fayetteville, Ohio, where he put up a large brick residence, purchased a stock of goods, and engaged in general merchandising. In 1854 he removed to the northern part of the State, settling on a farm in Defiance County, which he had purchased for \$2,000, and where he lived until the fall of 1870. Then, selling out for the snug advance of \$5,000, he made his way across the Mississippi to this State, and invested a portion of his capital in the land which he now owns and occupies. This purchase, however, was for the most part accidental, as he came to this State simply to visit his son in Nebraska City, and was persuaded by the latter to this step. The 160 acres for which he paid \$2,000 is now considered worth twice that sum. The money which Mr. Ashton at that time had left after paying for his land, he divided among his children, in true fatherly fashion.

Our subject while a resident of the Buckeye State was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Cramer, Dec. 31, 1818. This lady, like her husband, was also a native of New Jersey, and was born in June, 1801. A kindly Providence smiled upon their union in the birth of nine children, but five of these were taken away before reaching mature years. Rachel, Mrs. Blue, is living with her son in Defiance County, Ohio; Benjamin D. is a practicing physician of Traverse City, Mich.; William died in this county, Jan. 5, 1886; Elizabeth F. is

the wife of George Brechbill, who operates the homestead. Mrs. Elizabeth Ashton departed this life at her home, Oct. 16, 1876.

Mr. Ashton cast his first Presidential vote for Monroe, when one of the political parties of the country was known by the name of old-line Whig. Upon its abandonment he allied himself with the Republicans. He has voted for every Republican President from the fall of 1818 until 1884, when he was unable to attend the polls. Since 1819 he has been a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he served as Class-Leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and held various other positions of trust and responsibility in connection therewith for many years. In his prime he was strong and athletic, seldom knowing a day's illness. He reverts proudly to the fact that he never quarreled with a man in all his life, and never was a party to a suit in court. In 1883 he was stricken with paralysis, and has never fully recovered from the effects of this. He knows all about the difficulties and hardships of pioneer life. His land in Ohio was originally covered with timber, which he cleared and brought to a good state of cultivation. He had at first but fifty acres, and in the course of time added to it by 100. He was thrown upon his own resources at an early age, but this, instead of proving a detriment, only stirred him on to renewed labor, and was in fact probably that which contributed largely to his success. He is a self-made man in every sense of the word.

George Brechbill, a son-in-law of our subject, was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., July 12, 1831, and is the son of Henry and Mary (Lose) Brechbill, who left the Keystone State about 1835, and took up their residence in Defiance County, Ohio. The father was a farmer by occupation, and both parents died while scarcely middle-aged, leaving four children, namely: Sarah, John, George and Abraham. George grew to manhood in Defiance County, Ohio, and at the same place, in 1856, was married to Miss Ashton; they came to Nebraska in 1871, and have since lived with our subject.

Mr. Brechbill is an ex-soldier of the Union, having enlisted in the fall of 1863, in Company I, 9th Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland, and went with Sherman on his

famous march to the sea. Mr. B. was an active participant in some of the most important battles of the war, and after a brave and faithful service received his honorable discharge in North Carolina. He is a staunch Republican, politically, and a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Of his union with Miss Ashton there have been born five children, three of whom died young, and Mary E. died when an interesting maiden of eighteen years. There is thus left them only one child, a daughter, Gertrude, who was born June 27, 1870. William Ashton, the sixth son of our subject, also served during the Civil War, in Company G, 38th Ohio Infantry, from 1861 until its close.



**G**EORGE WRIGHT, one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of Otoe County, residing in Otoe Precinct, was an early pioneer of this section of the country, and has witnessed almost its entire growth, of which he has been an important factor. While actively assisting in the development of the great agricultural resources of this region his labors have been well rewarded, as he is now the possessor of a handsome property, his farms comprising 700 acres.

Mr. Wright was born in Germany in 1835, a son of Michael and Rosina (Atlee) Wright, natives of Germany. They were reared and married in their native country and resided there until 1843, when they came to America with their family, and located for awhile in Upper Canada. In 1844 they came to the "States" and settled in Nauvoo, Ill., where Mr. Wright invested in town property. He enlisted from there to take part in the Mexican War, and served until the close of the war. He did not return to Illinois, but went to California, and never went back to his home. The mother of our subject died in Nauvoo, leaving five children: George; John, who lives in Rockport, Mo.; Susan, who married Lewis Lewis, and lives in Otoe Precinct; Joseph and Mabel, who are now dead.

The subject of this sketch was but eight years old when he came to America with his parents. He commenced attending school in his native land when he was six years old, and the remainder of

his education he secured in the American public schools. He was ten years old when he had the sad misfortune to lose a good mother, and his father going soon after to serve in the Mexican War, the children were separated, being taken by different friends, and our subject went to live for awhile with a man in Nauvoo. In a short time he was taken by another man, who soon after moved to Dallas, and later to Olena, where he engaged in the mercantile business. Our subject was a bright, active lad, ambitious to obtain an education, so he attended school in both of the towns mentioned, and when not engaged in studying he assisted in the store. In 1855 he concluded to come West to seek a home, and came directly to the Territory of Nebraska and to Nebraska City, arriving here on the 1st of October. He found this place then but a village, with only one brick building completed, and the greater part of the business was done in the part called Kearney. He soon secured a situation as clerk in a store at Stephens, Richardson County, which was then no village, only a trading-post for the Indians. In the following spring he gave up his clerkship and returned to Otoe County, where he found work on a farm at \$20 a month, and he continued to work by the month or job until 1857. He then made claim to the northeast quarter of section 24, Otoe Precinct, and entered it from the Government in the land-office at Omaha. He first built a log cabin on his land, but as he was then single, he continued to work out until after his marriage in 1861, with Miss Susan Hanks. The year following his marriage he settled on his place, which has ever since been his home. By hard work, wise economy and judicious expenditure, he has acquired one of the largest and most valuable estates in Otoe County. He has increased the area of his land to 700 acres, all in Otoe Precinct, and nearly all improved. He engages in general farming and stock-raising with marked success, as is attested by his abundant harvests, and the fine, well-kept stock of good grades that roam over his rich pastures.

Mrs. Wright has contributed her share in bringing about this prosperity, and their home is made cheerful and cozy by her skillful hands and ready tact. Three children complete the family circle:

Laura received her education at Mt. St. Scholastica, at Atchison, Kan.; Mary is attending the common schools; Martha is now a student of the State Normal School at Peru, Neb.; all are single and at home.

Mr. Wright is a stirring, energetic man, and that he has been very successful in life he owes to his indomitable persistence in overcoming obstacles, and to his habits of industry, for he is an entirely self-made man. That through all the conflicts of life he has not fought and wrought for self entirely is proved by his liberality and generosity to others. He is a Democrat in his political sentiments, and he takes a lively interest in all that pertains to his adopted country. Mrs. Wright and her eldest daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.



**L**HORRUM, a leading hardware merchant of Talmage, carries a full stock of the merchandise pertaining to his line of trade, and has also added farm implements, wagons, buggies and other road vehicles. He is a man of means and standing, the owner of a handsome and comfortable home on Main street, and in all respects a prominent and well-to-do citizen.

Mr. Horrum established his present business in Talmage in 1886, and is rapidly building up a controlling trade. Previous to this he had been identified with the brick manufactory of L. T. Spicknall, which was established in 1881 near the village limits, and of which the output was as many as 500,000 annually. From this factory came nearly all the brick used in the principal buildings built of this material in Talmage. In 1886 Mr. Horrum withdrew, disposing of his interests to his partner, and invested his capital in his present business.

Our subject came to Nebraska in the spring of 1870, locating on a tract of land in the vicinity of the present village of Talmage, which, however, at that time had not been laid out. He engaged in farming, and became widely and favorably known to the people of this section. Previously he had been a resident of Cass County, Mo., to which he had removed from Dearborn County, Ind., landing on the other side of the Mississippi in 1869.

Dearborn County, Ind., was the early home of our subject, and where his birth took place July 6, 1853. His father, William Horrum, was also a native of that county, to which the parents of the latter had come in the pioneer days, settling not far from the present site of Lawrenceburg. Grandfather Daniel Horrum was a native of New Hampshire, where he was reared, and married to Miss Polly Blodgett, and after the birth of a part of their family they emigrated from the Old Granite State to Indiana, locating in Dearborn County, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Mrs. Polly Horrum passed away about twelve years before the decease of her husband, at the age of seventy-six, being ten years younger than he. The latter was eighty-six years old at the time of his death. During his early manhood, for three years, he did good service in the War of 1812, and participated in some of the most important battles of that war. He was a Universalist in religion, and a man careful and conscientious in his dealings with his neighbors, possessing a strict sense of justice, which insured him the esteem and confidence of all who knew him.

William Horrum, the father of our subject, was reared and educated in his native county, and otherwise spent his time after the manner of most farmers' sons. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Miss Polly Huston, a native also of Dearborn County, Ind., her childhood home being not far from that of her husband. Her parents had emigrated to Indiana from one of the New England States, becoming residents of Dearborn County during its early settlement, and at a time when the country was inhabited principally by wild animals and Indians. The father of our subject, after his marriage, began the development of a farm from a tract of wild land, upon which he labored until the fall of 1869. He then crossed the Father of Waters, and secured a tract of land in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County, this State, upon which he lived a number of years, building up a good farm, but which he left in the spring of 1887, and, retiring from active labor, took up his residence in the village of Talmage, where, with his excellent wife, he is spending his declining years in ease and comfort. Both the parents have been members of the Chris-

tian Church for many years, and liberally contributed to its support. Mr. Horrum gave the ground for the church edifice, which was built on a part of his farm. He was a charter member of the society, and it was largely through his encouragement and assistance that it was maintained during its first struggling years. Mr. H. in early life voted the old Whig ticket, but later identified himself with the Republicans.

Leman Horrum was the eldest of the three children born to his parents, all sons, the other two being named Omer and Stephen W. His early education was conducted in the schools of Dearborn County, Ind., and later he was a student in the Normal at Peru, this State. He is a man of more than ordinary intelligence, and keeps himself well posted upon matters of general interest. Like his parents, he belongs to the Christian Church, and like his father, he is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He has with one exception fulfilled all the obligations of a good citizen, but still remains a bachelor, having, it is supposed, so much business upon his hands that he has not yet found time to attend to this most important matter.



**S**AMUEL SWANK. Longfellow has most truly remarked in one of his exquisitely realistic poems, that "Into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary," but the problem that has stirred many hearts is, why so much more rain falls into some lives than into others. The subject of our sketch is one whose life has been constantly overshadowed by clouds of trouble and trial, and the sunlight and brightness have been fitful and intermittent, but at the same time his constant struggle and manful conflict have resulted in the building up of an exceptionally fine character, and beautifying a most appreciable spirit.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Joseph and Littas (Van Metri) Swank, who were married in Kentucky, and from that State removed to Indiana. They were the parents of eleven children, and our subject, who was born on the 10th of January, 1827,

was their seventh child. The place of his nativity was Harrison County, Ind. When about eleven months old, his parents removed to Montgomery County, where the father died when our subject was about four and a half years old; being left thus early without paternal care and wealth, it is not surprising that his education was limited by circumstances and for the same reason much curtailed. When twenty-one years of age, he went to Rock Island County, Ill.

In 1847 Mr. Swank was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Walker, the daughter of Samuel A. and Nancy A. Walker, who was born in Madison County, Ill., in the year 1830. He became the owner of sixty acres of land at Rock Island, Ill., and there remained until 1858, when he removed with his wife and child to Marshall County, Kan., where he settled. Later they became pioneers of Richardson County, Neb., and were there throughout the Nebraska and Kansas troubles that necessarily aroused so much strong feeling among the advocates of either side of the question.

Leaving Kansas, our subject removed to Missouri, and lived in that State at the time of the Civil War. July 3, 1863, he enlisted in the 13th Kansas Infantry, and served in the Southwestern Division of the army. His military career, while it did not bring him prominently before the people as a great soldier, was one of honor, devotion and patriotism, and, like so many others, he during that period performed every duty for home and native land in the best possible manner, and earned the reward that always comes to those who are swayed by high principles, and who faithfully follow the dictates thereof. At the conclusion of the war, with health impaired, Mr. Swank returned to Missouri and again took up the more ordinary avocations of life, remaining there with his family until 1868, when he came to this State and took up his present homestead of eighty acres, which he succeeded in bringing to a very high state of cultivation by the help and assistance of others. From the time of his military service, and as a result thereof, his sight had begun to fail and he became almost blind, but in that affliction has been supported and sustained by his own patient spirits, and the affection of his family.

The home circle of our subject included four chil-

dren, viz: William E., Cora J., Caroline A. and Arthur E. William E. is married to Miss Tucker, of Nebraska, and resides in California; they are the parents of one beautiful little daughter, Lena. Cora J. is the wife of L. H. Bertz, and resides at Bennet; they too have a daughter, who is named Hattie J. Caroline A. is happily married to James Malcomb, and has presented her husband with two children, who are named McCoy E. and George Samuel.

Our subject is in political affairs a staunch Republican, but has been prevented taking the active part he would have desired by reason of his blindness. Religiously, he is connected with the Latter-Day Saints, and is one of the consistent and devout members of that community. He is one of the capable and much esteemed citizens of his district.



**N**ATHAN D. FOSTER. The subject of this sketch, a very capable and intelligent man, is by occupation a general farmer, mechanic and millwright. In the knowledge of these industries he is practically independent, for though he should lose every cent of his property, he has that which money cannot buy. He occupies a finely improved farm of 120 acres on section 3, in McWilliams Precinct, and is pursuing the even tenor of his way as an honest man and a good citizen.

Mr. Foster came to Nebraska on the 1st of April, 1880, from Davis County, Iowa, and soon afterward settled upon his present farm. He had been a resident of the Hawkeye State for a period of ten years, carrying on farming, and employing himself when opportunity presented as a mechanic. His early home lies on the other side of the Mississippi, in Washington County, Ill., where he was born Oct. 9, 1828. His father, Andrew Foster, a native of Campbell County, Ky., was a well-educated man, and for years engaged as a teacher. The paternal grandfather of our subject was an old Revolutionary soldier, who after the independence of the Colonists had been established, settled in the Blue Grass regions, and engaging in farming, there spent the remainder of his life, dying at a ripe old age. Andrew Foster was cut down in his prime, his death

taking place at the home of the family in Washington County, Ill., when Nathan D., our subject, was a little lad of seven years. The mother, Mrs. Nancy (Cox) Foster, subsequently became the wife of James Hall, of Alabama, and only lived to be middle-aged, her death taking place when she was forty-five years old.

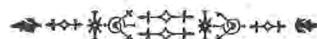
Young Foster continued to live with his mother until her death, when he was a youth of eighteen years. At the age of sixteen he had commenced an apprenticeship at the carpenter and millwright trades, at which he was employed until a man of thirty-two years, living mostly in the Middle States. In the spring of 1860 he started across the plains, and for two years thereafter hunted for gold in the Nevada Gulch mines. He met with moderate success, and thence migrated to Virginia City, Mont., during the opening of the mines there.

At this period the country was over-run by what were termed "road agents," and it became necessary for the citizens to organize themselves for their protection. Mr. Foster was chosen Lieutenant of a company for the suppression of these outrages, and by his bravery and fidelity to duty was largely instrumental in effecting the desired result, not, however, until thirty-three desperate men had been executed by hanging. In the discharge of his duties he passed through many thrilling experiences and hairbreadth escapes, and has to this day a revolver captured from one of the most desperate of the outlaws, and one of the first to be hanged. It is a Colt's Navy, and Mr. Foster subsequently carried it for some time for the protection of his person. While in the mountains he became an expert hunter, having a reputation second to none in that region, and many were the buffalos, deer and antelopes which were brought down by his unerring rifle. He also occasionally successfully attacked a mountain lion. He thus employed his time two or three months during the winter season.

Mr. Foster, in the spring of 1867, set his face eastward, crossing the Yellowstone River and the Missouri, and on his way back to his old haunts spent four years at Council Bluffs, Iowa. In this city occurred the death of his wife, Mrs. Marion (Cook) Foster, to whom he had been married at Council Bluffs in 1865. She was born in Grant

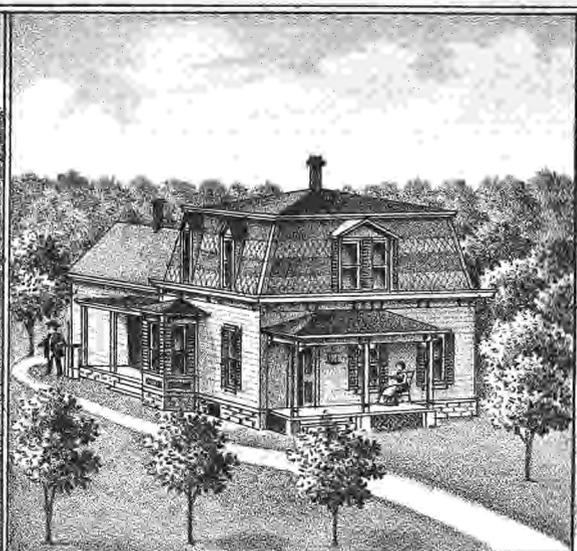
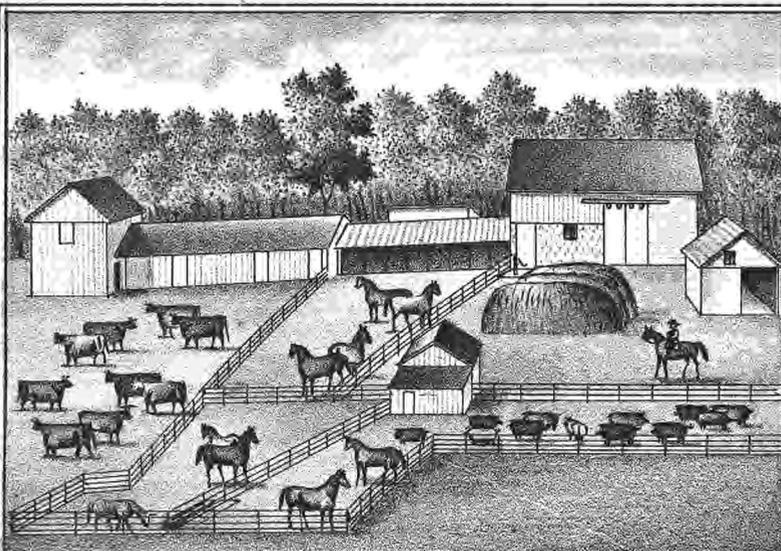
County, Mich., and came to Nebraska with her parents when a young woman. She was a lady of many estimable qualities, and greatly mourned by our subject. There was one child born to them, Jennie, Nov. 1, 1867; she has married beneath her station, and our subject does not recognize her.

In March, 1870, Mr. Foster was married a second time at Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Miss Jane Sober, who was born in Ontario County, N. Y., and reared on the Western Reserve in Ohio. She came to the farther West alone; her parents were the descendants of old New England families. She is the foster-mother of one child, Christian Robert, a smart little lad of seven years. Mr. Foster, politically, is a reformer, and liberal in his religious views. He has endeavored to follow the precepts of the Golden Rule, and, with his estimable wife, is a favorite in social circles.

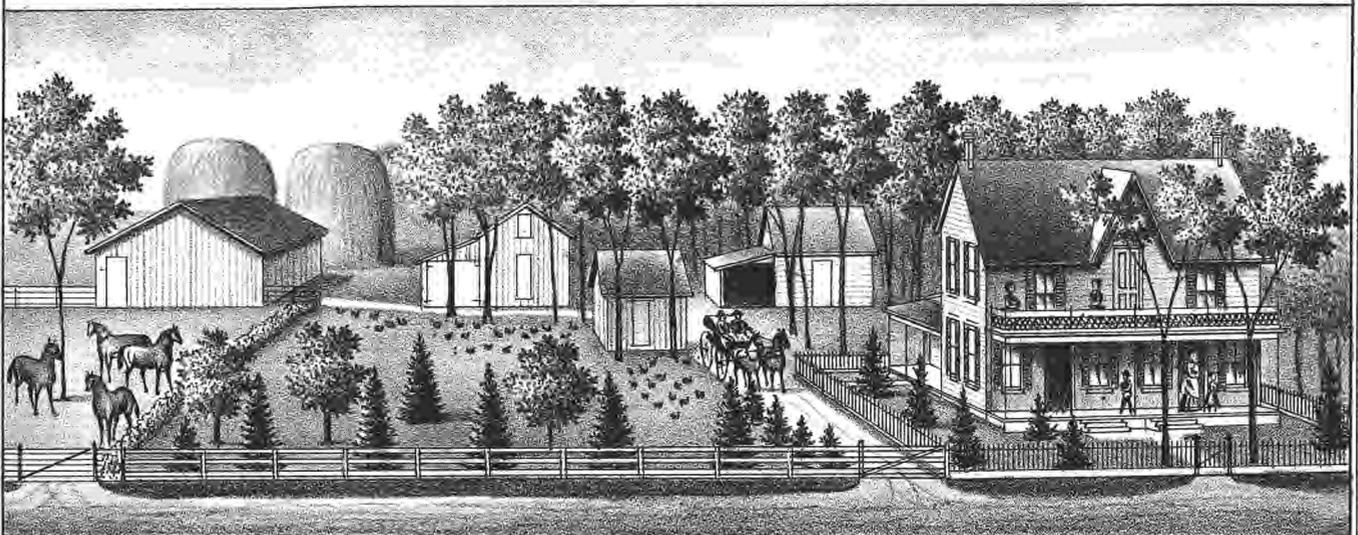


**N**OAH EMBREE purchased the land which he now owns in Russell Precinct during the period of its early settlement, and here he has since remained, watching the growth and development of one of the most prosperous States west of the Mississippi. His career has been one filled in with industry, as is evinced in his possession of one of the finest farms in this county. It includes 160 acres of land, which yields in abundance the choicest crops of Nebraska, and upon it are the buildings of modern style of architecture, amply adapted to the convenience of the proprietor, all the purposes of living, the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. Personally, the proprietor is one of the leading men of his county, one who enjoys in a marked degree the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

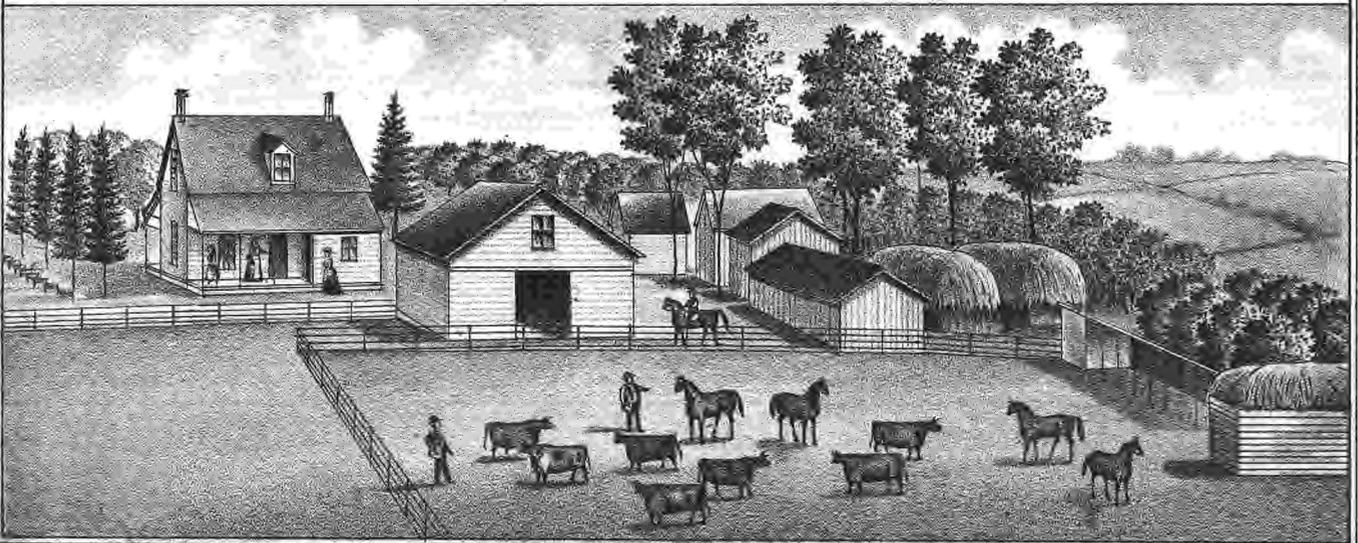
Our subject is the offspring of excellent Quaker stock, and was born in Vermilion County, Ill., Feb. 22, 1833. His father, Jesse Embree, was a native of Preble County, Ohio, whence he emigrated early in life to Illinois, and in Vermilion County married Miss Mary Hollingsworth, also of Quaker parentage, and a native of that county. The paternal grandfather of our subject was of French descent, but his parents probably were na-



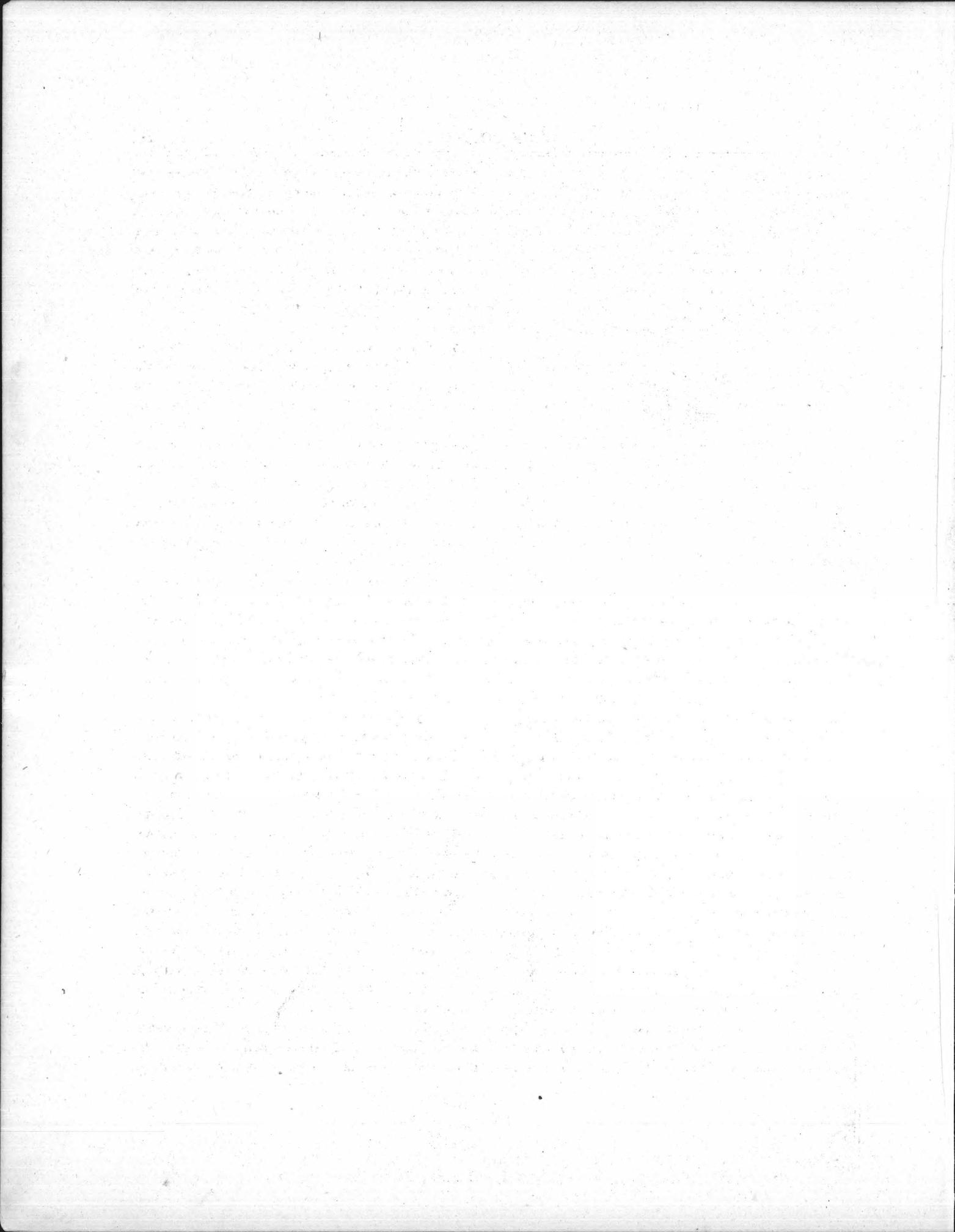
RESIDENCE OF W<sup>M</sup> D ASHLEY, SEC. 31. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF G. W. BROWN, SEC. 17. OTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF TALTON MASSEY, SEC. 22. OTOE PRECINCT.



tives of England, whence, it is supposed, they crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. They settled in one of the New England States, and the grandfather upon reaching manhood carried a musket in the War of 1812. On the mother's side Grandfather Hollingsworth was of English descent, and also served in the above-mentioned war.

Jesse Embree carried on farming in Vermilion County, Ill., until 1840, and then moved across the Mississippi River into Washington County, Iowa. There in due time he became the owner of 500 broad acres, purchasing first a half-section, and adding gradually to his landed estate. He was greatly prospered, and died in possession of a competency in 1858, at the age of fifty-one years. The mother had passed away seven years before, in 1851, aged thirty-five. Their six children were named respectively: Noah; Martha A., who died when twenty-two years old; Jehu H., Anna M., Sarah J. and Elmina. The survivors are residents mostly of Nebraska.

Our subject remained under the home roof until the death of his father, having acquired a common-school education, and became intimately acquainted with the details of country life. He then rented the homestead for a number of years, and finally became owner of part of it, continuing there until the spring of 1870. Then, with a longing to see something more of the West, and believing that he could do better elsewhere, he sold his interests in Iowa, and gathering together his personal effects, started overland with a team for Nemaha County, Kan. Upon his arrival there, however, not being pleased with the outlook, he went north into Nebraska, and soon afterward settled on the land in Russell Precinct which he now owns and occupies. It was then a quarter-section of raw prairie, upon which there was not even a shelter for his head. He began operations in true pioneer style, and labored for a number of years under the disadvantages of a distant market, and the various other difficulties which beset the pioneer farmer. The perseverance, however, which he had inherited from his substantial English ancestry, served him well in this emergency, and in due time prosperity began to smile upon his labors. He brought his land to a good state of cultivation, set out five acres in a grove of cotton-

wood, maple and walnut trees, divided his fields with four miles of hedge fencing, planted an apple and peach orchard, and in the midst of these erected a substantial and convenient set of farm buildings. His land is amply supplied with running water, and possesses many natural advantages, which, combined with those which he has added, make it one of the most desirable estates of this part of Otoe County.

Mr. Embree was married in Keokuk, Iowa, on the 17th of June, 1858, to Miss Margaretta, daughter of Rev. F. F. and Rachael (Harris) Lyon, the father a native of Wayne County, N. Y., and the mother of Macoupin County, Ky. The paternal great-grandfather was of French birth and ancestry, and his son, Grandfather Lyon, a native of New York, spent his last years in that State. The maternal great-grandfather was a native of England, and married Miss McVey. He settled in Tennessee, and there was born his son, who became the grandfather of Mrs. Embree.

F. F. Lyon was born in Scotland, whence he removed first to Ireland, and then crossed the Atlantic to the United States, locating in Tennessee, where he became the owner of 600 acres of land, upon which stands the present city of Nashville. From this property he never received any benefit, however, as he had entrusted his papers to a lawyer who died, and the important documents were lost. Mr. Lyon then emigrated to Iowa, locating in Keokuk County, where for a number of years he officiated as minister of the United Brethren Church. In 1878 he retired from the ministry, and now lives upon a farm in Jefferson County, Iowa, which is mostly devoted to stock-raising. He is also the owner of 200 acres of land in Rawlins County, Kan. Mr. Lyon is quite healthy and active, although seventy-two years of age; the mother is sixty-three. They are the parents of thirteen children, one of whom, Rachel J., died when three years old. The survivors are Nancy A., Margaretta, Samuel T., William A., Clarissa, Frederick L., Mary E., John S., Demarcus N., Susan I., Nathaniel B. and Ulysses W.

Mrs. Embree was the second child of her parents, and was born in Jefferson County, Iowa, July 25, 1841. She received a common-school education,

and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in all the housewifely duties. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, two of whom, Ezra and Rachel N., died in infancy. The survivors are Allen L., Oliver H., Frederick C., Jehu W., Noah M. and Mary E. Allen, Frederick and Jehu are located in Custer County, this State. Jehu was graduated from the Union School, at Gibbon, in Buffalo County, and is a young man of more than average ability, having a license to preach; he is also a successful teacher. Oliver is in Oregon; Noah is attending school at Gibbon. Both Mr. and Mrs. Embree are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, at Unadilla, which Mr. E. assisted in organizing, therefore being a charter member, and is also a Trustee. He has officiated as Sunday-school Superintendent four years, and contributed liberally to its support and maintenance. His warm interest in the temperance cause led him in 1888 to identify himself with the Prohibition party. He has been connected with the School Board of his district for the last three years, and always gives a hearty support to the enterprises having for their object the general welfare of the community.



**A**LLEN BIGGS is one of the early settlers of McWilliams Precinct, and indeed of Otoe County. He has lived on his present farm since the year 1864. The property, which includes 240 acres of improved and carefully cultivated, arable land, is situated on section 1. He has a very fine residence, which is of recent construction, and admirably situated amid surroundings that indicate an appreciation of the picturesque as well as the more substantial profit.

For four years previous to making his home as above Mr. Biggs resided in the vicinity of Nebraska City, although he owned and was improving his farm on McWilliams Precinct during that time. Mr. and Mrs. Biggs started life hand in hand, having at the first practically nothing. By mutual help and incitement they began to make their way in the world. Our subject had lived in Gentry

County, Mo., for two years before coming to this State, but did not feel anxious to make it his adopted State and permanent home for the reason that throughout the entire period of his residence there he had suffered from chills and ague. He was brought up in Jefferson and Campbell Counties, Tenn., where his parents had removed from their home in Indiana, where he was born in December, 1822, making the change when he was about three years of age.

The father of our subject, James Biggs, was a native of Tennessee, and married his wife, Mary Gwinn, in the same State. They had lived but a few years in the Hoosier State when they returned, as above noted, to Tennessee, where, after attaining a good old age, they died. They were the parents of ten sons and three daughters; of these our subject was the fourth child. He continued to make his home with his parents until he came of age, when he was married and began life for himself.

The subject of our sketch celebrated his first marriage in Jefferson County, Tenn., the lady of his choice being Mary A. Flatford, who was there born and brought up. With her husband she removed to Campbell County, and there died in the prime of life, leaving four daughters and one son. The names of the daughters are as follows: Margaret J., Mary A., Sarah E. and Eliza A. All of them are married and living in Nebraska. The son, William, is now deceased.

The second marriage of our subject took place in Campbell County, Tenn. He then became the husband of Ruth Miller, a native of that county. After four years of happy wedded life this lady died. She had become the mother of two children, both of whom died in infancy.

Mr. Biggs was once again married while still a resident of Campbell County, being joined in wedlock with Catharine Thomas, who was born in that county on the 3d of April, 1836. This lady is the daughter of Joseph T. and Mary (Bloodsaw) Thomas, both of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Biggs was educated in the schools of her native county, and lived with her parents until her marriage. She has presented her husband with eleven children, of whom four are deceased, viz: Matilda, George W., Lydia A. and an infant unnamed. The

living children are: James F., now married to Miss Lina Adams; Martha E., the wife of Mr. Timothy Paine; George W., Isaac N., Ella C., Elsie M. and John A.

Mr. and Mrs. Biggs have for many years been numbered with the membership of the Baptist Church, which they joined in Tennessee. Although not prominent in political circles, our subject is interested in all such matters, as a good and true citizen. He is numbered with the Republican party, and as a rule votes the ticket presented by the convention.

**J**OHAN E. CASSELMAN, brother of Franklin T. Casselman, is one of the wealthy citizens of the county, which has been his home since the early days of settlement. He settled in Otoe County in the spring of 1859. His farm is situated on section 20, Otoe Precinct, and comprises 400 acres. His parents, Henry H. and Mary (Frymire) Casselman, were both of German extraction, although natives of Canada, where the family has been for several generations. His father was engaged as an agriculturist, and was quite well-to-do. He died at his Canadian home in February, 1871, aged seventy-three years. There also the mother died the following year, being seventy-eight years of age. Their family circle included seven children, viz: Michael H., Phillip A., Charles N., George H., Franklin T., John E. and Abram B. All but the latter still survive. Charles N. lives in Broome County, N. Y., the other three in Canada.

The birth of John E. occurred on the 20th of September, 1835, in Dundas County, Canada, where he lived until he was nineteen, engaged chiefly in farm work, educational facilities being exceedingly limited. Leaving home in 1855, he went to Jefferson County, N. Y., where he worked on a farm for two years; then he joined his brother Franklin T., in Atchison County, Kan. In 1858 he started for California, but was taken sick at Ft. Kearney, and was sent back to Nebraska City, where he arrived in the fall of that year. There being much sickness there he went to Fremont, Iowa, and passed the winter. In the spring of 1859 he returned to

Nebraska City, working for two years upon the farms one year with Mr. Davis, the latter year being spent with Mr. Pendleton.

At the time of his return to Nebraska City our subject had only \$3. This practically is the beginning of his present prosperity and wealth. All his earnings he put into land, and was able to purchase his present property of 160 acres in the year 1868. The following year he was united in wedlock with Lucy A. Emery, the estimable daughter of George and Sarah Emery, also natives of Canada, but residents of Nebraska since September, 1865. They first settled in Nemaha County, and after two years went to Johnson County, removing to their present home at Crab Orchard in 1884, where they live a retired life, as is congenial to those of such advanced age as they, being sixty-eight and sixty-six respectively. Their six children are mentioned as follows: Susan, Sarah, Lucy A., Frances A., Elva O. and Robert G. Mrs. Casselman was born on the 6th of March, 1848, about twelve miles west of Brockville, Canada, and until her marriage made her home with her parents. She has presented her husband with five children, viz: Etta M., Burton E., Carrie M., Sadie (deceased) and Lucy Mabel; all make their home with their parents. Mr. Casselman is giving his children the benefits of a good education.

In September, 1861, our subject enlisted in Company C, in the 1st Battalion of cavalry of Nebraska Territory. They left for St. Louis in October, 1861. The regiment was commanded by Col. Lowe, and with other independent companies from Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri, formed the Curtiss Horse Regiment, afterward the 5th Iowa. He fought in many battles, among them Chickamauga, Pittsburg Landing, Sugar Creek, Pulaski and Atlanta. He was discharged honorably at Nashville in 1864, after serving three years and thirty-seven days, with the record of a good, true and gallant soldier. He is a member of the William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R., Nebraska City.

For seven years our subject has held various school offices, for two terms was Justice of the Peace, and has at all times been as a politician in the Republican ranks. He is a man very highly respected, a careful thinker, and of finest character.

His wife also is abundantly worthy of every good and kindly word that could be spoken, and has been true in the most perfect manner to every obligation that has come to her as the result of her relation to our subject and their children, and is eminently admired and respected in the community.

**J**AMES HALL. A gentleman in the prime of life, intelligent, enterprising and well-to-do, the subject of this biography is one of the most valued citizens of Delaware Precinct, where he settled in the spring of 1881. He is now the owner of 200 acres of valuable land, finely located on section 10, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. His fields are laid off with neat and substantial fences of osage orange, and his farm stock and machinery are what would naturally be expected of the skillful and thorough agriculturist. The residence and its surroundings indicate the existence of cultivated tastes and ample means. Adjacent is a flourishing apple orchard and groves of elm and cottonwood, while other fruit and shade trees add their embellishments to the general appearance of the premises. It is without question the home of the prosperous and well-to-do citizen.

Our subject was born amid the Lowlands of Scotland, in Roxburyshire, on the 3d of July, 1848. His parents, William and Mary (Murray) Hall, natives of the same county, were well-to-do and intelligent people, and the father now resides in Chicago, Ill., but the mother is deceased. The household circle consisted of five sons and one daughter, all of whom are living mostly in the United States.

Mr. Hall received the advantages of the common schools in his native shire, and lived there until a man of twenty-five years. During his youth and early manhood he was occupied in farming. He had been a lad thoughtful beyond his years, ambitious of doing well in the world, and being a man among his fellowmen. He believed that he could do better for himself in all respects on the other side of the Atlantic, and accordingly in the spring of 1872 embarked on board an ocean steamer at Liverpool, and fifteen or sixteen days later set

foot upon American soil in the city of New York. He remained in the Dominion two years, then made his way to Marshall County, Ill. He was employed there as a farm laborer until 1881, then resolved to invest his capital west of the Mississippi.

In the spring of 1881 Mr. Hall purchased 200 acres of his present farm. There had been little attempt at improvement, and he set himself industriously at work to cultivate the soil and build up a homestead which would reflect credit upon him and those who should enjoy it with him. His labors have met with their legitimate reward, as all will acknowledge who have seen it. For a man who landed in America with a capital of \$2.50, it cannot be denied that he has done well, and that nature endowed him with more than an ordinary share of common sense and the faculty of good management. On the 3d of February, 1881, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Minnie Scoon, who was born in Roxburyshire, Scotland, Aug. 1, 1850. Her parents, Robert and Mary (Nichol) Scoon, were also of Scotch birth and parentage, and are now deceased.

Their family included ten children, who are now mostly in Illinois. To Mr. and Mrs. Hall there have been born a son and daughter, William and Mary, who are now six and one years of age respectively. Mr. Hall, politically, gives his support to the Republican party. He is at present School Treasurer of his district and Road Supervisor, and, with his estimable wife, a member in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church. Public spirited and liberal, kind and courteous, as a neighbor and friend, he fulfills the ideal of the honored citizen and useful member of society.

**F**RED NEU, Assessor of Berlin Precinct, and one of its most prosperous farmers, has in his homestead 240 acres of fine land, besides 120 acres in another body. The former lies on the southeastern portion of section 12, and the whole is finely adapted to stock-raising, with which industry the proprietor has successfully occupied himself for a number of years. He has discharged the duties of his present office since 1876, and is an

old army veteran, having served as a Union soldier from the outbreak of the Rebellion until its close. He was first promoted to Corporal, later to Sergeant, and officiated in the latter capacity until receiving his honorable discharge.

The childhood home of our subject was in Prussia, where his birth took place Oct. 19, 1832. He attended the common schools of his native town until the age of thirteen years, and at that age also was confirmed in the German Lutheran Church. That same year, 1846, his parents came to America, he accompanying them.

The father of our subject, John George F. Neu, was born in the Rhine Province, Prussia, in the year 1801, and married Miss Elizabeth Boeler, a native of Saxony, and who was born in 1802. The paternal grandfather, Mathias Neu, also of German birth and ancestry, was a shoemaker by trade, and spent his entire life upon his native soil. Grandfather Boeler was chief engineer in a large coal mine near Schwalbach, and died within the confines of his native Empire.

John G. F. Neu learned shoemaking in his early manhood, at which he was occupied in his native Province until crossing the Atlantic. After his arrival in the United States he settled with his family in Dearborn County, Ind., where he followed shoemaking and farming combined. From Dearborn he removed into Ripley County, where he purchased forty acres of land, from which he improved a good farm, and where his death took place in January, 1853. The mother died in July, 1882, at the home of her son Valentine, in Indianapolis, Ind. The four surviving children of the parental family are: Catherine; Fred, our subject; Louisa and John P. Valentine is deceased. The husbands of Catherine and Louisa, after the outbreak of the Civil War, enlisted in the same regiment as our subject, and Louisa's husband died in St. Louis in 1865. The sisters and brothers are now residents of Nebraska.

Mr. Neu remembers considerable of his native Province and many of the incidents of preparation for the long journey to America. The parents and children journeyed from Rotterdam to London by rail, and at Liverpool embarked on board the sailing-vessel "Queen of the West," upon which they

were tossed about for thirty-two days, encountering some storms, but finally landing in safety at New York Harbor. Young Neu remained with his parents until reaching his majority, and learned shoemaking under the instruction of his father, but did not work at the trade after reaching the age of twenty-one. His first independent farming operations were begun on a tract of land in Ripley County, Ind., and in 1855, when twenty-four years of age, he was married, and purchased forty acres in Ripley County. Upon this he labored until entering the army, and his wife subsequently carried on the farm until his return home.

Our subject enlisted Aug. 17, 1862, in Company G, 83d Indiana Infantry, with his two brothers and two brothers-in-law, they being mustered in at Lawrenceburg. Their regiment was assigned to the 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 15th Army Corps, Army of the Tennessee, under command of Gen. Sherman. Mr. Neu with his comrades participated thereafter in many of the important battles of the war, was in the fight at Chickasaw Bayou, near Vicksburg, at Arkansas Post, Champion Hills, Big Black River, in both charges on the 18th and 22d of May, at Vicksburg, and all through the siege following. After its surrender he met the enemy at Jackson, Miss., later at Tusculumbia, Ala., Missionary Ridge and at Chattanooga, where his regiment was at the front, and Mr. Neu was in the very front ranks. Later he fought at Resaca, Ga., Dallas and Kencaw Mountain, and was near Atlanta on the 22d of July, when the brave Gen. McPherson was killed. After the surrender of Atlanta they moved back to the vicinity of Chattanooga, following up Hood's retreat, then returned to Atlanta, and soon thereafter entered upon the famous march to the sea. Our subject was in all the battles of that campaign, and later marched with his regiment up through the Carolinas and to Washington, participating in the grand review, and soon afterward receiving his honorable discharge. Although enduring the hardships and privations common to the lot of the soldier, he was never wounded or captured, and returned with a fair degree of his old-time strength and good health.

After being transformed from a soldier to a civilian Mr. Neu returned to his home and his family

in Ripley County, Ind., but soon afterward sold his property there and spent the winter following in Southeastern Missouri. Thence in the spring he journeyed by steamer to Nebraska City, and two days later proceeded by team to section 25, town 9, range 12, purchasing in May, 1866, eighty acres of improved land, upon which he occupied himself for a term of seven years. In the meantime he greatly improved the value of the property, bringing the soil to a state of cultivation and putting up buildings with material hauled from Nebraska City.

May 24, 1872, Mr. Neu sold his farm above mentioned, and changed his residence to his present place, which he had previously purchased. After his settlement here he had the usual conflicts attendant upon the pioneer of those days, together with grasshoppers and drouth, and he estimates that the labor of five years thereafter was required to place him where he started. Those days are past, however, and he now looks around him on a fine estate, embracing a farm of 240 acres, with handsome and substantial modern buildings, groves and orchards, and all other appurtenances of the well-regulated farm. His land is well watered by Jordan and Spring Grove Creeks, and he has 100 acres of native timber. Ten acres adjacent to the residence are devoted to groves of hickory, walnut, oak and wild cherry trees, and his orchard comprises 350 apple trees, while he has the smaller fruits in abundance. His live-stock operations include cattle and swine mostly, of which he ships of the former usually a carload annually and of the latter two carloads. His stock is mostly graded and his horses are particularly fine, including Cleveland Bays and Morgans. Large amounts of corn and grain are required to feed all this stock.

Our subject was married near Brookville, in Franklin County, Ind., Oct. 4, 1855, to Miss Charlotte S. Schwertfeger, who was born in Ripley County, that State, Aug. 30, 1836, Mrs. Neu has proved a most worthy helpmate and assistant of her husband, and of their union there have been born nine children, namely: Amiela L., Frederick S., Lizzie, Lena; George W., who died when five weeks old; John; Bertha, who died when thirteen months old; Henry F., and William J., who died at

the age of seven years. The eldest daughter is the wife of Henry Anderson, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, and they have five children; Frederick married Ida Vener, and is farming in the vicinity of Hartwell, Kearney County; Lizzie is the wife of Eugene Patterson, who is farming in Dawes County, and they have two children; Lena married Mr. A. Dillon, who is farming near Lowell, in Kearney County, and they have two children; John is farming in Dawes County, and Henry is at home with his parents.

Mr. Neu has held the position of Assessor about nine years and has been School Treasurer of his district six years. Socially, he belongs to Western Star Lodge, A. F. & A. M., at Nebraska City, is also a Knight of Pythias, belonging to Eureka Lodge No. 7, and is identified with the G. A. R., both these lodges at Nebraska City. He is an ardent supporter of Republican principles, laboring manfully for the support of these in his own county, and being frequently sent as a delegate to the County and State Conventions. A useful man in his community, he is public-spirited and enterprising, one having hosts of friends, both in business and social circles.



GEORGE H. BURGERT is one of the leading citizens of Nebraska City, and has for several years filled one of its most responsible offices, that of City Treasurer. He was born in New Bedford, Coshocton Co., Ohio, Feb. 14, 1830. His father, David Burgert, was born in Lancaster County, Pa., Nov. 20, 1795, and his father is thought to have been a native of Germany, who, coming to America some time during the last century, settled in Pennsylvania, and spent his last years in Lancaster County. The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and when a young man started for the then Far West, and located in Stark County, Ohio, where he bought a tract of timber land and cleared a farm from the wilderness. He then sold and moved to Coshocton County, and again attempted the task of clearing a farm from the depths of the primeval forest. He first erected a log house, which was afterward

the birthplace of our subject, and with the aid of his sons he developed his land into a fine farm. While a resident of Stark County he had engaged in the mercantile business, and when he moved to Coshocton County he took with him his stock of goods and opened a store at West Bedford. He continued in business as a merchant about forty-five years, and then, having acquired a handsome competence, he sold out, moved to Cuyahoga County, and bought a farm near Cleveland, where he lived two or three years. He then removed to Toledo and built a home in that city, and lived retired from the active duties of life until his death, March 30, 1876. He was a man of enterprise and considerable business talent, whose reputation for honor and integrity was second to none. The maiden name of his wife was Eleanor Huett, and she was born in County Armagh, Ireland, July 2, 1797, being of English ancestry. She died in New Bedford, Nov. 30, 1840. There were twelve children born to her and her husband, all of whom grew to maturity, namely: Elizabeth, Sarah, Daniel, Levi, Adam, Catherine, George H., James H., Mary A., Lucinda, Amos and Amanda. Nine of these are now living, Sarah, Daniel and Levi being deceased.

The subject of this sketch was the seventh child and fourth son of his parents. He grew to manhood in his native county, receiving the preliminaries of his education in the district school, which was further supplemented by a term's attendance at the academy at West Bedford. He assisted on the farm and clerked in his father's store, and continued to be an inmate of his parents' home until 1852. In 1850 he formed a partnership with Jacob Hocksteter, and engaged in the mercantile business with him in Bedford for two years. He then went to Indiana and spent a few months in Worthington. He returned to his native State after that, and in Cleveland engaged as a clerk in the boot and shoe store of Huett & Buyett for one year. The next year found him again in Worthington, Ind., where he sold goods for Langworthy & Blount. Two years later, in the fall of 1857, he came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by rail to Jefferson City, and thence on a boat on the Missouri River to Weston, and there, the boat not being able to stem the

current, he and the other passengers took the stage to St. Joseph, and came from there on a boat to Nebraska City. Here he first found employment as a clerk for the Burnham Bros., remaining with them for a year and a half. Then he and others established themselves in the boot and shoe business. He associated with his partners for two years, and then bought their interest, and conducted the business alone until 1865. At that time he was appointed Assistant Postmaster, an office which he held for nine years, discharging its onerous duties with characteristic ability and fidelity. In 1877 Mr. Burgert's fellow-citizens showed their high appreciation of his great worth by electing him to the office of City Treasurer, and he was re-elected in April, 1878. So satisfactory has his administration of the affairs of this important and responsible office been that he was re-elected each year until 1886, when he was re-elected for two years.

Mr. Burgert was married, Sept. 13, 1860, to Mara Louisa Haskell, and their happy wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of the following children: Minnie E., wife of J. K. Bickel; Celia M., Xida E., George, Susie, Harriet and Amy. Mrs. Burgert comes of old and well-known New England ancestry, and she was born June 6, 1841, in Princeton, Bureau Co., Ill. Her father, Jonathan Haskell, was a native of Newburyport, Mass., and a son of Noah H. and Judith (Stickney) Haskell, natives of Massachusetts. His parents moved from their New England home to Ohio in the early years of the settlement of that State. The mother died there soon after their arrival. In his early life Noah Haskell had been a seafaring man, and was for many years Captain of a vessel. He remained in Ohio but a few years, and then went to California, where he died. Mrs. Burgert's father grew to manhood in Ohio, and from there he went to Illinois, where, in Canton, Fulton County, he was married, April 9, 1840, to Harriet N. Loomis. She was born in Hinckley, Medina Co., Ohio, June 7, 1823. Her father, Job Loomis, was a native of Massachusetts, removed from there to New York about 1805, and in 1819 went to Ohio and was one of the first settlers of Medina County, the removal in both cases being made with teams. He bought a tract of timbered land in Hinckley Precinct, and made

that his home the rest of his days, until his death in 1828.

Mrs. Haskell's mother, Mrs. Burgert's grandmother, spent her last years in Georgia, where she died in 1854. Her maiden name was Zilpha Hannum, and she was born in Southampton, Mass. Her father, Mrs. Burgert's great-grandfather, was, so far as known, a native of Massachusetts. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and at one time was captured by the Indians. He was given the chance to run the gauntlet, and was successful and made his escape. He spent his last years in Massachusetts. Mrs. Burgert's parents moved to Illinois in 1839, and settled in Fulton County. Her father was a man of more than ordinary mental capacity, and was accounted a genius by his friends. He was quite an extensive traveler, and visited many parts of the country. He died in Louisville, Ky., Nov. 19, 1883. His widow now resides with her daughter, Mrs. Burgert.

Mr. Burgert is a very capable man, of irreproachable habits, and both in public and in private life bears a stainless character. He is honesty itself, and his word is as good as another man's bond. He regards his office as a sacred trust, and discharges its duties with an eye single to the best interests of the community. He and his wife are both active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Mr. Burgert is a Republican in politics, and socially, he is a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.



**C**HARLES E. VAUGHAN, a farmer in good circumstances, widely and favorably known throughout Russell Precinct, owns and occupies 180 acres of land on section 22. He purchased in the spring of 1883 eighty acres, the next year twenty acres, later doubled the first amount, and has brought the whole to a fine state of cultivation. The fertility of the land is augmented by streams of running water, and his buildings, of modern style of architecture, convenient and comfortable, are all that are required to meet the ideas of the intelligent and progressive agriculturist. He has groves, fruit trees, and all the other appurtenances

of a well-regulated farm. It is hardly necessary to say that his time has been industriously employed since he has become a resident of this county, with results that should be eminently satisfactory.

The subject of this sketch, a native of Marshall County, Ill., was born Nov. 20, 1853, and remained with his parents until reaching his majority. The latter were by name Thomas H. and Sarah J. (Cory) Vaughan, the father a native of Rutland, Vt., and the mother born in the vicinity of Lake Champlain, N. Y. Thomas H. Vaughan was left an orphan at a very early age, and made his home in Vermont with an aunt until reaching manhood. He then cast his lot with the early settlers of Greene County, Ill., where he pursued first his trade of shoemaker, but later changed his occupation to farming.

The father of our subject in 1850 left Greene County, and purchased 160 acres of land in Marshall County, upon which he settled and spent the remainder of his life. He distinguished himself as an active and useful citizen, as one of the pillars of the Baptist Church at Washburn, and departed this life at the old homestead in April, 1871. The mother after the death of her husband joined her son C. E. in Nebraska, and is still living, being now seventy-one years old.

The six children of the parental family were named respectively: Rodolphus J., Russell W., Amy E., Julia A. (who died when thirty-four years old), Charles F. (our subject) and Sumner T. Rodolphus during the late war enlisted as a Union soldier in an Illinois regiment, and is now in Otoe County; Charles E. upon reaching his majority began farming on the old homestead for himself and was thus occupied five years. Then, desiring to see something of the farther West, he crossed the Mississippi into this county, first locating on section 27 in Russell Precinct, in the spring of 1880. Three years later he removed to section 21, and in 1883 purchased eighty acres of his present farm.

The marriage of our subject took place in Berrien County, Mich., Dec. 19, 1876, the maiden of his choice being Miss Lillie M., daughter of Joseph A. and Elizabeth (Peck) Becker. The parents of Mrs. V. were both natives of Pennsylvania, whence they removed to the Wolverine State after marriage, where they still reside in comfortable circumstances.



*H. P. Farnsworth*

Their family consisted of eleven children, namely: Jacob J., John J., William H., Annie E., Lilly M., Adeline I., Mary A., Martin L., Sarah E., Ona M. and Oliver A.

Mrs. Vaughan was born in the city of Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 24, 1854. She was reared to womanhood in Michigan, and remained with her parents until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there are four children: Thomas Henry, born Oct. 29, 1878; Sadie S., Aug. 6, 1882; Elsie M., Oct. 26, 1885, and Russell J., July 17, 1888. Both Mr. and Mrs. V. are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at South Russell, our subject being instrumental in its organization and since that time officiating as Clerk. Politically, he is a straight Republican, has served as Assessor two years, and was a member of the School Board three years. Both he and his estimable wife take a warm interest in Sunday-school work, Mr. V. officiating as Superintendent. Their house is the frequent resort of the many friends whom they have gathered about them by their kindly courtesies and cordial hospitality.



**HENRY P. FARNSWORTH.** The subject of this sketch, whose portrait is given upon the opposite page, and who is one of the very first settlers of Russell Precinct, is further distinguished as being the oldest pioneer of this section, and also a veteran of the Republican party. He is an active politician, a strong and clear-headed thinker, and a man who exerts much influence among his fellow-citizens. During the Civil War he indicated his sentiments in the most practical manner by serving as a soldier in the Union Army, and his entire career has been that of an honest man, a good citizen and a useful member of the community.

Our subject was born on the banks of the Mississippi River, in Muscatine County, Iowa, Oct. 22, 1845, and spent many hours of his boyhood sporting along the Father of Waters. He remained a member of the parental household until a young man of twenty-two years, acquiring his education in the district school. He was but a youth of six-

teen years at the time of the outbreak of the Rebellion, and was obliged to restrain his patriotic sentiments until later in the conflict. After he was eighteen, however, he enlisted, on the 4th of May, 1864, in the 44th Iowa Infantry, being mustered in at Davenport. He went South with his regiment under the command of A. J. Smith, doing guard duty mostly along the M. P. & C. R. R., and meeting the rebels in several skirmishes, during one of which he received a slight wound in the arm. Much as he desired he did not participate in any active battle, and received his honorable discharge on the 19th of September, 1864.

After the war Mr. Farnsworth staid at home until the spring of 1869, and then, gathering together his personal effects, started overland with a team for the young State of Nebraska. He was accompanied by his wife, and they crossed the Missouri River on the 20th of March, making their way directly to Russell Precinct, in this county, where our subject had already secured 240 acres of uncultivated prairie land. Upon it there were no buildings, and the first business of Mr. Farnsworth was to put up a house. He then set himself industriously to the task of improving his property, and in due time began to realize the reward of his labors. He has now one of the most valuable farms in this part of the county, with running water, native timber, and the soil brought to a good state of cultivation. He has planted groves and an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. That he has worked industriously cannot be questioned when we note the various items which form a most complete whole. For the construction of his buildings the timber had to be hauled from Nebraska City, and to enumerate the many other difficulties and hardships under which he labored would take more time and space than afforded within the limits of a brief biography.

Our subject was married Feb. 20, 1868, at the home of the bride on the banks of the river near which he had played in his boyhood, to Miss Helen Burdett. This lady was born in the same county as her husband, Sept. 11, 1851, and is the daughter of Humphrey and Esther (Benefill) Burdett, the father a native of Kentucky and the mother of Indiana. They were married in Iowa, in 1838, to

which State the father had emigrated during its pioneer days. He became the owner of considerable land, but in 1873 left the Hawkeye State and came to this county, locating in Palmyra Precinct, where he lived until 1885. He then changed his residence to Cheyenne County, Kan., and now makes his home with his children. He has arrived at the advanced age of eighty years. The wife and mother died at her home in Palmyra Precinct, this county, in the spring of 1874, aged fifty years. Their five children were named respectively: Mary, William, Isabelle, Helen and Eliza. The latter is deceased. The others are residents mostly of Nebraska and Kansas.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born eight children, namely: Humphrey M., who died when six years old; Alonzo T.; Della, deceased; Ruth A., Frank, William, Sumner G. and Algia. The survivors are all at home with their parents, and form an interesting group, of more than ordinary intelligence. Mr. Farnsworth cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and is an ardent supporter of Republican principles. No man takes a warmer interest in the growth and development of his adopted country. He drew up the petition to the County Superintendent for the organization of the school district in which he now lives, and a similar document in connection with the organization of Russell Precinct. He is the only original settler living who was here at the time of the organization of the district. He taught school during his younger years in his native State, two years later in Unadilla, and also in Russell Precinct, District No. 6. He has served as Assessor and been a member of the School Board for a period of eight years. He is at present Moderator in his district. He was strongly urged by his fellow-citizens, in the spring of 1875, to become a Republican candidate for Justice of the Peace, but declined. He has been frequently sent as a delegate to the various conventions of his party, and as an ex-soldier belongs to the G. A. R., being a member of the Chickamauga Post No. 119. In religious matters he has been a member in good standing of the Christian Church since 1874.

Marshall Farnsworth, the father of our subject, was born in Williamstown, Vt., in 1815, and married

Miss Rebecca Daniels, a native of North Carolina. The paternal grandfather of our subject, Thomas Farnsworth by name, emigrated from his native Highlands in Scotland during his early manhood to the United States, where he was married and became the father of a family of ten children. The youngest of these was Marshall. The latter left New England as early as 1837, emigrating across the Mississippi into Muscatine County, Iowa, where he purchased eighty acres of land and began farming in pioneer style. He was greatly prospered, and after the lapse of years became the owner of 500 broad acres. After a residence of forty years in the Hawkeye State, he sold out in 1881, and still pushing westward, took up his abode in Los Angeles, Cal., where he is now engaged in real-estate business. He is still active and in possession of his faculties, although having reached the advanced age of seventy-two years. The mother died at the homestead in Muscatine County, Iowa, in the fall of 1869, at the age of forty-five years. Henry P., our subject, was the eldest of their family of children. The others were named respectively: Eric D., Eliza E., John M.; George A., who died when an infant; Thomas E., when thirty years old, and Norah E., when five years old.



**W**ILLIAM BALFOUR, of Wyoming Precinct, owns one of the prettiest farms within its limits, and which, with its tasteful modern buildings, forms one of the most attractive pictures of section 6, of which it embraces eighty acres. On either side of the dwelling are beautifully trimmed evergreens, while other choice shrubbery protects the homestead from the storms of winter and the heat of summer. There are fruit trees in abundance, an orchard of apples adds the finer varieties, which yield abundantly in their season, providing the family with delicacies, and that which they do not use finds a ready market. Mr. Balfour has distinguished himself as a thorough and skillful farmer, and his stock-raising operations especially yield him a handsome income.

Our subject took possession of the land which he now occupies in the fall of 1869, and the improve-

ments which we behold to-day are the result of his industry, as at the time of purchase there were no fences or buildings, in fact no attempt whatever at improvement. Mr. B. arrived in Nebraska in the spring of 1868, from Lake County, Ill., of which he had been a resident since 1850. There also he was occupied as a farmer, although laboring for others, but in the meantime kept an eye out for the future, and saved something with which to cross the Mississippi.

Mr. Balfour was born near the shores of the Baltic Sea, in the city of Duyzt, Prussia, April 5, 1845, and on his father's side was of Scotch ancestry. His paternal grandfather, James Balfour, was born in the "land of the thistle," whence he emigrated to Prussia, and was there married to a lady of German birth and ancestry, and there both spent their entire lives. His son James, the father of our subject, was thus the offspring of two of the best nationalities on the face of the earth. James, Jr., who was one of three children born to his parents, was subjected to careful home training, and given a thorough education in the Fatherland, and when reaching manhood was married to a most estimable lady, by whom he likewise became the father of three children, of whom our subject, William, was the youngest. The mother died while a young woman, and after her decease James Balfour brought his three children to America, and located on a tract of land in Lake County, Ill., where soon afterward he was again married, to Miss Louisa M. Hinman. This lady was of American birth, and outlived her husband, James Balfour having died when fifty-five years of age.

The father of our subject after the outbreak of the Civil War hastened to the defense of his adopted country, and such was the nature of his services that he was promoted to the First Lieutenantcy in Company I, 45th Illinois Infantry. He served, however, a period of only seven months, his military career being cut short by a gunshot wound at the battle of Shiloh, which ultimately caused his death, the ball going through the right arm near the shoulder, necessitating amputation. Prior to this, at Ft. Donelson, he was shot through the same right arm, and the second wound naturally aggravated the first. He had served as Captain in the

standing army of Germany, and was thus admirably fitted for the duties devolving upon him as a soldier of the Union. Mrs. Louisa Balfour is still living, a resident of Lake County, Ill., and has now passed beyond her threescore years. She receives a pension from the Government.

Our subject was but a lad when coming with his father to the United States, and completed his education at the Old Soldiers' College in Fulton, Ill. So well did he improve his time with his books that he was given the position of teacher in the schools of Otoe County, Neb., where he was thus occupied several winters after coming to Nebraska. He was married in Wyoming Precinct, Nov. 15, 1876, to Miss Ella Hughes. This lady was born in this county, Feb. 16, 1858, and is the daughter of George H. and Catherine (Rousch) Hughes, who were natives of Pennsylvania. Her parents were reared and married in the Keystone State, and came to the West about 1856, locating in Wyoming Precinct, this county, where the mother died when a little past middle life. The father, a practicing physician, then returned east as far as Indiana, and is now living in that State, being now well advanced in years.

Mrs. Balfour was quite a young girl at the time of her mother's death, and was taken into the home of Mr. Bassett, of Otoe County, where she was reared and educated, and became proficient in all household duties. She is now the mother of six children—Myrtle E., Cyrus L., W. Marvin, George S., Carl A. and a babe named Max E. She is a lady of much intelligence, and highly esteemed among her neighbors. Mr. Balfour, politically, is a sound Republican, although having no desire for the responsibilities of office. He takes pride in his farm and home, while at the same time giving his support and encouragement to the enterprises calculated to advance the interests of the people around him.

Our subject soon after the outbreak of the late Rebellion, inspired by the patriotism of his honored father, enlisted as a Union soldier, Dec. 5, 1861, in Company I, 45th Illinois Infantry, under command of Capt. O. A. Bridgeford and Col. John E. Smith, the latter of whom is now Maj. Gen. Smith, of Chicago. He was with his regiment at Fts. Henry

and Donelson, but on account of the extreme exposure and hardship endured on the march he was taken ill, and obliged to accept his honorable discharge for disability, returning home July 30, 1862. He was then only a little past seventeen years of age.



**G**EORGE BROWNLEE. This worthy and capable citizen, whose home is situated upon his farm that comprises one-half of section 33 of Palmyra Precinct, is a descendant of a long and distinguished line of Scottish ancestry of noble birth and family. The first member of the family to come to this country was William Brownlee, the grandfather of our subject. He came to the country as a young man, and settled in Washington County, Pa., and took up agriculture. There he met and married the lady who became the mother of Ebenezer Brownlee, the father of our subject. He became the husband of Miss Carson, and engaged in husbandry and cattle raising. Both still reside in Washington County, Mr. Brownlee, Sr., being sixty-three and his wife sixty-four years old. They are the parents of six children, to whom the appended names were given: Robert, George, James C., John S., Samuel and Jennie E.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 16th of August, 1851, in Donegal Township, Washington Co., Pa., and was there brought up and educated in the schools of the district. He began to work upon the farm at a tender age, and is in every regard a thorough, practical farmer. His education was limited to the advantages afforded by the common school, but he drew largely from the expensive and well-selected library that had originally been in the possession of his grandfather, so that he is a well-informed man.

After several years of work upon the farm, when our subject was about twenty years of age, feeling the need of further study, he entered the West Alexandria Academy, and continued to attend the classes of that institution for two years. His father was the owner of certain Nebraska lands, and upon leaving the academy he came out to this State to take charge of them. He came to Palmyra Precinct in 1872, and went to farming and stock-raising.

The first Merino sheep brought into Otoe County were brought by Mr. Brownlee, who imported them from Pennsylvania. The first consignment comprised one carload, the second, which was made in 1876, was of two double-decked carloads. He continued the breeding and raising of sheep, and was exceedingly prosperous, and at one time had over 1,000 head. In addition to the sheep he has been quite extensively engaged with cattle and hogs.

Mr. Brownlee was united in marriage, in 1876, to Miss Mary E. Craig, a former schoolmate, who was born in the vicinity of his own home on the 20th of August, 1852. She is the daughter of James and Elizabeth Mary (Dickey) Craig. They attended school and academy together for some time. Five children have been born to them, who bear the following names: Lemuel M., Ebenezer L., James C., Cora L., and Eliza, who died when seven months old.

Although of Eastern birth, parentage, education and sympathies, Mr. Brownlee has become a typical Western man in all that appertains to the welfare of his adopted State, and the interests of the citizens there. He usually votes with the Republican party, and takes the deepest interest in matters where political economy is concerned. He and his family are most highly esteemed by the community at large.



**W**ILLIAM H. LOWE, of Four Mile Precinct, is well known as one of the early pioneers of Otoe County, with whose agricultural interests he is to-day so extensively identified, and it has been his privilege not only to witness almost its entire growth, but to contribute largely to its material prosperity. Mr. Lowe may be said to have been a pioneer from his birth, as he is the son of a pioneer, and was born amid the primeval forests of Southern Michigan, in the very earliest years of its settlement, and was thus reared amid pioneer scenes in that and other States, and many years of his life were thus passed on the frontier of civilization.

Mr. Lowe was born Jan. 1, 1829, at Tecumseh, Lenawee Co., Mich. His father, Peter Lowe, was born in New Jersey, and was there reared and

married, Charity Lamberson, likewise a native of New Jersey, and of French descent, becoming his wife. After marriage Mr. Lowe moved to Onondaga County, N. Y., and then began his life as a pioneer, which did not cease until he had been an early settler in five States, and had assisted in the development of each. He bought timber land in Onondaga County, and improved three different farms in New York, and then, seeking "fresh fields and pastures new," he removed to the Territory of Michigan about 1825, and located in that part of Monroe County now included in Lenawee County. He bought wild land, erected a log house in which our subject was born, and lived there for some years, busily engaged in removing the tall, centuries old trees that he might clear a farm. In his humble home in that wilderness the saddest misfortune of his life overtook him in the death of his devoted wife in 1829. In 1832 Mr. Lowe sold his land in Michigan, and buying a tract of part prairie and part timber land in LaPorte County, Ind., he identified himself with the early settlers of that State. But he was evidently not satisfied with his surroundings there, for in 1833 he sold his land, and we next hear of him in Illinois, the removal having been made with teams, and he passed in his journey through Chicago, then a small place. He staid in Rock Island County one year, and then shook the dust of the Prairie State from his feet, and pushed westward across the Mississippi to Missouri, and located in Cooper County, of which he thus became an early settler. He entered a tract of prairie land from the Government, built a hewed log house, and improved quite a good farm. There were no railways there, and the only near market was Boonesville, on the river. In 1842 Mr. Lowe sold his farm in Cooper County and bought a large tract of wild land from the Government, in Atchison County, the same State, and he there made his final home. He improved two good farms, and at his death in 1861 was quite well off in this world's goods. He was a man of marked energy of character, of much shrewdness and ability, and his genuine worth commanded the respect of those who knew him.

The subject of our sketch was but an infant when his mother died, and an elder sister took charge of

him. In the various moves that his father made to the frontier, he kept ahead of the primitive log school in which the children of pioneers often obtained their education, so that our subject never attended school until his father settled in Cooper County, Mo. Fortunately for him his sister had received a good education for those days, and she instructed her brothers and sisters at home. At the age of sixteen our subject left the paternal roof to make his own way in the world, and the first year was employed as a farm laborer at \$7 a month. In 1847, during the Mexican War, he enlisted in the United States Army, with the expectation of going to Mexico. His regiment, which was known as the Oregon Battalion, was, however, sent to the Northwest Territory to guard the frontier, and was stationed at old Ft. Kearney, now Nebraska City. Nebraska was then an unorganized Territory in possession of the Indians. Mr. Lowe remained at the garrison one month, was then discharged from the service, and engaged with Maj. Dougherty, who at the time had charge of the Government cattle which were herded on the river bottoms. In November of that year (1847) Mr. Lowe returned to Missouri and bought a tract of Government land in Atchison County, paying for it with money he had earned while in the service of the Government. The land was timber, and he rented other land for awhile until he could get enough of his own cleared for cultivation. In 1852 he entered a tract of prairie land, settled on it, and improved a part of it. In 1854 he sold that, and in 1855, March 12, came to Otoe County and made a claim on the land on which he now resides. It had not been surveyed at the time, but when it came in the market he entered it at the land-office in Nebraska City. He has been a continuous resident here since that time, and has witnessed almost the entire growth of Nebraska, Kansas, Western Missouri and Iowa. He now has a valuable farm comprising 637½ acres under fine tillage, well supplied with suitable buildings and all the necessary farm machinery, so that in every respect his estate may be considered a model one.

To the wife whose help and encouragement made his success possible, and who shares his prosperity, Mr. Lowe was united in marriage March 16, 1848.

She was formerly Mary A. Welsh, and was born April 18, 1828, in Jackson County, Mo. Her father, James Welsh, was a native of North Carolina, and his father, Thomas Welsh, was born in Ireland. He came to America accompanied by his wife, and settled in North Carolina, buying a tract of land in Haywood County, and resided there until his death. Mrs. Lowe's father grew to manhood in North Carolina, and after his marriage with Mary Gross, a native of Tennessee, he moved to Missouri, several families going at the same time, and the removal being made with teams and pack horses. He settled in Howard County as one of its pioneers. He bought timber land and built a log house, but he afterward removed to Jackson County, and was one of its very first settlers. He bought a tract of timber land there, on which he erected a log house, in which Mrs. Lowe was born. He continued to be a resident of that county until his death in 1847. His wife had preceded him to the better world in 1844. Mrs. Lowe was carefully trained, and being sixteen years old when her mother died, many of the household cares fell on her young shoulders. She was strong and self-reliant, and became a notable housekeeper. She early learned to spin, weave and knit, and to her skillful hands the family owed their clothes. She became an excellent cook, and many an appetizing meal has she cooked before the old-fashioned fireplace, as it was not until 1853 that she had her first stove. The following is the record of the nine children, six of whom are living, who have blessed the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Lowe: James lives at Oberlin, Kan.; Francis M. lives in Ft. Calgory, Northwest Territory; Richard lives at Red Mountain, Col.; Lee is at home; Mary married Henry Winton, of Nebraska City; Nancy Alice is the wife of Edward Lowe, of Nebraska City; Sarah L. M. was born June 2, 1858, and died Feb. 22, 1887; John Nicholas was born Sept. 28, 1849, and died Oct. 9, 1855; William Edward was born May 16, 1856, and died at the age of three years.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowe are faithful members of the Christian Church, and their religion shines through all their works. In the forty years that they have traveled life's road together they have been true in all the relations of life to each other, and to

those about them; as parents, their children have found in them their best friends; as neighbors, others have found in them safe and wise counselors and willing helpers; those in trouble have often found balm in their kindly expressed sympathy, and in their prosperity they have not been unmindful of the unfortunate and needy, but have generously extended a helping hand. It is such people as these who raise the standard of morality and goodness in a community. In politics Mr. Lowe is a Democrat.



**M**ILTON F. MEEK is one of the younger but successful agriculturists of Otoe Precinct, in this county, and operates ninety-five acres of fine farming land on section 28. He was born on the 12th of January, 1856, in Schuyler County, Mo. His father, Jefferson R. Meek, was born in Henry County, Ky., and brought up in Indiana, obtaining his education in the schools of that State. His mother's maiden name was Sophia Webster. Shortly after the marriage of his parents they settled in Missouri, being among the early pioneers of that State. There the mother died in 1858, leaving ten children. Those who bore the subjoined names alone grew to mature years, viz.: Alfred, Susan, William, Frank, John, Nannie and Milton F. By a second union the father of our subject became the parent of four other children.

Until he was nine years of age Milton F. Meek lived in Schuyler County, but owing to constant depredations by lawless guerrilla bands, the family removed to Shelby County, where he attended the district school and was brought up on the farm. In the summer of 1878 he came to Nebraska to pay a visit to his brother John, who had settled in this precinct in about the year 1873. He took a great liking to the country, and was especially pleased at having the acquaintance of the lady whom he subsequently married.

September 13, 1881, our subject was very happily married to Miss Grace Winyard, the amiable and accomplished daughter of John and Ann (Hodges) Winyard, the latter now Mrs. Ann Martin (see

her sketch for further items of interest). Miss Winyard was born Dec. 3, 1862, upon the farm of her parents in this precinct. Her union has been blessed by the birth of one child, whose name is Carlton L. Meek.

Our subject and his wife are both earnest members of the Camp Creek Congregational Church, of which he has been a Trustee for several years. Mrs. Meek is the Secretary and Treasurer of the local W. C. T. U., which is in a flourishing condition, while her husband is no less active as a Prohibitionist. They are highly esteemed in the community of which they are residents.

**B**ERNHARD HENRY NOELTING, a young man of enterprise, energy and recognized ability, is one of the foremost business men of Nebraska City. He is head of the firm of Noelting & Meyer, hardware merchants; he belongs to the Great Western Fur Company, of which he has been Secretary for some years; he is a Director in the Building and Loan Association, and is a member of the Board of Trade.

Mr. Noelting is a native of Westphalia, Germany, born in the village of Wallenbrueck, county of Herford, twelve miles from the city of Bielefeld. His father, Herman Henry Noelting, was a lifelong resident of the same place, making farming his occupation until his death, while yet in the prime of life. There were two children born to him and his wife, our subject and his sister Catherine, who married Frederic Strunk, and now lives in the town of Berne, County Bockum, Westphalia. The parents of the subject of this sketch were Herman Henry and Catharine M. E. (Wessling) Noelting, natives of Germany; the father is deceased. The mother of our subject was born in the town of Werther, County Halle, Germany, and is a daughter of Bernhard Henry and Katherine Ilsabeir (Pohlman) Wessling. She was married a second time, to Peter Henry Schwentker, and they have four daughters. She still lives in the old country.

Bernhard Noelting obtained a sound education in the schools of his native land, which he attended quite constantly until 1871, when he came to Amer-

ica. He was quite young when he lost his father, but he was carefully trained by a good mother, and went forth into the world well fortified against its manifold temptations by the inculcation of good principles. After reaching the hospitable shores of this country, he proceeded immediately to Nebraska City, and soon found employment on a farm in Otoe County. He worked by the month there for two and a half years, and then returned to Nebraska City. Here he became a clerk in the establishment of F. W. Rottman, and in the five and a half years that he remained with him he obtained a thorough practical knowledge of the ins and outs of trade. In the year 1880 Mr. Noelting started in business for himself, forming a partnership, and opening a hardware store under the firm name of Noelting, Kregel & Co. He has been in the business continuously since with a change of partners. The first change was to Noelting & Rector in 1882, and in 1884, after the death of Mr. Rector, Mr. Meyer became his partner, under the firm name of Noelting & Meyer. This is the leading hardware firm in Nebraska City, has a well-stocked and well-appointed establishment, does a large business, and gives general satisfaction to its many patrons. The firm keeps a large supply of stoves, and they manufacture their own tinware, pumps and windmills, and do a general gasfitting business. The present firm has a branch house at Union, Neb., which is well supplied with the same line of goods carried here, together with farm implements.

Mr. Noelting has a keen, resolute, uncompromising nature, and in his business and social relations his energetic character and practical sagacity find ample field for exercise. He is an active member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and a teacher in the Sunday-school. He is "strong in the faith, and seeks for the good and cherishes it."

**R**EV. HIRAM HURST. After a long and active life of ministerial labor, this gentleman has since 1884 lived retired, although no less interested than formerly, before he attained the honor of the veteran in Gospel soldiery. He now resides on section 1 of McWilliams

Precinct, in the vicinity of Delta, where he has made his home since 1878, and of Nebraska since 1855. He has always operated a farm in connection with his preaching engagements, but gave the preference to the latter. His home was in Wyoming Precinct from 1855 to 1878, when he took up his residence as at present.

Our subject was ordained a minister of the Regular Baptist Church some years after coming to the State, and has carried on that department of his life work with energy, spirit and effectiveness. He has been associated with the Baptist Church of this and Mills County, Iowa, and has built up several new churches, strengthening and reviving weak and semi-defunct organizations. The church at Delta in its organization and efficiency, and also the house of worship, are the result of his work, but only one of many instances that might be cited. The only reason for his leaving the pulpit and pastoral work was the failure of his health, which demanded that it be transferred to younger and stouter, even though less able and experienced men.

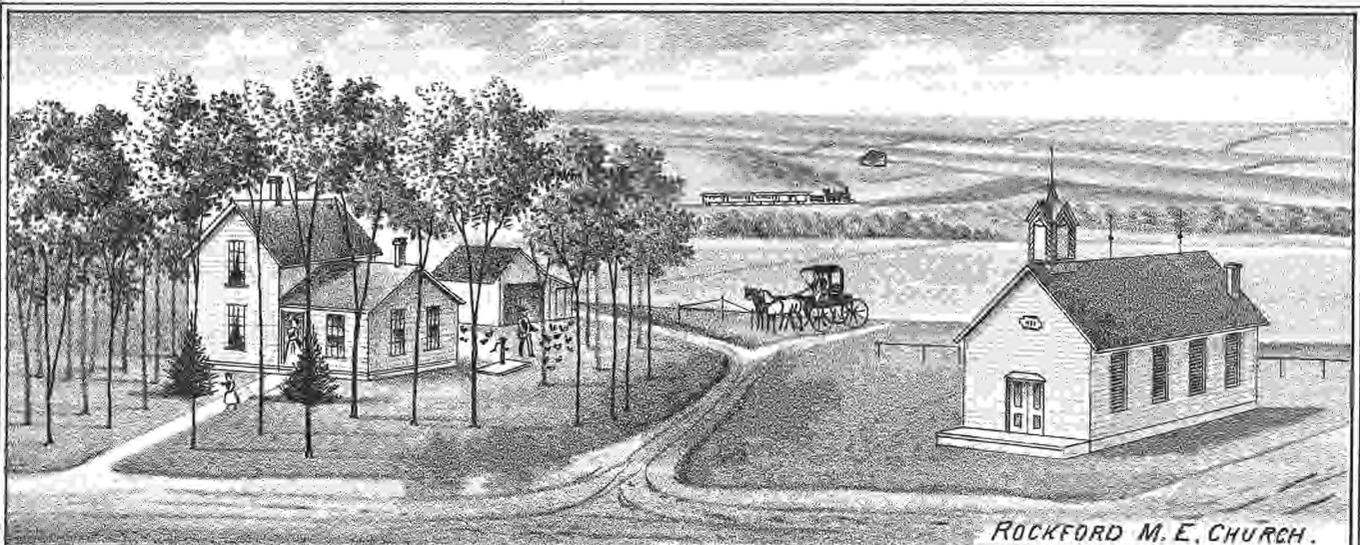
Mr. Hurst entered land upon coming to the State in 1855. He settled on and entered the same in Wyoming Precinct, and was one of the first in the county to do so. There he made his home, and brought up and educated a large family. He is a native of East Tennessee, and was born in Claiborne County on the 1st of March, 1821. His parents were West Virginians, and in that State his father, Joseph Hurst, was reared, married, and for several years carried on farming. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Rhoda McNew. After the birth of several children Joseph Hurst and his wife moved to Claiborne County, Tenn., and there made a home for their little ones, but when their family had grown up, came to this State, where the father died aged seventy-eight years, and the mother about forty-eight years. They were for many years members of the Baptist Church, and were among the first to be baptized in Andrew County, Mo., whither they had gone from Tennessee, and for a number of years had lived upon a farm.

Our subject has been three times married. First in Andrew County, to Elizabeth Todd, who, although born in Indiana, had accompanied her par-

ents to Missouri in her childhood. They were neighbors to the family of Mr. Hurst, and fellow-members of the church. For some years after his marriage our subject continued farming in Missouri, moving later to Iowa, where he took a claim in Madison County in 1845, being perhaps the first to enter a claim in that county. After ten years spent in that district he removed as above mentioned in the year 1855 to Nebraska, where the old pioneer life was lived over again. Mrs. Hurst died in Wyoming Precinct, this county, when about fifty years of age, leaving eight children, viz: John M., who is now the husband of Hester Webb, and one of the successful farmers of the county; James H., who married Mollie Gray, and is one of the well-to-do farmers of Norton County, Kan.; William H., residing in the same county; Sarah, the wife of John Whetstone; Thomas Jefferson, at Edgar, and married to Josie Smith, of Cass County, Neb.; Isaac N., who was married to Mollie Webb; Isabell, the wife of John Hughes, of this county, and Martha M., who is married to Steve Bales, of Talmage.

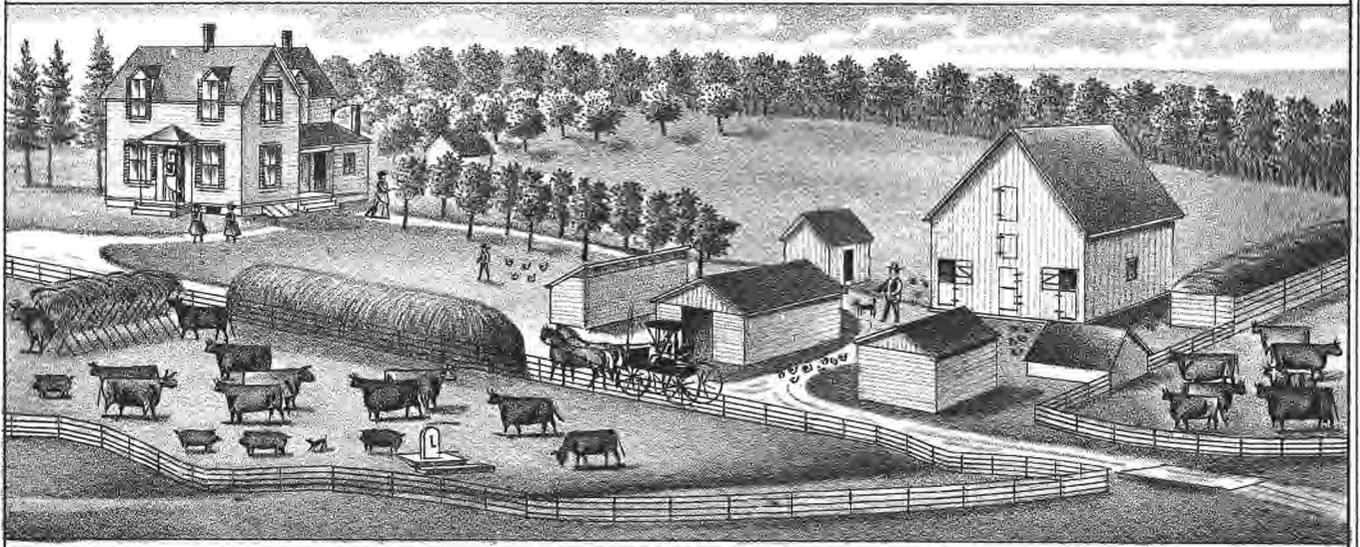
The second marriage of our subject was celebrated at Wyoming, the lady being Elizabeth Lewis, who was born in Indiana, but Mr. Hurst was not long to enjoy her companionship, as she died about one year after her marriage. Upon another occasion also our subject stood before the nuptial altar, and was united in marriage with Mrs. Ellen E. Wood, relict of Fred W. Wood. That gentleman was born in France. When but a little lad he accompanied his parents to the United States, but subsequently was taken to England, where he was educated, and where he remained until he was of age. He then came to this country, and before long to Nebraska, locating in the western part of the State, where he met and married Miss E. E. Knox, now Mrs. Hurst.

Miss Knox was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1844, and is the daughter of John and Agnes (Douglas) Knox. After the death of her mother she came with her father in the year 1856 to Nebraska City, after tarrying in the State of Iowa for about four years. Soon after coming to this State Mr. Knox pre-empted land in West Otoe County, later in Thayer County, where he operates

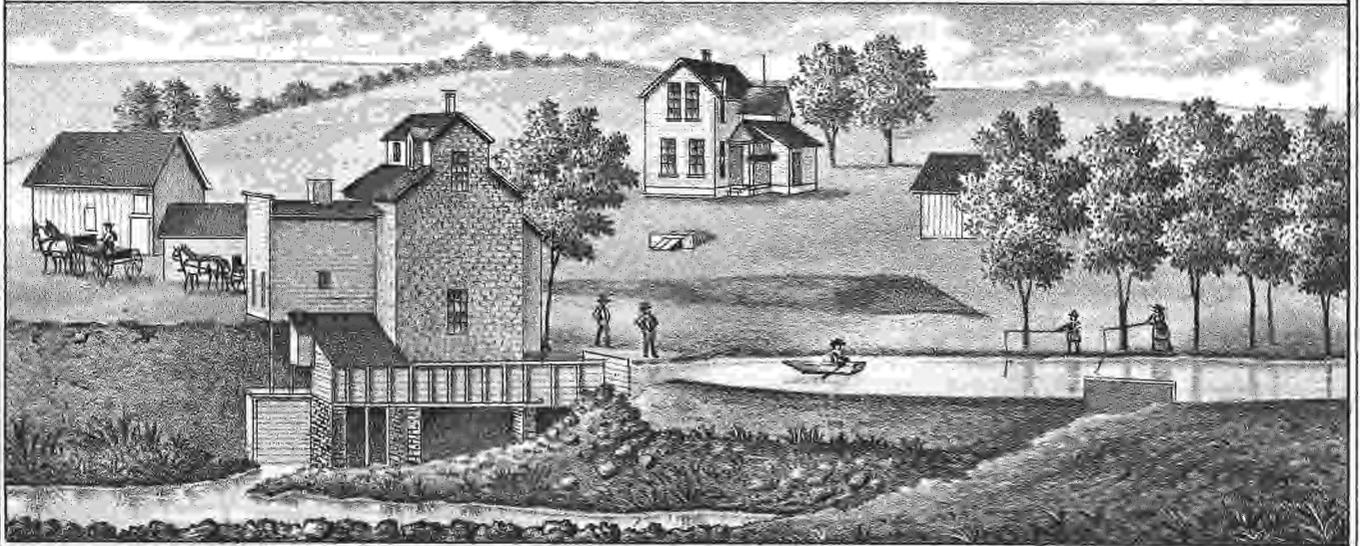


ROCKFORD M. E. CHURCH.

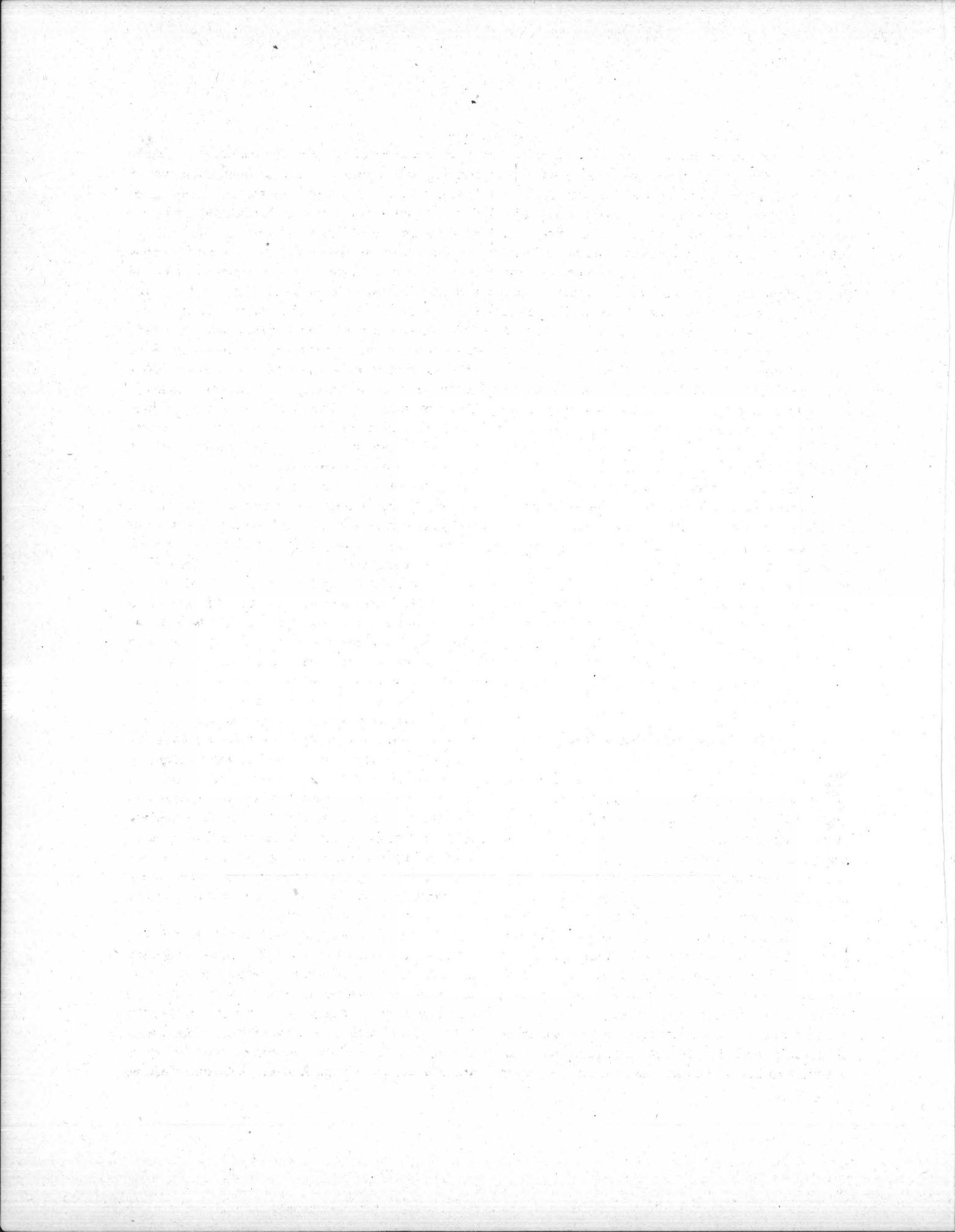
RESIDENCE OF A. J. REYNOLDS, SEC 29. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES HUNT, SEC. 7. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.

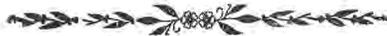


MILL AND RESIDENCE OF F. W. SCHROEDER, SEC. 17. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.



his farm. Mrs. Hurst made her home with her father until her marriage with Mr. Wood, and has all her life been associated with agricultural life. She owns 160 acres of land, well improved and stocked, which her late husband obtained when a young man. He was by trade a mechanic in the line of carpenter. He died at his home in this county on the 8th of February, 1846, at the age of forty-seven years. He was the father of seven children; two daughters, Katie A. and Katie E. are both deceased. The surviving children are named as follows: Charles W., May B., Kate A., Lizzie G. and Sylvester H. By her second marriage there are four children, one, George H., being deceased. The remaining children are named as follows: Mary C., Edwin K. and Frederick H.

Mr. Hurst still retains his membership in the Baptist Church, and is pleased to have his wife, two daughters and sons with him in that relation. Upon two occasions Mr. Hurst has been nominated for Representative of the county, but was defeated. For twenty years he held the office of Justice of the Peace. Two sons of our subject were in the Rebellion, and represented the family in its patriotic devotion. One was wounded at Nashville, and the other honorably discharged, owing to physical disability. Politically, our subject is a Democrat, and a staunch adherent of the party.



**H**ON. FRANCIS SIM, a well-known and wealthy citizen of Otoe County, was in former days prominently identified with its pioneers, and is now one of its most prosperous farmers. Since coming here thirty-two years ago he has accumulated a large and valuable property, and the home that he has built for himself and family is one of the pleasantest in all Otoe Precinct. He was born in County Cornwall, England, May 9, 1821, and his father and grandfather, both named Philip Sim, were natives of the same county. The latter was a farmer and a miller, and spent his entire life in the place of his birth.

The father of our subject early learned the trade of wool-comber, but did not engage in that long, but went to butchering, and later was employed in

farming and milling. He remained a resident of Cornwall until 1850, and then came to America to live with his son, our subject, remaining with him in his home in Middletown, Conn., until 1856, when the son came to Nebraska, and he went to visit a nephew in Wisconsin. In the spring of 1857 he came to Nebraska to make his home with his son, and died here in 1863. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Rowe, and she was a daughter of William and Jane (Dorrington) Rowe. She died about 1855 in her native town, in the county of Cornwall, England. There were four children born to her and her husband, three of whom grew to maturity. Our subject and his father were the only members of the family who came to the United States.

Francis Sim was reared in his native town, and as soon as large enough he commenced to work in his father's mill, and learned from him the trade of miller. He was a very capable and spirited young man, and being ambitious to try life in the United States, where he thought his labor would be better remunerated, and that he would thus be enabled to gain a competence and establish a comfortable home, he set sail from Falmouth, April 19, 1848, and after a voyage of six weeks landed in New York City the following June. He made his way to Middletown, Conn., where he found employment in a factory for the manufacture of locks, hinges, etc. For three years and ten months he was thus employed by one man. He then went to work in another factory, where squares, bevets and rules were made. At the end of a year he went to work in a pump factory for a year, owned by W. and B. Douglass. After that he opened a corporation boarding-house for the Russell Manufacturing Company, and was thus employed by that company until 1856, when he concluded to start West and try to secure a home where lands were cheap.

During his residence in Connecticut Mr. Sim had married, in 1849, Miss Sarah M. Clark becoming his wife, and to her devoted assistance he is greatly indebted for his after success. She was born in Haddam, Conn., a daughter of Daniel and Wealthy (Burr) Clark, natives of Connecticut. There were ten children born of that marriage, four of whom are now living—Philip, William, John and Charles.

Mrs. Sim departed this life April 11, 1880, leaving many friends to pay tribute to her worth.

Mr. Sim's marriage to his present estimable wife took place Dec. 3, 1880. She was formerly Miss Eliza Manery, a native of County Down, Ireland. Her father, John Manery, was born in the same county, and her grandfather, James Manery, was born in County Armagh, Ireland, but he spent his last years in County Down. Mrs. Sim's father came to America in 1874, and settled in Thayer County, Neb., where he still resides. The maiden name of his wife was Eliza Kilpatrick, and she was likewise of County Down. Mrs. Sim came to America in 1861, and resided in Quebec, Canada, until 1873, when she came to Nebraska, and has lived here ever since. To them has been born a daughter, Elizabeth.

When Mr. Sim came to Nebraska, in 1856, he went by steamer through Long Island Sound and up the Hudson River to Troy, N. Y., thence by rail to Buffalo, where he embarked on the lake for Detroit, from there to Chicago and St. Louis by rail, and from the latter point on a steamer to Nebraska City, where he landed September 19. He bought a squatter's claim to a tract of land on section 23 of Otoe Precinct, and he moved with his family into a log cabin standing on the place, and when the land came into the market he entered it from the Government at the land-office in Nebraska City. Since then he has been very successful, and has added to his landed estate until he now owns 575 acres of as rich and productive land as lies under the sunny skies of Nebraska. He has his land divided up into three fine farms, two of which are managed by his sons. Each of his farms is supplied with excellent and substantial frame buildings, and with all the appurtenances for conducting agriculture in the most approved manner.

In the thirty-two years that have passed since Mr. Sim came here to seek a home, he has witnessed the wonderful growth of Nebraska from an almost absolutely wild condition, with but few inhabitants, and with deer, wild turkeys, wolves and other wild animals roaming across the boundless, uncultivated prairies, to a rich and powerful State, with magnificent farms, thriving cities, busy towns and countless beautiful homes, with scarcely a trace of its former

wildness, excepting, perhaps, in the more remote portions of the State. As a man of sound wisdom, ability and honesty, Mr. Sim became conspicuous among the early settlers of this State in Territorial days, and took an active part in public affairs. In 1863 he was elected as Representative to the Territorial Council, or Legislature. In politics he is a staunch Republican.



**F**REDERICK A. STUKENHOLTZ. Prosperous and enterprising as a farmer, highly esteemed in the community, and one of the most earnest supporters of educational and religious institutions, this gentleman is eminently worthy a place in a history of Otoe County. Moreover, he is one of its pioneers, and has done what has lain in his power to assist its onward and upward progress. He now owns 404 acres of splendid farming land, situated as follows: On section 29, sixty acres, on section 32, 160 acres, on section 31, 160 acres, and on section 35, twenty-four acres.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Frederick G. Stukenholtz, and was born near the city of Herford, Prussia, on the 2d of October, 1831. It was his misfortune to lose his mother when he was about four years of age, her death occurring in the year 1835. She left seven children, who bore the names here appended: Harmon H., Henny, Annie, Mary, Casper H., Frederick A. and Sophia.

For the first thirty-six years of his life our subject lived in Prussia, receiving a splendid home and good religious training, though his educational opportunities were very limited. His large enterprise and love of liberty could not brook the restraints of imperialism, and resulted in his coming to the "Land of the Free." He sailed from Bremen Sept. 14, 1851, in company with his sister Sophia, and arrived in New York on the 4th of November, 1851. His first efforts to obtain work were made in Buffalo, where, beginning at the very bottom of the ladder, he began by cutting wood. After one year in that city he went to Lockport, Niagara County, and for two years worked upon a farm.

While at Lockport our subject made the acquaintance of Anna M. E. Hauptman, the daughter of

Harmon and Catherine (Ilabine) Hauptman, who also looked to the Fatherland as the land of their birth. Their daughter Anna was the second of seven children born to them in their native land, and accompanied them to this county, she being at the time about twenty years of age.

In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Stukenholtz migrated to Jefferson County, Wis., but the following year came to this State, settling on the unbroken prairie, which was at that time entirely destitute of houses, homes, churches, schools, government or law, and almost of settlers. Life was held very cheap, and a shooting caused little or no remark. He took up a claim of eighty acres, and went to work with the splendid result that is apparent to all by a glance at his admirably cultivated and fertile, productive farm.

The family circle of our subject included eight children, viz: An infant stillborn; Annie P., Harman H. (both deceased), Mary E., John F., Charles H., Ida (deceased) and Carrie. Mary P. is married to John Wellberger, of Otoe Precinct, and they have three little ones, whose names are Addie S., Nelson and Charles E. Carrie is the wife of John Maag, of this precinct, and is the mother of one child, Ethel M.

The religious home of our subject and his wife is within the pale of the German Methodist Episcopal Church in Nebraska City, of which organization they were charter members, and our subject has been a Trustee from its commencement. He is not a leader in politics, but is a student and lover of the institutions and government of his adopted country, and always votes with the Republican party on National questions.

**M**RS. ANN MARTIN has been for many years identified with the various interests of Otoe County, and is a lady of intelligence and culture, an earnest temperance advocate, and very highly esteemed member of society. Her home is situated upon section 28 of Otoe Precinct. Her parents, Richard and Grace (Balch) Hodges, were natives of England, and were the parents of six children, five of whom came to this country with their parents. Their first home

in the New World was in Tompkins County, or, as it is now called, Schuyler County, N. Y. The names of their children are as follows: Elizabeth, Janes; Palmice, who died in infancy; Ann, Maria and John R.

The nativity of Mrs. Martin dates from the 7th of July, 1832, and her place of birth was near the city of Bath, Somerset County, England. When she came to America she was about eight years of age, and received her education in the common schools of this county, attending also at Peach Orchard Academy, Schuyler County. Her mother died in the year 1847, at the age of fifty-nine years. The subject of our sketch began teaching in Schuyler County upon being graduated from the academy, and afterward taught in Chemung County, and continued to follow this profession in all about three years.

In 1853, while upon a visit to her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Jaquish, who resided at Barrington, in Cook County, Ill., our subject met Mr. John Winyard, to whom she was afterward married. This gentleman was born in England on the 21st of December, 1827. He came to this country from England in 1849, and was farming in Cook County at the time the acquaintance began.

Mr. and Mrs. Winyard came to this State with their two children in 1858. They did intend to settle in Kansas, but becoming disgusted with the State after a short acquaintance, it being right in the midst of the Kansas and Nebraska troubles, they departed from their original intention and located three miles northwest of Palmyra Village, and Mrs. Winyard's husband died July 18, 1871. The father of Mrs. Winyard accompanied them to Nebraska; he died at the residence of his daughter in 1858. They were the parents of the following children: Amelia M.; Carrie E., who died when five years old; Libbie E., who died when two months old; Hettie J., Grace E. and May A.

Of the above-named children Amelia is now the wife of John Meek, a resident of Otoe Precinct; she had previously been married to John Carr, by whom she became the mother of two children—Ole F. and Preston W.; Hettie J. was the wife of Clarence B. Casselman, the well-known hardware merchant of Hendricks; she died in 1886, leaving two

children—Winnie M. and Frank W. Grace E. is now Mrs. Milton Meek, and lives on the old homestead; she has presented her husband with one bright, beautiful child, who bears the name Carlton L. May A., who still makes her home with her mother, is single.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in 1873, when she became the wife of Mr. Hiram Martin. He was a native of Oneida County, N. Y. Of this marriage one child was born, whose name is Maude L. Mrs. Martin is a member of the Congregational Church at Camp Creek, and is one of the prominent workers of the W. C. T. U., which has been in running order in this place for over two years. In this she is joined by her daughters, who are all actively engaged in the temperance cause, and are recognized leaders therein.

**C**HRISTOPHER OELKE. Among the German-American citizens of Otoe Precinct, few are more loyal to the institutions and government of their adopted country, of higher character or more successful in business undertakings, than he whose life is herein sketched succinctly. His home and farm are upon section 7 of the above precinct. His property comprises 134 acres.

The subject of our sketch is the youngest of twelve children born to John and Catharine (Myer) Oelke. He was born on the 24th of February, 1843. When his parents came to this country he was nine years of age. Their home was made in Clayton County, Iowa, where, about seven years later, his father died. After that event our subject began to work out upon the neighboring farms by the month. The following year he accompanied his brother-in-law, Henry Hyer, and came to this State, where he followed the same course. The next year he went to Pike's Peak, but not being so successful as he anticipated he went to Virginia City, Mont., and worked in the silver mines for two years in the employ of a company.

Leaving Montana Mr. Oelke went prospecting for himself, and developed a gulch mine on Silver Creek, and is reputed to have been the first to discover silver on that creek, which was named by

him on account of that event. Being desirous of making a change he sold his mine and bought stock in the Virginia City mines, but this was not a successful move.

In 1865 the subject of our sketch returned to Nebraska and embarked in farming. In 1873 he celebrated his marriage with Miss Catharine Theile, the daughter of Frank and Margaret (Walder) Theile. She was born near Hamburg, and did not come to this country until 1870, when she was twenty years of age, and came to Nebraska City. Her sister Lydia accompanied her in this long journey, and both lived for a time in Nebraska City. There have been born nine children of this union, whose names are recorded as follows: Mary, Carl, Maggie, Chris Henry, Louis, Taylor, Arthur, Frank and Harry (twins).

Mr. Oelke purchased 160 acres in 1880, and when the Missouri Pacific railroad was built he sold twenty-six acres to that railroad for a town site, at \$75 per acre, on which is located the station and village of Paul. This left him his present property of 134 acres, and since that time, by patient, persevering industry, he has brought it from an unimproved condition to its present productive, fertile state. His last improvement was the erection of a very pleasant and commodious one and a half story frame dwelling, which is designed to meet every requirement of home life, so far as such is possible. In politics he is a staunch Republican, and has so been for many years, although not taking a very prominent place in political affairs. Religiously, Mr. and Mrs. Oelke are members of the German Lutheran Church, where they are much esteemed, as they are indeed wherever they are known.

**B**RUNE BRUNS. The property of this well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct comprises 160 acres of fertile land, embracing the northwest quarter of section 20. Of late years he has been giving especial attention to stock-raising, and keeps some excellent breeds of cattle and hogs. He has been a resident of this county for a period of twenty-six years, coming to Nebraska with his parents during its Territorial

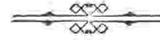
days. He located on his present farm in March, 1884, and during a comparatively brief residence upon it has effected some fine improvements.

The parents of our subject, Ocke and Fanny (Wallmann) Bruns, were born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, which was also the birthplace of their son Brune, where he first opened his eyes to the light Nov. 15, 1853, and was the eldest son of a family of five children. They set out for the United States in the summer of 1862, when our subject was a lad of nine years, embarking on a sailing-vessel, landing seven weeks later in the city of New York. They made their way directly to Nebraska, the father selecting a tract of land on section 19 of McWilliams Precinct, this county, where he became owner of 170 acres, from which he has built up a comfortable homestead, and where, with his estimable wife, he still lives. The father is sixty-six years old and the mother fifty-six. Both are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and people greatly respected in their community.

The first lessons of our subject were conducted in the schools of his native Province, but his education was completed in McWilliams Precinct, this county. Here also he was reared to manhood, and married Miss Gesine Varenhorst, who was born near the town of Etzel, Hanover, June 20, 1854. Her parents were Phillip and Gesine (Wall) Varenhorst. They were of pure German ancestry, and still continue residents of their native Empire, the father pursuing his calling of agriculturist, and being now quite well advanced in years.

Mrs. Bruns was reared to womanhood in her native Province, and came alone to America when twenty years of age. She also proceeded directly westward across the Mississippi to this county, and lived with her husband's parents in McWilliams Precinct until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there were born five children, the second of whom, a son, Rudolph, died when a bright and interesting lad of nine years. The survivors are three daughters and one son, and named respectively: Fanny, Lena, Anna and Ocke. Mr. and Mrs. Bruns, like their parents before them, are connected with the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is independent, aiming to support the men

whom he considers best qualified for office. He is a quiet and unassuming citizen, having no desire for official honors, preferring to give his undivided attention to his home and his family. He has fulfilled all the obligations of an honest man and a good citizen, being prompt in his business transactions, and a member of the community whose word is considered as good as his bond.



**h**ON. LOUIS HOEBEL, President of the Bank of Syracuse, and widely known throughout the county as one of the large grain dealers, having his headquarters at Hildreth and Upland, was born in Freeport, Stephenson Co., Ill., on the 17th of December, 1842. He is a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Hoebel, who were natives of Bavaria, Germany, where they grew to years of maturity and were married. In the year 1842 they determined to emigrate to the New World, and upon effecting their purpose settled upon a farm near Freeport. Mr. Hoebel, Sr., became the owner of 140 acres of good farming land, which he was enabled to bring to an almost perfect condition for agricultural purposes. He erected first-class buildings for the various requirements of the farm, and also a comfortable farm residence.

The father of our subject died in the year 1882, after an active, and upon the whole, prosperous life of eighty-two years, having survived his wife, the mother of our subject, since the year 1857. They were the parents of six children, all of whom attained to years of maturity, but of whom two, Peter and John, are now deceased. The surviving members of the family are: Jacob, whose home is in Stephenson County, Ill.; Phillips, who resides in Benton County, Iowa; Catherine, now Mrs. Spratler, and Louis, the subject of this sketch.

The early years of the youth and manhood of our subject were spent in his native county. He was brought up on his father's farm, and attended the public school near by. Between the two the work of his education went on, and when he was fifteen years of age he started to learn the trade of a tinner. This he followed at Freeport until he attained his majority, when he went to Benton County, Iowa,

and engaged in the hardware business with his brother, and continued therein until the 1st of January, 1880. Our subject then came to Syracuse, and associated himself with Walter Peet as a partner in a banking-house, which they established, and which has become an incorporated bank, and is that over which our subject now presides. In 1886 he embarked in the grain trade at Hildreth and Upland, to which he has since given much of his time and attention. To say that he is successful is almost unnecessary, for the record of his life is that whatever he has undertaken he has conducted to a desirable finish.

Mr. Hoebel became the husband of Katie Sauer, at Freeport, in June, 1865. This lady, who is the daughter of Ambrose and Terisa Sauer, was born at Baden-Baden, April 30, 1845. When her parents came to this country she was twelve years of age. They first settled at Freeport, Ill., and engaged in farming. There have been born to our subject four children, whose names are as follows: Carrie, Ida, Fred and Edwin.

The political relations of our subject are with the Democratic party. He was enthusiastically elected to represent his district in the Lower House of the State Legislature. He has also served one term in the State Senate. He is a prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and is well received in it by his fellows. In addition to his other business interests he is President of the Upland Banking Company, at Upland. He resides upon his farm, which is pleasantly situated near Syracuse, and is an extensive land-owner in other parts of this State and Kansas. He is a man of character, of business qualities, shrewd, of large intelligence, and one respected and esteemed by all.

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**R**HADAMANTHUS H. SCOFIELD, Principal of the public schools at Syracuse, traces his ancestry back to England, whence the first representatives of the family in this country emigrated to America during its Colonial days. History records the fact that some time between 1594 and 1600 a boy was born in England, among whose descendants are now found

noted Generals, eminent divines, and bright lights in nearly every calling or profession in which man is engaged. The name of this boy was Daniel Scofield, and he must have been a venturesome lad, as it is believed he took passage in the "Mayflower," which landed on Plymouth Rock in December, 1620. There have now elapsed 268 years, and the Scofield family is scattered over the whole length and breadth of the land, having reached the tenth generation, of which our subject is a representative, and who probably aggregate 500 souls. Some time ago they formed an association for the purpose of holding annual reunions and preserving their records. The first meeting was held in 1866, at which time eighty-five members were present. The year following the meeting included 151 members, and the third session was attended by 212. The next meeting, appointed for Aug. 16, 1889, is to be held at the home of Levi Loomis, in Ashville, N. Y.

Seymour Scofield, the father of our subject, was born in the town of Greenfield, Saratoga Co., N. Y., in 1805, and enjoys the distinction of being the oldest living member of his race, although they are noted for longevity. He grew to manhood, becoming familiar with agricultural pursuits, and married Miss Eliza Scofield, a distant relative. During the year 1844 they took up their residence in Jefferson County, N. Y., where the father eliminated a good farm from the heavy timber. In 1856 he changed his residence to Chautauqua County, where he now resides, and though crippled in his lower limbs, possesses all his mental faculties in a high degree, and is a fine, handsome, intelligent and high-spirited old gentleman. The faithful and affectionate wife and mother, who has journeyed with him for a period of fifty-seven years, is also living, and although seventy-seven years of age, looks as young as a lady of sixty.

This aged and honored pair became the parents of ten children, eight of whom are living, and residents mostly of New York and Pennsylvania. Rhadamantus H., our subject, was their fourth child, and was born at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1839. He was but a boy when the family removed to Chautauqua County, and there secured his education in the common schools and academies. His

parents being in limited circumstances, he made his own living from early youth, employing himself at whatever he could find to do, and paying his way through school. He finally developed into a teacher, and having a thirst for learning, succeeded finally in entering the State Normal School, of Edinboro, Pa., where he was nearly prepared for graduation at the outbreak of the Rebellion. This crisis in the nation's history aroused the patriotism of the students generally, and our subject, with others, enlisted in a Pennsylvania regiment of infantry, but on account of physical disability was in a short time discharged.

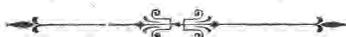
Young Scofield now resumed teaching in his native State for a time, and then visited Whiteside County, Ill., where he taught one term. The excitement of the oil discovery in Pennsylvania being now at its height, he visited the region where wells were being developed, but after experimenting there for a time, concluded there was nothing for him in that region, and returning to Illinois, taught school during the winter seasons, and spent his vacations in traveling over different States. While residing in Morrison, Ill., he made the acquaintance of Miss Lottie McDearmon, to whom he was married in September, 1868. Mrs. Scofield was born in Aurora, N. Y., on the 22d of March, 1840, and early in life removed with her parents to Chicago, Ill., and later to Whiteside County, that State, where she was graduated from Mt. Carroll Seminary.

Mr. and Mrs. Scofield after their marriage settled in Chautauqua, N. Y., and our subject devoted himself to teaching. Later he assumed charge of the public schools at Blairstown, Iowa, and subsequently held the same position at Iowa Falls and Sidney, that State. In 1883 he invested in land in Madison County, Neb., and had then made up his mind to become a tiller of the soil. He was obliged to abandon this project on account of the failing health of his wife. He then took charge of the schools at Madison, but was soon compelled to resign his position. Mrs. Lottie Scofield departed this life at her home in Madison, April 2, 1885, leaving four small children—Ralph, Ernest, Hattie and Bertha. The home of our subject was then broken up, and his little girls were sent to Portland, Ore., to live with an aunt, while Ralph

remained in Madison and Ernest was taken into the home of an uncle living in Missouri. For some time after Mr. Scofield was unable to confine himself to any one place, but in 1886 was called to take charge of the schools at Syracuse, which he arranged according to the graded system, and in 1888 graduated a class of four members.

On the 7th of June, 1887, Mr. Scofield contracted a second marriage, with Mrs. Juana L. Sanderson, who was born in Lincolnshire, England, but came to the United States with her parents when quite young. She is a lady of excellent education, and has followed teaching for some years. She has been since her marriage associated with her husband as assistant teacher in the schools of Syracuse.

The Scofields, from father to son, through many generations, have been staunch supporters of Democratic doctrines, and our subject is no exception to the rule. He is a Royal Arch Mason, and a social, genial, intelligent gentleman, who numbers his friends by scores, and whose home is a most attractive resort for the cultivated element of society.



**T**HOMAS ANDREWS, of Russell Precinct, owns and operates a snug farm of 101 acres on section 30. His homestead is one illustrative of peace and contentment, and his domestic affairs are presided over by a lady of more than ordinary abilities, both as a helpmate and house-keeper, the dwelling within being a picture of taste, cleanliness and beauty. St. Paul, during his journeyings and philosophizings, once remarked that "Cleanliness is next to godliness," and the intelligent individual will heartily coincide with him in this sentiment. Mrs. Andrews evidently believes entirely in the truth of it, and carries it out in her daily life.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrews are approaching the afternoon of lives which have been well spent, during which they have lived at peace among their neighbors, and shed a good influence around them. Our subject is the eldest of twelve children, the offspring of Bartholomew and Philamela (Merriam) Andrews, who were natives of Litchfield, Conn., the father born in 1790, and the mother five years

later, in 1795. The paternal grandfather, Lyman Andrews, was of English ancestry, but born in Connecticut, and the maternal grandfather, Thomas Merriam, was also a native of Connecticut, where it is supposed he spent his entire life.

Bartholomew Andrews when a young man twenty-two years of age was drafted into the army during the War of 1812, but on account of illness was unable to serve. He had in the meantime with his parents taken up his residence in Saratoga County, N. Y., to which they had migrated when he was a little lad four years of age. There the parents of our subject were married. In 1815 they moved to Onondaga County, N. Y., where the father purchased sixty acres of heavily timbered land, from which he cleared a farm, where he erected a sawmill, and by means of the two together accumulated a fine property. There he spent the remainder of his days, his death taking place Oct. 12, 1867. The mother survived her husband a period of eighteen years, remaining a widow, and died on the 13th of April, 1885, at the advanced age of ninety.

The twelve children of the parental family were as follows: Thomas, our subject; Gamsey; Hannah, deceased; Noah; Caroline and Lavina, deceased; Edwin, Titus; Curtis, deceased; Solomon, Clarissa and Almira, the two latter also deceased. Solomon during the Civil War enlisted in the 3d Iowa Battery, which was stationed most of the time around Little Rock, Ark., and after the expiration of his first term of enlistment volunteered the second time. He is now in Iowa. The surviving members of the family are mostly residents of Nebraska and New York.

Thomas Andrews, our subject, the eldest child of his parents, was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., April 14, 1817. He made his home with his parents until reaching his majority, in the meantime receiving a common-school education. He then learned the cooper's trade, which he followed for a period of ten years. He was married while a resident of New York State, after which he followed farming two years, then going to Walworth County, Wis., resumed his trade and lived there also two years, at the same time carrying on farming in a modest way.

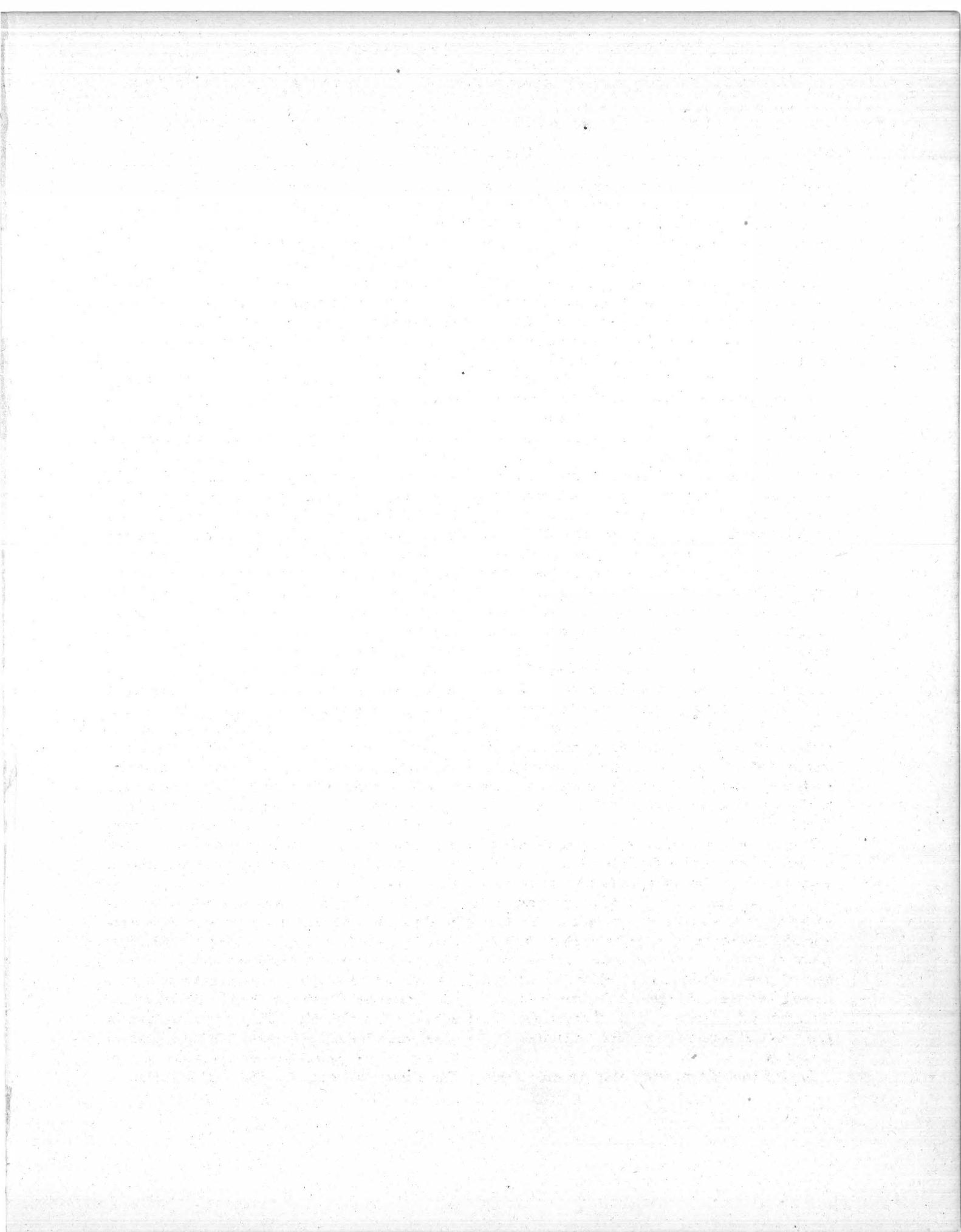
In 1853 our subject, seized with the gold fever,

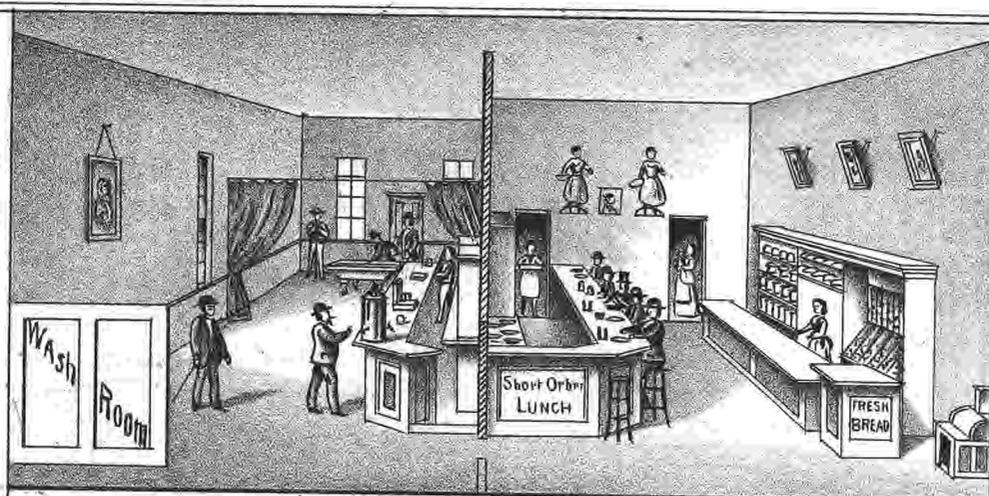
made his way to California, and in company with his brother staking a claim in Sacramento County, was engaged most of the time thereafter for a period of ten years in hunting for the yellow ore. Notwithstanding his perseverance he met with indifferent success, and 1863 found him on his way to his old home in Onondaga County, N. Y. He lived there three years, then moved to Wisconsin.

In 1875, once more crossing the Mississippi, Mr. Andrews purchased 240 acres of land in Keokuk County, Iowa, in partnership with his brother, which they operated together until 1877, and then Thomas disposed of his interest in the property to his brother. With the proceeds he purchased 160 acres in Jefferson, Iowa, which he sold in 1884, and determined to experiment upon the soil of Nebraska. The result was his purchase of the homestead which he now owns and occupies. Upon this he has made great improvements, setting out groves and an orchard and hedge, and otherwise gathering together the appliances forming the complete rural home. He has of late years given his attention largely to stock-raising, dealing in cattle, hogs and horses, the latter embracing the celebrated Hambletonians and Clydesdales.

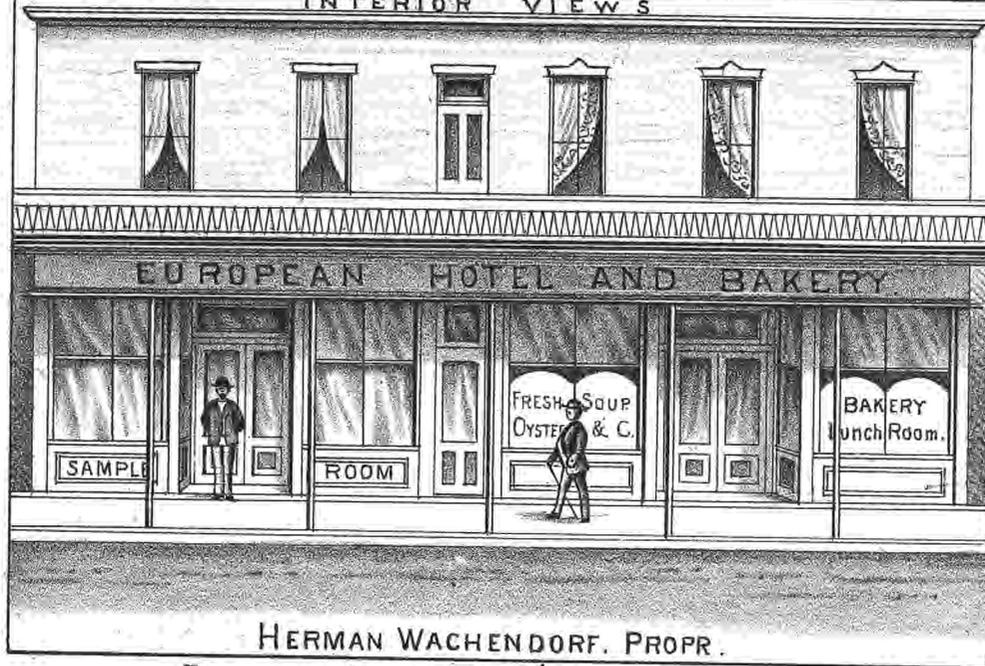
Mr. Andrews was first married in Onondaga, N. Y., Feb. 28, 1847, to Miss Julia A., daughter of Oliver and Clarissa F. Hill, who was born in that county Jan. 10, 1824. Her parents were natives respectively of Vermont and New York State, and the father a cabinet-maker by trade. They spent their last years in New York. Of this marriage there was born one child only, Julia A., who is now the wife of John McGonogel, and resides in Onondaga County, N. Y.; they have two children. Mrs. Julia A. Andrews departed this life at her home in New York, in 1848.

Our subject and his present wife, who in her girlhood was Miss Mary A. Rush, were united in marriage in Keokuk County, Iowa, May 9, 1869. Mrs. Mary Andrews was born in Westmoreland County, Pa., Jan. 10, 1844, and is the daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Auttman) Rush, who were also natives of that county. They moved to Iowa in 1858, where the father followed farming, and where he is still living, being now seventy years of age. The mother died Aug. 28, 1888. Of this union of

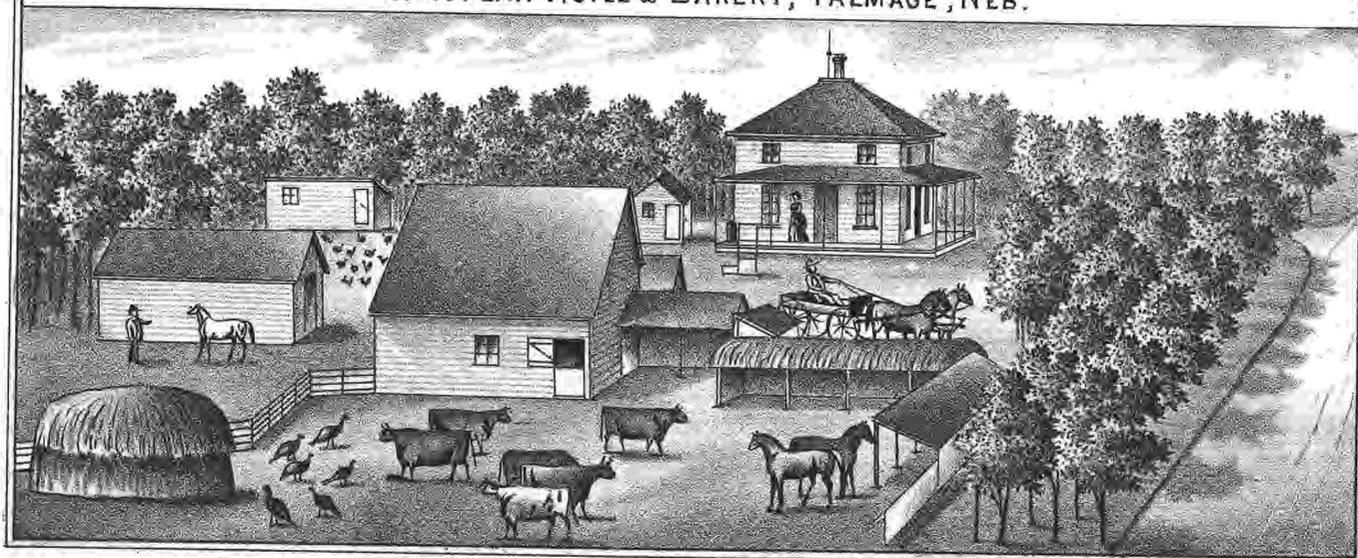




INTERIOR VIEWS



HERMAN WACHENDORF, PROPR.  
EUROPEAN HOTEL & BAKERY, TALMAGE, NEB.



RESIDENCE OF LARS ANDERSEN, SEC. 30. DELAWARE PRECINCT.

our subject there have been born five children, namely: Lovina; A. B., deceased; Cora, May and Rosa. The survivors are all at home with their parents. Mr. Andrews cast his first Presidential vote for Harrison, and is a staunch Republican "dyed in the wool." He has been a member of the School Board of his district for the past three years, and in religious matters belongs to the Baptist Church at Eden school-house, in which he officiates as Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

To Joseph and Catherine Rush, the parents of Mrs. Andrews, there were born eight children, one son and seven daughters, namely: Mary A., John, Lizzie; Susan, who died when about eighteen years old; Tracy; Frances, deceased; Maggie, and Lucy, deceased. The last two were twins. Five of the children are surviving, and mostly residents of Iowa.



**L**ARS ANDERSEN. The Old World has given thousands of the best of her sons to the development of the Western Continent, and among these the subject of this sketch forms a worthy example. He is one of the most prosperous farmers of Delaware Precinct, where he owns 160 acres of good land on section 30. By a process of careful cultivation he has brought it to a very fertile condition, and upon it has erected good buildings, including one of the handsomest residences in this locality, a view of which appears on the adjoining page. He has done much of his own carpenter work, being a natural mechanic, and thus has saved an outlay of hundreds of dollars. Our subject has an orchard comprising about 400 various fruit trees, and had last year over 100 bushels of fine peaches.

Our subject presents most forcibly the illustration of the self-made man, as he began in life dependent upon his own resources. His earliest recollections are of a modest home in the Kingdom of Denmark, where his birth took place Feb. 23, 1847. His parents were Anders Madsen and Else C. (Sorensen) Andersen, natives of the same Province as their son, and whose household consisted of

eleven children. Of these latter nine are living, and are residents of Denmark.

Mr. Andersen received a common-school education, and during his youth and early manhood employed himself at farming. He continued upon his native soil until a man twenty-five years of age, and then, desirous of something better than the prospect held out to him there, set sail in the spring of 1872 for the United States. He made his way at once to Nebraska, and for several years was employed as a laborer in Nebraska City and vicinity. In the meantime he saved what he could of his earnings, and finally rented a tract of land and commenced farming. He was thus employed until taking possession of his present land.

Mr. Andersen was married in the month of October, 1879, to Miss Christina Christensen, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City. Mrs. Andersen is the daughter of Christian Nelson and Meren (Jensen) Christensen, natives of Denmark, and was born Sept. 21, 1852, in Denmark. Of her union with our subject there is only one child living, a son, Charles, although they have been the parents of five.

Mr. Andersen upon becoming a naturalized citizen identified himself with the Republican party, the principles of which he is still a warm supporter. He, however, meddles very little with politics, and has no desire for office. He commenced from first principles in the building up of his farm, there having been very little attempt at improvement on his land at the time of its purchase. He certainly deserves great credit for his achievements, which cannot otherwise than have been the result of persistent industry and the wisest management. He is esteemed among his neighbors as an honest man and first-class citizen, and one eminently worthy of representation in this work.



**H**ERMAN WACHENDORF, "mine host" of the European House and Restaurant, at Talmage, is numbered among the energetic business men of the place, and one who is contributing his full quota to its importance as a

growing town. He came to the place in the spring of 1882, and put up a building, within which he established the first permanent restaurant and saloon in the place, and which he has since conducted in a highly successful manner. This being the beginning of his business career, his success has been a little beyond the ordinary, his good sense in a large measure supplying the lack of experience. Among the many views presented in this volume is one of the business place of this enterprising gentleman.

A native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, our subject was born Feb. 10, 1854, and crossed the Atlantic when a youth of eighteen years. Soon after setting foot upon American soil he proceeded to Lafayette County, Wis., where he engaged in farming, and in March, 1875, was married to Miss Addie Koppamann. This lady was also a native of Germany, and came to the United States when a young woman. She only survived her marriage a few years, her decease taking place in Belmont Precinct, Otoe County, this State, in the fall of 1880. Her death was caused by eating meat affected by trichina—the flesh of a pet pig which she had raised herself. Mr. W. and a daughter were also taken seriously ill from the same.

Of this marriage of our subject there had been born two children, daughters, of whom Lizzie, the elder, is now living with an aunt in Burlington, Iowa, and Anna, with an uncle in Colsburg, Iowa. Mr. Wachendorf contracted a second marriage, Nov. 9, 1881, in Belmont Precinct, with Miss Celia Stochmann, also a native of Germany, who came to America when a young lady. Her father, Frederick Stochmann, is a resident of Nebraska City. Of this union there have been born four children, one of whom, John, died in infancy. The survivors are Celia, Lena and Dora T.

John Wachendorf, the father of our subject, spent his entire life in his native Province of Hanover, Germany. He married a lady of his own nationality, Miss Anna Robbins, who died when her son Herman was a lad nine years of age. The latter came to this State after his marriage, and located first in Belmont Precinct, this county, where he established a little country store in the winter of 1879. He is developing into a thorough busi-

ness man, is becoming fully identified with the interests of his adopted country, and uniformly votes the straight Democratic ticket.



**J**OHN SCHARP, of Wyoming Precinct, is the owner of a fine farm of 320 acres, pleasantly located on section 16. Upon this he has labored industriously since the spring of 1857, when he secured ownership to 160 acres, and began the building up of the homestead which is now looked upon with an admiring eye by all who pass by it. The buildings, tasteful and substantial, are eminently creditable to the proprietor, and possess all the conveniences required by the modern agriculturist. The fences are kept in good order, the live stock is well fed and sheltered, and the machinery for the prosecution of agriculture is of the latest improved pattern. Mr. Scharp occupies a prominent position in social and business circles, and has been no unimportant factor in the development of the best interests of this part of the county.

Our subject looked upon Nebraska during its Territorial days, having come to this county as early as 1857, ten years before it was admitted into the Union as a State. He settled then in Wyoming Precinct, of which he has since been a resident. A native of Denmark, he was born Feb. 9, 1843, and when a lad of fourteen years emigrated to America with his father, with whom he lived until reaching his majority. The father was accidentally killed by a runaway team in June, 1885. He was a farmer by occupation, and was married in his native country to Miss Mattie Houschildt, by whom he became the father of six children, five living, and all in Otoe, Neb.

Our subject, when prepared to establish a home and domestic ties of his own, was united in marriage with Miss Katie Gruber, who was a native of one of the Rhine Provinces, Germany. She was born May 1, 1858, and came to America with her parents when a child nine years of age. The latter were Jacob and Maggie (Young) Gruber, and after coming to the United States they crossed the Mississippi, settling in Cass County, Neb., where they are still living. Their family consisted of two

sons and six daughters, and Mrs. S. remained a member of the parental household until her marriage.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born six children, one of whom, a son, Herbert, died in infancy. The survivors are Mattie, Henry, Trian, Herman and Melanie Rose. The eldest is twelve years of age and the youngest fifteen months, and they are all at home with their parents, forming an interesting group of which the latter may well be proud. Mr. Scharp has been a prominent man in his community, looked up to by his neighbors, and respected by all who know him. He votes the straight Republican ticket, but has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his farming interests. From a modest beginning he has accumulated a good property, the result of his own industry and perseverance, he being from the first dependent upon his own resources.



**G** W. GILMAN, engaged in a prosperous drug business in Talmage, also deals in all kinds of stationery, silverware, jewelry, etc., and by his straightforward methods of doing business is in the enjoyment of a good patronage. He established in business here in June, 1885, and carries a full line of the articles pertaining thereto. He is one of the younger business men of the community, and bids fair to occupy a prominent position in the near future.

Mr. Gilman is a true Westerner, having been born on the sunset side of the Mississippi, on the Platte River, at Cottonwood Springs, Oct. 27, 1862. He was one of the first white children claiming their nativity in Nebraska, his early home being only fifteen miles from Ft. McPherson, where the great conflict with the Sioux Indians took place in 1865. His father, J. K. Gilman, operated a ranch and a freight line from Nebraska City to Ft. McPherson, and lost during the Indian raids several thousand dollars' worth of cattle and mules. In addition to his other interests he was for a time in the employ of the Government, and also filled a contract of getting out ties for the Union Pacific

Railroad Company. He dealt largely with the Indians, and his intercourse with them was tempered with such good judgment that they became very friendly to him, and he acquired a perfect knowledge of their language, as also did his family, being able to speak it fluently. This was a great advantage to him, and after the general raids spoken of, the Indians never molested him or his family.

The father of our subject, with his estimable wife, was on the plains a period of four years, during which time their son G. W. was born. He wore for his first suit a pretty buckskin outfit, which was made for him by an Indian squaw, and which he preserves to this day. It is hardly necessary to say that it is looked upon by his children and friends with a great deal of interest. The elder Gilman finally decided to return to the bounds of civilization with his family, and placing them in safety in Nebraska City, he again went to the frontier with S. F. Nuckolls, one of the prominent pioneers of the State, and they began mining in the Wahsatch Mountains, in Utah Territory, remaining in that region for a period of eight years. Instead of getting rich, however, Mr. Gilman lost largely, like many others at that time. In 1876, in company with Robert Hauke of Nebraska City, he went to Dakota, and became the owner of thirteen acres of land, upon which is located the city of Deadwood. For some years he also owned two of the principal stores there, and the property was the subject of an extended litigation in which Mr. Gilman and his friend, Mr. Hauke, as plaintiffs, won their case each time, although necessarily at great expense.

The father of our subject this time met with some success as a miner, then returned to Nebraska City, and not long afterward was seized with the fatal illness which terminated his life, Jan. 21, 1887. His was a very checkered career, and one in which he saw much of the world and men. He was born at the foot of Mt. Washington, in New Hampshire, July 3, 1829, and came of an old and highly respected New England family. During his younger years he frequently served as a guide for visitors to Mt. Washington, which then as now was a popular summer resort. At the age of fifteen years he was given a Government position as engineer on the dry docks, at Pensacola, Fla., and thus early in

life gained a good knowledge of general business. He was driven from Florida on account of the yellow fever, taking passage on a lumber vessel, which was wrecked a few days later off the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and he, with one of his companions, floated for three days on a piece of the wreck, and were picked up half starved and nearly exhausted. During this time they had saved a little flour, which they wet, and dried in the sun, and ate to keep life within them. Upon being rescued young Gilman sought his old home in New Hampshire, and remained there until reaching his majority, when he came to Nebraska.

The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Martha Fitchie, a notice of whose family will be found in the sketch of William Campbell, on another page in this volume. She survives her husband, and is now a resident of Nebraska City. She was a true pioneer wife and mother, a woman of more than ordinary intelligence and force of character, and amply fitted to battle with the difficulties of the varied career which she shared with her husband.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the schools of Nebraska City, and entered upon his business career as clerk in the drug-store of Sloan & Baker, with whom he remained three years, and subsequently was with James Reed for the same length of time. His wife was formerly Miss Grace E. Gregory, and a sketch of her family will be found in the biography of S. C. Gregory, elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Gilman, as a citizen, is public-spirited and liberal, and politically, votes with the Democratic party.



**B**ASIL E. NEWTON, who is filling the honorable and responsible position of editor of the *Palmyra Pilot*, and in that relation is widely known throughout the county and even beyond its borders, is the worthy son of Benjamin H. and Amanda C. (Edmundson) Newton, who were natives of Ft. Smith, Ark., and Dalton, Ga., respectively. The Newton family is not altogether unknown in history; the early representatives of this family came from France and settled

in Louisiana in Colonial days. The father of our subject was a General and served on Wheeler's staff, in the Confederate Army, also under Longstreet at Chickamauga, and under Joe Johnston at the surrender of that General after the war was practically closed by the action of Gen. Lee. The maternal side of the family represented the Unionists, and their sentiments and feelings were very strong in that direction. Upon the announcement of the secession every house in Spring Place, except James Edmundson's, was brilliantly illuminated, and nothing but his high position and vast wealth prevented his being invited to take hasty leave. This gentleman, who was the grandfather of our subject, served as a State Senator for a number of terms, and was eighty-seven years of age when he died.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 3d of January, 1865, at Ft. Valley, Ga. He attended the public schools of Arkansas, whither the family had removed, beginning to attend the classes when about five years of age. At the time of the death of his father the family were in good circumstances, thanks to his business enterprise and forethought, but in order to give her son every advantage and benefit in the line of education the mother began to teach school. At the age of thirteen years our subject entered Hiwassee College, East Tennessee, and by diligent study was advanced to the head of his class, which position he retained almost until he was graduated, which he did with the class of '80, upon which occasion he filled admirably the position of valedictorian. He engaged as a news agent on the Southern railroads, continuing for about a year, then, in 1881, he came to Nebraska, and settled at Salem, in Richardson County.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated at Salem, the lady of his choice being Miss Nora White, the daughter of George W. and Katie (Meyers) White. In spite of some opposition at first on the part of the parents incidental chiefly to the age of their daughter, the earnest desire of the young people was carried into effect, and they became one at Salem, Jan. 19, 1886, and with his beautiful young bride of fourteen years of age he came to Palmyra, and bought out Benjamin Saunders, the owner of the *Pilot*, which paper he has since edited

in an able manner. That his efforts are appreciated by the community is unquestioned, seeing that the circulation has largely increased, and the general business of the office is a thorough financial success. The political sentiments of our subject are strongly Republican.



**J**OB W. CASSEL. Among the practical, prosperous farmers of Otoe County who are active in sustaining her great agricultural interests, and who were numbered among her pioneers in the early days of her settlement, the subject of this sketch is worthy of more than passing notice. His farm on section 29, Four Mile Precinct, with its well-tilled acres, its commodious, substantial buildings, and many other valuable improvements, is classed among the best in this part of the county.

Mr. Cassel was born Dec. 7, 1835, in Warren County, Ind., and is a son of the Hon. John Cassel, a noted pioneer of Nebraska. His father was born in Newberry District, S. C., Aug. 14, 1801, his father, the grandfather of our subject, being a native of the same district. The Cassels were of English ancestry, and settled in South Carolina in Colonial times. The grandfather of our subject moved to Kentucky about 1805, and after to Ohio, where he became a pioneer of Warren County. He cleared a farm and resided there until about 1835, when he went to Indiana and settled in Fountain County, of which he remained a resident until his death. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Huffman, and she was also a native of South Carolina.

The father of our subject was but a boy when his parents moved to Ohio; there he was reared and married, Sarah Thomas becoming his wife in 1827. She was born in Wayne Township, Warren Co., Ohio, her father, Edward Thomas, a native of Pennsylvania, being a pioneer of that county. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of subject, was Parmelia Wright. After marriage Mr. Cassel continued to live in Ohio until 1833 or 1834, and then started West with teams and located in Warren County, Ind., as one of its pioneers. He bought a tract of

timber land, and in the home that he built up there the subject of this sketch was born. The nearest market for some years was Chicago, 125 miles distance, a small place at that time, and it used to take from ten days to two weeks to make the round trip. On one of these trips he was offered in exchange for his team forty acres of land now included in the city. He did not trade, as the low, swampy land was anything but desirable for agricultural purposes, and the town at that time gave no promise of its present greatness. He cleared his land in Warren County and resided there until 1856, when he sold his farm with the intention of making his future home in the Territory of Nebraska. Gathering together a part of his household effects, he and his wife and their eight children started on the long journey with four wagons and ten horses. Whenever night overtook them they camped and cooked their meals, and in the month of July arrived at Nebraska City. Mr. Cassel bought a claim from a squatter on section 32 of what is now Four Mile Precinct. Ten acres of the land were broken, and with the small frame house, into which the family immediately moved, constituted the improvements on the place. Deer, wild turkeys and other wild animals still lingered in this section, but in the winter following the deer became easy victims in the deep snow that was not crusted hard enough to bear them, and they were nearly exterminated. Mr. Cassel improved a fine farm and was a resident here until his death, which was a great loss to the community, as he was a man of sterling worth and strong character, who identified himself with the best interests of the county. He took part in public affairs, and in 1858 was elected to the Territorial Legislature. He was a firm supporter of the Union cause in the trying times that preceded the war. Mrs. Cassel, who was in every respect worthy of such a husband, now lives with her daughter, Mrs. Thaler, in Palmyra, Neb. She has eight children living, namely: Joseph M., Job W., Parmelia (now the wife of William Thaler), Nancy, William H. H., James, Elijah T. and Edwin W.

The subject of this sketch was the third child born to his parents, and he was reared in his native county, gaining his education in the pioneer schools of the time, the primitive school-house where some

of his youthful days were passed being built of logs, with rude slab benches for the pupils to sit upon. When not in school he assisted in the farm work, and when his parents removed to Nebraska he went with them, and in the same year took up a claim in the Missouri River bottom and entered it from the Government at the land-office at Nebraska City in 1857. In 1858 he traded that land for his present homestead on section 29, Four Mile Precinct, adjoining the old homestead. It was a tract of wild prairie land at the time, and the next year he commenced its improvement by breaking quite a tract and planting a grove and orchard. In 1859 he went to the mountains, crossing the plains, and in the fall of 1859 returned and sold his farm, staying here until the spring of 1860, when he again went to the mountains, and the following three years was engaged in mining in different places in Colorado. He subsequently took up the business of freighting from Nebraska City to the mountains, but at the end of a year he again turned his attention to mining, and for nearly two years was thus employed in Virginia City, Mont. After that he returned to Nebraska City, and bought his old place back again with the capital gained in the Rockies, and has been a continuous resident here since. His farm comprises 240 acres of rich, alluvial soil, whose fertility and productiveness are practically inexhaustible.

Mr. Cassel was married, in 1865, to Miss Mary Harmon, and their pleasant household circle is completed by the presence of the four children who have been born of their union, namely: Luna, Walter N., Albert and John. Mrs. Cassel comes from good old New England stock, and is herself a native of Massachusetts, born in the town of New Marlboro, to Oliver and Luna Melissa (Norton) Harmon. Her father, who was a pioneer of Nebraska, was born in the town of Suffield, Conn., where his father, Alexander Harmon, was engaged in farming for many years; he died in New Marlboro, Mass. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of Mrs. Cassel, was Mary Hanchett, and she died in Rockford, Ill., at her daughter's. Mrs. Cassel's father was reared on a farm, and after marriage located in New Marlboro, Mass., and later moved to Canaan, Conn., where he bought a farm,

which he managed successfully until 1855. In that year he sold all his property in Connecticut and bought a farm in Aurora, Ill., which was one mile south of and is now included within the city limits. He resided there until 1862, and then started with his wife and three children for the Territory of Nebraska, with two wagons and one carriage, bringing a small part of his household goods. After traveling twenty-one days they arrived at Nebraska City, and Mr. Harmon bought the southwest quarter of section 27, Four Mile Precinct. The improvements consisted of sixty acres of broken land and a log house, and on that place he made his home until his death, Dec. 19, 1874. In the meantime he had added to his landed estates until he possessed 320 acres, besides a tract of 160 acres in Palmyra. Mr. Harmon was a well-educated man, and used to teach in his younger days. He was an extensive reader, and at one time edited the agricultural department of the *Nebraska City Press*. He was twice married; his first wife, the mother of Mrs. Cassel, died in Massachusetts, her native State, in 1850. His second wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Aldrich, died in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a few years after her husband's death. There were two children by the first marriage and one child by the second.

Mr. and Mrs. Cassel are conscientious members of the Baptist Church. They are true Christians, happy in their family relations, kind and helpful toward their neighbors, and those who have been unfortunate, or are in need, never appeal in vain to them for sympathy and assistance. Mr. Cassel takes a lively interest in the political questions of the day, and uses his influence to promote the interests of the Republican party, of which he is a staunch advocate.

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**H**ENRY VOLLMANN, a farmer of Otoe Precinct, in good circumstances, first set foot upon the soil of Nebraska July 26, 1856, eleven years before its admittance into the Union as a State. He consequently ranks among its earliest pioneers, and has contributed his quota toward the development of one of its most prosper-

ous counties. His property embraces 140 acres on the southwest quarter of section 6, where he has instituted fair improvements, and brought his land to a good state of cultivation. He is a self-made man in the broadest sense of the term. In his youth he had the advantage of a common-school education, and by his own efforts has improved himself mentally by a course of general reading, and as a penman he is especially fine. He has been a close observer of men and things, and has embraced every opportunity to keep himself posted upon matters of general interest to the thinking man. Among the industries our subject is both carpenter and farmer, receiving his early instructions from his excellent father, who was a mechanic and a builder of good repute.

Our subject was born on the 4th of February, 1830, near the city of Frankfort, in the Province of Hesse-Cassel, Germany, and was the elder of a family of two children only, the younger being his sister Elizabeth, who is now the wife of John Schmidt, and they live in Louisville, Ky. Our subject was named after his father and his sister after his mother. They also were of German birth and ancestry, and the latter died when her son Henry was about six years old. The father was married a second time, and of this union there were born four children, two of whom are deceased; the others emigrated to America, and are now residents of Indiana and Louisville, Ky., respectively.

In the spring of 1855 the family emigrated to America, settling in Louisville, Ky., to which city Henry, our subject, had preceded them in the year 1853. There the father followed his trade, and lived to the advanced age of seventy-three years, his death taking place in 1873. Henry, Jr., served an apprenticeship of four years at the carpenter's trade, and was a young man twenty-three years old when he came to America. He left Louisville in 1855, and crossing the Mississippi, took up his residence in St. Joseph, Mo., where he followed his trade of carpenter, and from there went to Savannah, Mo., where he learned cabinet-making, and where he lived until coming to the Territory of Nebraska.

Our subject, upon crossing the Missouri, in July, 1856, located in the embryo town of Nebraska City,

still pursuing his trade of carpenter, and invested his surplus capital in 140 acres of Government land, for which he paid \$1.25 per acre. Here he was married two years later to Miss Ursula Schindler, who was born in the canton of Glarus, Switzerland, and is the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Zwecke) Schindler, who were natives of the same canton. (For her parents' history see biography of her brother, Deitrich Schindler.) Mrs. V. came to America in 1857, with her father and two step-brothers. Her father's family consisted of six children, three of whom are now living. Of her union with our subject there have been born four sons and three daughters, namely: Henry; Anna, who died when twenty-five years old; Edward W., Emil, Henrietta, August and Maggie. Henry is at home with his parents; Anna married Emil Bourlier, and became the mother of one child, a daughter, Ida Anna, who is now living with her grandparents, the mother having died May 25, 1885. The remaining children are single and living at home.

The Vollmann residence is a neat and tasteful structure, one and one-half stories in height, and adjacent is a well-built barn and other accessories of a well-ordered homestead. Mr. V. has planted fruit and shade trees, and gathered about himself and his family many comforts. He votes the straight Republican ticket, but has never sought the responsibilities of office. His residence is situated within a stone's throw of the station of Paul, on the Missouri Pacific Railroad, the road passing through a portion of his farm. Its close proximity to the railroad renders his farm more valuable.



**L**OUIS SCHACHT. This very prominent German farmer and wealthy citizen of Osage Precinct is, perhaps, the most widely and favorably known of any man along the southern line of Otoe County. He is the owner of 760 acres of valuable land, and is extensively engaged in stock-raising, breeding cattle, horses, mules and swine. Notwithstanding his extensive personal interests, he is more than ordinarily public-spirited and liberal, warmly interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools and churches, and all

the institutions which will tend to elevate the people. He gives liberally to religious organizations, and deeded two acres of land to one of the districts for a school building and grounds. This is only one example of his generosity, as he is the man to whom the citizens first apply for assistance when any enterprise is set on foot calculated to be of general good to the community.

Equal in goodness with her husband, and blessed with an abundance of sound common sense, is the wife of our subject, who presides with grace and dignity over his domestic affairs, and encourages him to every worthy ambition. Mrs. Schacht, although not having been a resident of the United States a very long period, has learned the English language very readily, and adapted herself rapidly to the customs of the people around her. Their home is one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of this region. The residence is tasteful and commodious, and the barns and out-buildings fully in keeping with the requirements of the progressive agriculturist. The premises are well kept, good order and cleanliness seeming to be the paramount objects. The well-fed stock ranging over the broad fields forms a most pleasing picture, and the air of comfort and abundant means at once strikes the beholder with admiration.

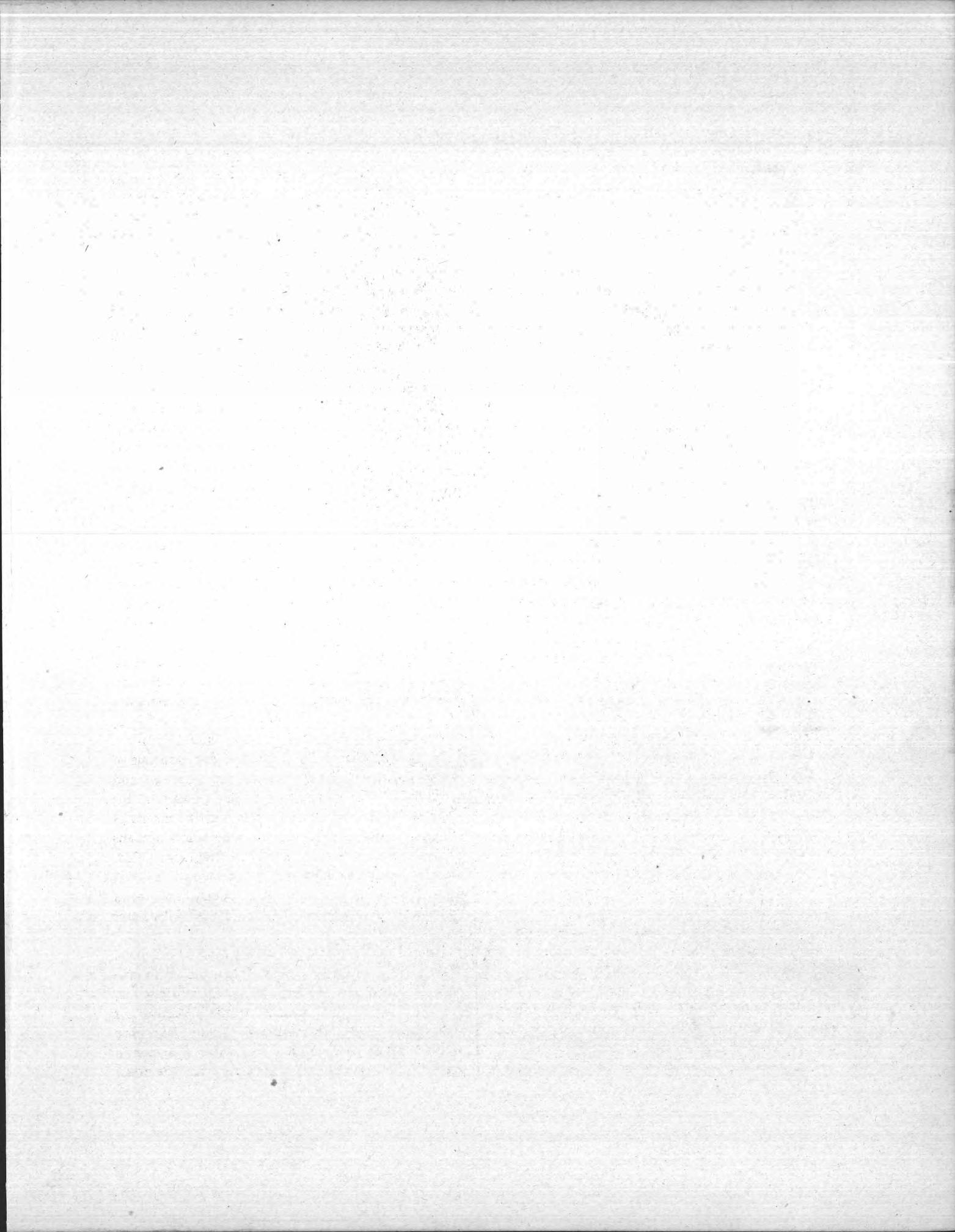
The subject of this sketch was born in the Province of Westphalia, Prussia, on the 4th of June, 1846, and is one of the younger sons of Christof and Wilhelmina (Brune) Schacht, who were natives of the same locality, and of pure German ancestry. The father was born in 1797, and when a youth of eighteen years entered the German army and fought under Frederick William III against the first Napoleon. At the close of the war he returned to the occupations of farm life, became an extensive land-owner, and spent the remainder of his days in his native Province. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-five years, and died in March, 1882. He had survived his estimable wife a period of fourteen years, her death having taken place in 1868, when she was fifty-five years old. A more extended notice of the family will be found in the sketch of William Schacht, a brother of our subject, on another page in this ALBUM.

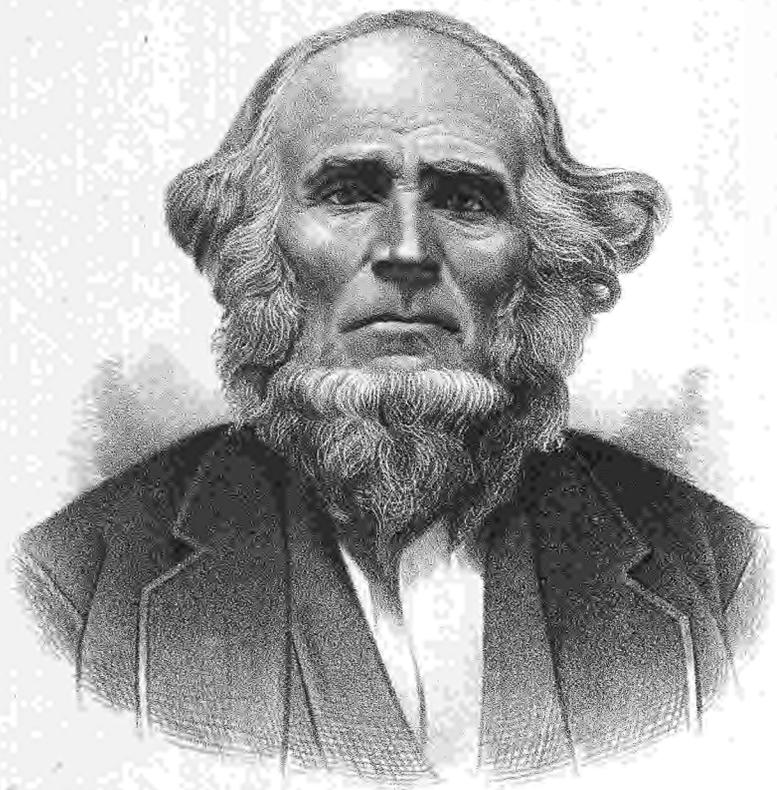
The boyhood and youth of Mr. Schacht were

spent under the parental roof, and in common with the youth of Germany he was given an excellent education. He was bright and ambitious to learn, and later attended the evening schools. At the age of eighteen years, desirous of something better than the prospect held out to him in his native land, and also believing a change of climate would be beneficial to his somewhat impaired health, he resolved to emigrate to the New World. Setting sail from the port of Bremen on the steamer "Maine," in the spring of 1864, he landed in New York City three weeks later, after a very stormy passage. Thence by rail he made his way to Franklin County, Mo., and a year later came by steamer to Nebraska City. Thence migrating to the southwestern part of the county, and being pleased with the face of the country, he purchased 200 acres of land, which is now included in his present homestead. It was then a tract of wild prairie, not a foot of which had been disturbed by the plowshare. Mr. Schacht at once set about the improvement of his property, devoting ten acres to the planting of groves, set out an orchard of 600 apple trees, together with the smaller fruit trees, and gradually erected the buildings required for his comfort and convenience. In due time he invested his surplus capital in additional land, 240 acres of which is in McWilliams Precinct. The balance is in Osage and Johnson Counties, Neb. He superintends the operations of the home farm and leases his other land.

In the winter of 1872 Mr. Schacht, desirous of seeing his aged father, crossed the Atlantic, and spent twenty-six weeks among the friends of his boyhood and youth. This visit was the means of bringing about 100 of his German fellow-citizens to America, who settled mostly in Nebraska. Mr. Schacht has never regretted the day that he set foot upon American soil, and Otoe County has reason to congratulate herself that he located within her borders.

Mr. Schacht was married in his native Province, June 4, 1878, to Miss Louisa Wellmann, who was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, July 24, 1856. Mrs. Schacht is the daughter of Henry and Louisa (Heitmma) Wellmann, who were natives also of Hanover, and the father a farmer in good circumstances. He, however, was cut down





*David Beasley*



*Elizabeth M. Beasley*

in his prime, dying in 1860, when but forty years of age. The mother survived her husband a period of twenty-six years, remaining a widow, and died in the spring of 1886, at the age of sixty-seven years. They were the parents of four children—Caroline, Louisa, Carl and August. The latter died when about twenty years old. The others all survive. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Schacht served in the German army during the wars against the first Napoleon, and spent his last days upon his native soil.

To our subject and his wife there have been born five children, one of whom, a son, Henry, died when two years old. The survivors, all daughters, Minnie, Louisa, Matilda and Emma, are at home with their parents. Both Mr. and Mrs. S. are members in good standing of the Evangelical Church, of Osage, in the organization of which our subject assisted, as also in the erection of the church building. He has continuously been one of its chief pillars, officiating as a member of the Board of Trustees and as Treasurer. Politically, he votes the straight Republican ticket. He has officiated in his district as School Moderator for the last three years, and Road Supervisor for two years.

Mr. Schacht keeps from 150 to 300 head of cattle on his land, and ships by the carload. He usually keeps a herd of 500 head of swine, shipping about 200 yearly. Of horses and mules he has usually about twenty-five head. These animals are all sleek and well-fed, and form one of the attractive features of the farm. The passing traveler gazes long at this homestead with its evidences of thrift and prosperity, and carries away with him a picture of it in his mind for many a day afterward.



**D**AVID BEASLEY. Otoe County has within its borders many who are engaged in the raising of stock, and by reason of their success therein have every right to be justly proud of their success. Among these may be mentioned the subject of this writing, whose stock farm is upon section 1 of Belmont Precinct, where he gives almost his entire attention to the raising of

Short-horn cattle and full-blooded Poland-China hogs, with magnificent results.

Our subject was born in Greenfield, Ohio, on the 29th of December, 1817, to Isaac and Susana Beasley, natives of Kentucky. His father was a soldier in the War of 1812, and served with distinction; subsequently he became one of the first pioneers of Ohio. In 1819, with his family, he removed to Rush County, Ind., settling there in the midst of the primeval forest, surrounded by the original denizens and Indians. In 1827 the family emigrated to Illinois, but the following year returned to Indiana, making their home in Montgomery County. In June of that year the death of the father occurred.

The surroundings of our subject in the days of his boyhood and youth were of somewhat primitive order, but quite in keeping with the pioneer life of that period. The school-house where his early education was obtained was rough, and as we would suppose, inadequate to meet the case. It was just such a log cabin as was usually found at that time, although now it has become an unknown quantity, or almost so.

The settlement of Mr. Beasley upon his present property dates from August of the year 1864. He is the owner of 179 acres of splendid land, where, however, as mentioned above, his chief attention is given to his stock, although some general farming also receives attention. His Short-horns are all of high grade, and many of them almost pure, and his herd numbers twenty-five. His hogs are, perhaps, the best in the country, some of them weighing as much as 500 pounds, and he could easily obtain the premium if it were his desire to enter them in an exhibition of stock.

On the 22d of March, 1839, the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Elizabeth Johnson, who was the daughter of Thomas Johnson, and was born in Maryland, near Harper's Ferry. She received a careful home training and manifested a most beautiful disposition, and noble, womanly character, and after a happy married life of thirty-eight years, died on the 5th of February, 1877. There were born to Mr. and Mrs. Beasley sixteen children; the sexes were equally represented in the family, but only the following members of it are

now living: Harriet, Richard J., Mary E., Amanda, Eliza Ann, Thomas, William, Susan C., Margaret and John (twins), Lewis and Mollie, all of whom are married. Mr. Beasley has thirty-eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Beasley united with the Methodist Church in their early years. Mrs. Beasley was a consistent and devout member of that communion for over forty years, and our subject still retains his connection therewith. He is ever ready to take up any responsibility that comes to him as a citizen, and usually deposits his ballot in favor of the Republican party. His first vote was for William H. Harrison.

Among the portraits of leading citizens given in this volume may be found that of Mr. Beasley, and as a fitting companion picture we present that of his estimable wife.



**R**EV. JOSIAH RITTER, a minister of the Lutheran Church, and a farmer of ripe experience, is now living retired from active labor upon the homestead where he settled in April, 1868. This is pleasantly located on section 25, in McWilliams Precinct, and forms one of the most desirable homesteads along the southern line of Otoe County. This, when coming into the possession of our subject, was an uncultivated tract of land, but now presents a fine illustration of the results of resolute industry and good management. It comprises 260 acres, which have been brought to a careful state of cultivation, and upon which has been erected a set of substantial frame buildings, including a roomy and comfortable residence, a good-sized barn, and the other structures required for the proper care of stock and the storing of grain. Mr. Ritter raises good grades of cattle and other stock, and has always taken pride in the appearance of his homestead, keeping everything up in good shape and not permitting more than necessary waste or loss.

The early home of our subject was in the little Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, March 8, 1823. His father, Gottlieb Ritter, was a vineyard keeper and wine-maker, and spent his entire life in his na-

tive land, passing away at the ripe old age of eighty-two years. The mother, Mrs. Doretha Ritter, also of German birth and ancestry, died about 1875, prior to the death of her husband. Josiah, of our sketch, was the elder of their two sons, the other being Gottlieb, Jr., who still remains in his native country.

Our subject, in common with the children of Germany, received a thorough education and lived in his native town until 1849, being then a man of twenty-six years. In the fall of that year he crossed the Atlantic, and taking up his residence in Toledo, Ohio, engaged in the ministry. There, also, Nov. 12, 1851, he was married to Miss Christiana D. Swartz, also a native of Wurtemberg, and the playmate of his younger years. They were betrothed before Mr. Ritter came to America, and she passed from earth after having been the faithful and affectionate companion of her husband for a period of eleven years. In the meantime Mr. Ritter had taken up his residence in Bureau County, Ill., and he and his estimable wife had become the parents of three children, one of whom, a daughter, was taken away after the death of the mother. The two living are sons, Frederick and Adolph, the former a resident of California, and the latter married, and a farmer of Rock Creek Precinct.

Mr. Ritter, Oct. 24, 1862, contracted a second matrimonial alliance, at Caledonia, Racine Co., Wis., with Mrs. Charlotte (Strangman) Weinmann. This lady is a native of Westphalia, Germany, and born May 24, 1828. She came to the United States in the summer of 1845, and was married in Racine, Wis., in 1852, to Rev. John Weinmann, a minister of the Lutheran Church. Mr. and Mrs. Weinmann settled in Baltimore after their marriage. Mr. Weinmann in 1858 crossed the Atlantic to his native home in Germany, and when ready to return home took passage on the ill-fated ship "Austria," which when two days' journey from New York City was destroyed by fire. September 13, and all on board perished. Mrs. Weinmann, in her widowhood, was left with one daughter, Lydia, who is now the wife of August Engfer, and lives in Red Wing, Minn.

After their marriage our subject and his present wife took up their residence in Bureau County, Ill., and Mr. Ritter had charge of the German Lutheran

Church at Hollowayville for a period of seven years. Thence they removed to Davenport, Iowa, where he preached two and one-half years, and from there came to this county, in which he has labored as a minister for a period of fourteen years. In the meantime he purchased land, and has built up the homestead which he now occupies. He retired from the ministry in the year 1842. While a laborer in the Master's vineyard he did good service. He organized the society, and was also instrumental in building the church edifice of the Lutheran denomination in this precinct, and in his labors has been largely assisted by his worthy wife. They are the parents of three children—John, Mary and William. The daughter is the wife of John Frerich, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. The sons are at home with their parents.

Mr. Ritter has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and is an earnest supporter of Republican principles. During the Civil War he was greatly desirous of joining the ranks of those who were fighting for union and freedom, but with the care of a young wife and child his duties seemed to lie at home. He, however, paid for a substitute, and felt that he had done what he could in the good cause.



**H**ON. JAMES C. BOYD, a gentleman of good education and formerly Superintendent of the county schools, came to this section in March, 1864, and was a resident of Nebraska City and vicinity until the spring of 1867. He then secured a tract of raw prairie land, eighty acres of which was broken, but aside from this there had been no attempt at improvement, no fences and no buildings. He has now a farm of 240 acres on section 2 in Delaware Precinct, all enclosed with good buildings, and one of the finest residences in his precinct. The latter is two stories in height, and the main part covers an area of 16x36 feet, while there is an "L" of one and one-half stories, 16x24 feet, and still an addition to the "L" 16x12, one story. A veranda runs the whole length of the main building in front and across the "L" on

one side. The buildings adjacent are in keeping with the dwelling, and indicate in a marked manner the cultivated tastes of the proprietor.

Our subject was born twenty miles from the city of Knoxville, in Blount County, E. Tenn., June 10, 1837, and is the son of William Boyd, a native of the same place, and who is long since deceased. James C. was carefully reared, and completed his education at Maryville College in his native county. He subsequently taught school three or four terms in Tennessee, and then set his face toward the West. Mr. Boyd upon coming to this county was at once recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, warmly interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools. He was elected County Superintendent in the fall of 1879, and re-elected twice in succession, discharging the duties of this office for a period of six years in a most praiseworthy manner. He would have been reinstated again but desired to withdraw, and forbid his name being used again as a nominee. He has always been quite prominent in local affairs, and served as Assessor three or four terms.

On the 26th of July, 1860, Mr. Boyd was united in marriage with Miss Sibby T. McCulloch, and of this union there were born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Laura L., Emily E., John W., Charles F., Edward C., Mary E. and Albert L. Laura is the wife of Malcom Brown, of Papillion, this State; Emily married Herbert G. Stillwell, and they live near Palmyra, being the parents of one child, a daughter, Macy B.; John married Miss Julia Martin, and lives in Berlin Precinct.

Besides the homestead Mr. Boyd owns 160 acres of good land on section 10 in Delaware Precinct. He is a man highly esteemed by his neighbors, and his wife, a most estimable lady, is a member in good standing of the United Brethren Church.



**H**ON. DAVID BROWN occupies a prominent place among the pioneers of Nebraska, who have been so largely instrumental in the upbuilding of the State, have taken an active part in the administration of its public affairs, and are now closely identified with its most impor-

tant business interests. Mr. Brown is a resident of Nebraska City, where he is engaged in the business of loaning money and in selling real estate. He is also greatly interested in agriculture, and has owned and developed three different farms in this county. He now has a ranch of 3,000 acres in Frontier County, Neb., which is well stocked with fine graded cattle. He was born Nov. 8, 1837, in Penn's Manor, Bucks Co., Pa. His grandfather, also named David, was a native of the same county, where he was prosperously engaged as a farmer, and where he spent his entire life. He was a man of keen foresight, and of more than ordinary intelligence, and his sound judgment made him invaluable in the councils of his fellow-citizens. He was for twenty years Secretary of the Bucks County Insurance Society. He was a member of the Society of Friends, and reared his children in that faith. Politically, he was a Whig until the formation of the Republican party, when he became one of its staunchest supporters. In 1860 this good man passed to his reward, and Bucks County was called upon to mourn the loss of one of her most loyal sons. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of David Brown, was Sarah Williams, and she was a native of Abingdon, Pa.

John Brown, the father of our subject, was a native of the same town as himself. He was reared in his native county, and following in the footsteps of his forefathers, adopted the calling of a farmer. But his premature death in 1839, at the age of thirty-two, cut short a useful career and deprived the community of one of its most valued members. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of David, was Mary Eastburn. She was born in Solebury Township, Bucks Co., Pa., and was a daughter of Aaron and Mercy (Bye) Eastburn, natives of the same county, and members of the Society of Friends. Mrs. Brown resided in Bucks County until a few months before her death, when she went to Philadelphia, and died at the home of her daughter there in 1866. She was the mother of four children: Harriet, the wife of Samuel B. Fox, of Philadelphia; Mercy E.; David; and John W., who is engaged in a wholesale grocery business in Philadelphia.

David Brown, of this biographical sketch, was

but two years old when his father died, and he went to live with his paternal grandfather, with whom he made his home until he had grown to maturity. He was carefully reared and received the benefit of a fine education, attending first the district school, and he was then sent to a Quaker academy at Fallington, Bucks County, and later to the Westtown Academy, Chester Co., Pa. He was thus amply qualified for the profession of teacher, which he adopted for a time, commencing to teach in his native county at the age of sixteen, and continuing thus engaged for two years. After that he went to Philadelphia and entered a law and conveyancing office as a student. He was thus employed for three years, earning his way by doing clerical work, looking up bills and drawing papers, and in the evenings he was an assistant at a public library. In April, 1859, Mr. Brown left his native State to try life in the great and growing West, coming by rail to Pittsburgh, and thence down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Nebraska City. He spent a few days here looking about the country and making the acquaintance of the leading citizens, to whom he had brought letters of introduction; he then returned to St. Joseph, whence he went to Kansas City. He soon concluded to come back to this part of the country, taking a boat to St. Joseph, and thence he came on a stage to Nebraska City. The roads were bad at that time, rendering the journey a tedious one, the passengers often having to walk and carry a rail to pry the stage out of the mud. This was the time of the great exodus to and from Pike's Peak, and Mr. Brown finding many intelligent men here out of work and out of funds, and all branches of business, especially the professions, more than full, instead of opening an office here as he had intended, started out in search of a suitable tract of Government land, thinking to turn his attention to agriculture. While traveling through the country on foot he had an opportunity to teach in Nemaha County, at a salary of \$10 per month and board. He accepted the position, and taught three months. He then went to Missouri and located in Mound City, Holt County, where he was variously engaged as a teacher, lawyer and farmer. He rented land, bought stock, and was quite prosperously engaged

in general farming until after the breaking out of war. In February, 1862, he again came to Nebraska City, bringing his stock along with him. He rented land in Four Mile Precinct, and engaged in farming and dealing in stock. During that and the following summer he made several trips to Missouri to buy cattle, and brought them to Nebraska. In the winter of 1862-63 he taught school in Four Mile Precinct. In the fall of 1863 he engaged in freighting across the plains, which in those days before railroads were introduced west of the Missouri was a very profitable business, as all transportation to the different military posts and mining camps in the mountains was done with teams. Mr. Brown put three teams on the road and made one trip to Denver in the fall of 1863. The following winter he returned to his native State and spent the season in Philadelphia. In the spring he came back to Nebraska City, fitted up six teams, and loaded them with freight for Salt Lake City, which he delivered at the rate of eighteen cents a pound. On subsequent trips he received twenty-five cents per pound. At that time there was a great exodus from the vicinity of Salt Lake to Idaho, and he sold all his wagons at a high price, and returned home with his mules. Indians were plentiful and hostile at that time, as they continued to be the most of the time, until he discontinued the freighting business in 1867. During 1864, however, they were the most troublesome, but Mr. Brown fortunately escaped attack that year, and it was not until the year 1867 that he had an encounter with the savages, which took place near Cheyenne Pass, but none of the whites were killed, and only one red-skin bit the dust. During the year 1868 Mr. Brown was engaged almost exclusively in farming, and in 1869 he went East and passed most of the winter. On his return he established himself in the insurance business, continuing his interest in that until 1885, since which time he has engaged in loaning money and in selling real estate, besides managing his large farming interests. Mr. Brown was married, in 1871, to Miss Jennie L. Lombard, a daughter of Franklin Lombard, a native of Massachusetts. Of this marriage one son has been born, Herbert W. Mr. Brown is a man of sound education and of unusual ability and character, and he

has always since the early days of his settlement here played an important part in the conduct of public affairs. His record as a Representative to the State Legislature, to which office he was elected in 1870, was such as to confer honor on himself and his constituency. In 1871 he was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City, and for five years served his fellow-citizens in that capacity to the general satisfaction of all. He is at present a member of the City Council, and looks well to the interests of the community. He takes an intelligent view of the political situation of the day, and is a pronounced Republican.

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**L**ATHROP ELLIS, a well-known and honored resident of Four Mile Precinct, has for more than twenty years been identified with its highest interests. He is prosperously engaged in agricultural pursuits, and from the wild prairie, on which he settled when first coming here, he has developed a fine farm, which, in point of cultivation, comfortable buildings and neat surroundings, compares favorably with the best in this locality.

Mr. Ellis was born in Henrietta, Monroe Co., N. Y., April 30, 1818, and is a descendant of an old Connecticut family. His father, William Ellis, was born in that New England State, in the town of Norwich, and his father, Deacon William Ellis, was likewise a native of that State. He was a son of that famous New England divine, the Rev. John Ellis, a chaplain in the Continental Army during the Revolution. After the war he spent his last years in Connecticut, dying in 1805, at a ripe old age. Deacon Ellis, the grandfather of our subject, went into the army with his father to take care of his horse, and at eighteen years of age enlisted and served in the ranks six months, and for that during the last years of his life was a pensioner. He taught school in Connecticut for many years, but finally removed from there to New York about 1817, and located in Henrietta, where he bought a tract of land, improved a farm, and March 1, 1837, closed a useful life.

The father of our subject enlisted in the War of 1812, and served a short time. He married in his

native State Miss Polly Lathrop, likewise of Connecticut birth and ancestry, and a daughter of Asher and Temperance Lathrop. Mr. Ellis went to New York in 1816 with his brother-in-law, Martin Edgerton, making the journey in a one-horse wagon, and he selected a tract of land in Henrietta. He then went back to Connecticut to settle up his affairs in that State, and in 1817 moved with his family, then consisting of his wife and one child, to his future home in New York State. He built a log house on his land, the one in which our subject was afterward born, and cleared quite a tract of land, on which he resided until 1821. In that year he went to Bergen, Genesee County, and bought another tract of land, which he improved into a fine farm, and he there rounded out a long life of eighty years, dying in November, 1872. His estimable wife also died in Bergen. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living.

Lathrop Ellis was the second child born to his parents, and he was reared in Bergen, receiving the preliminaries of his education in the LeRoy public schools. He was a thoughtful, studious lad, and greatly desired to improve his education, so with that end in view he worked hard to earn money to pay his tuition at the academy at LeRoy, N. Y. It was a classical school, under the supervision of Prof. F. W. Olmsted, where he pursued a thorough course of study, and he also attended the academy at Henrietta. With this sound mental equipment at the age of twenty-three he entered upon the profession of teacher, and for some years was thus engaged in the winter seasons. In 1844 he went to Wisconsin by way of the lakes, and landing at Milwaukee, then a village, penetrated into the interior in search of a suitable location where he could build up a home. He entered eighty acres of land in Fond du Lac County from the Government, built a house, and then went back to New York for his promised bride. He was there married, in 1845, to Miss Almeria Vienna Ward, who was born in Genesee County, N. Y., Oct. 20, 1821. She was a daughter of Abel C. Ward, who was born in Killingsworth, Conn., in 1796. His father, John Ward, was also a native of Connecticut, and it is supposed that his grandfather, Deacon Levi Ward, was likewise a native of that New England State. He was

a Deacon in the Congregational Church, and he removed to New York in 1808, and settled in Genesee County. He bought a tract of land of the Holland Purchase Company, and spent the remainder of his life in that county, dying at the venerable age of ninety-six. Mrs. Ellis' grandfather was reared and married in Connecticut, and moved to New York with his family in 1808, the removal being made with ox-teams through the wilderness to the town of Bergen, where he bought a tract of timber land. He cleared a farm, on which he spent his last years. The maiden name of his wife was Lucinda Meigs. The father of Mrs. Ellis was twelve years old when his father moved to New York. After attaining manhood he bought a tract of land in Bergen, on which he settled at the time of his marriage. For several years he officiated as a minister of the Congregational Church. In 1851 he sold there, and moved to Fond du Lac County, Wis., where he bought a tract of land, and farmed there for many years. He subsequently removed to the city of Fond du Lac, and lived there in retirement until his death at the age of seventy-six.

On his return to Wisconsin Mr. Lathrop Ellis brought a wagon, and at Milwaukee purchased a pair of oxen, and drove with his wife and one child to Fond du Lac County, a distance of sixty-six miles. He soon became identified with the public affairs of the county, and was made Deputy Surveyor in 1846, and served in that capacity for a short time, was then elected County Surveyor, and served for many years, resigning the office in the year 1866. From about 1850 up to 1863 he devoted most of his time to civil engineering on the line now known as the Chicago & Northwestern. He surveyed from Watertown to Lake Superior. A part of the time he had been quite extensively engaged in the lumber business, and when the first railway was projected in Wisconsin he was employed on the survey, and worked at that and on other railways in the State more or less for many years. In 1866 he came to Otoe County, and bought a tract of wild land now included in his present farm. By the quiet force of steady work, seconded by good management, he has improved a good farm, whose well-tilled acres yield him an ample income.

Six children have been born to our subject and

his wife, of whom the following is the record: Emma Jane married the Rev. George M. Darley; Myron L., the only son, is connected with the Quartermaster's department in the regular army as wagonmaster in Arizona; M. Adell married James H. McLellan; Celia F. married Amsdell Sheldon; Dora married Dr. William A. Wyman; Vina M. is now a teacher in Cass County. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis gave their children good educations, and the daughters have all taught school. Mrs. Ellis, the mother of the children above mentioned, died at their home in Fond du Lac, Wis., Sept. 10, 1861, and Mr. Ellis married his present wife, L. Marilla Ward, sister of his first wife, their wedding taking place in Fond du Lac, April 20, 1864.

Mr. Ellis is a man of deep, earnest nature, and his liberal education gives him a broad outlook on life. He is progressive and practical in his views, and in his social relations he is genial, hospitable and helpful. In his wedded life he has been very happy, as in his wife he finds a companion and friend, who can enter into his thoughts, and sympathize with him in his aims, and her cheerful, amiable disposition endears her to those about her. She is indeed a true "homemaker."

Mr. Ellis is a pronounced Republican in his political views, becoming a member of that party on its formation. In his early days he was a Whig, and cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. W. H. Harrison, and now, forty-eight years later, has voted for the illustrious grandson of the old hero of Tippecanoe, the Gen. Harrison of to-day, now President-elect.

**L.** WOOD, editor of the *Nebraska Press*, was born in Iowa City, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1856. He went to Cincinnati, Ohio, when fifteen years old, to make his own way, and was connected with the Canal Elevator Company until 1878, during the latter part of the time doing some newspaper work, for which he had always shown a predilection. A year was spent in Colorado in various pursuits, and two years at the State University of Iowa, from the law department of which he was graduated in 1881. During these

two years he was connected with the Iowa City *Republican* and other papers, and contributed to Eastern periodicals. He returned to Cincinnati from another Western trip in July, 1882, and for a year did more or less work on the *Commercial-Gazette* and the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, and at this time and later wrote poems and sketches for the *Week* (Cincinnati), the *Current* (Chicago), the *Continent* (Philadelphia), the *Critic* (New York), the *Comet* (Chicago), and other literary weeklies and minor magazines.

Mr. Wood went to Leadville, Col., in April, 1883, assuming the city editorship of the *Chronicle*, was then city editor of the *Democrat*, and for a time managing editor of both papers. In June, 1885, he bought the editorial interest in the *Nebraska Daily Press*, which has prospered remarkably under his management, and is to-day one of the foremost papers of the great State of Nebraska.

Mr. Wood was married, Sept. 3, 1885, to Miss Jennie Hanford, of Vinton, Iowa.

**HENRY OLIVER McCART**, of Palmyra Precinct, is operating a small farm in a very thorough and skillful manner, making a specialty of market gardening. His land lies on section 4, and embraces forty acres, which he has brought to a thorough state of cultivation. He completed, in the year 1888, a neat and substantial dwelling, and has around him all the conveniences and comforts of modern life. He raises horses, cattle and swine, also operates a boring and drilling machine, and his various interests afford him a handsome income.

The offspring of most excellent ancestry, our subject is the son of Henry and Massy (Wilkins) McCart, who were born and reared in Morgan County, Tenn., where also they were married. The paternal grandfather, Robert McCart, was a native of Virginia, whence he removed to Tennessee early in life, being numbered among its pioneer settlers. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, under the command of Gen. Jackson, and participated in the battle of New Orleans. The great-grandfather was a scion of one of the best Scotch-Irish families

in the North of Ireland, while on the Wilkins side of the house our subject traces a portion of his ancestry to England.

Grandfather Wilkins was of New England birth, but in early manhood went to Tennessee, and from there later to Marion County, Ill. He was a farmer by occupation, and became a large land-owner in the Prairie State, where he spent his last years. The parents of our subject also became residents of Marion County, Ill., where the father was greatly prospered in his farming operations, but finally, about 1855, with his wife went back to Tennessee, where they died within a few days of each other, when only middle aged, being the victims of an epidemic.

The parental household included two sons and four daughters, namely: Mary A., Carrie N. C., Hannah E., Henry Oliver (our subject), Margaret and Louisa J. One besides our subject, Louisa, is living, and a resident of Kentucky. Henry O. was born in Marion County, Ill., Dec. 25, 1838, and lived there until a lad of eleven years, when he accompanied his parents to Tennessee. He and an elder brother remained on the farm there one year, then Henry, repairing to Nashville, engaged as a boat hand on the Cumberland River a few months, then returned to the farm. His brother subsequently moved to Illinois, but Henry remained in Tennessee until the outbreak of the Rebellion. Their property, comprising a farm of 100 acres, lay ten miles south of Jamestown.

Notwithstanding our subject was the child of Southern parents, he had been imbued with anti-slavery and Union sentiments, and upon the approach of the great conflict went into Kentucky and enlisted as a Union soldier in Company H, 12th Kentucky Infantry, being mustered in Oct. 3, 1861, for the three-years service. Although only twenty-three years of age, he was thoughtful beyond his years, and was solemnly convinced of the justice of the Union cause and the wickedness of human slavery. He had in Tennessee seen the unhappy victims of the peculiar institution tied up and whipped cruelly, and witnessed other scenes which could not fail to arouse the sympathies of a human being. He first saw the smoke of battle at Camp Hoskins, and in February, 1862, fought at Mills Spring, afterward at Shiloh, and was subsequently in many

of the important battles of the war. During all the trials and hardships incident to army life he was sustained and encouraged by the consciousness of being in the path of duty. In going from the Ohio River to North Carolina with his regiment he, with his comrades, swam and forded rivers, and were at one time on the forced march of forty-two days, during which they saw little rest, and were indifferently supplied with food.

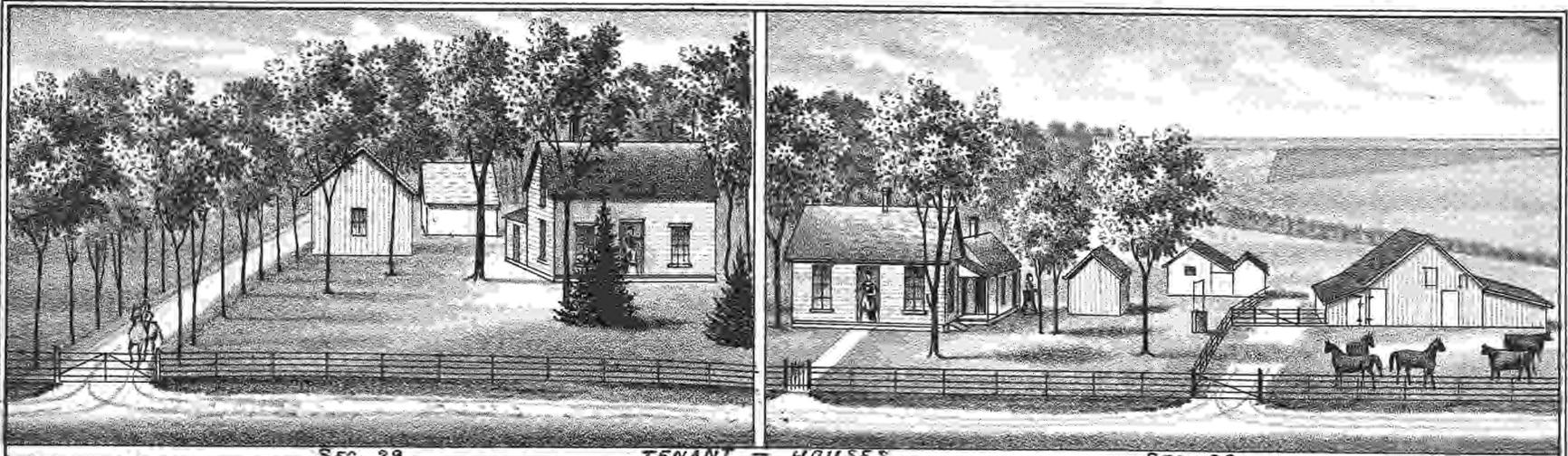
At Corinth Mr. McCart, while serving on picket duty, was attacked with measles on account of the exposure incident to his position, suffering greatly both at that time and on account of the after effects, from which he has never recovered. He was obliged to accept his honorable discharge on account of disability, and return to his old home in Tennessee. Although able no more to engage in active fighting he lost no opportunity to assist the Union cause and encourage men to enter the ranks, frequently piloting them from Eastern Tennessee across the Cumberland Mountains into Kentucky for this purpose. On one of these journeys he was captured by guerrillas, but succeeded in making his escape. In February, 1863, Mr. McCart, having somewhat recovered his health, again entered the service, and was happy in being able to continue until the close of the war.

Mr. McCart, before his re-enlistment, was married, April 12, 1863, in Scott County, Tenn., to Miss Minerva Blevins, who was born in Wayne County, Ky., June 5, 1839. She is the daughter of Jonathan and Amy (Chittwood) Blevins, who were natives of Tennessee, and at an early day removed to Missouri, where they remained until 1866. The mother had died in 1841, leaving six children. The father is still living, being now a resident of Pulaski County, Ky., and having attained the advanced age of seventy-nine years. He contracted a second marriage, and became the father of six more children. Six of his sons and daughters are living, and residents of the United States and Scotland.

After peace had been declared Mr. McCart returned on a visit to his old home in Tennessee, and for the purpose also of straightening up matters connected with his father's estate. A few weeks later he decided to make his home in Lawrence



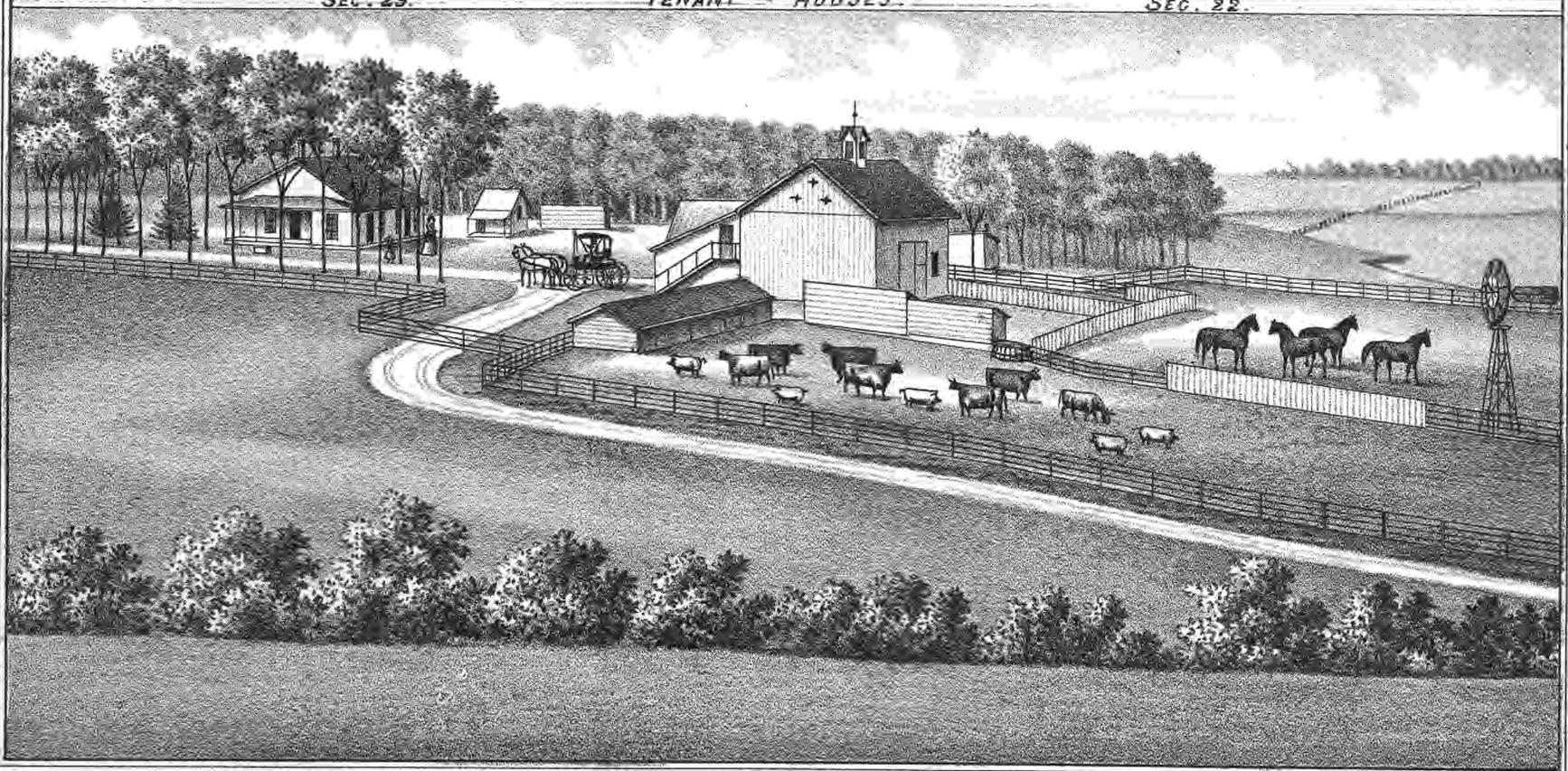
Yours Truly  
F. J. Castelman



SEC. 29.

TENANT - HOUSES.

SEC. 22.



RESIDENCE OF F. T. CASTLEMAN, SEC. 22. OTOE PRECINCT OTOE CO. NEB.

County, Ill., so he returned there and established a market garden in the vicinity of Lawrenceville. In May, 1867, he removed across the Mississippi into the young State of Nebraska. In this journey he was accompanied by his wife and one child. He homesteaded the forty acres which he now owns and occupies before the village of Palmyra was laid out, and first engaged in freighting from Nebraska City to Lincoln, being thus employed during the winter of 1869-70 with a team of horses. On account of failing health he was obliged to abandon freighting for something that would allow him more rest and quiet under his own roof. He then purchased the necessary machinery for drilling wells, and has sunk hundreds of these within the confines of Otoe County. Ten years ago, however, he began turning his attention to market gardening, in which he has met with flattering success. His stock embraces seven head of horses and fifty head of swine.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born ten children, nine of whom are natives of this county. Mercy, the eldest, died in infancy, and Sheridan died when eleven years old; James died at the age of twenty months. The survivors are: Anna J., Daniel, Henry O., Jr., Hannah, Solomon, Winfield and Frank.



**F**RANKLIN T. CASTLEMAN, the cattle king of Nebraska, has passed through a most unusual and exciting experience, and his life is filled with incidents of deepest interest, which deserve rather a 500-page volume than a brief sketch, such as is here absolutely unavoidable. Regretting that this should be so, it must suffice to present only the most prominent points. To add to the interest of the sketch we give a portrait of the distinguished subject on the opposite page.

Our subject is the son of Henry H. and Mary (Frymire) Castleman, and was born on the 20th of May, 1833, in the county of Dundas, Canada. He was reared upon the farm of his parents, and also learned blacksmithing with his brother, who

was then established in Tioga County, N. Y., but now lives in Broome County, N. Y., with whom he staid two years. The ideas of Western life fired his youthful ambition, and he started for the Far West, finally making his way to Kansas. Journeying by railroad to St. Louis, he went up the Missouri River to Leavenworth, and after a time continued his journey to Sumner, which is about four miles below Atchison, which was just then being laid out on the Missouri River. Here he made the acquaintance of the celebrated Albert D. Richardson, a traveler and writer of prominence. He also met Horace Greeley when he made his memorable trip to the mountains. In Colorado Mr. Castleman engaged in mining and prospecting. He discovered the Quartz Mill Lodi Mine in Leavenworth Gulch, which for a time was very rich, and took from it \$4,000 worth of gold in thirty days. It proved, however, to be but of short duration, although valuable while it lasted. In 1865 he went to Southern Colorado and New Mexico on an exploring expedition under Gov. Gilpin, of Colorado Territory, and was employed in prospecting for him. Continuing about four months thus engaged, he returned to Denver, and was engaged as foreman of the Baker Silver Mining Company, remaining with it for about two and a half years. About that time he was taken very sick with rheumatism, and had to leave the mines, after which he was engaged by a contractor of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, Mr. C. working four teams of his own. He remained in that employ until after the road was completed, and in the presence of a large concourse the mahogany tie was placed in position, and with a heavy silver mallet the completing spike, which was of gold, was driven home. His connections with the railroad being over, he went to Butler County, Kan., and tried farming there, but was taken with the ague, and after a number of years abandoned it.

In 1873 our subject sold his farm and engaged in the cattle business, in partnership with J. J. Cox, and purchasing 700 head of cattle at Wichita, Kan., they took them to Colorado, and prospered beyond the most sanguine expectations. The partnership was dissolved in 1877, and our subject realized as his share of the profits about \$2,000.

Taking this capital he went to New Mexico, where he bought 185 head of cattle, and then drove them back to Colorado. He continued in his business alone until 1885, and then sold out all his interest in the business to a great advantage.

In 1865 Franklin T. Castleman enlisted in Company C, of the Colorado Militia, under Col. Moonlight, to escort the mail up and down the Platte River, and was engaged for 100 days. At the end of that time Gen. Connor, from Salt Lake, Utah, assumed command, and they were discharged. About the time of the close of the war he wrote home that he was about to form an independent company and assume command of the same, and then carry the war into the enemy's country. He intended it simply for a joke, but his brother, supposing him in earnest, wrote him a letter severely upbraiding him, and requesting him if determined to enter upon such a course to write them one more letter, which would be a solemn farewell. As he wrote the "one more" letter they supposed he had done as he had proposed. Years rolled on and he was believed by all his friends to be dead. Pat Murphy, an old acquaintance of the family in Canada, went out to the plains of Colorado, and to his greatest surprise discovered in the cattle king of whom he often heard, and whom he supposed to be dead, F. T. Castleman, and subsequently, after Murphy went back to Canada and reported the facts, the brother, J. E. Casselman, who was then a citizen of Otoe County, came to Colorado to visit his brother.

Our subject is one of the rich men and most valued citizens of the county, and has hitherto enjoyed his life in single blessedness. His name is slightly changed since his going to Colorado, and occurred owing to the mistake in drawing up of certain legal papers, by which it was written Castleman instead of Casselman. To this probably is due the non-recognition of the name by his brother. After he sold out in Colorado he made a visit to his brother here, and subsequently bought the farm where he now lives, which comprises 480 acres, and is one of the most highly improved and best fenced farms in Otoe Precinct. He carries on his farm according to the most advanced methods. His barns and out-buildings will compare favora-

bly with the best in the county. His whole place bears the impress of thrift, care and neatness in its management. A view of his splendid place is given as a fitting accompaniment to this brief outline history of the life of its owner.



**C**HRISTIAN BLUM. Among the prosperous German farmers of Russell Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies a position in the front ranks. He came to this county from Mercer County, Ill., in the spring of 1876, purchasing 143 acres of land on section 30. Here he has labored industriously and with fine results, having now a good set of farm buildings, an orchard of seventy-five trees with the smaller fruits, his fields enclosed with hedge and wire fencing, a fair assortment of live stock, and all the other requirements of the progressive agriculturist. There are displayed on every hand the evidences of the genuine German prudence and thrift which have descended to him from one of the best nationalities on the face of the globe.

The parents of our subject, George and Susanna (Hummel) Blum, were born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, where the father pursued his trade of wagon-maker, and carried on farming until 1857. Then, not being satisfied with the headway he was making upon his native soil, he resolved to emigrate to America. Soon after setting foot upon the Western Continent he made his way to Mercer County, Ill., where he purchased forty acres of land, and, with his excellent wife, spent the remainder of his life. The father died in the spring of 1867, at the age of seventy-three years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, her death taking place in 1865 from cholera, when she was sixty-eight years old. The family consisted of three children of their own: John; George, who died young; and Christian, our subject; and Mary, an adopted daughter. The eldest son is farming in Washington County, Iowa. During the late war he joined a regiment of artillery from Illinois, and was mustered in at Chicago. This shortly afterward proceeded to the South, where he participated in many of the important battles of the war,

including that at Pittsburg Landing, and the siege of Vicksburg. He served three years and escaped unharmed. The adopted daughter, Mary, is married, and a resident of Mercer County, Ill.

Our subject was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, May 2, 1836, and lived there with his parents until reaching his majority, receiving that thorough education commonly accorded the youth of the German Empire. He accompanied his father to America, they making the voyage across the Atlantic on a sailing-vessel, being thirty-three days on the ocean. He lived five years with his father in Mercer County, Ill., and in the fall of 1862 proffered his services as a Union soldier, enlisting in Company C, 102d Illinois Infantry. He was mustered in at Preemption, Ill., went south into Kentucky, and was assigned to the Army of the Mississippi, under the command of Gen. Sherman. He was in some of the most important battles of the campaign, namely: Perryville, Stone River, Murfreesboro, Lookout Mountain, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and marched with the old hero from Atlanta to the sea. He was all through that memorable campaign, and at the close of the war went up through the Carolinas and was present in the grand review at Washington. Thence the regiment returned to Chicago, where our subject was mustered out and received his honorable discharge. He had now fully gained his title to American citizenship, and returning to the Prairie State resumed farming in Mercer County.

The marriage of Christian Blum and Miss Minnie Humel took place in Mercer County, Ill., July 26, 1865, and they began to live together on the little farm of forty acres purchased by our subject, and there continued to live for a period of ten years. In the spring of 1875 Mr. Blum concluded to cross the Mississippi, and moved to Page County, Iowa, living there also ten years. In the spring of 1885 he came to Nebraska and located on the farm which he now owns and occupies. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted county, which recognizes in him one of its most valued and useful citizens.

Mrs. Blum is the daughter of John and Barbara (Boeck) Humel, who were also natives of Wurtemberg, and emigrated to the United States in the

spring of 1864, settling in Mercer County, Ill. The father was a weaver by trade, but upon coming to America engaged in common labor. He departed this life in the spring of 1886. The mother is still living, making her home with one of her sons in Mercer County, Ill. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: John, Emanuel, Lewis; Caroline, who died when thirty-three years old; Louisa and Minnie. Mrs. Blum, the youngest of the household circle, was a native of the same Province as her parents and her husband, and was born July 30, 1836. She came with her father's family to America and lived at home until her marriage. Her union with our subject has resulted in the birth of six children, the eldest of whom, a son, John, died when eleven years old. The survivors—Christian, Minnie, Mary, Emma and Sophia—are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Blum were reared in the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, being members of the church at Hopewell. Mr. Blum, politically, votes the straight Democratic ticket. He has no desire for official honors, preferring to relegate the responsibilities of office to somebody who would not make as good a farmer.

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**H**ENRY C. HANDY is one of the prominent, enterprising and successful business men of the county, and the owner of an extensive farm in North Branch, his home being on section 25, where he settled in the year 1882. His property includes 700 acres, the home farm comprising 280 acres, all well improved and utilized for the purposes of stock raising and feeding, with which business he has been connected for about three years, and in that time has conducted business extensively in twenty-eight different States, and in the Territories.

Our subject was born in Colerain, Mass., on the 6th of October, 1841, to Charles and Lavina (Ross) Handy. The grandfather of our subject, Charles Handy, was born in Scotland, where he was brought up and came to man's estate. There also he was married, and made his first home. In an early day

he came to the United States with a colony which peopled Colerain. His wife was born in the North of Ireland.

The father of our subject was a stockman in the Broughton Market for over forty-five years, and was in partnership with H. C. Leland for twenty-two years. He continued in the business until he was seventy years of age, and died in the year 1867, about nine years after he had retired. His wife, who departed this life in the year 1862, also attained the same age of seventy-nine years. They were the parents of ten children, of whom five are now living.

The subject of our sketch was the youngest child born to his parents. When seventeen years of age he went to New York City, where his brother Charles was engaged in a wholesale bakery business. There he remained for about six years. During the last two years he attended the Shelbourne Falls (Mass.) Business College, where he received a thorough business education. At the age of twenty-three he sold out his bakery business, and for one year served as mail agent on the Cunard Line between New York and Liverpool. He then came West, and at Chicago entered the house of Austin, Leiter & Palmer as dry-goods salesman. He remained in the house one year, and for the six subsequent years was on the road as their representative, covering in that time most of the Western States. At one time he made heavy sales in five different States, and carried a large jobbing trade.

In 1871 our subject engaged in the wholesale provision, grain and seed trade, but after a few months of successful business lost all by the Chicago fire, and was again ready to work for someone else, and entered the employ of the J. Russell Manufacturing Company, for which he traveled four years. He then engaged with C. H. Fargo, and served them until 1879, then again with Mr. Russell until 1885. He had purchased a farm of 280 acres in the year 1879, but had rented the same until the close of his engagement with Mr. Russell, although he had made this his headquarters from 1882. The marriage of Mr. Handy was celebrated in 1886, the lady of his choice being Ann P. Deane, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., in May, 1848. She is the daughter of J. Charles and Helen (Porter)

Deane. Her father was for many years a Captain on one of the Missouri River boats, but upon leaving his vessel embarked as a grain merchant at St. Louis. There had been born to Mr. and Mrs. Handy three children, who have received the names Charles H., Benjamin D. and Kate A. Mr. Handy is a member of the Northwestern Traveling Men's Association, and has been an active member. He has the reputation of having sold throughout twenty-eight of the States and Territories of the Union, and of a success unusually marked. He has a large natural capacity for business, is pleasant and affable in manner, but thoughtful, shrewd and keen. His political sympathies are with the Republican party, of which he is an old and tried member.



**H**ENRY SHRADER, one of the most stirring business men of Berlin, is interested in both farming and merchandising, and possesses decided business talent, having from a capital of \$200 built up a fine property. This includes a half-interest in the store and a good farm of 160 acres with modern improvements, lying on sections 21, 9 and 12 in Berlin Precinct. Mr. Shrader has for his life partner a very intelligent and efficient lady, who nearly equals him in point of business talent, is well educated and intelligent, and contributes her full share in maintaining the reputation of the family.

In the sketch of Mr. Fred Shrader, the brother of our subject, which will be found on another page in this volume, will be noted the parental history. Henry, like the balance of his family, was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, first opening his eyes to the light July 3, 1850. He was a lad twelve years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, they sailing from Hamburg in October of 1862 on the ship "Columbus," the voyage occupying eight weeks and two days, and during which they encountered at one time a severe storm which continued three days, and which menaced the safety of the vessel and all on board. They finally, however, landed safely at New York City, and our subject accompanied his parents during the removals thereafter from Cleve-

land, Ohio, to Dixon, Ill., and from there to this State.

Young Shrader commenced working for himself at the age of thirteen years, at the munificent salary of \$3 per month, except during the harvest season, when he was given \$4. He was thus employed in farming for a period of seven years, in the meantime completing his education during the winter seasons in the common schools. After coming to Nebraska in December of 1869, he was occupied at farming one year near Nebraska City, and in June of the year following purchased 120 acres of school land on section 16. Upon this there has been no attempt at improvement, and our subject commenced from first principles to build up a homestead. He set out groves, erected buildings, cultivated the soil, and lived there until 1881, when he removed to his present farm, which he had purchased the previous year. This, like the other, was raw prairie, and he proceeded as before to develop a farm with like results. His buildings are on section 7, and consist of a tasteful modern residence, a good barn, and all the necessary out-buildings for the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. He sold his first purchase in the year 1887, and removed to Berlin, purchasing an interest in the stock of merchandise then owned by G. H. Hillman, and ventured upon a new department of business. His natural talent has carried him through this scheme successfully. The business is operated under the name and style of Schrader Bros. They carry a large stock of clothing, dry-goods and groceries, and have in connection with this a millinery establishment. They carry a stock of goods worth \$10,000, and enjoy the patronage of the best people of this section.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Catherine Walch, and they were married in Nebraska City, June 24, 1875. Mrs. Shrader is the daughter of Charles and Barbara (Neu) Walch, the father a native of Alsace, France, and the mother born in Byron, Germany. The paternal grandfather, Jacob Walch, also a native of Alsace, was a well-to-do farmer, and Grandfather Michael Neu, who pursued the same occupation, emigrated to America in 1839, and settled among the pioneers of Bureau County, Ill., where he spent the remainder

of his days. The parents of Mrs. Shrader were married in Bureau County, Ill., where the father farmed until 1870, then came to this county. Here he purchased 160 acres in Berlin Precinct, upon which he made good improvements, and where his death took place in 1875, when he was but forty-two years old; the mother is still living at the old homestead.

Besides Mrs. Shrader there was born to her parents only one other child, a son, Charles, who is now with his mother. Mrs. Shrader was born in Bureau County, Ill., Aug. 22, 1857. She was subjected to careful parental training, acquired a good education in the common schools, and received from her excellent mother lessons in those housewifely duties upon which the happiness of a home so much depends. Of her union with our subject there are five children, namely: Annie, Rudolph, Minnie, Ulka and Carrie. Mr. Shrader, politically, is a staunch Republican, and was a charter member of the German Lutheran Church at Berlin, to the support of which he has given liberally, and officiated as Trustee and Secretary. He has represented Berlin Precinct in the County Board of Supervisors two years, and has been a member of the Election Board for a long period. The family occupies an enviable position in social circles, and among business men Mr. Shrader is given a place in the first ranks.

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**J**OHN MICHAEL. The subject of this sketch bears the distinction of being the oldest pioneer of Palmyra Precinct. Great have been the changes which have occurred since he first set foot on the soil of Nebraska, and no man has watched with warmer interest its growth and development. Prominent among its business and agricultural interests, he has been no unimportant factor in bringing this commonwealth to its present proud condition. His labors have met with abundant reward, as he is now in the enjoyment of a beautiful home and a competence for his old age. In addition to this he has also fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens, being very popular, especially

among the old settlers, who remember his efficiency in other days, and the young extend to him that tactic respect and reverence accorded to those who have seen so much of life and been so useful in the world.

Mr. Michael first arrived in Nebraska Territory on the 1st of April, 1857. He was then a man of twenty-nine years, having been born Feb. 15, 1828. His native place was Northampton County, Pa., and his parents were John and Mary (Warner) Michael, both natives of the Keystone State. John Michael, a farmer by occupation, was a hard-working, industrious man, and the sons were taught those habits of thrift and economy which formed the secret of their success in life. The household circle included eight children, namely: Joseph, who died young; Thomas; John, our subject; Charles, George, David, James and Hannah. Of these our subject and his sister Hannah are the only ones who survive; the latter is a resident of Pennsylvania. The father of our subject, in the fall of 1877, left his Pennsylvania home and with his family emigrated to Nebraska. Both parents spent their last years at the home of their son John, and died within a year of each other, the mother in 1882, when seventy-six years old, and the father in 1883, at the advanced age of ninety-one.

The Michael family were of substantial German ancestry, the first representatives in the United States crossing the Atlantic during the Colonial days. Our subject learned to speak the German tongue when but a boy, but on account of limited school facilities grew up with very little education, except what he picked up himself by reading and observation. He was taught at a very early age to make himself useful around the homestead, and when leaving it at the age of eighteen worked out at \$5 per month. In 1852 he made up his mind to seek his fortunes west of the Mississippi. He first went to Iowa, settling in the vicinity of Dubuque, where he worked out by the month for a time and then engaged as teamster. With genuine German thrift and prudence he saved what he could of his earnings, and in the spring of 1857 came to Nebraska with a capital of \$300. This, however, should have been three times that sum, as he lost \$900 on his contract for hauling building material

for the seminary at Cascade, Iowa. In coming from Iowa to Nebraska our subject made the journey with a team of horses and a wagon, in company with Thomas Hunter and Henry Salladay. Mr. Hunter pre-empted land in the vicinity of Nebraska City, but Mr. Salladay soon afterward went back to Ohio. Mr. Michael located his land along the western part of the county, on sections 7 and 8 in Palmyra Precinct. His nearest white neighbor, for six months, was twenty miles away, but Indians were plentiful, and having the good judgment to treat them kindly and in a discreet manner, they neither injured nor annoyed him.

Mr. Michael up to this time was a single man, as he believed in laying the solid foundations of a home before taking upon himself the responsibilities of a family. Having arrived at this point he was finally united in marriage with Miss Mary Spahule, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride, in Lancaster County, Neb., in September, 1877. Mrs. Michael was born in Germany, Jan. 22, 1859, and came to the United States with her parents when sixteen years old. Her parents, Joseph and Rosalia Spahule, were of pure German ancestry. The father spent his last years in Kansas and the mother in Nebraska. Their family included nine children, five of whom are living; they mostly reside in Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael commenced their wedded life together in the log house which is still standing on the premises. This was replaced many years ago by a tasteful and commodious frame dwelling, and the barn and outhouses adjacent are ample evidence of the taste and means of the proprietor. Mr. Michael, besides carrying on the cultivation of his land successfully, has planted fruit and shade trees in abundance, including a large apple orchard in good bearing condition, and the choicest of all the smaller fruits. His land is well watered and very productive, and the source of a handsome income.

To Mr. and Mrs. Michael there have been born four children, all sons—George, Charles, David and James. David died when seven years old, and James when three. The survivors make their home with their parents. Mr. Michael cast his first Presidential vote for Buchanan, and since that time has uniformly supported Democratic principles. He is

widely and favorably known throughout this part of the county, and has been foremost in the enterprises calculated for its development and progress. He was instrumental in forming the Old Settlers' Association, and is its Vice President. A work of this kind would by no means be complete without the name and a brief epitome of the character of one of the earliest settlers of Otoe County, among whom John Michael occupies no unimportant place.



**S**HERMAN A. HOSTETTER, one of the most prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct, would at once be singled out in a community on account of his fine stature, being six feet three inches in height and otherwise of commanding presence. He is also a gentleman of remarkable intelligence, and a citizen who enjoys in a more than ordinary degree the friendship and esteem of those around him. The doors of his hospitable and pleasant home are alike open to friends and strangers, who are welcomed with that courtesy which bespeaks the gentleman born and bred. His property consists of a fine farm of 200 acres on section 20 in Palmyra Precinct, of which he took possession in the fall of 1883. He has labored to excellent advantage, being surrounded now with all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries.

Sherman Hostetter, Sr., the father of our subject, a native of Preble County, Ohio, was a man of more than ordinary ability, cultured and intelligent, and one who exerted a wide influence during the years of his active life. He was warmly interested in the political questions of the day, a member first of the old Whig party and afterward a Republican. After taking up his residence in Indiana he was elected to the State Legislature, and was instrumental in the defeat of the Military Bill, which during the times of the Civil War involved most important issues. On account of his efficiency at this period, he became the warm personal friend of Gov. Morton, who extended to him that kindly confidence and esteem fully in keeping with his merits. Conscientious and upright in all his dealings with his fellowmen, he at all times steadily resisted the temptation to profit by that which had

the shadow of dishonesty, as was finally illustrated, especially at one time, when Hon. G. S. Orth, Congressman-at-Large from Indiana, came to his house, and for three days sought to persuade him to invest in a quantity of whisky which could be purchased for a trifle, and by the disposal of which there was no question but that he would realize a fortune, as at that time was about to be passed the Internal Revenue Law, which would bring about this result. The father replied: "I have some boys growing up, and if I make my money in whisky, they will be justified in drinking it." No promises or threats could move him from the stand which he had taken, and the tempter departed, able to say at least once in his life that he had met a man governed by principle.

It is hardly necessary to say that the father of our subject was first a Whig, then a Republican, was also an Abolitionist, and by his political speeches in Indiana turned the tide of many an important question. For a period of fourteen years he labored actively in the cause of freedom and union, and rested from his earthly labors on the 7th of December, 1868, passing away at his home in Indiana amid the mourning of many friends and the regret of all who had known him. He had married in early manhood Miss Mary Ann Byrd, who was a native of Kentucky. They had removed from their native State in their youth, and they were married in Indiana. Of their union there were born ten children. Further mention of the family is made in the sketch of John B. Hostetter, which will be found elsewhere in this volume.

The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery County, Ind., Aug. 26, 1850, and spent his boyhood and youth upon a farm, receiving his education in the common schools. This was exceedingly limited and conducted about fifteen days during the winter season. Living in the midst of a timber tract, he early became proficient in the use of the ax, and grew up familiar with the various other pursuits of farm life.

Mr. Hostetter was married rather late in life, when a man of thirty-two years, in the fall of 1882, to Miss Sarah J., daughter of Thomas and Nancy (Smith) Pollet. He had before this continued under the parental roof as a member of his father's

household. Mrs. Hostetter was born near Oxford, in Preble County, Ohio, Aug. 5, 1853, and was the fourth in a family of ten children. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and are now deceased. They removed from the Buckeye State to Indiana when she was a little girl seven years of age, and she spent the time mostly under the parental roof until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Hostetter after their marriage remained upon the old homestead in Montgomery County, Ind., until it was sold in 1883. They then came to Nebraska, and settled upon the farm where they now live. Of their union there have been born three children—Bertha F., Clarence I. and an infant unnamed. It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Hostetter is a stanch Republican, following in the footsteps of his honored father. In religious matters he is one of the most prominent members of the United Brethren Church, and Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., of Palmyra.

**H**ERBERT G. STILLWELL, who, although the owner of but eighty acres, successfully farms 240 acres, situated in Russell Precinct, the home farm being upon section 30, is the son of George W. and Louisa (Burdell) Stillwell, and both the parents and son were born in Jefferson County, N. Y. The family is of German descent, but has been identified with American citizenship for several generations. The father of our subject was a farmer and worked eighty acres of land. In 1869 he went to San Francisco, and there kept a dairy and also ran a soda spring in Mappa Valley for three years, then removed to Richardson County, near Falls City, where he followed husbandry until 1874, then removed to this county, where he died in 1876, at the age of forty-nine years.

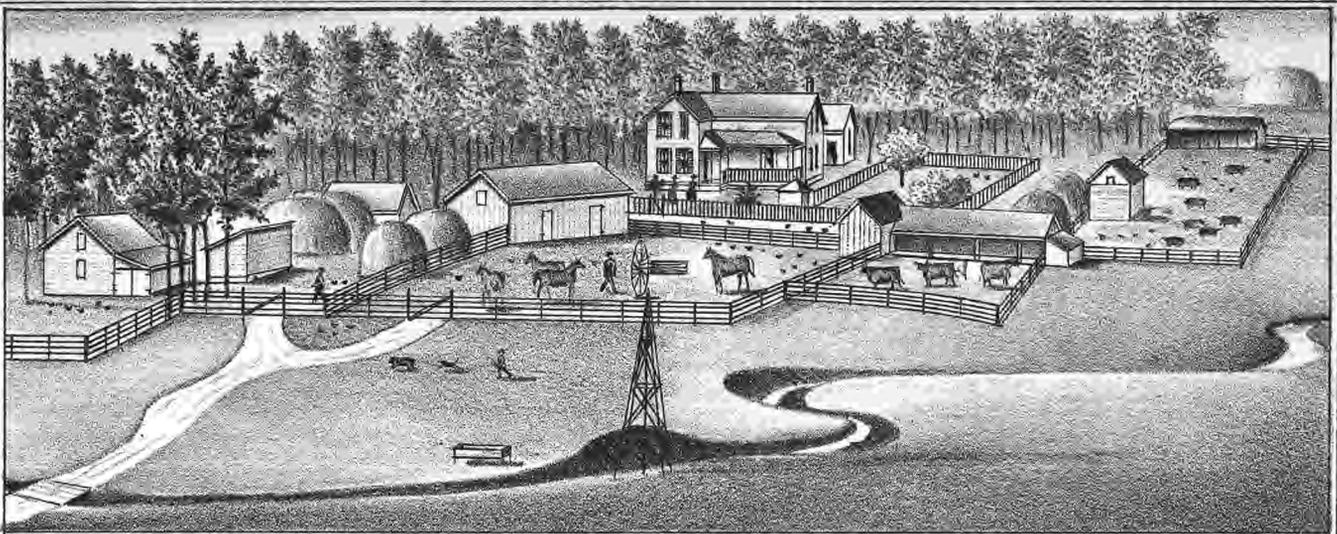
Mr. Stillwell, Sr., enlisted in a regiment of New York infantry in the year 1861, and served until the close of the war. He was present at Bull Run, Gettysburg, and a number of other of the larger and more important engagements. He was a Republican in his political relations, and a Baptist

in his religious faith. After the death of her husband the mother of our subject bought 160 acres, and supervised the improvement and operation of the same and still owns the property. She is living near San Francisco, and is fifty-four years of age. Three children came to call her mother—Sarah E., Herbert G. and Daniel S.

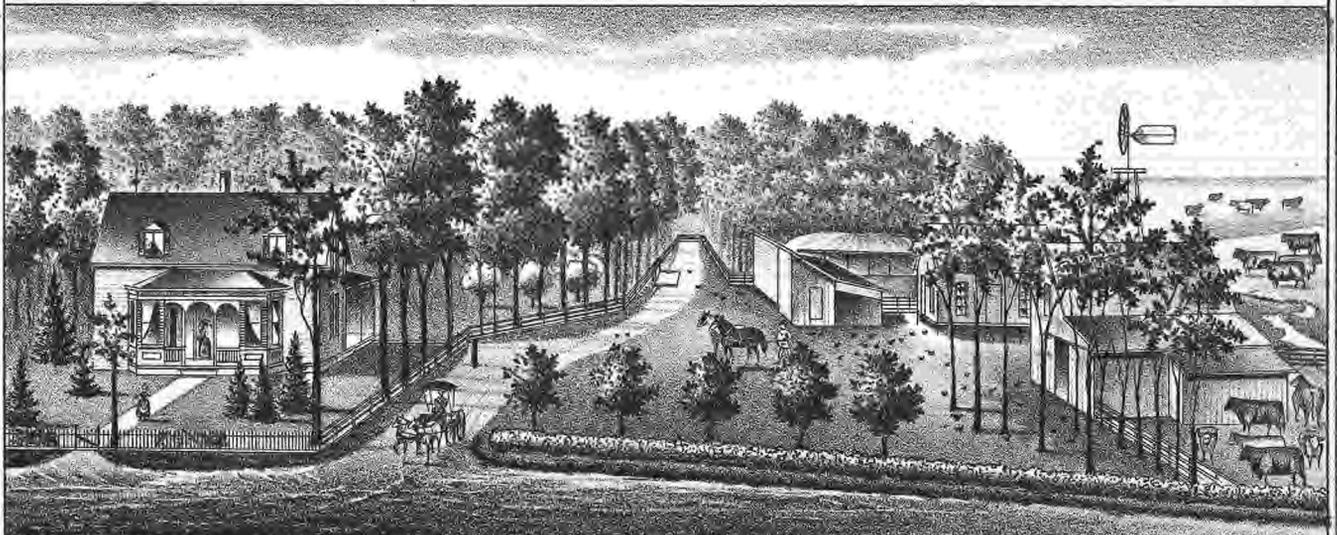
The subject of our sketch opened his eyes to the light on the 21st of April, 1862, and was about seven years of age when his parents removed to California. He attended the public schools in the city of San Francisco for a year or two, and then his parents removed to Nebraska, and he of course accompanied them. After his father's death he continued to make his home with his mother, and as far as was possible assist her in the maintenance of home, until he attained his majority. He then took charge of his mother's farm. In 1885 he spent six months in New York City in an express office, and in July, 1886, he crossed the continent to California, and there attended the Petaluma Commercial College, where he took a six-months course of instruction, and then returned to Russell Precinct, and took up his present place in the beginning of 1887. It was at the time partially improved, and he continued that good work and brought it to its present super-excellent condition. He has from the first given much attention to stock-raising, chiefly of hogs and graded horses.

Mr. Stillwell celebrated his marriage with Miss Emma E. Boyd at Dunbar, Neb., Sept. 8, 1887. His excellent wife is the daughter of J. C. and Isabella (McCulloch) Boyd. Her father was born in Blount County, Tenn., and followed agricultural pursuits; he removed with his wife and family to this State in 1863, and settled in Delaware Precinct, and engaged in farming, changing his residence to his present home in Dunbar in 1869. He is the owner of 400 acres, and superintends the working thereof himself. He has always been a member of the Republican party, and has several times been called upon to fill various offices. He was Assessor for three years and County Superintendent for four terms.

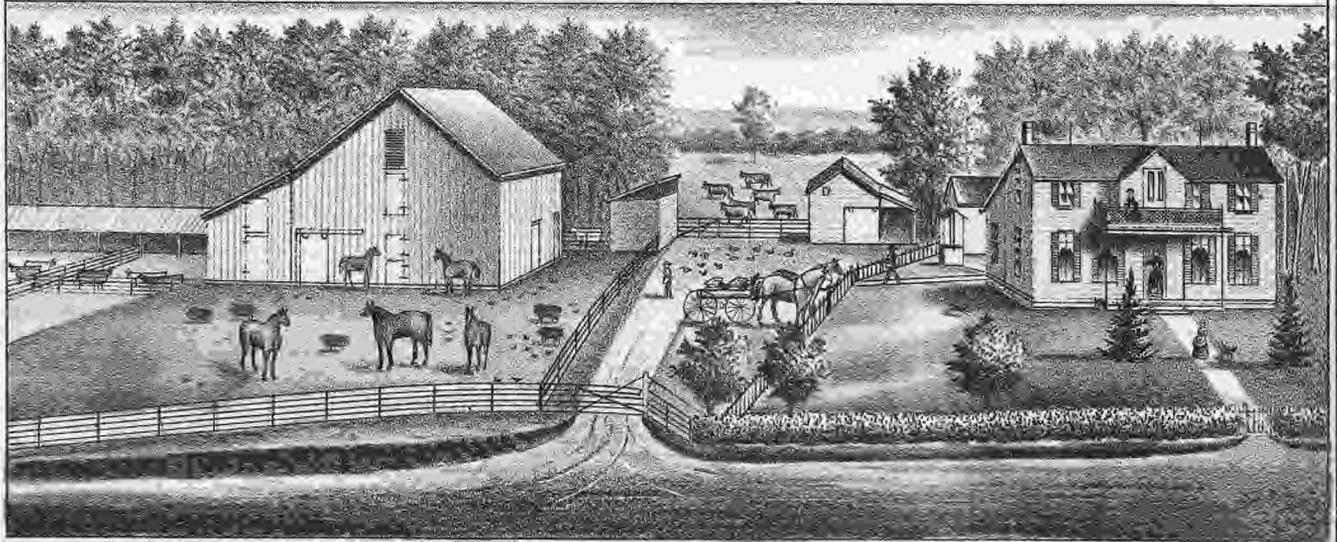
Mrs. Stillwell was born in Blount County, Tenn., June 11, 1863, and is the second of seven children born to her parents. The names of her brothers



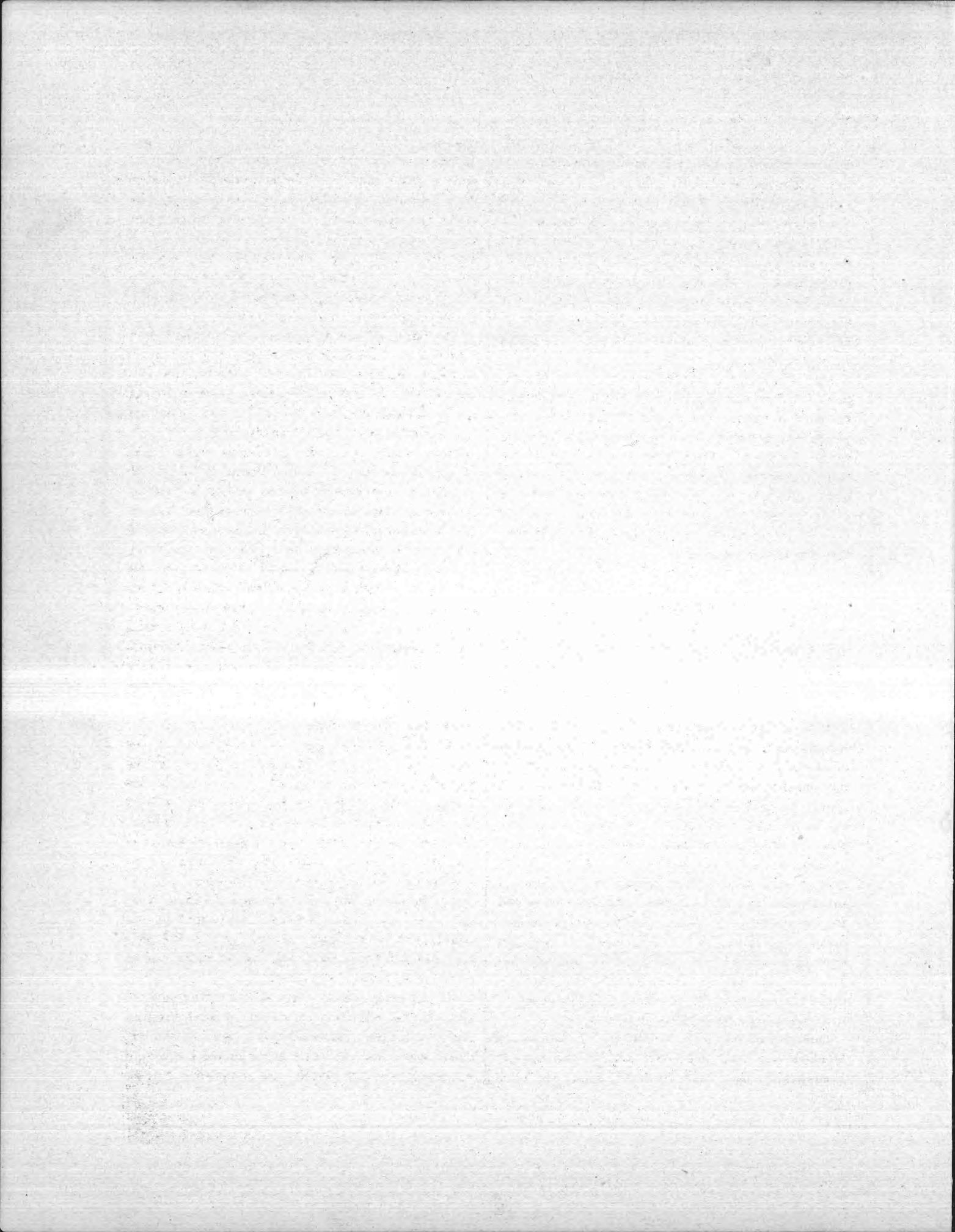
RESIDENCE OF HERMANN TETEN, SEC. 19. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES LEWIS, SEC. 26. (NORTH) PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN BISCHOFF, SEC. 29. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



and sisters are as follows: Laura L., John W., Frank C., Eddie C., Mamie E. and Albert L. She is a lady of culture and education, and besides the usual instruction of the common schools she attended the Peru Normal School of this State for four years, fitting herself for the position of a teacher, and continuing to follow that profession with marked ability and success for thirteen terms. She has presented her husband with one child, who bears the name of Macy Bartlett.

Mrs. Stillwell is a devout member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and is the recipient of the cordial respect and esteem of her fellow members, as she is indeed of that of the community so far as she is known. Our subject is a member of the School Board at Russell, and has held that position since 1888. He is a firm Republican, and is always ready to take his stand with the party. He is a man of intelligence and character, and esteemed throughout the community.



**F**REDERICK PAAP. The career of the self-made man is finely illustrated in the subject of this sketch, who began life in America dependent upon his own resources, without means, a stranger in a strange land. He is now one of the leading farmers and land-owners of Berlin Precinct, holding a clear title to 1,360 acres, which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie to a highly productive condition. The homestead occupies the southwest corner of section 15, and presents one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region, being embellished with fine buildings, a commodious and convenient residence, a substantial barn, and the pens and sheds required for the shelter of stock, of which the proprietor makes a specialty. Within, the home is presided over by a lady well educated, refined and hospitable, who has done her share toward the building up of the reputation of the family, and assisted in drawing around them hosts of friends.

Our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Aug. 31, 1839, and is the son of Frederick, Sr., and Mary (Scholtz) Paap, who were

natives of the same place as their son. The paternal grandfather, Dedloff Paap, was a cooper by trade, but served in the German army during the war between France and Russia. On the mother's side grandfather John Scholtz inclined more to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, being for a number of years overseer of a farm. Both spent their entire lives in their native Germany.

The father of our subject occupied himself as a gardener near his native town until 1857, then resolved to emigrate to America. He was accompanied by his wife and children on the voyage across the Atlantic, and for two years thereafter lived in Cleveland, Ohio. In the spring of 1859, coming to this county, he purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, Berlin Precinct, for which he paid the sum of \$70, all the money he had in the world. He commenced in true pioneer fashion the development of the farm, and was prospered in his labors, building up a good homestead and surrounding himself with all the comforts of life. He doubled his original purchase, and there spent his last days, passing away Aug. 4, 1879, when sixty-nine years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son William, in Berlin Precinct, and is now seventy-eight years of age. Their three children were named respectively: Frederick, our subject; William and Louisa. The two latter are residents of this precinct.

Mr. Paap attended the common schools of his native town until a lad of fourteen years, in the meantime learning the art of gardening of his father. After leaving the day school he pursued his studies at an evening school four years longer. He came with his father to the United States when a youth of eighteen years, in 1857, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel, the "St. John," embarking at Hamburg and landing at New York six weeks and three days later. In the meantime they encountered several storms, and at one time the ship took fire, but fortunately this was arrested before very much damage was done.

Young Paap landed a stranger in a strange land, not being acquainted with a soul in America and almost penniless. He made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where for two years he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, sometimes by the

month and sometimes by the day. In 1859 he resolved to cross the Mississippi, made his way by rail to St. Louis, thence by steamboat to this county, landing in Nebraska City. He was fortunate in securing employment on a farm, and worked the first year for Dave Martin, receiving at the close in payment for his services \$150. This seemed quite a goodly sum, as he had landed in Nebraska with \$5.

Our subject the second year of his residence in this county was employed at a hotel in Nebraska City. In 1862 he engaged in freighting to Denver, and later worked in John Bennett's mill, near Nebraska City; 1863 and 1864 found him freighting again, and later he was employed in a wholesale establishment at Nebraska City. His journeyings across the plains were invested with the usual dangers and hardships for those times, when the Indians looked upon the whites with very unfriendly eyes, and the traveler at no time felt secure either as regarded life or property. Mr. Paap, however, possessed a cool and temperate judgment, which enabled him to keep out of difficulty both with the rough white element of that region and with the Indians. During the early part of 1865 he was one of the company of home guards organized for mutual protection.

The eighty acres of land which our subject now occupies as his homestead proper was purchased by him in the spring of 1860, but he did not make any attempt at improvement upon it until after his marriage. Then, fortified by the assistance and sympathy of a good wife, he put up a modest dwelling, and in true pioneer style began the improvement of his property. In breaking the soil the wife frequently drove the oxen, while Mr. Paap held the plow. After he had put in his first crop he began setting out fruit and shade trees, and has now fine groves and eleven acres planted with apple trees, and choice fruits of the smaller varieties. In adding to his landed area he has paid all the way from \$7 to \$25 per acre, but for none of it would he to-day take less than \$35 per acre. This he has divided into six farms, each being supplied with groves, orchards, houses and barns. For the building of his present fine residence he was obliged to haul all the material from Nebraska

City. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and supplied with all modern conveniences.

Mr. Paap began at an early date his operations as a stock-raiser, and has been remarkably successful. He keeps none but good grades of animals, and his horses are especially fine, being draft animals of the Clydesdale stock. Of these he has seventeen head, besides a span of valuable mules. In his stock operations he utilizes 320 acres of his land, over which he has personal supervision, and rents the balance.

The marriage of Frederick Paap and Miss Caroline Sturm was celebrated at the home of the bride, in Weeping Water, Feb. 2, 1864. Mrs. Paap was born in what was then the Province of Alsace, France, March 24, 1846, and received a careful education, becoming familiar with both the French and German languages. She accompanied her father's family to America when a young girl of thirteen years, in the spring of 1859. Her parents were Andrew and Madoline (Understock) Sturm, also natives of Alsace, and the father a prosperous farmer. The mother died in Germany in 1858. The family crossed the Atlantic on the sailing-essel "Broekness," and not long after landing in New York City proceeded directly westward to Nebraska, locating in Cass County, where the father purchased 320 acres of land. Upon this he settled with his family, effected good improvements, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death taking place in April, 1874, at the age of seventy-three years. The children of the parental household, five in number, were named respectively: Magdalene, Andrew, Sarah, Caroline and Mary. The brother and the sisters of Mrs. Paap are residents of Nebraska. Her maternal grandfather served in the French army during the war between France and Germany, in 1812. Grandfather Sturm during his early manhood was the owner of a fine property, but for thirty-six years afterward was bedridden from an incurable disease, the expense of which consumed the most of it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Paap there have been born five children, namely: Omar, Alexander, Albert, Medora and Lydia, the latter twins. The eldest of these is twenty-four years of age, and the younger ones ten. They are being trained and educated in

a manner befitting their station in life. Mr. and Mrs. P. are charter members of the German Methodist Episcopal Church, at Berlin, and have always contributed liberally and cheerfully to its support. Mr. P. gave valuable assistance in erecting the church edifice, has been a Trustee for many years, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, he is a fervent supporter of Republican principles, and has done his party good service in this county, frequently being sent as a delegate to the State and County Conventions. He has also served on the Grand and Petit Juries. He is a man who keeps himself posted upon current events, one with whom it is interesting and profitable to converse.



**A**LBERT HAUPTMANN, one of the most substantial members of the farming community of Otoe Precinct, owns 240 acres of its most valuable land, pleasantly located on section 35. He is one of the nationality which has done so much in the development of the great State of Nebraska, of German birth and ancestry, his early home being in the Province of Westphalia, Prussia, where he first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 7, 1829.

Harmon H. and Anna Margaret (Islabince) Hauptmann, the parents of our subject, were also natives of Prussia, the father born in the little Province of Westphalia, and living there until after his marriage and the birth of his children. In the year 1853 all the family came to the United States, settling first in Niagara County, N. Y.; thence, not long afterward, they removed to Jefferson County, Wis., and the year following to Nebraska.

Albert, our subject, had, however, preceded his parents to America, and it was through his persuasions that they joined him here. The father was a well-educated man, and both parents belonged to the higher classes. Upon coming to the West they crossed the Missouri River on the 1st day of July, 1856, at a point upon which now stands Nebraska City, the site of which was then occupied by only a few wooden houses. The father pre-empted 160 acres of land, embracing the northeast quarter of section 35, building up a homestead which is now

occupied by his grandson, George E. Hauptmann, and where the aged grandmother is still living, being now eighty-three years old. The father died Nov. 30, 1886, at the age of eighty-three years and ten months.

The parental family included seven children, namely: Albert, our subject; Elizabeth, Casper, Henry, Anna C. I., John Frederick and William F. They are all well-to-do and residents of Nebraska. Albert was twenty-two years of age when he came to America; he acquired an excellent education in his native tongue, his father being in good circumstances and able to give his children the best advantages.

Young Hauptmann, when first setting foot upon American soil, employed himself at farming in the vicinity of Saratoga Springs, N. Y., and not long afterward wrote back to his parents, urging them to join him in America, and they did so before he came on to Nebraska. They lived for a time near Lockport, N. Y., and Albert preceded them to Jefferson County, Wis., in 1854, they joining him eighteen months later.

Our subject, while a resident of Wisconsin, was united in marriage with Miss Anna Margareta Islabince Jacobmeyer, who was, like her husband, a native of Prussia, and born April 2, 1838. She came to America with friends when a young girl of fifteen years. Immediately after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hauptmann started for Nebraska, arriving in Nebraska City on the 2d of June, 1856, the journey being made by team. Our subject at once pre-empted 160 acres of land, and for many years thereafter was, with his estimable wife, industriously employed in building up the homestead. His industry and perseverance met with their legitimate reward, he being now surrounded with all the comforts of life, with a prospect of a competence for his old age. He purchased additional land in 1878, and has brought the whole to a good state of cultivation, erecting thereon substantial and convenient buildings.

The household circle of our subject and his estimable wife was completed by the birth of nine children, who, with the exception of a daughter, Louisa, who died when an infant, are all living. They are named respectively: Anna, Harmon A., Jay

H., Charles F., Lydia, Theodore, Hannah M. and Maggie. Anna is the wife of William Jewell, of Nemaha County, and the mother of three children—Lydia, Allie and Nettie. The others are at home with their parents. Mr. Hauptmann is a member in good standing of the German Methodist Episcopal Church, and politically, votes with the Republican party. He has never sought official honors, although officiating on the School Board of his precinct. His good wife and the mother of their children died Sept. 14, 1888, and is buried in Lee Cemetery, this precinct.

**G**ILBERT WELLS, engaged in the real-estate and insurance business at Unadilla, and a gentleman representing a good amount of property, owns and occupies a small cottage in the town. A native of Sutton, Merrimaek Co., N. H., he was born May 5, 1826, and until the age of twenty-one years spent his time upon a farm, acquiring his education in the common schools. After reaching his majority he commenced farming on his own account on his father's land, then purchased a farm for himself, which he afterward exchanged for village property in Waterloo, N. H.

After his marriage our subject removed to Dane County, Wis., settling in the vicinity of Stoughton, and in the spring of 1856 purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he operated as an agriculturist for a period of nine years. The fall of 1865 found him west of the Mississippi, and located in South Branch Precinct, this county, of which he has since been a resident.

The journey hither was made overland with a team, the party crossing the Missouri River at Nebraska City. Mr. Wells homesteaded and improved a claim on section 4, where he made good improvements, setting out groves of fruit trees and hedge fences. He was obliged to have his building material hauled from Nebraska City, with which to put up a house and the various other structures required for his convenience. He subsequently added forty acres to his real estate, but this he has since deeded to his son.

Mr. Wells, in the fall of 1886, removed from the

farm to a home which he had purchased in Unadilla, where he has a house and three lots on I street. Soon afterward he went into partnership with C. R. Stedman, in the grocery trade, but on account of failing health was obliged to abandon this. In the spring of 1888 he began dealing in real estate, and also became an agent for the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, straightforward in his business transactions, and in all respects a highly esteemed citizen.

The parents of our subject were Benjamin and Lois (Wheeler) Wells, also natives of the Old Granite State, the father born in Loudon and the mother in Sutton. Benjamin Wells was a farmer by occupation, and enlisted as a soldier in the War of 1812, although not seeing any actual service. On the mother's side Grandfather Wheeler was an old Revolutionary soldier, and received an honorable wound at the battle of Bunker Hill. He spent his last years in Sutton. Both the Wells and the Wheeler families were of English descent.

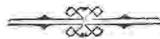
Benjamin Wells owned a farm of 100 acres in Sutton, N. H., and was fairly prosperous in his labors as a tiller of the soil. He was a member of the Baptist Church, and died about 1845. The mother, a member of the same church, survived her husband a period of ten years, dying in 1855, at the age of seventy-six. They were the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy; the others lived to mature years, but Benjamin, Lucy W., James and George are since deceased. The survivors are Sarah W. and Gilbert. The sister is a resident of South Newbury, N. H.

Our subject, in the fall of 1854, was married in Warner, N. H., to Miss Mary W. Kelley, who was the second child of Caleb and Susanna W. (Worth) Kelley, both natives of the Granite State. The father was of Irish ancestry, and a farmer in prosperous circumstances, holding 200 acres of good land. His death took place in 1853, in his native State. The mother subsequently removed to Wisconsin, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Moses Emerson, at Stoughton, in 1878. Of their six children only three are living, namely: Mary W., Lovina M. and Lucy S. Thomas H., the youngest son, and twin brother of Lovina, enlisted in

the 7th Wisconsin Regiment for three years, in the early part of the War of the Rebellion. He participated in several hard-fought battles, and was once wounded. He died of smallpox in the hospital after honorably serving his country for two years and nine months. Samuel W. and Emily J. are also deceased.

Mrs. Wells was born near Warner, N. H., July 15, 1835. She received a common-school education, and continued with her parents until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, namely: Clara M., Jessie F., Llewellyn A., Forest J. (deceased) and Ermina L. Clara is the wife of C. R. Stedman, a merchant of Unadilla (whose biography will be found elsewhere in this work), and the mother of two children—Nellie L. and Alma R.; Jessie married J. M. Brown, who is farming in Washington Territory; they have five children—Clarence O., Harry, Frank, Myrtle, and an infant unnamed. Llewellyn married Miss Nellie Balfour, and is farming in South Branch Precinct, this county; they have one child, a son, Hugh G. Ermina L. married H. E. Stedman, who is farming in Russell Precinct, and they have one child, Georgietta.

Mr. Wells states that he was born a Democrat, reared a Republican, but votes with the Prohibitionists. He served as Justice of the Peace for four years in South Branch Precinct, was Assessor one year, and a member of the School Board several years. At Burr Oak he was Postmaster for a period of ten years, withdrawing from the office in the summer of 1882. He was at one time a member of the P. of H., belonging to the Grange at Rockford, and afterward in his own school district. In the spring of 1870 he was the Census Taker of South Branch Precinct.



**T**HOMAS BELL. This gentleman is one of the most widely known and at the same time truly respected citizens of Palmyra, and a worthy representative of the mercantile interests of this place. He is the son of William and Helena (Heron) Bell, who were natives respectively of Yorkshire and the county of Durham, England.

His father was by occupation a farmer, and was a small land-owner in his native country. He died in the year 1858, aged sixty-eight years, at his home in England. His wife died in England after her son Thomas had left for America. She was ninety years of age, and almost until the last was a hale and healthful old lady. Grandfather Bell was a man of large knowledge, and was Principal of the grammar schools at Kirby, England, for many years.

Our subject was one of a family of six children, who received the following names: Mary, Stephen, Jane, Frances, William and Thomas. Thomas was born on the 21st of May, 1824, in Yorkshire. He was from earliest childhood very delicate in health. His education was received in the parish school, and he was allowed to continue longer than was usual. After leaving the institution he was apprenticed to a tailor for seven years. At the time he was twenty-one years of age he was possessed of just one sovereign sterling, representing in American currency about \$4.85. Until coming of age he had devoted his spare time and evenings very diligently to his studies, and thus largely increased, solidified and established his education.

Upon coming to man's estate Mr. Bell began business for himself as a merchant tailor; considering the almost insurmountable difficulties he had to contend with in beginning with practically nothing, he did remarkably well, and was very successful. When twenty-five years of age he was married to Miss Elizabeth Reed, the daughter of John and Hannah Reed, both of whom were natives of Yorkshire. They were the parents of eleven children, eight of whom were boys. Mrs. Bell was the fifth child, and was born in March, 1827. She was educated in the schools of her native place, and received a fairly good English schooling. Her father was engaged extensively in business as a dairyman, and she was known as the "buxom dairy lass of Yorkshire" by her friends and companions. Her parents died in their native country. After their marriage in August, 1849, Mr. and Mrs. Bell continued to live at Marton, Yorkshire, for about eight years. He had studied theology, and become one of the prominent members of the church since he was about seventeen years of age, and was fre-

quently urged to take up the work of the ministry. He became pastor of the church at Broughton, and served as its regularly ordained pastor for six years. He filled charges at Broughton and Stockley, continuing until the summer of 1851. In the fall of that year he accepted a call from the Park Head Church of Cumberland, which was one of the first churches built by the ejected ministers of the seventeenth century, for one Rev. George Nicholson.

While in pastoral charge in Cumberland Mr. Bell taxed his constitution, which had never been the most robust, to such a degree that he was compelled to resign his charge, much to the regret of the three congregations he had served, for under his able ministry the work had grown to an unexpected extent, and the membership was nearly quadrupled. Upon the advice of his physician he determined to try what the United States climate might do for him, and therefore sold out his property, and, accompanied by his wife and family, he set sail from Liverpool on the 3d of April, 1867, on board the steamship "Louiscana." He landed in the city of New York, after an ocean passage of twenty-one days, unmarked by any especial noteworthy incident; but his destination was Nebraska, and he proceeded at once to the West.

Before leaving England Mr. Bell had organized a colony consisting of over 100 Englishmen, and they came to Otoe County on or about the 1st of May, 1867. Almost without exception they took claims in the vicinity of Palmyra, and it acquired the name of the English settlement. Mr. Bell bought one-half of section 22, and immediately went to farming, which was an entirely new vocation for him. His health, however, began to improve from the first, and as he became more acquainted with the Government and institutions of the country he grew to like it more and more, and before long declared his intention of becoming an American citizen. He took out his first papers at Nebraska City, in the year 1867, shortly after his arrival here.

Richard Oakley, one of the colonists, built and started the first store in Palmyra. From this beginning the town has grown to its present position of importance to the surrounding country. Upon the urgent request of the Superintendent of the

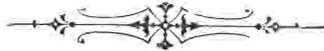
Home Mission Society of America, he accepted the position of pastor of the Congregational Meeting at Palmyra. He took hold of affairs vigorously, organized the congregation, and set them to work as a church, and at his instigation they erected the church building. For four years and a half he continued to serve them faithfully and well, but the strain was more than he could bear, and at the end of that time through failing health he was compelled to resign his charge and return to farming.

In 1877 our subject went West to Gosper County, this State, and took up a pre-emption, and also a timber claim, intending to have settled there, but owing to the death of his eldest son, John R., he was unable to carry out his plans, and so continued farming in Palmyra Precinct. He now owns but a small farm of but twenty acres, not far from the town. Twelve acres are taken up with apple trees. He also owns several good store buildings in Palmyra, and sixteen lots of village property, also two good residences. He has also his hardware store, where he does a large business under the name of Thomas Bell. He and his son run a clothing store, and have an established business. He also handles upon an average 500 tons of coal annually.

There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Bell eleven children, viz.: John R., William, Thomas, Hannah, Jane H., Elizabeth, Thomas H. and Mary, who were all born in England, and in this country the family circle was extended to admit Robert, and two who died in infancy. John R. died as above mentioned when about twenty-five years of age; William and Thomas also died in England; Hannah is happily married to Dwight Wait, and is the mother of four children; Jane H. is the wife of Richard Ockley, and is the mother of five children; Elizabeth lives in St. Joseph with her husband, J. H. Parker, who is manager of the Mutual Telegraph Company at that place; Thomas W. is in business in Palmyra; Mary is at home, and Robert died in this State in 1878.

In 1885 Mr. Bell was appointed Notary Public under Gov. Dawes, and for three terms has held the office of Justice of the Peace. For fourteen years he was School Moderator for District No. 8. He is a prominent member of the religious organization of Palmyra, and is a strong temperance advo-

cate, which he has been in fact since he was about seventeen years of age. In politics he is a Republican, and takes much interest in such matters. He is eminently respected as a man, a citizen and a Christian, as are also the various members of his family. His influence for good in the community is quite large. He is now a strong Prohibitionist.



**P**ETER A. FLODIN. Among the extensive grain buyers and dealers of Otoe County, is the gentleman whose history is herein sketched. He is the owner of the Talmage Steam Elevator, of which he has been proprietor since July, 1888. He has been connected with the business for a considerable period, working for Jameson Brothers, and then purchasing the elevator and outfit, succeeding that firm in the business. Since he has had the business he has made strenuous efforts to enlarge the trade, and has prospered beyond measure in his endeavor. He is prepared to handle all kinds and quantities of grain, having an elevator possessed of a capacity of 10,000 bushels. He commands and manages a trade averaging 4,000 bushels per diem.

Mr. Flodin came to Talmage from Leona, Kan., having been engaged there in the hardware and tinning trade for several years. He began business at that place in the year 1874, establishing first a blacksmith-shop, which was successfully operated for about seven years, after which he turned his attention to hardware, implements, etc., until coming to this place. In both he was a success, and had an extensive and profitable trade.

Sweden was the land of the nativity of the subject of our sketch, and where his birth took place on the 27th of December, 1847. He was there brought up and educated, and learned the blacksmith trade, which he continued to follow in his native country for about six years. In 1870, and while yet a single man, he came to the United States, and stopped for a short time in Toledo, Ohio. Later he went on to Atchison, Kan., and subsequently to St. Joseph, Mo.; in the latter place he followed his trade for two years, but at the end of

that period removed to Severance, Kan., and later went on to Leona, where he figured prominently in business circles until he came to this State.

While a resident of Leona there occurred an interesting incident in the life of Mr. Flodin, being that of his union in marriage to Miss Ida R. Schock. This lady was born in the State of Ohio, where also her parents were born, but of German descent. She came west to Leona in the year 1870, and remained there until after she became of age. She is the daughter of Jacob and Maria H. (Sherry) Schock, who are still living at the above-named town, where Mr. Schock is a prosperous and well-established wagon-maker, carpenter and builder. Mrs. Flodin has presented her husband with three children, whose names are as follows: Carl E., Bertha H. and Nellie B.

The subject of our sketch is a member of the A. F. & A. M., and holds the position of Junior Warden of Trestle Board Lodge No. 162, of Talmage, of which he is an affiliate, and is also Trustee of the lodge and property. Politically, he is a sound Republican, and takes a deep interest in all political affairs.



**C**RYSTAL S. WADE is one of the old settlers of the State, and has made for himself quite a record as a miner, and in later years, also as an agriculturist. His excellent wife and life companion is a lady of noble character, most devoted in every domestic relation. Their home is situated on section 17, Otoe Precinct, where they own 160 acres, which is utilized for general farm purposes.

The parents of our subject, James G. and Eleanor B. Wade, were born in Ohio and Kentucky respectively, but were married and settled in Fountain County, Ind. They did not remain there for any considerable period, but removed to Fremont County, Iowa, in 1847, at which time there were but six families in the entire county. There the father died in 1850, when but thirty-nine years of age, and was followed to the silent land in 1856 by his wife, who had attained the age of fifty-five years. Both were twice married. By his first union the father had three children. By her first marriage

the mother had six. Their union was blessed by the birth of five children, to whom were given the subjoined names—Barbara, Crystal S., Robert, Fleming and Antoinette.

On the 29th of December, 1839, in Fountain County, Ind., was born the subject of our sketch. His earliest recollection is that of crossing the Mississippi at St. Louis in the course of the migratory journey. His boyhood days were spent in Iowa, and he grew up among the Pottawatomie Indians. Owing to the newness of the country his education was but scanty. Such as he received was obtained at Sidney, which was laid out in 1851. Being the only son left at home, the mother upon him rested large responsibility in regard to home affairs.

It was in the spring of 1860 that our subject went to Colorado, for the purpose of seeking his fortune in the mines. Taking three yoke of oxen, a cow and his dog, he and his brother-in-law, John G. Graves, started west. Crossing the plains they reached Denver after a journey of about six weeks, and at once pushed on for the mines. He did fairly well in Colorado, but was hardly satisfied, and in 1862 went to Montana, joining the company of gold miners in the vicinity of Virginia City, where he remained until the fall of 1864, when he returned to this county and purchased his farm of 160 acres, and settled down to improve it.

The wedding of our subject and Miss Augusta Guy, a lady descended from the Guys of Scotland, which family at one time held the earldom of Warwick, and is a branch of the Scottish royal family, was celebrated on the 7th of December, 1865. She is a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Phillips) Guy, who were natives of Pennsylvania. The grandfather, Thomas Guy, was the first representative of the family to settle in this country, coming from Scotland many years ago, and settling in Pennsylvania.

Leaving Pennsylvania the parents of Mrs. Wade removed to Davenport, Iowa, in the year 1844, coming to Nebraska in 1858. They settled in this county, where the father died in June of 1873, at the age of eighty-five years, and the mother departed this life in 1880, aged seventy-one years. Their union was fruitful in the birth of two chil-

dren, viz: Hiram and Margaret A. The latter was born on the 10th of February, 1849, at Davenport. She was nine years of age when they came to this State, where her education was continued in the schools of Nebraska City. She has presented her husband with three children, viz: Della, Edwin Guy and Ida Bell. Della is the wife of W. H. Cockrain, of Nuckolls County, Neb., and they have two little ones, named Winnifred and Pearl; Edwin and Ida attend the Normal School at Peru, Neb.

The subject of our sketch has held the office of Justice of the Peace for several years, and for two terms has been Assessor. Nine years he held different school offices, in each serving with conscientious thoroughness. Politically, he is a Republican; with his wife, he is associated with the Methodist Episcopal communion, of which they have been members for many years.



**W**ILSON McCONNELL. In Otoe Precinct, on section 33, a fine farm attracts the attention of the passing stranger, not more on account of its neat appearance and seeming fertility and productiveness, than for its sightly location one-fourth of a mile from the Missouri River, commanding a broad and extensive view not only of a part of Nebraska, but of the adjoining States of Iowa and Missouri. The eye rests on one of the richest and most fertile farming regions in the world, and the low bluffs of the river, the gently undulating prairies stretching for miles on either hand, dotted with lovely groves of forest trees, planted by the early settlers, form a scene of unsurpassing beauty, one that a lover of nature never ceases to admire. The fortunate owner of the farm referred to is Mr. Wilson McConnell, the subject of this sketch, who is here quietly passing the declining years of a useful life, surrounded by the loving care of his children, free from the burden of ill-health so often laid upon the aged, and able to enjoy the good things of life that he has gathered together through long years of industry and shrewd management.

Mr. McConnell was born in Belmont County, Ohio, April 13, 1811. His father, Robert McCon-





James A. Baird

nell, was a native of Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married. He moved from his native State to Ohio early in the present century, and became a pioneer of Belmont County. He lived there until about 1816, and then cast in his lot with the early settlers of Harrison County, in the same State. He bought a farm there, and was successfully engaged in agriculture until his death. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Prudence Coleman. She was, it is thought, a native of Virginia, and died on the home farm in Ohio.

The subject of this sketch was reared in the pioneer home of his parents in Harrison County, and after his marriage he bought a farm near his father's homestead, and lived there for many years. At length he sold his place there and moved to Indiana, settling near Peru in Miami County, where he bought a farm of 160 acres. In 1864 he traded for the land that he now owns and a tract in Kansas; the latter he has sold. In the fall of that year he bought a stock of general merchandise in Chicago, and, accompanied by his family, started west to find a suitable location to open a store, going by way of the railway to St. Joseph, Mo., then the western terminus of the railway, and from there proceeding on a steamer to Omaha. He did not consider the opening there favorable, so he returned to Atchison County, Mo., where he opened a general store. During that winter he sold his goods, and in the spring returned to Indiana and bought a hotel at Greencastle, which he managed until the following spring. He then sold out and returned to Miami County, and rented land until 1869. In the fall of that year he removed with his family to Nebraska to locate on his land, coming with teams. His land was at that time in a wild state, not a sod having been turned by the plowshare, and there being no buildings thereon, he rented a cabin near by, in which his family spent the winter. During that season he was busily employed in erecting a commodious and comfortable hewed log house, into which his family moved in the spring of 1870, and in that year he made the first improvements on his land, which he has since brought into a high state of cultivation.

The beloved wife of our subject, who so faith-

fully aided him in his early struggles, departed this life at their home in Indiana, May 5, 1864, leaving behind her a pleasant memory of a life well spent, and full of all things that go to make a good woman. Her maiden name was Rachel Hooper, and she was born in Harrison County, Ohio, Oct. 29, 1819. Mr. McConnell has seven children living—Robert J., Mary E., John, Nancy, Joseph, Wilson and Rachel. All the sons have been married. The father of Mrs. McConnell was Jesse Hooper, a farmer and a tanner, who carried on both occupations in Miami County, and died there.

Mr. McConnell is a good citizen, a man of stable character and steady habits, who is thoughtful and kind in his family relations, and whose neighbors always find him obliging and helpful, so that he fully deserves the high esteem and consideration in which he is held by all. In politics he is a Democrat.



**B**ENJAMIN D. TAIT, a prominent resident of Nebraska City Precinct, is a wide-awake, intelligent man, of fine business ability, and of sound principles and good habits. He personally superintends his farming, stock-raising and fruit-growing interests, and derives from them a substantial income. The father of our subject, James Nelson Tait, was a pioneer of Nebraska, and an early settler of Nebraska City, with whose commercial interests he was prominently identified for several years.

Our subject is a native of Clermont County, Ohio, his birth occurring there Jan. 31, 1844. His father was James N. Tait, who was born in Springfield, Mass., Dec. 19, 1816. His father, Joseph D., was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, and at the age of fourteen he entered the English Army as a drummer boy, and came to America with his regiment during the War of 1812, and was present at the battle of Lundy's Lane. After peace was declared he settled in Massachusetts, and there married a Miss Holten, of New England birth. He subsequently moved from Massachusetts to New York, and plied his trades of stonemason and plasterer in Oswego

County, where he resided until his death. After making his home in this country he was always a loyal citizen, and during the late war enlisted as drum-major, but the infirmities of age incapacitated him for the position, and he was soon discharged and lived but a short time. His wife survived him a number of years.

The father of our subject, whose portrait we give on an accompanying page, was but a boy when his parents moved from Massachusetts to New York, and there he grew to manhood. He remained in the parental home until he was nineteen, and then started out to seek his own living, traveling quite extensively, and doing odd jobs of work at anything that would pay. He finally settled down near Batavia, Ohio, and was for some time engaged as a clerk, until he learned the trade of a miller, and he then operated a mill for the same man for whom he had been clerking. After marriage he established himself in the mercantile business in Clermont County, Ohio, and from there he went to Marathon, where he carried on the same business until 1858. In that year he wound up his affairs in Ohio, and came to the Territory of Nebraska, by way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, landing in Nebraska City on the 1st of May. He went to Nemaha County, and there made a claim, on which he built a small frame structure in which to live, broke a few acres of his land and raised a crop. Wild animals, such as deer, prairie chickens, wolves, etc., were very plentiful then, and the deer destroyed his sweet corn.

In the fall of the year, after he had proved up on his land, Mr. Tait moved to Nebraska City and entered into the mercantile business. There were no railways nearer than Eastern Iowa at that time, and all transportation was done with teams or on the waters of the Missouri River, where steamboats were constantly plying. Mr. Tait kept a general store with Talbert Ashton, under the firm name of Ashton & Tait. They were appointed agents for the different steamboat lines, leased the levee from the city, and had to collect wharfage and keep it in repair. This was for some time the headquarters of the freighters, who were engaged in teaming supplies across the plains to the different military posts and mining camps, and large amounts of freight were received

and forwarded by the firm. Mr. Tait and his partner continued in the mercantile business together until 1865, and as agents of the steamboats until 1868, when they dissolved partnership, and Mr. Tait retained the agency until his death, May 1, 1869, caused by accidentally walking off a high bank in the night, and sustaining injuries from which he died in a few hours. Nebraska City thus lost an energetic, enterprising citizen, one who had done much to extend its commercial interests.

Mr. Tait and his wife were the parents of three children—Benjamin D., Joseph E. and Mary E. Joseph was born Feb. 17, 1847, and died Oct. 30, 1865; Mary married David W. Ferry, and resides in Nemaha County. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Rachel Cramer, and she was born in Brown County, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1823. Her father, Benjamin D. Cramer, was born in Monmouth County, N. J., Oct. 16, 1799, a son of Samuel and Rachel (Doughty) Cramer, the former supposed to have been a native of New Jersey, and the latter of New Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y. In 1816 his parents removed to Ohio, going with wagons to Pittsburgh, and thence on flatboats down the Ohio to their destination. Mr. Cramer bought a tract of timber land in Brown County, and there engaged in farming until his death. Mrs. Tait's father, grandfather of our subject, was but a youth of seventeen years when his parents moved to Ohio in January, 1817. He inherited a part of the old homestead after his father's death, and bought another place near by, and resided there some years. About 1852 he broke up housekeeping to make his home with his children, and in 1862 came to Nebraska to spend his last years with Mrs. Tait. The maiden name of his wife was Calista Granger, and she was born in Seneca County, N. Y., a daughter of Ephraim and Dorothy (Lampkin) Granger. She died at the old homestead in Brown County, Ohio.

Benjamin Tait, of this sketch, was a lad of fourteen years when he came to Nebraska with his parents, and he remembers well the incidents of pioneer life here. He had gained the foundation of a sound, practical education in the Ohio public schools, and after a course in the city schools here, in 1867 was sent to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to attend Eastman's

Business College. On his return home he became a clerk in his father's establishment, which situation he retained until the latter's death. From that time until the present he has been extensively engaged in general farming and fruit-growing.

Our subject was married, March 8, 1882, to Miss Ida M. Sittler, and they have one child, Jessie. Mrs. Tait was born in Rock Creek Precinct, Dec. 19, 1862. Her father, John Sittler, was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., a son of Michael Sittler, a native of Baden Baden, Germany, who on coming to America located in Pittsburgh. He subsequently moved to New Albany, Ind., and is now a resident of Nebraska City. Mrs. Tait's father was young when his father moved to Indiana, and he afterward came to Nebraska, and lived for some years. The maiden name of Mrs. Tait's mother was Margaret F. Brown, and she was born in Mason County, Ill., to Jesse and Hannah (Streater) Brown. She is now the wife of William McLennan. Mr. and Mrs. Tait are valued members of this community, as they are frank, warm-hearted, charitable people, and every good work receives their encouragement and cordial support. In politics he is a staunch Republican.



**C**LARENCE B. CASTLEMAN is carrying on a lucrative trade in hardware at Hendricks, in the southwestern part of this county, where he has been established in business since June of 1888. He is a careful and conscientious business man, and is a favorite in both social and business circles, and is steadily gaining ground, with the prospect in the near future of conducting one of the indispensable institutions of the city.

Our subject is the scion of an excellent family, being the son of Charles N. and Cordelia (Jenks) Castleman, the father a native of Ontario, Canada, born in 1828, and the mother a native of New York, her birth taking place in 1834. They were married in Broome County, the latter State. The elder Castleman was a blacksmith by trade, serving his apprenticeship at Syracuse, of which he was a resident ten years. Later he removed to a farm in Broome County, N. Y., where, with his excellent

wife, he is still living, and in good circumstances. Their family included five children, namely: Clarence B.; Jasper H., who is farming in Broome County, N. Y.; Daniel A. and William C., in Colorado, and Franklin, at home with his parents.

The subject of this sketch was born in Speedsville, N. Y., Feb. 14, 1856, and continued with his parents until reaching his majority, acquiring a common-school education. In December, 1877, leaving the Empire State, he came to Nebraska, and for five years thereafter was a resident eight miles south of Nebraska City, where he engaged in farming. In 1882 he came to this county, and took up a tract of uncultivated prairie land lying on section 36 in Palmyra Precinct. He remained there four years, in the meantime bringing about good improvements. He then returned to his native State to visit his old friends, and soon after coming back to this county purchased another eighty acres adjoining his land, upon which he labored until the spring of 1888. Then, desirous of a change of occupation, he invested a portion of his capital in a stock of hardware. Later he erected a fine building in Hendricks, in which he placed a full line of everything pertaining to his trade, including agricultural implements.

Mr. Castleman came to this county "fancy free," but soon became acquainted with one of its most estimable young ladies, Miss Hettie Winyard, to whom he was married at the home of the bride in Otoe Precinct, in the southeastern part of this county, Dec. 20, 1882. Mrs. Castleman was born in this county, Aug. 10, 1860, and was the daughter of John and Ann (Hodges) Winyard, who were natives of England, whence they emigrated to the United States in early life, settling with their parents in Illinois, where they were married. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the family came to Nebraska in 1858, while it was still a Territory. Mr. W. secured a tract of land in Otoe Precinct, where he followed farming, and where his death took place in 1872, at the age of forty-five years. The mother is still living, and resides on the homestead. The household circle included four children, namely: Millie, Hettie, Grace and May.

Mrs. Castleman was a lady of excellent education, and taught school successfully for a period of six

years before her marriage. She was a graduate of the Pennsylvania Normal School, but became the wife of our subject before completing the course. She became the mother of two children, Winnie and Frank, and died in Palmyra, this county, Feb. 11, 1886. While a resident of Otoe Precinct C. B. Castleman was a member of the Congregational Church, in which he officiated as Trustee. He is now identified with the Presbyterian Church at Hopewell. Politically, he is a warm supporter of Republican principles.

**W**ILLIAM E. KENNICUTT. The homestead of this early pioneer of Otoe County is one of the finest in Southern Nebraska. The farm comprises 160 acres of highly cultivated land, and on it is located a large and elegant residence, with finely constructed barns and outhouses adjoining, the former set in the midst of an ample lawn with walks and driveways, and the latter comprising all the conveniences required by the modern and progressive agriculturist. There is an abundance of shade and fruit trees, while shrubbery and flowers in the summer season serve to embellish the grounds and complete the attractions of the place. Within, the home is presided over by a very intelligent and excellent lady, our subject having been particularly fortunate in the choice of a wife and helpmate. The family is widely and favorably known throughout this section as a leading exponent of its education, and the cultivation which is one of the features of the social element of Otoe County.

Our subject was born fifty-four years ago in Fulton County, N. Y., May 8, 1834, at the modest home of his parents, whose property consisted of a farm in Mayfield Township. His father, James H. Kennicutt, was born in Massachusetts, reared to manhood in New York, and was married in the latter State to Miss Abigail Wells, who was born in Hartford County, Conn. She was a teacher, and removed to Fulton County, N. Y., in her girlhood. The parents spent their last years in Hartford County, Conn. Of their six children, William E., of our sketch, was the eldest born; Mary F. is the wife of James Foote; John died in childhood;

James H. died in 1868, in Montana; Jennie is the wife of Leonard Lewis, also a resident of Montana; Abby W. is the wife of C. W. Cook; they live in Montana.

Mr. Kennicutt spent his childhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, pursuing his first studies in the district school. At the age of thirteen years he entered the public schools of Hartford, Conn., where he studied a period of three years, then returned to the farm, assisting his father in its various employments until reaching his majority. He also learned the printer's trade in Hartford, Conn. He had, however, already conceived the idea of visiting the West, and when starting out in the summer of 1856 came directly to this county in company with Joseph Foote, landing in Nebraska City. They made their way to Chicago, Ill., by rail, from there to Batavia by the same means, then purchased a team of horses and a wagon, and proceeded by this means on their journey, crossing the Mississippi on a ferry at Fulton, Ill., and the Missouri at Minersville, then Otoe City.

Our subject soon took up a pre-emption claim of 160 acres, which is included in his present farm. In the spring of 1857 he commenced working for a Mr. Pendleton, but in the fall of that year went over into Atchison County, Mo., where he lived a year, and from there migrated to Fremont County, Iowa.

In the fall of 1858 our subject, in company with Mr. Frank Squires, purchased a steam sawmill in Fremont County, Iowa, which they operated very successfully for a period of two years, and during which time Mr. K. laid the basis of his future prosperity. He now disposed of his interest in the sawmill, and about this time, the spring of 1861, he had the happiness of welcoming his father's family to this section.

Mr. Kennicutt, in the fall of 1862, feeling assured that he was now able to support a family, was united in marriage with Miss Sophia, daughter of Henry and Jane (Smith) Adams, who was of an excellent family, and was born Oct. 14, 1840, at Holley, Orleans Co., N. Y. Her father was the second cousin of John Adams, second President of the United States, and she was the eldest child of the second marriage of both parents. Of the first marriage of her father there were born two sons—Tru-

man H. and Nathaniel. Of the first marriage of her mother there were born two daughters—Mary J. and Henrietta McCrillis.

Mrs. Kennicutt grew up amid the quiet scenes of country life, pursuing her first studies in the common school, and at the age of ten years entered the academy at Holley, where she took a seven-years course, and developed into a well-educated young lady. When eighteen years old she came to Nebraska, accompanied by her father, her eldest half-brother and the eldest half-sister, landing in Otoe County in the fall of 1858. The mother had died in Holley, N. Y., when her daughter Sophia was but eight years of age. The father now settled in the vicinity of Otoe City, which was then but a hamlet, where he occupied himself at farming, and is now deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennicutt commenced the journey of life together in true pioneer style, in a manner suited to their means and surroundings. Their first dwelling was a log house, where, notwithstanding their humble surroundings, they spent many happy years. This was on the home farm of her father. The present residence was erected in the summer of 1861, and remodeled in 1882, and it is hardly necessary to say that it has taken years of labor to bring their farm to its present condition, and erect the buildings which attract the admiring eye of the passerby, and form one of the attractive features in the landscape of that region. The household circle has been completed by the birth of four children, namely: Harry A., Frank B., Allen McC. and an infant unnamed, now deceased. All the boys have been students at Doane College, in Crete. Henry is at present attending the School of Technology in Boston, Mass., making a specialty of civil engineering, and expects to graduate in the class of '91. Frank B. and Allen McC. are at home with their parents.

The winter of 1856-57 Mr. Kennicutt recalls as one of the most severe that he ever experienced, and during which, being a single man, he made his home with Mr. Foote and Mr. Pendleton. He assisted in the organization of Hazle Dell School District, which was one of the first organized in Otoe County, and was a leader in many of the enterprises affecting the moral and educational status

of the community. He voted both times for the adoption of the State Constitution during the agitation of the question in 1860, and later in 1866. He cast his first Presidential vote for Lincoln, and since 1872 has been independent in politics. He has borne an honorable part in the development of Otoe County, and is respected as among its best citizens.



**D**AVID W. HERSHEY, M. D., one of the able and popular physicians of Nebraska City, and whose reputation is quite extensive in the county, was born in Amherst, Erie Co., N. Y. His father, John Hershey, was a native of the same county, while the grandfather, whose given name was Christian, was born in Maryland, and was, as far as can be gathered, of Swiss ancestry. He settled in Erie County when it was still uncleared timber land and without settlers. He cleared for himself a farm, and built his home and out-buildings from the timber felled under his own ax.

The father of our subject was reared upon the home farm, and afterward, when at about the age of thirty-five, he entered mercantile life in Amherst and continued for about two years, then returned to the farm, where he followed agriculture until his death, in the year 1881. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth, daughter of Jacob and Chastren Welty. She died many years before her husband, leaving three children: Our subject; Margaret, who is a teacher at Buffalo, N. Y., and another little one who died quite young.

The education of our subject was begun in the district schools, and he afterward entered the Genesee University at Lima, N. Y. In 1850 he elected to follow the medical profession, and began studying with Dr. L. J. Ham, at Williamsville, N. Y. He also attended the medical department of the university at Buffalo. At that time the eminent Doctors, White, Hamilton, Flint and Dalton, were members of the faculty of that institution, and he was privileged to study under those gentlemen. He was graduated from the university in February, 1854, receiving the usual diploma at that time.

Dr. Hershey began the practice of his profession

at Williamsville, continuing there with unqualified success some years. In 1864 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to the 98th New York Regiment of the National Guards; this regiment was mustered into the service of the United States at Elmyra, N. Y., in August, 1864, and served for several months. He held this position until 1867, when he came to Nebraska City and opened an office for regular practice and surgery. Since that time he has continuously followed his profession, growing up with the city, and has made for himself a name as a medical man that is an honor to his alma mater.

In 1862 Dr. Hershey was united in marriage with Miss Josephine Emmons. Mrs. Hershey was born in Springville, Erie Co., N. Y., and is the daughter of Dr. Carlos Emmons, now dead. Of this union four bright and interesting children have been born, viz.: Hattie, who has become very successful as an artist; John, Margie and Herbert. John is at Union, Neb., engaged in clerking in a dry-goods store; Margie is at home; and Herbert is attending school at home.

Mrs. Hershey is a consistent member of the Baptist Church, and in religious circles, as in all others, is most highly esteemed. The Doctor is an active and tried member of the Republican party. He is quite prominent in political affairs, and belongs to the G. A. R. and the State Medical Society. While a resident of his native State, Dr. Hershey held the position of School Commissioner for the Third District of Erie County a period of three years, doing efficient service in connection with the educational interests of that section, and after coming to Nebraska City was for a time a member of the Board of Education. In this county he has held the office of Coroner for ten years; he has also been the County Physician a number of years. He is a member of Baumar Post, G. A. R., at Nebraska City.

**J**AMES PALEY is one of the most enterprising and successful citizens of Nebraska City, where he is carrying on an extensive marble business. He is well known throughout Otoe and adjoining counties, and wherever known is honored and respected as a good citizen, one

who attends strictly to business, deals fairly and honestly, and is wide-awake, always keeping up with the times. He was born in the city of Leeds, Yorkshire, England, Aug. 7, 1840. His father, Benjamin Paley, and his grandfather, James Paley, were likewise natives of the same shire. The latter was a stonemason, and worked at his trade in different parts of England, remaining a lifelong resident of his native land.

The father of our subject was reared in England, and learned the stonemason's trade of his father. He married Elizabeth Seaby, a native of Nottingham, England. In the year 1849 he came to America to seek a home, leaving his family in England until he found a suitable location. He first stopped awhile in Baltimore, finding work at his trade there. In 1851 he sent for his wife and two children, and six months after their arrival in Baltimore he removed with them to Warren County, Va., where he still followed his trade for a time. He subsequently went to Fauquier County, in the same State, and later to Shenandoah County, also in Virginia. He was a contractor on the Manasses Gap Railroad when it was in process of construction. In 1857 Mr. Paley moved to Sheridan County, Mo., and stopped there a short time. He then decided to try farming in Howard County, Mo., and purchased a farm there. He was also engaged at his trade there for a time. He finally disposed of his place in that county, and in Boone County, the same State, engaged in the marble business for two years. When the war broke out he again resumed farming, renting a farm for two years in Atchison County, Mo. At that time he was quite out of health, and he then took up his residence in Fremont, Iowa, and did but little for some time. In 1863 he came to Nebraska City and resumed work at his old trade of mason, and was engaged in that until 1867. Again he became a farmer, taking up a homestead claim ten miles south of Lincoln. He improved a fine farm, and lived thereon for nine years. He then sold his property, settled up his affairs there, and returned to Nebraska City, where he lived for nearly a year. After that he went back to Missouri, and spent his declining years in Ray County, dying Sept. 26, 1885, aged sixty-eight years. His wife had preceded him the year

before, the date of her death being Oct. 7, 1884. They were people of genuine worth, whose useful and upright lives commanded the respect of all who associated with them. They were the parents of four children, two of whom died in infancy. Those living are our subject and his sister Elizabeth, wife of Charles H. Cates, of Jackson County, Mo.

James Paley was a lad of eleven years when he and his mother and sister set sail from Liverpool in the middle of May, 1851, to follow his father across the Atlantic. They landed at Baltimore on the 23d of the following July, after a long voyage of nine weeks. After the removal of the family to Virginia, our subject commenced work with his father on the bridge that spans the Shenandoah Valley, his father being the contractor. He continued in the employ of his father until 1860, when he went to St. Louis and worked in a stone yard under instruction for a year, and thus became an expert stone-cutter. After the breaking out of the war business was quite suspended, and he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits in Missouri for a year, and then engaged in the same in Fremont County, Iowa, for another year. In 1863 he crossed the plains as a teamster with a freight train drawn by six pairs of oxen. He went as far as South Pass, and then went back to Cottonwood Springs, where he left that train and entered another bound for Denver. After his arrival in that city he worked as a stone-cutter for six months, and then went to Central City, a mountain town forty miles distant, and there he mined for three months, and then worked at his trade until August, 1865. He then returned to Nebraska City, where he found work as a stonemason, among other work cutting stone for the present court-house. He continued as a stone-cutter until 1870, and then established himself in the marble business, and has been engaged in that continuously ever since.

Mr. Paley was married, July 18, 1872, to Miss Nancy Anderson, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of Lewis and Ruth (Blunt) Anderson, natives of the same State. Mr. and Mrs. Paley are highly esteemed by their friends and acquaintances, of whom they have many. They are attendants at the Methodist Episcopal Church, and cordially support every scheme for the social and moral ele-

vation of the city. Although Mr. Paley was not one of the earliest settlers of Nebraska City, he can lay claim to the distinction of being an "old-timer," and it has been his privilege not only to watch the growth of the city from a small town to its present size and importance as the leading city of Otoe County, but to contribute thereto by building up an extensive and flourishing business within its limits by his industry and shrewd management. Socially, our subject is identified with Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.; politically, he is a staunch Democrat.



JACOB W. WALDSMITH is prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Nebraska City, as one of its leading grocers, also with its social and religious circles, and he is influential in its public life. He is one of the self-made men who, coming to Nebraska in early Territorial days with scarcely \$20 in his pocket, cast in his lot with the energetic and wide-awake pioneers who had preceded him to this land of promise, and while actively assisting them and those who came after to develop the marvelous resources of the county, and give it its present eminence in commerce, agriculture, and all that marks an enterprising and prosperous community, has acquired a competence that will enable him to pass the evening of life in comfort and luxury, free from the cares and anxieties that beset his early years.

The subject of this sketch was born three miles northwest of Mifflintown, Juniata Co., Pa., April 20, 1835. His father, John Waldsmith, was born in Berks County, Pa., but his grandfather, William Waldsmith, was, it is thought, born in Germany. He was a farmer, and moved to Juniata County in 1800, becoming an early settler there. He bought a large tract of timber land in the Tuscarora Valley, and the village of Johnstown is now located thereon. He cleared a good many acres of his land and resided on it until his death. Several of his grandchildren now own and occupy farms that were included in his original purchase in the opening year of this century.

The father of our subject was but a boy when

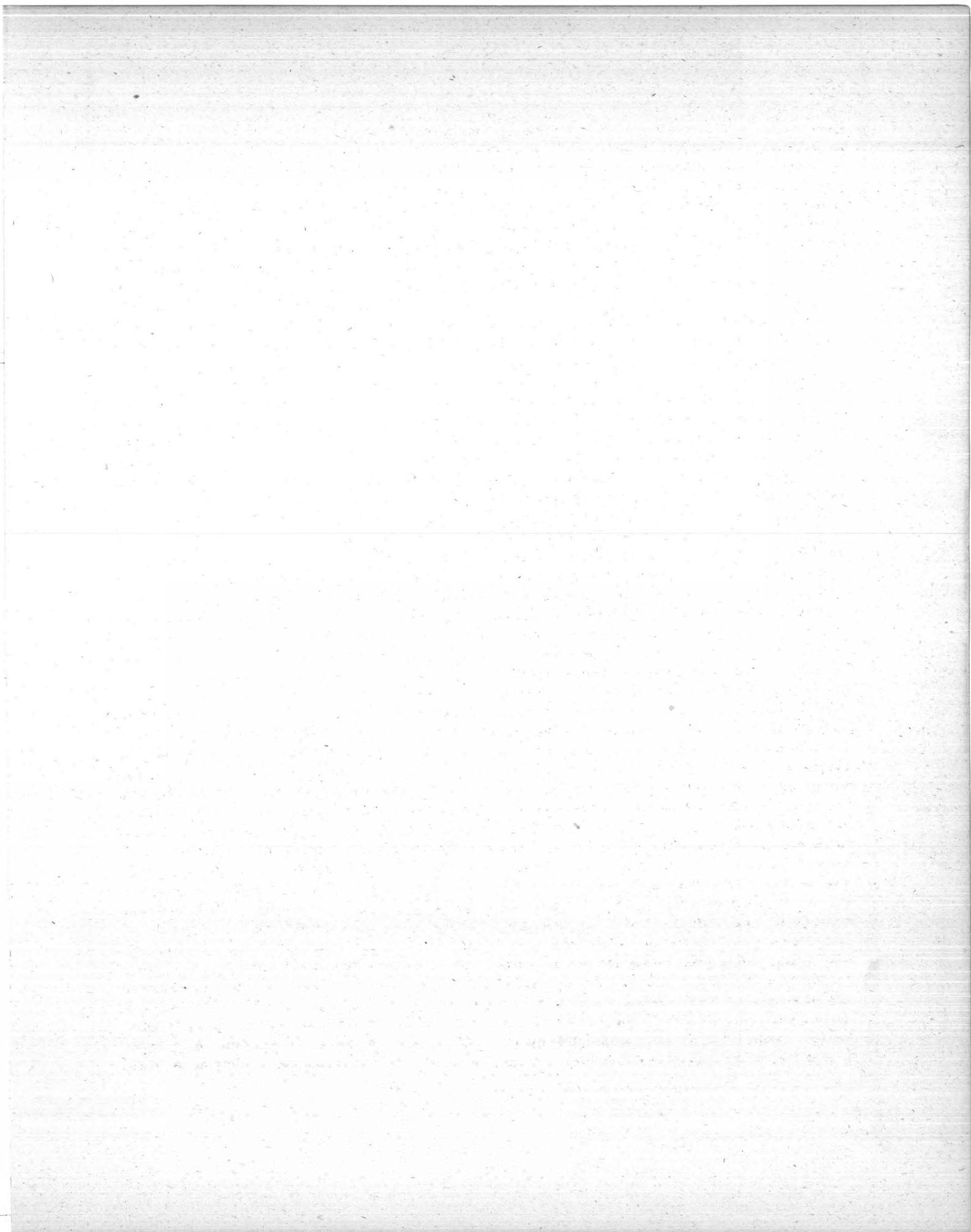
his parents moved to Juniata County, and there he was reared on a farm, always following agricultural pursuits, and resided there until his death. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Martha White, and she was a native of the same county, and died on the homestead in 1847. There were twelve children born to that worthy couple.

Jacob Waldsmith was twelve years old when his mother died, and two years later his father broke up housekeeping, and our subject had to seek a home elsewhere. In 1851 he went to Carroll County, Ind., and obtained employment on a farm at \$12 a month. He continued to work there as a laborer until 1857, and on the last day of September, that year, started for Nebraska, then a Territory, going by rail to Alton, Ill., then the western terminus of the railway; from there by boat to St. Louis, and so on to Nebraska City, where he landed on the 16th day of October. He soon took a claim four miles northwest of the city, built a small shanty on the place, and there he and James R. Kendall spent the following winter, keeping bachelor's hall. The settlements in the Territory at that time were confined to the river, while the interior was still owned by the Government. Deer were plentiful in this vicinity, as were also prairie chickens, and there were a few wild turkeys. In 1858 our subject worked for a time on the levee in Wyoming Precinct, and later was engaged in cutting timber. In the fall of 1858 he built a log cabin on his place, to which he added a frame structure in the spring of 1860, and when married in the month of April, that year, to Elizabeth Faunce, they commenced housekeeping in that abode. Mrs. Waldsmith was born in Hancock County, Ill., and is a daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Dixon) Faunce. The pleasant married life of our subject and his wife has been saddened by the death of four of the six children born to them. Leslie, the first-born, died at twenty-two years of age. He was a promising young man of good habits, and was in partnership with his father. Of the others, Charles died at the age of eight months; Junietta at the age of a year and a half, and Leoto at the age of fourteen months. The names of the children spared to bless the declining years of our subject and his

wife are: Rena, wife of J. L. Diefendorf, of Nebraska City, and Amie C.

Mr. Waldsmith drove the first breaking plough on his land in 1859, and in 1860 reaped his first harvest, a fine crop of corn. In the spring of 1859 his cousin came from Pennsylvania and purchased a half-interest in his claim, and they bought some stock and farmed together until 1862. Our subject then bought his partner's interest and carried on the place alone until 1865. In that year he sold his property here and moved to Cass County, where he bought a tract of wild prairie and timber land, of which eighteen acres broken constituted the only improvement. He planted that piece, fenced fifty acres of land, built a frame house for his family and sheds for the shelter of his stock. He had to draw the lumber for his buildings fourteen miles, and did nearly all the work himself, not hiring more than \$50 worth of labor. He resided there until November, 1869, when he rented his farm and moved to Nebraska City to engage in teaming. In 1872 he traded the farm for Nebraska City property, and then engaged as a baker and confectioner, and from that drifted into the grocery business, to which he has since devoted his entire attention. He has built up quite a large trade and is now in very prosperous circumstances.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldsmith are prominently identified with the reorganized church of the Latter-Day Saints. He was the seventh person to join after the organization of the Nebraska District south of the Platte River, and a year and a half later he was elected Elder, which position he has held since that time. He has had charge of the work of the church in this city since the society was organized here, and under his able administration it has flourished, and now owns, free from encumbrance, a substantial brick church on Second Corso street, between Sixth and Seventh streets. He is Superintendent of the Sunday-school, and is an active worker in it. Mr. Waldsmith has also borne a conspicuous part in the government of the city, he having served two terms as Alderman, and was President of the City Council last year. Mr. Waldsmith was a Republican from the formation of the party, casting his first vote for J. C. Fremont, until 1886, when he joined the rank of the Prohibitionists. He is





Yours truly  
J. W. Stevenson

a man of great sagacity and far-reaching foresight, and combines a resolute, uncompromising nature with a just, kind and generous disposition. In him we have the example of a true Christian, an honorable and upright man.



**HON. THOMAS B. STEVENSON**, attorney-at-law, Nebraska City, whose portrait is presented on the opposite page, is a fine representative of the men of brain, unerring judgment, and sound business ability, who, coming to Nebraska in Territorial days, became prominently identified with the pioneers, and has been instrumental in the upbuilding of this State, and has done much to further its financial prosperity. The record of his life is indissolubly connected with the history of Nebraska City, with whose public interests he has been identified from its early days.

The subject of this sketch was born near Sackett's Harbor, Jefferson Co., N. Y., July 28, 1835. His father, Thomas Stevenson, was, from the best information that we have at hand, born in the county of Armagh, Ireland, came to America a young man, and located in Jefferson County, N. Y. He lived there until about 1840, when he moved to Kingston, Province of Ontario, Canada, where he engaged in milling and resided until his death, about 1847. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Hannah Martin, and her death occurred previous to that of her husband.

Their son, of whom we write, was left an orphan at a very early age, and thenceforth was thrown on his own resources for a living. He was a bright, active lad, and had no difficulty in securing work, being employed on a farm the following two years, receiving his board and clothes in payment for his labors. He then commenced to learn the trade of cabinet-maker, but only worked at that for one year, and then engaged as a clerk in a shoe store in Kingston, making himself useful in doing errands as well as indoor work. He was of a studious turn of mind, and being ambitious to obtain an edu-

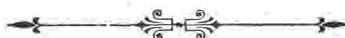
cation he attended evening school, and as opportunity offered, day school also. He continued to live in Kingston until he was fifteen years of age, and then went to Belleville, and attended school and clerked in his brother-in-law's store for three years. At the expiration of that time, having carefully saved his earnings, he went to Ohio and entered Antioch College. He did chores about the college buildings, and in the evening tended in a shoe store to assist in paying his tuition and board in the institution of learning until 1859. Subsequently he taught school and attended college alternately until the winter of 1860-61. His brother-in-law having died, he had to return to Belleville and assist in settling the latter's business. In the spring of 1861 he went back to Ohio, and soon after was taken sick, and was unable to do anything for nearly a year. In the spring of 1862 we find him in Chicago, studying law in the office of Lull & Smith, and in the fall of that year he was admitted to the bar at Ottawa. In the following winter he taught a term of school in Rome, Peoria Co., Ill., but his health continuing to be poor, and it being feared that he had inherited consumption from his mother, he was advised to go to the Pacific Coast, and at once started for California. He went to St. Louis, thence embarked on a steamer on the Missouri River bound for Hannibal, and from there by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., which was then the western terminus of the railway. There he took passage on a stage coach for Nebraska City, where he had some business to transact which had been intrusted to him by another gentleman. He was delayed there longer than he had intended to stay, partly on account of his business, and partly because of the illness of his traveling companion, and finding that even in that short time his health had been benefited by the salubrious, invigorating climate of Nebraska, he determined to locate in this city, and from that time has been one of its most prominent citizens.

Even before the full restoration of his health Mr. Stevenson entered upon his long and honorable career as a distinguished jurist and civilian, wherein he has achieved many triumphs at the bar, and has ably filled some of the highest State and local offices. He soon made the acquaintance of the leading citi-

zens of the State, among whom was Judge O. P. Mason, one of the most prominent lawyers in the Territory, and he formed a partnership with him for the practice of law. In that day there were but few settlers in the interior of Nebraska away from the river, and Indians still lingered and were frequently troublesome, and in 1864 an open outbreak occurred. Mr. Stevenson immediately offered his services to assist in quelling the Indians, enlisting in August, 1864, in Company A, 2d Nebraska Militia, and receiving a commission as Captain of his company, he marched to the frontier of Nebraska and Kansas, and there rendered valuable service in putting an end to the troubles with the red men. In January, 1865, he returned to Nebraska City, was discharged with his regiment, and was then appointed Acting Provost Marshal, serving in that capacity until May, 1865. He then resumed his law practice with his partner, Mr. Mason, with whom he continued until 1867, when the latter gentleman was elected to the Supreme Bench of this State, and then he carried on the business of the firm alone, and is still conducting it, being one of the leading lawyers not only of the county but of the State. He is a practical man, well learned in law, and witty, forcible and brilliant as an advocate. Notwithstanding the pressing demands of his business, he has found time to take an active part in public life. He was a member of the first State Senate that met in Lincoln in 1869. While a member of the State Senate in that year he formulated the present school law, and especially the system of dividing the school money among the districts. He was again in the State Legislature in 1885. He has taken a great interest in educational matters, and was a member of the City School Board for many years. For five terms he held the office of Mayor of Nebraska City, and to his able administration of the city affairs its citizens are greatly indebted for their present prosperity. When he was first elected to the office the city was very badly involved financially, but by his skillful and shrewd management the debt was refunded and greatly reduced. In politics Mr. Stevenson has always been recognized as one of the leaders of the Republican party in the State. He cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln, and he was a member of the con-

vention that nominated Gen. Grant for President, and was one of his firmest supporters.

Mr. Stevenson was married, in March, 1868, to Miss Annie Nicewander, a native of Virginia, who has filled the perfect measure of wife, mother, friend, and renders their pleasant home attractive not only to her own family but to all who are so fortunate as to share its hospitalities. Nine children have been born of this marriage. Those living are: Olla, Thomas, John, Nellie, Harry and Annie. Those deceased are: Thaddeus, Stanton and Frank.



**R**OBERT DUNLAP, who bears the reputation of an honest man and a good citizen, has carried on farming successfully in Palmyra Precinct for the last twenty years. He owns 280 acres of valuable land, lying on sections 22 and 21, where he has fair improvements, a comfortable, though not elegant, residence, and ample storage for grain and shelter for his stock.

Our subject was born in Vermont, Oct. 27, 1843, and is the son of William and Jane (Glenn) Dunlap, the former a native of Scotland, and the latter born in Ireland, but of Scotch ancestry. A scion thus of a family which traces its ancestry to the best nationality on the face of the globe, he has abundant reason for self congratulation.

William Dunlap when a young man removed to the North of Ireland, and carried on farming near the city of Belfast. There he was married, and soon after the birth of one child emigrated in the spring of 1843 to the United States. Settling in Vermont, they lived there a year, their son Robert in the meantime being added to the household circle. From the Green Mountain State they removed to Greene County, N. Y., and were subsequently residents of Lewis, Ulster and Oneida Counties in that State, where the father pursued his occupation of farming with fair success.

The Dunlap family in March of 1869, leaving the Empire State, crossed the Mississippi, the father having already selected his location in this county, where he was in due time joined by his family. He first pre-empted eighty acres which was included in the farm now occupied by our subject, and which has

now been the family homestead for a period of nearly twenty years. Subsequently he purchased 120 acres, and the parents labored with a mutual interest for the building up of a home for themselves and their children. They are both living to enjoy it, the father being now seventy years of age, and the mother sixty-nine.

To the parents of our subject there were born five children, the eldest of whom, a daughter Jane, is a native of Ireland, and is the wife of E. W. Ross, of Palmyra Precinct; Robert, our subject, was the second child; John is in the lumber business in Michigan; James W. died when about twenty-four years old; Sarah E. is the wife of W. A. Hartley, a resident of Bennet, Neb.

The first recollections of our subject are of his childhood home in Greene County, Vt., where he pursued his first studies in the common schools. His education was completed in the Empire State, and there he grew to manhood. He was a man of twenty-seven years when he first came to Nebraska, and in the meantime had become thoroughly acquainted with the various pursuits of farm life. He had also engaged considerably in the lumber business among the hemlock regions of Lewis and Oneida Counties. At the time of coming to Nebraska with his father's family he also homesteaded a claim of eighty acres of land, and there commenced to lay the foundations of a competency. Two years later, March 6, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Ellen E. Rockwell, who became the mother of two children, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Ellen E. Dunlap departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, Feb. 19, 1874. During that year Mr. Dunlap was greatly afflicted, not only in the loss of his wife but one of their children and a brother. His crops were also partially destroyed by the grasshoppers. He, however, fortunately had inherited in a marked degree the sturdy courage of his excellent Scotch ancestry, and outlived his discouragements, evading no duty, but endeavoring to make the best of circumstances. Time, the healer, caused him to partially forget his losses.

The present wife of our subject, to whom he was married May 24, 1876, was in her girlhood Miss Ada Ogram, who was born in Yorkshire, England

March 21, 1855. She is the daughter of John and Hannah (Johnson) Ogram, and came to America with her parents when a child three years of age. They settled near Fond du Lac, Wis., where the father engaged in farming, and whence he removed July 5, 1870, to this State. Mrs. Dunlap was then a young girl of fifteen years. She remained with her parents until her marriage; they are now residing in this county.

Of this union of our subject there have been born six children, namely: Nellie J., Mary, George W., Robert G., Harvey and Florence M. Mr. Dunlap was formerly a Democrat, but since 1884 his warm sympathies with the temperance movement have led him to side with the Prohibitionists. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church, of Palmyra, while his estimable wife belongs to the United Brethren. Mrs. Dunlap is a very amiable and attractive lady, and fulfills in an admirable manner the duties of wife and mother. Our subject of late years has been considerably interested in live stock, usually keeping on hand about forty head of cattle and a large number of swine. Of the latter he usually ships a carload each fall. He is a man of good education, and has served as a Director in his district.



**R**EV. GEORGE S. ALEXANDER. This gentleman was born in Cumberland, R. I., on the 10th of July, 1832, and is the son of Ira and Frances C. Alexander, natives respectively of Rhode Island and Vermont. The family is of Scottish ancestry, and its early representatives in this country settled in Boston in early Colonial days, prior to the burning of Deerfield, Conn., at which place some of the family were killed and others carried into captivity. The maternal ancestors, also from Scotland, were among the early colonists in Rhode Island. His maternal grandfather, George Sherman, was a soldier in the War of the Revolution. The parents of our subject were married in Cumberland, R. I., and there resided during the remainder of their lives, his father following the occupation of mechanic, supplementing it by the working of a small farm. They

were active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the family circle included five children, four of whom are living, viz: David; our subject; Rachel, now Mrs. Thomas C. Wood, and Charlotte.

The subject of this sketch commenced work in a cotton-mill at the age of fourteen, and afterward in the woolen-mills, where he progressed until he became a weaver, which he continued to follow for some years. He found time to attend school sufficiently to acquire the groundwork of an education, to which he added by constant reading and thought, until he had attained a general proficiency upon all current topics, and began teaching school when about twenty-one years of age. For a time he was engaged clerking in a store, in which he continued until the year 1854.

In the mental makeup of our subject there is a large preponderance of the devout, and his religious experiences, linked with this mental property, produced the conviction that the duty devolving upon him was to take up the work of the ministry in the service of the Great Head of the church. Accordingly, upon the 30th of April, 1854, he entered the ministry and preached his first sermon in the town of Sandwich, Mass. From that point on and through the southeastern part of Massachusetts he was engaged in preaching for about twelve years; then for one year at Westerly, R. I., and Norwich, Conn. In 1868 he came to Nebraska City and became the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, continuing in that office until 1871. His next charge was at Peru, where he remained for one year; next at Lincoln, where he was stationed for two and a half years as pastor of St. Paul's Church, and for a like period he served as Chaplain of the Nebraska State Prison. The winter of 1875 he served as Chaplain of the House of Representatives of Nebraska, and in 1877 as Chaplain of the State Senate. In March of that year he resigned his position as Chaplain of the State Prison. The August following he went to Champaign County, Ill., and in September joined the Illinois Conference, and preached in the State in Champaign and Piatt Counties for five years. At the end of that period, feeling that his health demanded a change, he came to Syracuse, and for

four years served the church of his denomination in this city. At the same time he purchased the *Syracuse Journal*, and from that on continued as editor. He was the sole proprietor until July of 1885, when he associated his son Arthur D. as partner.

The subject of our sketch has been twice married, in the first instance, on the 11th of March, 1856, at Eastham, Mass., to Abby G. Smith, a member of one of the oldest and most respected families of Cape Cod, being a daughter of Davis Smith, who was active during the War of 1812 in various enterprises as a privateersman. The family have always been extensively engaged in the deep sea fisheries. This lady died in Lancaster County of this State, on the 12th of September, 1876. By this union our subject became the father of eight children, whose names are recorded as follows: Arthur D., Alice M., George L., Lottie M., Hartley B., Irvin F., Minnie E., and also a son who died in childhood. The first-named three of the surviving children were born in Massachusetts, the remaining ones in this State.

The second matrimonial alliance was celebrated on the 20th of September, 1877, at Philo, Ill., the lady being Susan M. Godding, daughter of Russell and Abigail Godding. This lady was born in Vermont, and is possessed of much innate refinement, which has been increased and perfected by education and culture. For twenty-five years she has been engaged as a teacher of art, the first half of which at the Providence Conference Seminary, East Sandwich, R. I., and the Quaker College, of Providence, R. I. She was finally compelled to retire from the duties of this position, owing to failing health, but still devotes much time to painting and teaching. She has brought to her husband a well-cultivated mind and ripened intelligence, that has been at once a help and source of pleasurable delight throughout the years of their companionship.

In the Masonic fraternity Mr. Alexander is very widely and favorably known, both as a member, worker and lecturer. He took the first two degrees in the Pilgrim Lodge, Harwich, Mass., the third degree in the Marine Lodge, of Falmouth, Mass. The degrees leading up to that of the Royal Arch Mason were received in the Orient Chapter, of Hyan-

nis, Mass., his Council degrees in Howard Council, Westerly, R. I., and he was knighted in the Mt. Olivet Commandery at Nebraska City. Among brothers, fellows and companions he is regarded with much esteem, and among the Sir Knights as a true soldier of the temple. His historical lectures upon masonry have been well received by the fraternity, and those in outer circles who have been privileged to listen to them, and have been the occasion of many justly complimentary remarks.



**R**EV. CHARLES HEISE, a retired clergyman of the Lutheran Church, having numbered a little more than his threescore years, is living quietly at his farm on section 2, Belmont Precinct. He here has 240 acres of fine land, the operations of which are carried on by himself. He is a cultivated gentleman of excellent education, a quiet, unassuming citizen, who during the years of a well-spent life has fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of all who know him.

The childhood home of our subject was in the Province of Saxony, Prussia, where his birth took place Sept. 26, 1822. His parents were Samuel and Augusta Heise, who were also of German birth and parentage, and who spent the greater part of their lives in Germany. Their family consisted of six children, who are now mostly deceased.

The subject of this sketch completed the details of a very careful education in the gymnasium at Magdeburg and the University of Berlin. These institutions were conducted with that thoroughness peculiar to the schools of the Fatherland, and young Heise was thus fairly equipped for a career which has reflected great credit upon his natural talent and his fidelity to duty.

In December, 1855, Mr. Heise embarked on a sailing-vessel at Bremen for the United States, and soon after landing upon American soil was stationed in Cincinnati, Ohio, as pastor of the German Lutheran Church, where he remained two years. Thence he removed to New Bremen, that State, and had charge of the Lutheran Congregation there for a period of twenty-two years. From there he came to this county in March, 1880, and settled upon the

land which he now owns and occupies, forced to abandon his pastoral duties on account of a throat trouble, which finally developed into bronchitis. Under his wise supervision many improvements have been brought about upon the place since he assumed ownership, and he is surrounded by all of the comforts of the ideal country home.

Mr. Heise while a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, was married, Jan. 10, 1858, to Miss Sophia Wehmer. This lady was born Sept. 10, 1833, in Germany, and is the daughter of Christian and Catherine (Schriver) Wehmer, who were natives of Germany; the mother is residing in Cincinnati, Ohio, but the father is deceased. The parental household included eight children, seven of whom are living, and residing mostly in the United States.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Oscar N., Walter S., Emil P., Otto C., Flora, Martha and Ida. Oscar married Miss Emelia Marqua, and is a practicing surgeon dentist of Cincinnati, Ohio; he is the father of one child, a daughter, Viola. Flora is the wife of Willis Roberts, who is occupied at farming in Rawlins County, Kan.; Walter is traveling on the Pacific Slope as a salesman for the carriage manufacturing firm of Davis & Co., of Cincinnati; Emil is employed at merchandising in Syracuse, this county. The education of the younger children, who are at home with their parents, is being conducted under the careful supervision of their father. All the family are members of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Heise has very little to do with public affairs, preferring to devote his attention to his farming interests and his family.



**T**HOMAS A. GILMORE. Upon section 12 of Belmont Precinct is a general and stock farm, comprising 160 acres, which, whether notice be taken of the fields or pastures, buildings or residence, usually excites nothing but remarks of admiration and congratulation, and worthily so, because it is one of the best cultivated and regulated properties within a very large section of the country. It is the property of the gentleman

whose name stands at the head of this biographical epitome. The nativity of our subject occurred on the 17th of October, 1854, in Morgan County, Ill. He is the descendant of an honored family not altogether unknown in historic annals. He is the son of John W. and Frances (Wardell) Gilmore. His father, who was a native of County Derry, Ireland, came to the United States when about eighteen years of age, and became one of New Orleans' successful merchants. He followed also the business of a pork packer, and at one time was the owner of a line of flatboats on the river, continuing that business relation for some fourteen years. His demise occurred June 19, 1872.

The mother of our subject was a daughter of Thomas Wardall, of England. His father, Christopher Wardall, was a native of England, and was in the service of King William, and served him as his armor bearer. He upon several occasions did his royal master good service, and after a fiercely fought battle saved the life of the king. In honor of the occurrence his name was changed by the king from Wardal to Wardall, seeing that he had by his adroitness and skill in arms warded off the blow that would have been fatal to the royal soldier.

The family circle of which our subject was a member numbered seven children, three of whom only are now living, namely: Elizabeth, John and the subject of our sketch. Elizabeth is now residing at "The Pines," the name given the home farm of our subject, and John is one of the rising and successful farmers of Thomas County, Kan.; James, who died after reaching the age of thirty-eight years, was extensively engaged in business at the time of his death as a railroad contractor, and left large business interests which it had been his ambition and hope to finish. His bereaved wife and five daughters mourned his loss as one who had wellnigh perfectly filled the sacred relations of the home. His wife was the daughter of George Robinson, and bore the given name Susannah. The names of his daughters were as follows: Frances, Anna, Mabel, Effie and Catherine.

The subject of our sketch is yet numbered among the free and untrammelled bachelors, and has been in no hurry to make any change. He is chiefly occupied with his farm, and takes just and laud-

able pride in bringing it to the highest possible state of cultivation, and in the raising of the best possible grades of stock. He and his mother are both members of the Presbyterian Church. He has not taken a prominent part in political affairs, although usually voting with the Democratic party, and is not by any means anxious to accept any official seat, although he has several times been requested so to do.



**D**ICK A. NEEMANN, the proprietor of a good farm on section 30 in Rock Creek Precinct, besides land elsewhere in this vicinity, located where he now lives in the spring of 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory. He thus bears the honor of being one of the earliest pioneers of this county, and it is hardly necessary to say that the land of which he then took possession had been unbroken by the plowshare. He has labored industriously upon it for a period of nearly thirty years, and it gives ample evidence of the success which has crowned his efforts. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and upon it have been erected good farm buildings, while from time to time have been added the conveniences and embellishments which have secured for it the reputation of being one of the most desirable homes in this part of the county.

Mr. Neemann came to this region a poor man, having little capital save his stout heart and willing hands. In this respect, however, he was not different from his neighbors, so there were no ill-feelings on account of his poverty. He made his way to the Territory of Nebraska from Madison County, Ill., in the spring of 1859, overland with a team, crossing the Father of Waters on a ferry. He had only lived in Illinois a few months, having settled there in the previous fall, soon after landing upon American soil. His earliest recollections are of a home in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, where his birth took place on the 3d of December, 1825. His parents were Albert and Margaret Neemann, who were of pure German ancestry; the father died in Germany, and

the mother in Otoe County, Neb. Their family consisted of four sons and three daughters, most of whom are living in Nebraska.

Our subject was reared to manhood in his native Province, and, like most of the children of Germany, was placed in school at an early age and given a thorough education in his native tongue. Upon attaining his majority, in accordance with the laws of the Empire, he went into the army and served the Government a period of four years. Afterward, May 15, 1851, he was married to one of the associates of his youth, Miss Christina Wilhelmina, whose birthplace was not far from that of her husband. This lady our subject holds in the most affectionate regard, and acknowledges with true manliness that she has been his able assistant in his efforts at securing a home and a competence. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, the record of whom is as follows: George S. married Miss Cosha Rodermaker, and they are living on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Christina M. is the wife of Herman Jackal, who is in business in Hamburg, Iowa; Albert is the assistant of his brother George on the farm; John H. remains with his parents. Mr. Neemann since becoming a naturalized American citizen has uniformly supported Democratic principles, and, with his family, is connected in membership with the Lutheran Church.



**H**ENRY HEYE, who is pleasantly located on section 23 in Belmont Precinct, is one of the most intelligent and prosperous German farmers along the eastern line of this county. A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, he was born March 11, 1836, and is the son of John G. and Mary (Schultz) Heye, who were also born and reared in the Fatherland, where they lived until August of 1847.

That year John G. Heye with his little family emigrated to the United States and settled in Clayton County, Iowa, where the father carried on farming, and where his death took place in July, 1883, after he had reached an advanced age. The mother had passed away in the spring of 1850. The

parental household included six children, only two of whom are living, our subject and his sister Mary, Mrs. Kruger, still a resident of Clayton County, Iowa.

The Indians were just leaving when the Heye family settled on their land in Iowa, and there were consequently no educational advantages for our subject or his brothers. He is, however, by no means an ignorant man, as all through life he has kept his eyes and ears open to what was going on around him, and by availing himself of every opportunity for information, will pass for a man with a very good education. He was early made familiar with the various employments of pioneer farm life and assisted his father in the development of his land, working from early morn till late at night. He was twenty-one years of age in the spring of 1857, and on the 21st of November following was united in marriage with Miss Mary Oelka, the wedding taking place at the home of our subject's father, in Clayton County, Iowa. This lady was also a native of Hanover, and born in August, 1835. Her parents were John and Maggie Oelka, the former of whom died about 1860, and the latter is still living.

Mr. and Mrs. Heye commenced the journey of life together upon a farm in Clayton County, Iowa, where they lived until July of 1861. They then changed their residence to this county, our subject taking up 160 acres of land on section 23, in Belmont Precinct. Their first dwelling here was a small house, and Mr. Heye at once commenced the improvement of his purchase. He was greatly prospered in his labors, as the soil yielded bountifully, and he gradually put up the buildings required by the modern and progressive agriculturist. He is now the owner of 320 broad acres, with substantial farm buildings, and his homestead invariably attracts the attention of every intelligent traveler passing through this region. He keeps numbers of cattle, horses and swine, carries on agriculture by means of the most improved machinery, and his barns afford ample storage for grain and stock. The whole premises has that air of plenty, comfort and broad hospitality which is so grateful to the eye and so cheering to those who are fortunate enough to be the friends of the family.

Mr. Heye cast his first Presidential vote for Lin-

coln, and has uniformly supported the principles of the Republican party. He is thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted county, and in the development of one of its finest farms has contributed largely to its wealth and importance. He has been quite prominent in local affairs, officiating as Road Supervisor, School Director, Assessor, and is at present County Commissioner. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and one whose word is considered as good as his bond.

To our subject and his wife there have been born nine children, five only of whom are living, namely: Maggie, Mary, Frederick, Henry E., Jr., and George. The eldest daughter, Maggie, is the wife of Charles Bramer, a well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct, and the mother of three children—Charles, Clara and Minnie. The other children of Mr. Heye continue under the home roof, and are being given the educational advantages in keeping with their station in life.

Mr. Heye is liberal and public-spirited, and no man takes a warmer interest in the welfare and advancement of his community. Although not a member of any religious organization, he believes in the establishment and maintenance of churches, and gives of his means to this object. He is widely and favorably known throughout Belmont Precinct and vicinity as one of its most prosperous farmers, and one of the foremost representatives of the nationality which has done so much toward the development of the Great West.

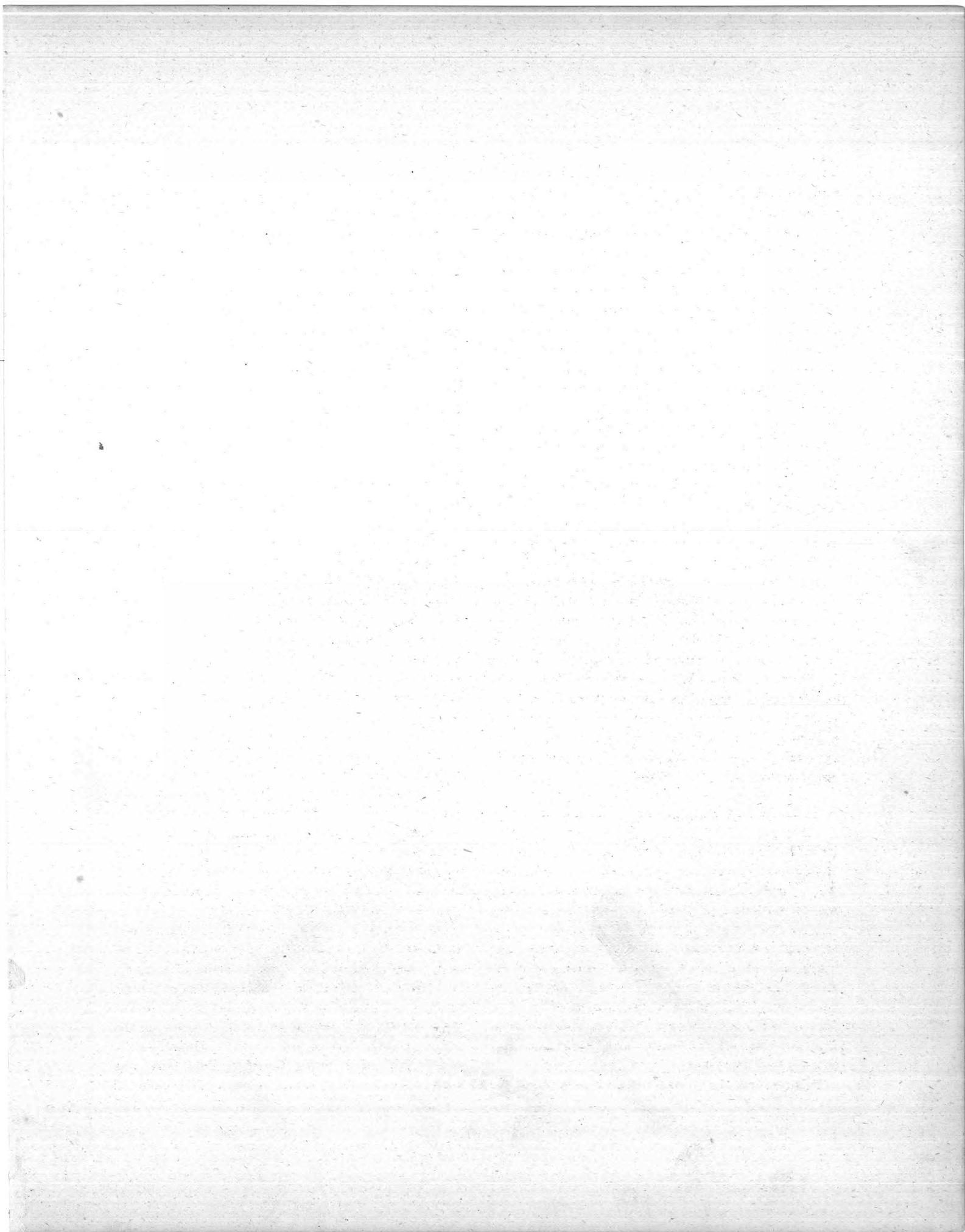
**F**RANK MEYER. One branch of the interests of the traveling public is receiving good attention by the subject of this sketch, who is conducting a first-class livery stable in the village of Talmage. For this purpose he has an excellent outfit, double and single carriages, and fourteen head of horses, which are usually all in demand. Besides the property comprising this establishment, Mr. Meyer is the owner of a good farm of 240 acres in Osage Precinct, and which is supplied with all necessary farm buildings, machinery and live stock.

Of this farm Mr. Meyer has been proprietor for

a period of ten years, and upon it has effected many improvements during this time. Providence has blessed him with a large measure of practical good sense, and this, added to his industry and perseverance, has resulted in making him comparatively independent. He became a resident of this State in the spring of 1865, coming here in company with his father, Frank H. Meyer, who is now deceased. Frank was then a lad of twelve years, having been born Jan. 26, 1853.

The father of our subject was a native of the Kingdom of Bavaria, where he was reared and educated, and where he married Miss Elizabeth Kerthberger, a native of the same section of country. They were of pure German ancestry, and the elder Meyer during his early manhood learned the miller's trade, while at the same time he became familiar with farming pursuits. Upon emigrating to America with their little family of seven children, the parents located in Gasconade County, Mo., where two more children were born, which completed the household circle of six sons and three daughters. After the outbreak of the Rebellion Mr. Meyer enlisted as a Union soldier in the 4th Missouri Infantry, and did brave and faithful service for a period of two years. Upon his return home he sold his Missouri land, and coming to this State located in Otoe County. He only lived until the following year, dying in 1866, when not quite fifty years of age. It has always been believed by his family that the hardships and privations which he endured in the army undermined his health and cut short his days. The mother is yet living, is now sixty-seven years of age, and makes her home in Talmage with our subject. Her other sons and daughters are residents mostly of Nebraska, and all the family are connected with the German Catholic Church, of Nebraska City.

Our subject was little more than an infant when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, and received his education mostly in Gasconade County, Mo. He now owns and occupies the old farm which was secured by his father before the death of the latter. To this he brought a bride in the winter of 1887, having been married December 28, that year, to Miss Mary Butsch. This lady was born in Lee County, Iowa, in 1864, and came to





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this State with her parents in girlhood. She received a common-school education, and remained under the home roof until her marriage. Her father, Frederick Butsch, a resident of McWilliams Precinct, is one of the most prosperous German farmers of this county. Mrs. Meyer is a lady of much intelligence and goodness of heart, a wife who maintains a common interest in all that pertains to the labors of her husband, rejoicing in his successes and assisting him in his worthy ambitions.

Mr. Meyer cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant. He has served two years as Town Marshal, and is also Constable.



**HON. WILLIAM McLENNAN.** This gentleman was one of the first lawyers to settle in Nebraska, and his name frequently occurs in the early annals of the State as one of its most distinguished officials. For several years he bore a conspicuous part in the legislative councils of the Territory, and of the State after its organization. He took a prominent part in the proceedings of the Constitutional Convention in 1864; he was at one time District Attorney for the South Platte country, and he was once Speaker of the House in the State Legislature, during the sessions of 1869 and 1871.\* He has now retired from public life to his pleasant home in the suburbs of Nebraska City, and devotes his attention exclusively to farming.

Our subject was born Dec. 19, 1821, in Columbiana County, Ohio. His father, Kenneth McLennan, was born in Inverness, Scotland, and his grandfather, Donald McLennan, was also a native of that country. The father of our subject and a brother, Donald, were the only members of the family who ever came to America. Donald had served in the English Army, had lost a leg at the battle of Waterloo, and, being a British pensioner, located at Halifax. The father of our subject preferred to settle in the United States, and took up his residence in Columbiana County, Ohio, for a few years. He rented land of his father-in-law, and was actively engaged in farming in that county until

1826, when he sought the wilds of Jefferson County to build up a home for himself and family. He was an early settler there, and he entered a tract of Government land, heavily timbered, and proceeded to clear it for cultivation. He was very successful in his undertakings, becoming quite wealthy and an extensive land-owner, having increased the acreage of his original purchase to 600 acres of land. He died in 1834, having rounded out a useful and busy life, wherein he had won the respect of his fellowmen in the highest degree. The maiden name of his wife was Janet McLaughlin, and she was likewise a native of Inverness, Scotland. Her father, William McLaughlin, was also a Scot by birth, and he came to America about 1819 and located in Columbiana County. He entered quite a large tract of land, and resided there until his death in 1833, at the remarkable old age of one hundred and one years. His wife survived him for some years, and died at the advanced age of one hundred and two years. There were eight children born to the parents of our subject, all of whom grew up, namely: Donald, Eliza, Margaret, Janet, Ann, William, Kennett and Eleanor. The three youngest were born in America, and the five eldest in Scotland; the three eldest are deceased. Ann resides in Kansas, and the others in Ohio.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Steubenville, and subsequently was a student at Grove Academy, in the same town, for three terms. He commenced reading law at the age of twenty, with O. C. Gray, a Steubenville lawyer. After remaining with him one year, he read under the instruction of the Hon. Edwin M. Stanton the succeeding year, and was then admitted to the bar. In 1846 he removed to Illinois and located in Carthage, Hancock County, where he practiced his profession four years with good success. In 1850 he went to Keokuk, Lee Co., Iowa, and resided there until 1854, when he started for the Territory of Nebraska, which was then beginning to attract much notice as a favorable place for settlement. He proceeded on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in the steam ferry-boat that he had had built in Columbiana County, and in which he had voyaged to Iowa four years previously, and when he arrived at Council Bluffs

he made his headquarters there, and ran the boat during the season of 1854, and then sold it. When going to Council Bluffs in May he had landed at Nebraska City, inspected the surrounding country, and, being much pleased with the pleasant scenery and the charming climate, during that month made a claim, with a view of locating here, to the land that he now occupies. After coming here to live Mr. McLennan built a steam sawmill and a boarding-house on his land, in 1855, but the place where the mill stood has since been washed away by the river. Our subject has been a continuous resident of Nebraska since 1854, and has therefore witnessed almost its entire development, and has played no unimportant part in promoting its growth and present prosperity. When he first came here he had nearly the entire Territory of Nebraska from which to select his land, and it was at that time, as far as the Indian titles had been extinguished, owned by the Government. The Indians still made their home here, and it was their favorite hunting-ground for antelope, deer, wild turkeys, and other game that was then very abundant. When he first came here Col. Downs and his family, who occupied the Government building, were the only inhabitants of the present site of the city, then called Ft. Kearney.

Mr. McLennan has been four times married. His first marriage was to Miss Sarah B. Hall, a native of Indiana, and it took place in November, 1857; she died in August, 1858. Our subject was a second time married, in October, 1859, to Miss Martha J. Hall, a native of Bureau County, Ill., and she died in December, 1868, leaving two children—William E. and Mary J. Mr. McLennan's third marriage, which took place Sept. 15, 1870, was to Ella Ewing, a native of Utica, N. Y.; she died Nov. 28, 1871, leaving one child, Ella M. The marriage of our subject to his present wife took place in December, 1876, and they have one child living by this union, Stella. Mrs. McLennan's maiden name was Margaret Frances Brown, and she was born in Mason County, Ill., a daughter of Jesse and Hannah (Streeter) Brown. Her father was a graduate of the Military Academy at West Point, and became a resident of Richardson County, Neb., in 1860, and was one of the pioneers of the Territory; he is now deceased. She has been twice married. Her

first marriage was to John Sittler, and to them were born three children, namely: Ida, Gussie and Ernest.

Our subject was elected District Attorney for the South Platte country in 1855, and was re-elected in 1857. In 1863 he was sent to the Territorial Legislature, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1864. He was elected to the Legislature again in 1868, and was Speaker of the House in the session of 1869-71. He was nominated by Gen. Grant, in 1870, for the position of Assistant Attorney, but was not confirmed by the Senate. Mr. McLennan is a fine man, and he is universally respected by all who know him for his many noble traits of character. He is well grounded in the law, and had he chosen to prosecute his profession would undoubtedly have attained a high position among the leading lawyers of Nebraska. Both in public and private life he has always borne the reputation of one whose motives are pure and whose acts are above reproach. He is now nearing old age, but his active mind still keeps pace with the progress of the world, and he is especially interested in the affairs and political situation of his own country. In this connection we may state that he was in early life a Whig, later became a Democrat, but on the breaking out of the war transferred his allegiance to the Republican party, and has been a firm supporter of its policy ever since. The portrait of this highly esteemed and well-known citizen is given in connection with this brief sketch of his life.

—S—P—E—E—S—

**F**REDERICK STAHLHUT, one of the wealthy men of Nebraska City, owns and occupies a good property in its southwestern limits, and is carrying on a thriving dairy business, which he makes both pleasant and profitable, on account of the modern equipments and conveniences connected therewith. He is a man of remarkable energy and perseverance, one who has always put his own shoulder to the wheel, and who has accumulated a snug property by the exercise of his own industry and good judgment. His patronage is largely among the best residents of the city, and he is a man of standing in his community,

intelligent and well informed, and no unimportant factor in the building up of its business interests.

Our subject emigrated from the Fatherland in the spring of 1867, when a young man of twenty-one years, and settled near Bloomingdale, Ill., where he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, mostly working as a farm laborer by the month. He will be remembered as having later been the employe of Joel Draper, a farmer of this county. Since old enough to think he had made up his mind to be a man among men, to have a good home and property, and this resolution closely adhered to, has resulted in what we see around him to-day. He had very little means upon coming to America and nobody to depend upon but himself, but there had been handed down to him from his thrifty German ancestry those qualities of character by which he was enabled to push his way amidst every discouragement, and finally come out a victor in the struggle. He is now the owner of two farms in Otoe County, each embracing a quarter-section of land, and provided with good buildings. He is thus in the enjoyment of a handsome income, with the prospect of ease and comfort in his old age.

The subject of this sketch was born near Shamburg, in Germany, Jan. 10, 1845, and is the son of Fred and Arnestenia Stahlhut, who spent their entire lives on their native soil, the father dying about 1872, at the age of sixty-four years, and the mother a few years later, in 1878, when sixty-nine. Fred Stahlhut was a carpenter by trade, an honest and industrious man, who made a good living for his family and stood well among his neighbors. The parental household included five children, three sons and two daughters, of whom Frederick was the youngest son born. The others were named respectively: Charley W., Whilem, Arnestenia and Angeline, and are all now in Germany except our subject and brother, Charley W.

Mr. Stahlhut was reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which he still loyally adheres. After attaining a business foothold with a prospect of something for the future, he was married, March 19, 1874, in Nebraska City, to Miss Anna Huberle. Mrs. Stahlhut was born in Manitowoc County, Wis., Oct. 14, 1857, and is the daughter of Joseph and (Barbara) Huberle, who were natives of Germany,

and emigrated to the Badger State during its pioneer days. The father engaged in farming, and, with his estimable wife, is still living, being now sixty years old, while the mother is fifty-eight. They were the parents of three children only: Anna and her brother Joseph, and Louie, who died at the age of twenty-seven years.

The parents of Mrs. Stahlhut left Wisconsin in the fall of 1865, and coming to this county settled in Rock Creek Precinct, where they now live. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been four children born—Horace, Louis, Minnie and Tillie. The eldest is ten years old and the youngest eight months. Mr. S. is a Republican, politically, but meddles very little with public affairs, preferring to give his attention to his business concerns.



**J**OHN BEY. The subject of this sketch stands prominent among the prosperous German farmers of North Branch Precinct, where he owns 240 acres of prime land, 160 on section 14 and eighty on section 11. Thereon he has erected good buildings, and has all the appliances of the model country estate. He is a man well thought of by his neighbors, and when we say this it is enough. He has served as Assessor of his precinct, to which office he was elected in the spring of 1886, and the duties of which he discharged with that conscientious care which is one of the distinguishing traits of his character. He is a man enterprising and liberal-minded, always willing to contribute both time and means to the furtherance of those objects tending to the general welfare of his community. The friend of schools and churches, he is especially interested in their establishment and maintenance. He has for a wife a very amiable and intelligent lady, one who presides over her department of the farm in a most creditable and praiseworthy manner, and contributes her full share in keeping up the reputation of the family and homestead.

Our subject was born in the Province of Holstein, Germany, Sept. 1, 1851, where he lived with his parents on the farm and received a thorough common-school education, pursuing his studies un-

til a youth of sixteen years. The year following he determined to emigrate to America, and accordingly completed his preparations for the journey. March 17, 1869, bidding adieu to the associations of his childhood, he took passage at the city of Hamburg on the steamer "Saxonia," and two weeks later set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he came at once to this State, visiting first in Cass County, the home of an uncle, where he staid a week, and then made his way to Avoca Township, Cass County, where he entered the employ of a gentleman with whom he made his home for a period of four years. At the expiration of this time he invested a portion of his capital in a team of horses, with which he broke prairie, thrashed, and was similarly employed for two years following.

About this time our subject, having made a pretty good start, secured for himself a wife and helpmate, and took up his abode in North Branch Precinct, this county, where he had purchased 160 acres of prairie land, and which is included in his present farm. Upon this not a furrow had been turned and there were neither fences, trees nor buildings. He first provided a shelter for himself and his young wife, and began gradually to cultivate the soil and set out groves, fruit trees and hedge fence. He was fortunate in selecting a piece of land well watered by a branch of North Branch Creek, but his building operations involved large expense, he having to haul material from Nebraska City. After getting his farm under full headway he began raising and feeding stock, and now ships annually a carload each of cattle and swine, and has in his stables some fine specimens of draft horses. About 1883 he added to his first purchase eighty acres of improved land on section 11 adjoining. The accumulation of his fine property has been the result of years of industry and perseverance, and for which he has been indebted to no one, if we may except his sensible and industrious wife.

The lady above mentioned, and to whom our subject was married in Plattsmouth, March 30, 1876, was in her girlhood Miss A. Sophia Schoemaker. She, like her husband, is a native of Holstein, Germany, and was born Dec. 9, 1846. She came to America with her brother in 1867. Her

parents, Peter and Anna Schoemaker, were natives of Germany. The father spent his last years in Germany, and the mother in Nebraska. Mr. and Mrs. Bey became the parents of four interesting children—Annie, Freddie, Mathilda (deceased) and Bertha.

Mr. Bey, after becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, of whose principles he is an ardent supporter. He has done good service for his party in this county, and has been sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He served as Assessor one year in his precinct, and has been a member of the district School Board for a period of nine years. He soon became familiar with the English language, and is a constant reader, keeping himself well informed upon topics of general interest.

Both our subject and his estimable wife are charter members of the German Lutheran Church at North Branch, in which Mr. Bey has been Trustee a period of ten years. He has also served as Secretary for the past six years. He was instrumental in the organization of the society, and has given liberally of his means for its support. He has made an admirable record as an honest man and a valuable member of the community.



**M**ARIUS BAUMGARTEN, one of the self-made, prosperous and popular citizens of Nebraska City, is a native of Denmark, and was born on the 24th of November, 1851. His father was Carl Christian Baumgarten. His grandfather, Otto Ludwig Baumgarten, was a native of Prussia, but went to Denmark when a young man, where he followed his business, that of a harness-maker, settling in Assens, where he lived upward of fifty years, and in fact for the remainder of his life. There also his son, the father of our subject, continued to make his home and engaged in business.

The subject of our sketch was reared in his native village and learned his father's trade, continuing also to work at home until 1878, when his parent was called to his long home. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Maria Ohlson. She was born in Senderborg, Sleswick, but now resides in

Odense Village in Denmark. She was the mother of seven children, only two of whom now live, viz: Amelia, who lives with her mother, and our subject, who was the only member of his family to come to this country.

All the education our subject received was in the schools of his native country, and prior to his reaching his fourteenth birthday. He came to America in 1878, on board the steamer from Copenhagen, which landed him in New York after a voyage of three weeks. Spending one week in the metropolis, he came on to Chicago, where he remained for about the same length of time, and then went to Sidney, Iowa, where he was engaged working for the railroad company for about six weeks, and then he came on to Nebraska City, where he shortly after started as a harness-maker and repairer, with which he presently linked upholstering. After two years he became a house furnisher and upholsterer, and continued thus engaged with constantly growing success. From that has grown up his present business, which is both extensive and a splendid financial investment.

In August of 1881 the subject of our sketch was united in holy matrimony with Hannah Johnson, a native like himself of Denmark. She was born in that country at Hjoring, in the year 1861. They are both members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and are both able and liberal supporters of the same. He has learned fully to appreciate the institutions and government of his adopted country, and usually votes with the Democratic party.

REV. M. F. CAREY is the founder and President of the Nebraska City Academy, which, although newly established, is one of the important educational institutions of Nebraska. It was opened in January, 1888, with twenty-three pupils, and before the term closed in June there were eighty-five enrolled. The second term commenced in September under the most favorable auspices. A fine corps of talented and highly educated teachers is employed, comprising such notable instructors as Prof. William Valentine, late Superintendent of Schools in Otoe County;

Prof. Charles J. Gedge, a graduate of Cambridge University, England; Miss Emma J. Evans, late Principal of the Third Ward School, Nebraska City; Edwin F. Warren, a graduate of Yale College, lecturer on Civil Law; Clyde Watson, M. D., lecturer on physiology, anatomy and hygiene.

President Carey was born near the Lakes of Killarney, County Kerry, Ireland, Dec. 23, 1846. His father, M. R. Carey, was a native of the same county, and was a descendant of an ancient English family. He owned quite a large and valuable estate, on which he lived in retirement, spending his entire life there. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Mary Fleming, and she was also a lifelong resident of County Kerry. There were six children born to the parents of our subject, three of whom grew to maturity, but our subject is the only one who ever came to America. He was reared amid the beautiful scenery of his native land, and was early sent to school, first attending the National school, and later a private college, where he was fitted for Trinity College, Dublin. He was graduated from that world-famed institution of learning in the class of '69. He was then selected as Principal of a school in the city of Cork, over which he presided for two years, and then resigned to enter the ministry. He was ordained May 1, 1871, as a Deacon in the Church of Ireland, diocese of Kilmore, and located in the parish of Cloone. On the 22d of December, the same year, he was advanced to the priesthood, as curate at Cloone, and while attending to the duties of his curateship was also private tutor to the grandsons of the Grand Marquis of Headford. After three years service in that parish, our subject was assigned to the rectorship of Kilegar, where he remained three years. At the end of that time he returned to Cloone, and was there until 1880, when he came to America and settled in New York City. He was there licensed to preach by Bishop Horatio Potter, and served as a supply in New York pulpits for nearly a year. He then accepted the appointment as rector of St. Thomas' Church, in Falls City, Richardson Co., Neb. At the expiration of three years he came to Nebraska City to fill the position of President of Nebraska College. That institution was discontinued in 1885, and in the month of May, that

year, our subject was installed as rector of St. Mary's Church, and is still acting in that capacity. In 1887 he bought the college property, and in January, 1888, opened his academy, as we have before stated. He also purchased his pleasant and attractive home on the corner of Fifth street and Second avenue.

Our subject was married, in 1867, to Mary Von Stein, a native of Cork, Ireland. Her father, John Von Stein, was a prominent man in that city, where he spent his entire life. His ancestors were Dutch, and went to Ireland with the Prince of Orange, and became prominent in public affairs. Mr. and Mrs. Carey have two children—Kathleen Alice and Fred Arthur Von Stein.

The Rev. Mr. Carey is one of the foremost scholars of the West, a gentleman of polish and rare culture, and is eminently fitted to move in the highest social, literary and scientific circles. He is an associate of the Philosophical Society of Great Britain, and Fellow of the Society of Science, Letters and Art of London. As a Christian minister, he is pre-eminent; of acknowledged ability in the pulpit, in his relations with the parish he has not only sustained its character but added to its reputation and influence. It is generally conceded that the institution of learning of which he is the head is of great advantage to the city, the county and the State, as it is conducted under the highest principles, employs the most advanced methods of instruction, and cannot fail to make its mark on the rising generation, and elevate the tone and literary tastes of the people.

**C**APT. ANDREW J. KLEPSEK is prominently identified with the industrial interests of Nebraska City as a harness-maker. He has led an active and busy life, and has had a wide and varied experience, having visited and lived in many places in the western and southern portions of our immense country. He took an active part in the Civil War, and attained distinction and promotion as a thoroughly brave, patriotic soldier, and an intelligent, capable officer.

Our subject was born in Salem, Ohio, July 10,

1838, being a son of Jacob Klepser, who was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, Oct. 7, 1807. The great-grandparents of our subject were Andrew and Hannah (Mutzer) Klepser, also native Wurtembergers. The great-grandfather of our subject was a lifelong resident of the Fatherland, and died at the advanced age of ninety-nine years. The grandfather of our subject learned the trade of tailor, and followed it in Germany until 1817, when he came to America with his wife and five children, landing in Philadelphia in October. He located in Huntingdon, Pa., and opened a shop and pursued his trade there a few years. He then removed with his family to Martinsburg, Bedford Co., Pa., and there continued in the tailoring business until his death in 1844. His wife survived him many years, dying in the same place in 1872, at a ripe old age. They were the parents of eleven children, five of whom were born in Germany, and nine of whom grew to maturity: Andrew, Jacob, Jeremiah, Catherine, Frederic, Daniel, David; Elizabeth, who died in her eighteenth year, and Maynard, who died in his twenty-fifth year.

Jacob Klepser, the father of our subject, was ten years of age when he came to America with his parents. He had attended school four years in Germany, and after settling in the new home in Pennsylvania he went to the public schools for two years. When he was twelve years old he became a self-supporting member of society, as at that age he went to work on a farm, where he earned at least his board and clothes, although but little more. He continued as a farm laborer until seventeen years of age, and then commenced to learn the trade of harness and saddle maker, serving three years in Martinsburg for that purpose. He then did journeyman's work there and in Pittsburgh for some time. In the year 1830 he went to Montgomery County, Ohio, and carried on his business in Salem for twelve years. He then located in Delphi, Ind., removing his family and household goods with teams, as there were no railways in that part of the country. He opened a harness-shop in Delphi, and was actively engaged at his trade there until 1856, when he sold out and started for the Territory of Nebraska, in June, with two wagons and four horses, accompanied by his wife and three

children. They had cooking utensils, and cooked and camped by the way at night. They made such good progress that on the 25th day of July they crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth, Neb. Mr. Klepser selected a suitable site on the prairie twelve miles south of that town, and bought the claim of another individual from the Government, there being forty acres broken, and a log cabin on the place. The family took up their residence in this humble abode, and he at once commenced to improve the land. This was in the very early years of the settlement of Nebraska, and the country was in a wild condition, showing but little signs of its present populous and prosperous condition as a great and wealthy State. The settlements were confined to streams; deers and wolves were plentiful on the prairies, and in the interior and western parts of the State, or Territory as it was then, buffaloes still roamed; the Indians had been removed the year before, but used to revisit their old haunts on these prairies. Mr. Klepser entered land from the Government at \$1.25 an acre, and continued to reside in that place until 1865, when he sold out and came to Nebraska City. He immediately established himself in his business as a harness and saddle maker, and has continuously carried it on ever since, meeting with great success, and building up a very profitable trade, as he is a sharp and prudent business man. Mr. Klepser married, in March, 1833, Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Tunis Van Clefe, both natives of New Jersey, and of Holland ancestry. Of this marriage four children have been born, namely: Catherine, wife of John D. Simpson, of Plattsmouth; Andrew J.; Letitia, wife of O. F. Johnson, of Plattsmouth; Luella, who was killed by lightning in the sixteenth year of her age.

Capt. Klepser was quite young when his parents moved to Indiana, and he was eighteen years old when they came to Nebraska City, but although this was over thirty years ago, he can still give a clear and vivid account of that ever memorable journey, and of the hardships and privations of the early years of their life as pioneers. He assisted his father on his farm for awhile, and then went to Plattsmouth as a clerk in his brother-in-law's store, remaining with him until 1859. But for his restless, enterprising spirit, an adventurous

life in California had great attractions, so on the 1st of May, that year, he started with ox-teams, and crossed the plains and mountains to the "Golden State," arriving at Susanville, Cal., on the 1st of September. From there he went to Marysville, and thence to Sonoma to mine gold, remaining there until the fall of 1861. He then abandoned the hard life of a miner, well satisfied with his gains, and turned his face homeward, starting on his return by the way of the Isthmus and New York, and thence to Indiana. In that State he spent the winter visiting friends. It was while there, in the spring of 1862, that our subject commenced his military career, of which he has modestly withheld the record, all but the most meager details. We learn that he enlisted in the service, and assisted in raising a company which was designated as Company A, and was attached to the 72d Indiana Mounted Infantry. He was mustered in as Second Lieutenant, and soon went to the front, where he took part in the battle of Stone River; was with Sherman from Chattanooga to Atlanta, taking part in the important battles, and in the siege and capture of Atlanta. After the battle of Stone River he received deserved promotion to the rank of Captain for his cool courage and efficiency on the battle-field. In the fall of 1864, having served his country faithfully for nearly three years, he resigned his commission and retired to private life in Plattsmouth, where he opened a book store. He soon gave up that business, and commenced freighting from Plattsmouth and Nebraska City to Denver and intervening military posts. He continued in that business until 1867, when the Union Pacific road was built, which of course restricted the freighting business, making it less necessary and also less profitable. He then turned his attention to farming in Cass County, and was busily engaged in agriculture there two years. At the expiration of that time he sold that place and bought another farm in Ashland, upon which he resided a year. We next hear of him in Plattsmouth again, where he engaged in the dairy business for a year and a half. From there he went to Kearney and Lowell, where he spent a few months, and thence proceeded to Texas and engaged in railroading for a short time, but a few months later he again made his appearance in his old home in Nebraska City.

He entered his father's harness-shop, and worked with him for three years. But the old roaming propensities were not cooled, he was not ready yet to settle down to a quiet, uneventful life, but must be up and off. This time the Territory of Dakota was the chosen scene of his travels, and for awhile he found a home there. He was employed a part of the time at his trade in Yankton, a part of the time was mining in the Black Hills, and part of the time was prospecting and railroading in Northern Dakota. In 1881 he left Dakota and returned to Nebraska City, where he has ever since resided, and immediately established himself in his present business.

Capt. Klepser was married, in 1865, to Miss Abbie Buck, a native of Illinois, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of three children—Theodora, Elizabeth and John J. The Captain and his wife occupy an honorable position in society in this community, and he is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M. After the stirring and adventurous life of his earlier years, he has now settled down to a quiet life, and pays strict attention to his business, which is in a flourishing condition. During all these years while traveling in different parts of the country he has been a keen and intelligent observer of men and things, and has gained a fund of useful and interesting information.

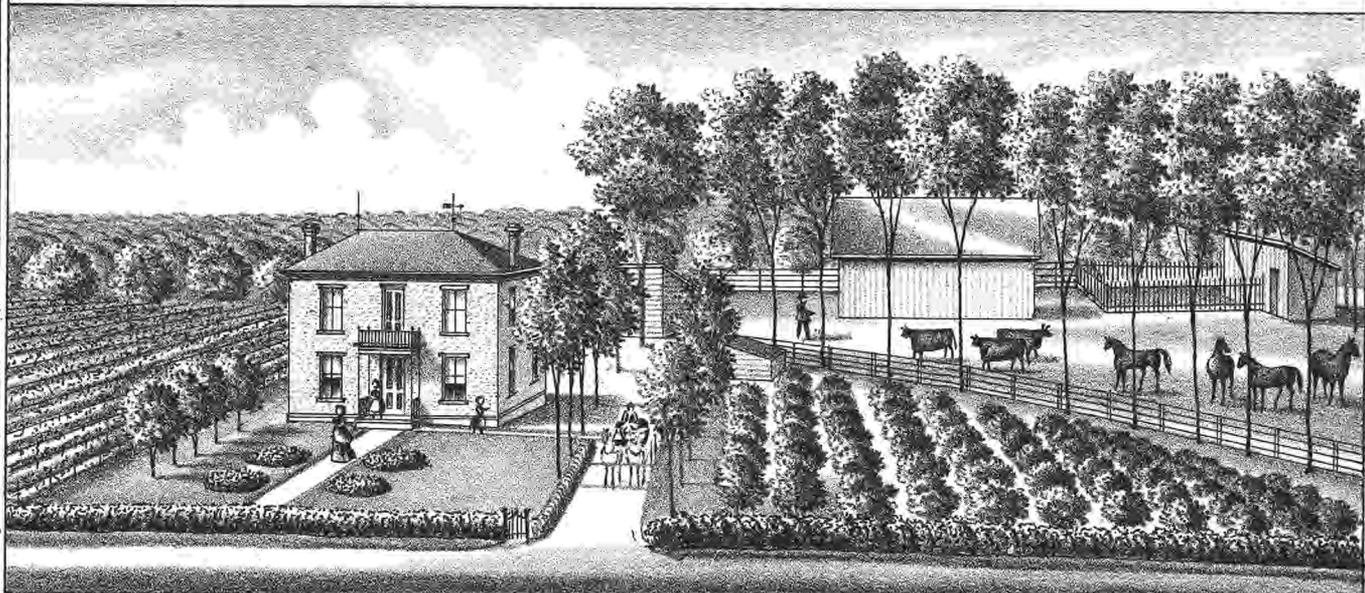


**E**RNST GUENZEL is the proprietor of one of the best managed farms in Nebraska City Precinct; its proximity to a good market in a prosperous and growing city, its well-tilled acres, and its substantial and commodious buildings, render it one of the most valuable estates in Otoe County. A view of his fine place the publishers present on the adjoining page. Mr. Guenzel was born in Schleusingen, Prussia, Oct. 11, 1837. His father, Karl Guenzel, and his grandfather, Christopher Guenzel, were natives and lifelong residents of the same locality, where they followed the pursuit of farming. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Christina Frenzel, and she was likewise a native of Schleusingen, Prussia, and is

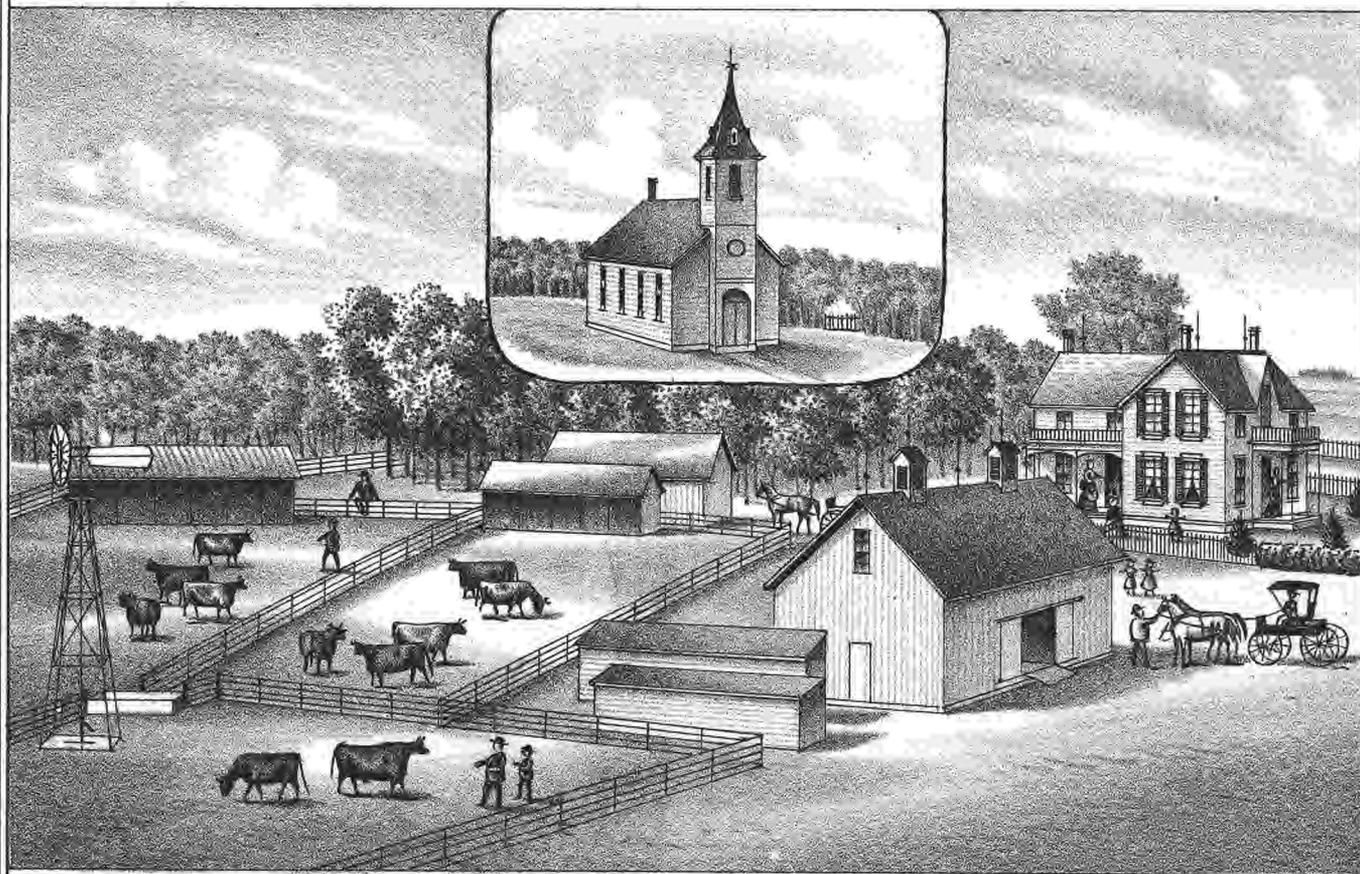
still living there at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. There were five children born to her and her husband, namely: Maria, Ernst, Johanna, Christina and Henry. Our subject and his sister Johanna were the only ones who ever came to America, and the latter, the wife of Peter Scharp, lives in Wyoming Precinct.

Ernst Guenzel obtained a very good education in the excellent schools of his native land, which he attended from the age of six until he was thirteen and a half years old. After leaving school he devoted three years and three months to learn the trade of shoemaker, and then followed that trade on his own account in his native place for one year. After that he resolved to seek a home in the New World, and in 1855, at the age of eighteen years, set sail from Hamburg in an American bound vessel on the 18th of October, and, after a weary voyage of two months, landed in New York on the 20th of the following December. At that time he had but \$11 in his pocket; but he had youth, health and a clear head in his favor, and with high courage he made his way to Dubuque, Iowa, where he worked at his trade in one shop for three years and three months. He subsequently visited Memphis, Tenn., spending two months there, and from there went to Westport, and later to Carrolton, Mo., working at his trade in both places. In Carrolton he established a shop and carried on the shoe business for one year. In 1861 we find him in Nebraska, then a Territory, about to open a store in Nebraska City for the sale of groceries, ice cream and confectionery. He was engaged in that until 1868, when he turned his attention to bottling mineral water. In 1871 he sold out that business and bought his present farm, which comprises forty acres, and has since devoted his attention very successfully to agriculture. He has planted a variety of fruit trees, apple and peach, and now has a fine orchard, from which he derives a good income, and he also has quite a vineyard of choice grapes. Mr. Guenzel has erected a commodious brick house, in which he and his family have one of the pleasantest and coziest homes in the precinct.

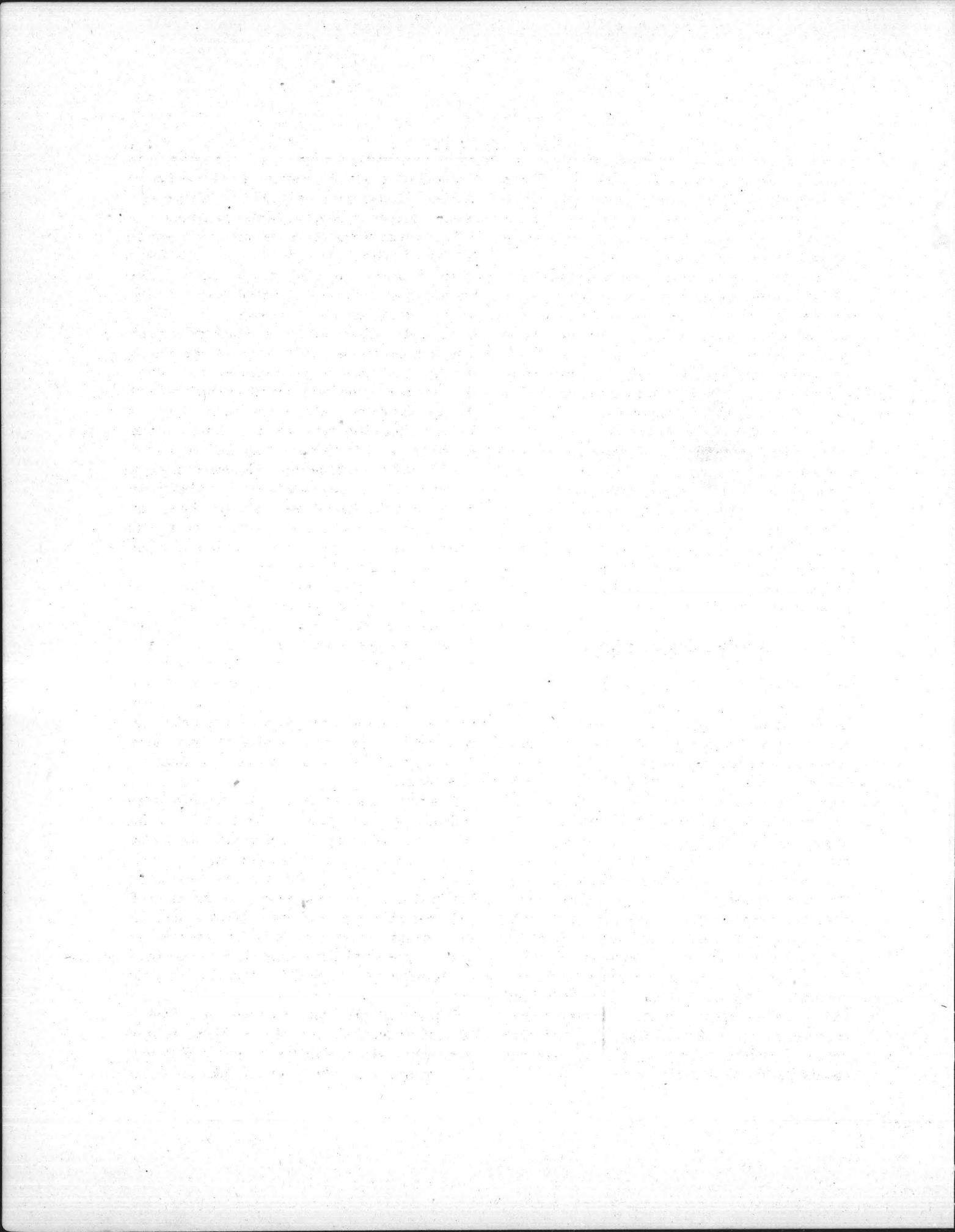
Our subject has been twice married. He was married to Miss Emma Oekle, July 13, 1865; she was a native of Hanover, Germany, and came to



RESIDENCE OF ERNST GUENZEL, SEC. 15. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF FRITZ DAMMA, SEC. 35. OSAGE PRECINCT.



America when she was seven years old. Eleven children blessed their union, of whom the following six are living: Carl, Selma, Anna, Edward, Ida and Lulu. The faithful wife and devoted mother passed to her reward March 23, 1887.

Our subject was married to his present wife July 29, 1888. Her maiden name was Dora Wendt, and she was born in Mecklenburg, Germany. She came to America with her parents, Henry and Dorothea Wendt, in 1857, and they settled in Davenport, Iowa. She was married there to John Haacker, a native of Germany, and she had two children by her first marriage, Ida and Julius.

Mr. Guenzel is classed among the most intelligent agriculturists of this community, and he well understands how to apply the best modes of cultivation to the soil so as to obtain the richest results. He is a sturdy, sober, industrious man, well endowed mentally and physically, and is regarded as an upright citizen. He and his estimable wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, and contribute generously of their means to the support of the Gospel. In politics he is a Republican.



**F**RED DAMMA, who was one of the first settlers of Osage, and also is one of the prominent and worthy representative German-American citizens, is at the same time one of the prosperous and intelligent farmers and stock-raisers of that precinct, and owns 760 acres of thoroughly improved land, 480 on section 35, and the balance in McWilliams Precinct. His parents, Henry and Katie Damma, were born in Germany. They came to America in 1843, taking ship at Bremen. The ocean passage occupied a period of eight weeks. Then they were landed at the city of New Orleans, after which they pursued their journey up the Mississippi by steamer to St. Louis. From that city by means of wagons they went on to Franklin County, Mo., where land was purchased and a farm improved. This was the home of the family until 1856, when the father died, after a sickness of about twenty-four hours, thus closing a life of sixty years. The cause of death was cholera. His wife had died at the close of 1852, aged fifty-four years.

The following are the names of their children: William, Minnie (deceased), Henry, Minnie (deceased), Frederick, August, Louis and Louisa.

The subject of our sketch was born in Prussia on the 21st of March, 1837, and was thus quite young when his parents emigrated to this country. The scenes furnished by his first recollections are those of the home and its surroundings in Franklin County, Mo. He continued to reside with his parents until he was seventeen years of age, during that time imbibing the first principles of an education, and also becoming practically acquainted with the farm and farm work. Upon leaving home he went to Illinois and there worked out upon a farm. In 1859 he went to Nebraska City and had so prospered as to be able to purchase his present property of 160 acres. As most purchases of a similar nature were at the time, it was entirely without improvement, and what is to-day seen in the various departments is all the result of his work, intelligence, ambition and prosperity.

In beginning life in this State our subject found that it was not by any means a path without obstacles, difficulties and hardships. There were many things to be put up with, experienced and overcome entirely unknown to the farmer of the present. It is to his credit that he has made the progress he has. His nearest market either for the sale of produce and stock or the purchase of supplies was Nebraska City. Every piece of lumber used upon his house and buildings he had to haul from the same place.

It is patent that Mr. Damma is prosperous in his undertakings and successful in the operation of his farm, for since taking the original 160 acres he has purchased 320 acres in Osage, all of improved land, fenced and hedged; also 280 acres in McWilliams Precinct, so that the total acreage of his estate is 760 acres, all of improved and cultivated land. He still superintends the home farm, the remainder he rents. He is now chiefly engaged in stock-raising, and is the owner of a herd of 150 head of very fine cattle.

Our subject has been twice married. First in 1863, in Franklin County, Mo., to Miss Christine Rhodenier. Her parents were born in Germany, but emigrated to this country, and settled in

Missouri, where they still reside. Their daughter Christine was the eldest of seven children; she was born in Germany in the year 1843, and died in Osage in the year 1869, leaving three children, viz: Louisa, George and Charles. Louisa is now married to August Butts, the well-known blacksmith of Talmage, and has two children, who bear the names Christine and Elsie.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in McWilliams Precinct, on the 17th of September, 1872. He then became the husband of Miss Annie Naman, who was likewise a native of the Fatherland, where she was born on the 28th of June, 1845. Her parents, John and Minnie (Houtels) Naman, emigrated to America in 1873, and are at present living in Hendricks Precinct, where they farm eighty acres of land. Their daughter Annie was the eldest of eight children who formed their family circle. To Mr. and Mrs. Damma have been born seven children, whose names we mention as follows: Herman, Minnie, Christine, John, Katie, Caroline and Matilda.

Our subject and wife are both members of the Lutheran Evangelical Church at Osage, and were in fact charter members of that organization and helped largely in the building of the church. There they are highly respected, as they are also in every other circle in that community. Ever since he has understood the political situation in his adopted country Mr. Damma has been allied with the Republican party and voted its ticket.

A view of Mr. Damma's place is presented on an adjoining page.



**W**ILLIAM T. SLOAN has been engaged in the sale of farming implements in Nebraska City since 1871, and has established a large and prosperous business in that line. He is a native of Missouri, born in the town of Otterville, Cooper County, May 11, 1834. His father, William Sloan, was born in Tennessee, and his father, Alexander Sloan, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Kanawha County, W. Va., finally removing from there to Tennessee. He was a gun-

smith by trade, and during the Revolutionary War was in the employ of the Colonists. About 1800 he moved from Tennessee to Barren County, Ky., and in 1819 became an early settler of Cooper County, in the same State. He took up a tract of timber land there, and cleared a farm, on which he made his home the remainder of his life.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, and went from there to Kentucky with his parents. He subsequently took up a tract of Government land in Missouri, and built a log house to shelter his family, the same in which our subject was born. It had no chimney, and his wife did her cooking by a fireplace outside. He kept sheep and raised flax, and his wife used to spin and weave all the cloth used in the family for years. There were then no railroads, no manufactories, nor any markets in that part of the country. Mr. Sloan kept stock, but all that he could sell to get cash was the fat steers, that would bring \$12 apiece when driven to the Baltimore (Md.) market. There were very few wagon roads in the country at that early date, and often merchandise was packed on horseback for transportation. Mr. Sloan resided on the farm that he had developed from a wild state until his death in 1870, at the age of seventy-five. He was greatly respected in the community where he had resided for so many years, as he was a faithful, law-abiding citizen, and did his share in developing the country. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Jane B. Alcorn, and she was born in Kentucky about the year 1803. Her father, James A. Alcorn, moved to the Territory of Missouri, and was a pioneer of what is now known as Howard County, being one of the earliest settlers there. At that time the Indians made their home there and were very hostile, and as a protection against them the settlers built a fort, in which they resided. Whenever they went to the fields to work, they always carried their muskets, yet, in spite of this precaution, it was not infrequently the case that a settler would be found massacred. Mr. Alcorn took up a tract of land, on which he located as soon as the Indian troubles ceased. He spent most of his last years with the parents of our subject. He was a man of considerable power, and was influential and prominent in public affairs, and

at one time represented the Territory in Congress. The mother of our subject died on the homestead in Cooper County, Mo. She had eight children, namely: Elizabeth, Catherine, Mary A., James, William T., Virginia J., Pamela M. and Archibald R.

He of whom we write was the fifth child and second son of his parents. When he was young there were no free schools in Missouri, but in the winter season a school was kept on the subscription plan, and he obtained his education in such a school, assisting on the farm in other seasons of the year as soon as he was large enough to be of use. He lived with his parents until he was nineteen, when he went to Western Missouri, where he worked at the carpenter's trade until 1855. On the 22d of June, that year, he started for Kansas City with a freight train bound for Santa Fe, N. M. The train consisted of ten large wagons, each drawn by six pairs of oxen. Mr. Sloan went as an extra hand, and received \$25 a month and board during the three months that it took to make the round trip. From that time until 1868 he frequently made the same trip, after the first year going as wagonmaster. He freighted between Kansas City, Leavenworth and Nebraska City to the various military posts in the West. He first visited Nebraska City in 1858, and was much pleased with its fine location, and in 1863 he came here to settle, having resolved to make his permanent home here. He engaged in mercantile business for two years, and then began the sale of farm implements, in which he has been engaged since that time.

Mr. Sloan was married, in 1862, to Miss Martha Berkley, who has faithfully shared his fortunes ever since. She is a daughter of Joseph Berkley, and was born and reared in Kentucky. Mr. and Mrs. Sloan have two children—Maud and James R. Our subject and his wife occupy a high position in the social and religious circles of this city, and they are active members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which he is an Elder. Mr. Sloan is a firm believer in the doctrines of the Democratic party, which has no more staunch supporter than he in all Nebraska. He is a man of good understanding, is exceedingly just and honorable in all his transactions, and exerts a good influence

in his community. He takes a marked interest in the welfare of the city and county, and as County Commissioner for two terms and a member of the City Council he has contributed to the material prosperity of both.



**J**OHAN R. McKEE. The subject of this biography is regarded by a large majority of his fellow-citizens as one of the most popular men on the western line of Otoe County. He is at present engaged in operating a livery stable at Palmyra, but at the same time is active in all those enterprises in which the public are generally interested. A pioneer of this county, and one of its most capable and intelligent men, he has watched with keen interest its growth and development, and has been no unimportant factor in assisting it to its present prosperity. He possesses all the elements of a useful citizen, has been prominent in politics as well as in business circles, is public-spirited and liberal, and has given no small amount of time and money to the various enterprises set on foot having for their object the general welfare of the people. His home is on his farm a short distance south of the village, and forms one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region. The residence is built in modern style of architecture, and all the surroundings are indicative of cultivated tastes and ample means. His family includes his accomplished wife and a number of interesting children, who, in the social circles of their community, enjoy the acquaintance of hosts of friends.

The farm of Mr. McKee embraces 500 broad acres, which have been brought to a high state of cultivation, and which occupy the larger portion of section 2, Palmyra Precinct. Our subject has been familiar with agricultural pursuits since his boyhood, having been born and reared amid the quiet scenes of country life. The place of his birth was in Bennington Township, Morrow Co., Ohio, and the date thereof June 5, 1839. His father died when he was a lad of fifteen years, and he continued with his mother, assisting in the management of the farm until the summer of 1856. The mother then believ-

ing that it would be for the best welfare of her boys, sold out her property in the Buckeye State, and moved to Iowa. To this step she had been persuaded by her children. John R. was the eldest boy at home at that time, and still recalls the incidents of preparation, and the overland journey. They wintered in the vicinity of Montezuma, Poweshiek County, and in the spring of 1857, changing their plans, came to Nebraska, landing in the limits of Palmyra Precinct on the 27th of April, unloading their goods two miles west of the present site of Syracuse. The mother had pre-empted 160 acres of land, and at first they were sheltered in a log cabin. The boys as soon as possible began breaking the prairie sod, and in the following fall harvested a good crop of sod corn.

During the following winter, John R. McKee going into Cass County, attended school at Mt. Pleasant, and the next summer worked out by the month on a farm. He continued a resident of that county eighteen months, and on the 1st of January, 1862, was united in marriage with Miss Sallie, daughter of Jacob and Susan Lowe. Mrs. McKee was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, Oct. 1, 1840, and received a good education in her native State. Her parents had a family of five sons and five daughters, and when one of her elder sisters, Kate by name, married Rochester Hedges, Miss Sallie accompanied the young people to the West. She had expected to return to Ohio after a brief visit, but through the persuasions of young Mr. McKee, changed her intentions, and with him in due time took up her residence in Nebraska.

Mrs. McKee, a very intelligent and capable lady, had made good use of her time in school when a girl, and employed herself as a teacher. After coming to Nebraska she taught the first district school in Syracuse Precinct. At the time of his marriage Mr. McKee was the owner of 120 acres, upon which the eastern portion of the village of Palmyra now stands. He, however, had lived at home with his mother, and in the meantime added to his first purchase a like amount adjoining, upon which he settled with his young wife. He had for his neighbors that first summer John Roberts, E. M. Brown and a Mr. Merwin, with their families. There were no other families within four or five miles. Nebraska

City was the nearest market, from which point they secured their provisions. A post-office was established here in 1865, and John Roberts was the first Postmaster.

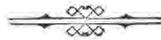
During this period of the early development of the western part of Otoe County the subject of this sketch, although a young man, was among the most prominent of those who were active in its agricultural and business interests. His industry and enterprise had a marked effect in their influence upon those around him, and stimulated others to follow his example. He cast his vote and influence toward the adoption of the State Constitution in 1867, and no man rejoiced more heartily when Nebraska emerged from a Territory into a State the following year. He was at an early date appointed Postmaster at Palmyra, serving four or five years, and until the Midland Pacific Railroad was completed, and the station and post-office transferred to its present site. He then resigned in favor of Miss Dora Harrington.

To our subject and his estimable lady there were born ten children, six of whom are living, and still continue under the home roof. An infant daughter, Elizabeth, died at the age of eighteen months, and a little son, George, was taken from the household circle when seven years old. The survivors are Florence B., Henry C., Guy B., Stella, Vinnie and Edmund.

Mr. McKee is now the owner of 1,000 acres in Palmyra Precinct, all of which he purchased between 1867 and 1888. He assisted in the organization of the first school district within its limits, when it included an area of sixty square miles, and hired the first teacher, a Miss Brown. He has been School Director for a period of eighteen years. He has always voted the straight Republican ticket, and during the late campaign (1888) served as Chairman of the County Central Committee. He identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1869, being at present a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2, of Nebraska City. In his family Mr. McKee is the model husband and father, and gives the larger portion of his time and attention to the interests and happiness of those bound to him by the ties of nature.

The parents of our subject were Heary and Eliza-

beth (Kellen) McKee, both natives of Delaware. They emigrated with their parents to the Buckeye State, where they were married, and afterward became intimately identified with its pioneer element. Henry McKee was greatly prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, and accumulated a comfortable property. He was a strong Whig politically, a man of decided views, and one who kept himself well posted upon matters of State and National interest. His death took place in February, 1854, when he was forty-nine years of age. The mother died at the homestead near the town of Syracuse, in September, 1874, when nearly sixty-five years old. The five sons and three daughters comprising the parental household, with one exception, all lived to mature years. Clark died when twenty years of age, and Maria when an interesting child of thirteen. The survivors are James, Sarah, George, John R. (our subject), Belle and William.



**H**ERMAN H. FASS, proprietor of the leading clothing house of Nebraska City, is a wide-awake and intelligent business man, who is meeting with deserved success in his mercantile pursuits. He is a native of Hanover, Germany, born Sept. 11, 1847. His father, Conrad H. Fass, and his grandfather, Johan B. Fass, were born in the same locality, and there the latter, who was a merchant, spent his entire life. The great-grandfather of our subject, who was an officer in the French Army, is supposed to have been a native of France.

The father of our subject was reared in the town where he was born, and received his education in the schools of the place. As soon as large enough he commenced to clerk in his father's store, and later engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Hessel on his own account, and also established a brewery. He died there in 1883, and his death was regarded as a severe blow to the business interests of the village. The maiden name of his wife was Margaret Falkerts, and she was likewise a native and lifelong resident of Hanover. To her and her husband were born seven children, six of whom grew to maturity, as follows: John Burns,

Mary, Herman, Falkert, Annie and Christina. Herman and Falkert are the only ones in America; the others live in their native land.

The subject of this sketch passed his early years in his native land, acquiring an excellent education in the public schools, which he attended steadily until he was seventeen years old. He served one year in his father's brewery, and learned all the details of the trade. After leaving school his great desire was to come to America, the goal of so many of his countrymen, to see something of the country of which he had heard so much, and to establish a home of his own at some future time, if he should be prospered in life. With these ends in view he set sail from Bremen Sept. 11, 1865, and landed in New York the following November. From there he went directly to Bedford, Ind., where he had no difficulty in securing a clerkship in a general store. At the end of three months he gave up that position and went to Illinois, where he engaged in dealing in live stock in Macoupin County. After spending a year there he went to Missouri, and located in Carrollton County, where he was engaged in his early occupation of brewer until 1868, when he revisited the Fatherland, and spent four months very pleasantly among his old friends. On his return to America he went back to Carrollton County, Mo., and lived there until 1872, when he came to Nebraska City. Here he was employed as a clerk for a time, and then established himself in business. In 1882 he turned his attention to grain and general merchandise business, and was thus engaged until 1884. On the 2d of January of that year he was burned out, entailing a loss over the insurance of \$3,000. He was not, however, disheartened by this severe blow to his financial interests, but with characteristic push and enterprise he opened a grocery store in a rented building a few days after the disaster. He carried on the grocery trade very prosperously until April, 1886, when he was obliged to vacate the store. On the 4th of June in the same year he opened his present clothing establishment. This is a first-class store in every respect, and he carries a fine assortment of goods, and gives general satisfaction to his numerous customers.

In 1876 Mr. Fass was married to Miss Annie

Bertha Damme, a native of Missouri, of German parentage, and four children complete their happy home circle—Annie, Herman, Katie and Bertha. Mr. and Mrs. Fass are members in high standing of the Lutheran Church, and in politics he is classed with the ardent Republicans of Nebraska City. Mr. Fass is a loyal citizen of this country, having great respect and veneration for its institutions and laws, but his heart still clings fondly to the Fatherland; he often thinks of the pleasant years of his youth, and likes to revive the memory of old associations by revisiting the scenes amid which his early years were passed, and in 1883 he a second time had that pleasure, staying among his old friends until April.



**J**ACOB BEUTLER is the able managing editor of the *Nebraska Staats Zeitung*, one of the leading German papers of this State. It is devoted to the best interests of the city and county, and is a fine exponent of the policy of the Republican party. Our subject was born in the town of Sembach, in Bavaria, Germany, Dec. 18, 1859. His father, Peter Beutler, was a lifelong resident of the same village, and there learned the trade of wagon and carriage maker, which he pursued until his death in 1875. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Mary Kinsinger, and Sembach was also her birthplace. She came to America in 1874, and settled in Nebraska City, where she still makes her home. She has seven children, namely: Annie, Jacob, Daniel, Lizzie, Christian, Mary and Arthur. All are in America except Daniel. Annie married Adam Schaefer, and lives in Nebraska City; Lizzie married George Hopp, and lives in Osage Precinct.

Jacob Beutler attended school quite steadily while he remained in the old country, and obtained an excellent, practical education. He came to America with his mother when he was fifteen years old, and further supplemented his education by a year's attendance in the schools of this city. After leaving school he entered the office of the *Nebraska City Press* to work on a German paper published in that office. Six months later the paper was removed to Plattsmouth, and he went to work on it

in that city for one year. At the end of that time he returned to Nebraska City, and was employed for awhile in the office of the *Chronicle*, and later in that of the *Press*. In 1880 Mr. Beutler thought he would like to try the mercantile business, so he went to Malcolm, Lancaster County, and engaged as a clerk in a general store. But to a young man of his thoughtful, intelligent mind journalism held strong attractions, and at the end of a year he came back to Nebraska City, and once again resumed his work in the printing-office of the *Press*. In 1881, in company with Charles Young, he bought the office of the *Nebraska Staats Zeitung*, and they conducted the paper together for a year, when Mr. Young sold his interests to Adam Schaeffer and Paul Schminke. Mr. Beutler has now for some time had full charge of the office and the management of the paper, and we may note in this connection that he has been very successful in this; he has brought the paper to a high standard, and it has a good circulation.

Mr. Beutler was married, in 1885, to Miss Paulina Kuwitzky, a native of Bohemia. She came to America with her parents when she was quite young. Her husband finds in her a ready sympathizer and counselor, and she is truly devoted to his interests. They are esteemed members of the Evangelical Church, and contribute liberally of their means to the support of the Gospel. Mr. Beutler is one of the most earnest and enthusiastic of the young Republicans of Otoe County.



**P**ERRIN D. BABCOCK, Freight Agent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a resident of Nebraska City, is one of the self-made young men, and has before him a brilliant future; to-day, in spite of his age, he holds one of the most responsible positions connected with the above-mentioned company. He is a man of fine presence, large ability, courtly manner and genial disposition, and by all who can appreciate such qualities he is held in highest regard. He was the first regularly appointed agent for this place, and has held the position since October, 1887, and to his credit largely must be placed the fact that in

the corresponding month of the present year the freight receipts have more than quadrupled. Previous to his residence in this city his home was in Lincoln.

The birth of our subject occurred on the 25th of January, 1860, at Alburg Centre, Vt. He is the son of Thomas and Saphronia (Dorrow) Babcock. The family is of English extraction on both sides. His father served in the Union Army for four years. He was promoted to be First Sergeant, and was accounted a gallant soldier. Fear was with him an unknown quantity. His devotion to the old flag was unquestionable, and he found many opportunities of manifesting the same. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Welden Railroad, and after suffering the horrors of Andersonville he died in that prison.

The death of the father left his widow with three sons and one daughter, and of these our subject was the third child born. The mother, with the determination that only those possess who are similarly circumstanced, made it her life work to bring up her sons so that they should be an honor to the cause for which their father had died, and should be prepared to fill honorable positions as citizens of the Republic. That the task then undertaken has been grandly completed it is unnecessary to remark, and is fully substantiated by the subsequent history of the family.

After completing the ordinary course of study the subject of our sketch entered the Vermont State Normal School at Johnson. Subsequently being graduated from that institution, he entered the profession of the teacher, making his first effort at Cresco, Iowa, continuing in that place for four terms. Besides his professional work he found it congenial and profitable for him to work upon a farm, which he accordingly did. Entertaining a desire about that time to enter the railroad service, he became a student of telegraphy, taking instructions under the operator at Cresco. He learned with comparative ease, and was appointed to a position at Ramsey Junction, Minn. This he continued to hold with much satisfaction to the company for six months, but having a more advantageous offer from the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, he entered into an engagement with that company,

and was stationed at Omaha, whence he went to Fairchild, Wis. After five months he was appointed operator at Augusta, Wis., for the same road, and continued there for two years. Then he became agent at Neillsville, in the same State, but after six months was sent to Ashland, where he was retained for sixteen months as joint agent for the Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western and the C., St. P., M. & O. R. R. The wages being insufficient, he determined to try the West, and choosing the Nebraska & Missouri Pacific Railroad, he engaged with that company on the 25th of August, 1886, serving as cashier and Ticket Agent at Lincoln. He was appointed by President Clark of the company to his present position on the 2d of October, 1887.

Mr. Babcock entertains very liberal views in regard to the religious position of others, and accords them every right to their opinions, if they be but honest in their investigations. The marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 15th of October, 1884, at Neillsville, Wis., the lady of his choice being Miss Ella Barnes, of Augusta, in that State. She is the daughter of H. S. and Catharine Barnes. To Mr. and Mrs. Babcock there has been born one child, to whom has been given the name Bernice. The social circles of Nebraska City have cordially welcomed Mrs. Babcock as a lady of truest worth.

For several years the subject of our sketch has been an enthusiastic and devoted member of the I. O. O. F., and is at present the Noble Grand or Presiding Officer of Frontier Lodge No. 3, of Nebraska City, in which high office his high personal character and many qualities make themselves felt among his fellow-members, who entertain for him the warmest sentiments of regard, which is equally true of those outside the lodge room and in the larger circle of life.

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**W**ESLEY SPURLOCK, a citizen widely and favorably known throughout this county, came hither in its pioneer days, and has contributed his full quota toward its growth and development. He traces his ancestry back to England, the first representatives in this country being

five brothers who crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days and settled in Virginia. There they and their descendants distinguished themselves as active and enterprising citizens and good business men, building up comfortable homes and accumulating each a good property.

The subject of this sketch was born in the part of West Virginia which was then Cabell, but is now Wayne County, Jan. 15, 1813, and is the son of Stephen Spurlock, a native of the same locality, and who was born March 19, 1786. The paternal grandfather, Jesse Spurlock, was a well-to-do farmer of that region, a very prosperous man, and prominent in public affairs. His estate at the time of his death included a number of slaves. Stephen and another son were strongly opposed to making merchandise of human flesh, and in the division of the property they took the slaves, setting a part of them free, while the other children were given the real estate. This, of course, was long before the outbreak of the Civil War. Stephen Spurlock also became prominent in his community, and was at one time Chaplain in the House of Representatives. He was fond of agricultural pursuits and spent most of his life in farming. He, however, never lost the spirit of piety which was evinced from his earliest youth, and joining the Methodist Episcopal Church, commenced preaching when a young man, and thus labored in the Master's vineyard for a number of years. He spent his entire life upon the soil of his native State, dying there Dec. 31, 1870.

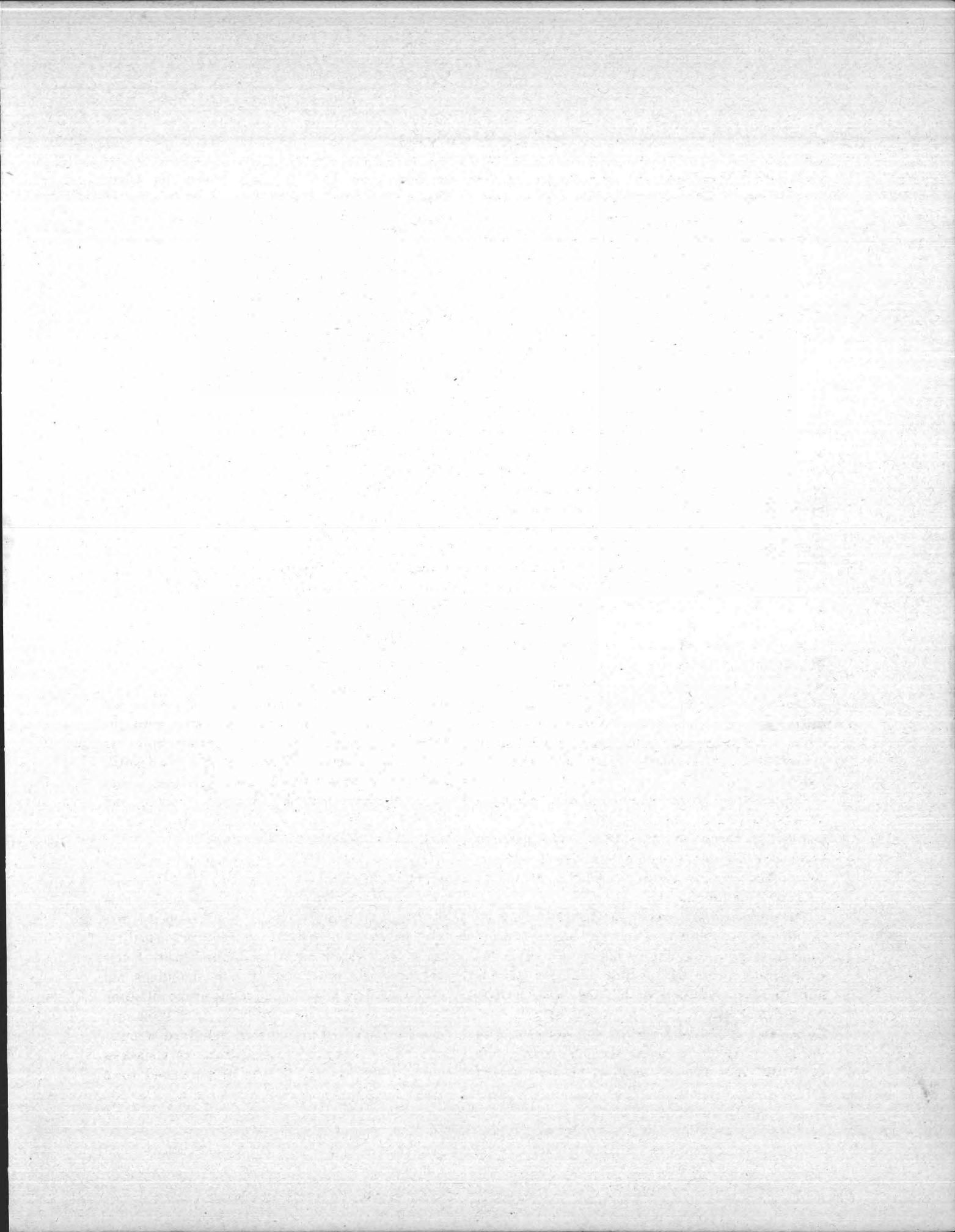
Stephen Spurlock had married in early manhood Miss Nancy Amos, who was born Feb. 8, 1784, and died on the 1st of May, 1872. The parental household included seven children, namely: Cassy, Jesse, Wesley (our subject), Abigail, Milton J., Francis A. and Esther A.

The subject of this sketch was reared to manhood in his native county, received a common-school education, and subsequently taught school on the subscription plan. He resided with his parents until the twentieth year of his age, when he was married, and settled on land given him by his father-in-law, and which was a part of the homestead of the latter. He lived there with his young wife until 1837, then sold out and set his face toward

the West. He made the journey via the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois Rivers on a steamer to Peoria, Ill., then with his four-horse team drove to Knox County, and settled on land near which subsequently grew up the present flourishing town of Abingdon. A brother-in-law had preceded him to that point, and with him he remained until the spring following. Then going into Whiteside County he purchased a "squatter's" claim, near which the town of Albany grew up. He did not enter this land, although he improved about 100 acres of it. He sold his claim in 1840 and returned to Knox County, purchasing wild land south of Abingdon, upon which he made some improvements, but which he finally sold, and crossing the Mississippi with teams, and accompanied by his brother-in-law and family, they both took up land in Wapello County, Iowa, being the very first settlers in that region.

Wild game of all kinds abounded in that section at the time and Indians still lingered there. The latter received their last payment at the Agency that year, Mr. Spurlock witnessing the procedure. The pioneer cabins were located in the timber on Rich Creek, but in the spring Mr. Spurlock and his brother-in-law started out and made a claim twelve miles from the present city of Ottumwa, also erecting a log cabin there. Here they decided to settle and proceeded in true pioneer style to battle with the difficulties around them. The nearest mill was thirty miles distant, and not raising any wheat the first year, corn constituted their principal bread-stuff. Mr. Spurlock had a number of sheep, and the wife and mother from the wool of these manufactured the clothing for the family.

Five years later Mr. Spurlock sold this property and returned to Knox County, Ill., lived there two years, and then returned to Iowa, purchasing land this time in Warren County. This property was also wild and uncultivated, but civilization had begun to set Westward and our subject made better progress. He put up a set of frame buildings, but two years later changed his residence to Madison County, buying again wild land near Winterset, where he improved a good farm and lived a number of years, carrying on agriculture very successfully. Then leaving the farm he purchased town





Respectfully  
Yours  
D. A. Morrison.

property in Winterset, where he built a store, but remained there only one winter. His next removal was to Glenwood, in Mills County, and there he rented a tract of land until 1856.

In 1857 Mr. Spurlock repeated again his pioneer experience, coming to the vicinity of Plattsmouth, this State, where he farmed two seasons, then purchased city property, put up a good house, and lived there until 1858. Returning to Mills County, he engaged in general merchandising in the then flourishing town of Pacific City. Upon selling out a few months later he rented a farm near Nebraska City, where he lived a few years, then moved into the town limits, where he has since resided.

Our subject was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Barton, Aug. 9, 1832. This lady was born in Wayne County, Va., April 13, 1815, and of their union there are nine children, namely: Nancy, Burwell, Stephen, William H. H.; Nina, the wife of Charles W. Sherfey, a sketch of whom appears on another page; Ezra, Saunders; Mary A., the wife of J. D. Gilman, of Falls City, this State, and Wesley W. Mr. and Mrs. Spurlock are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which they have been identified for a period of fifty-five years. Mr. S. was a Whig, politically, during the early days, but upon the abandonment of the old party allied himself with the Republicans.



**S**AMUEL H. MORRISON is a well-known and honored resident of Nebraska City, where he has been engaged in the jewelry business since the days of 1867, and although not among the earliest settlers, he may be considered a pioneer of this locality whose growth and development it has been his privilege to witness. He is a fine representative of the citizen soldiery, who fought so nobly to save the Union during the late Civil War, and his military record shows him to have been a brave and loyal soldier and an efficient officer, worthy of the confidence placed in his discretion and zeal by his superiors. He was born April 27, 1834, in Washington County, Pa.,

and is a son of Samuel Morrison, a native of the same State.

John Morrison, grandfather of our subject, was born in Chester County, Pa., and moved from there to Washington County, Pa., in the early days of its settlement. He was accompanied by his brother Henry, and took up a tract of Government land in what is now Nottingham Township. That was in Colonial times, and Pennsylvania being under the jurisdiction of Virginia, he procured the title of his land from that colony, and the farm which he improved from that wild tract of land is still owned by his descendants, he having died there. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of our subject, was Mary Hughey, and she was a native of Ireland. She resided on the old homestead until the death of her husband, and then went to live with a son. Twelve children were born of their marriage, all of whom grew to maturity.

The father of our subject was reared in the home of his birth, and when young learned the trade of a tailor, which he followed a few years. He married Rachel Cooper, a native of Nottingham Township, Washington Co., Pa. Her father, Frederick Cooper, was a lifelong resident of that county, of which his parents were among the first settlers. The grandfather of our subject learned the trade of millwright, and built and operated several mills. After marriage Mr. Morrison abandoned the tailoring business and engaged in milling and farming, remaining a resident of Nottingham until his death, which closed a highly honorable and useful career, and deprived his community of one of its most trustworthy citizens. He served in the War of 1812, and his descendants may well be proud of his gallant and daring conduct while a soldier under Gen. Harrison, he being one of the four brave men who volunteered to cross the Niagara River near Black Rock to spike the enemy's guns, in which feat they were successful. He was always a staunch Democrat in his political views, and took a deep interest in public affairs. His estimable wife spent her last years on the old homestead in Nottingham, Pa. To them were born twelve children, eleven of whom grew to maturity.

Samuel H. Morrison was the ninth child born to his parents. He was reared in his native town and

obtained the foundation of a liberal education in its district schools, subsequently attending a mercantile college, and also spending a term very profitably at an academy in the capital city of Michigan. He resided with his parents until he was sixteen years old, when he went to live with an elder brother in Virginia for a time. He then returned to his old home, and was an inmate of the parental household until he was eighteen years old. At that time he was appointed Deputy Recorder in Washington, Pa., retaining that office for one year. He was ambitious to perfect his education, and attended Duff's Mercantile College after that for one season. He then adopted the profession of teacher, and taught two years in Washington County with gratifying success. After that he went to Huntingdon, Pa., where he taught penmanship and bookkeeping one winter, and then went to Lancaster, Pa., and taught the same branches in the mercantile college there for one summer. He subsequently turned his attention to farming, but his health not being good, he was obliged to throw up that pursuit, and he went to Lake Superior, and was engaged as a clerk and accountant for the owners of the Minnesota mines for three months. We next hear of him as a hard-working student in an academy at Lansing, Mich., and as a teacher of penmanship evenings. He continued his studies for six months. Milwaukee, Wis., was his next destination, and the ensuing year he was engaged in that city as a clerk and in writing cards.

The breaking out of the Rebellion found our subject engaged in his old employment as instructor in penmanship, and as clerk and bookkeeper for a milling company in Portage, Wis. At the first call for troops to defend the Union he did not hesitate an instant to offer his services to his country, laying aside all personal aims and comforts to enroll his name among the other brave volunteers who went forth to encounter the deadly perils and hardships of Southern battle-fields that they might preserve the honor of the dear old stars and stripes, and to whose valor in the terrible years that followed we are to-day indebted that our flag waves over a free, glorious, undivided country. He enlisted April 19, 1861, in Company G, Wisconsin Infantry, and was mustered in as a private. He

went with his regiment to Washington in May, and joined the Army of the Potomac, and served under McClellan, Burnside and Hooker. Mr. Morrison very soon had an opportunity to witness and take part in a battle, and was present at the battle of Bull Run, the very first engagement of the war. He subsequently fought at Gainesville, Fitz Hugh Crossing, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and took part in many other important battles. In June, 1862, he received deserved promotion to the position of Corporal; March 3, 1863, he was appointed Second Lieutenant, and his promotion to the rank of First Lieutenant followed on the 1st of July, his coolness and daring in the heat of battle and his executive ability as an officer having gained him the implicit confidence of his superiors. He was wounded at the battle of Gainesville, an ounce ball piercing his left lung, and he was not recovered sufficiently to join his regiment until four months had elapsed, a part of which time he had spent at home. In the battle of Gettysburg a minie ball passed through both limbs, but fortunately a comrade wound a bandage around the limbs so as to stop the flow of blood, and thus saved his life. He was taken from the field in an hour and conveyed to a hospital, and thence, two days later, to a private house, where he lay six weeks. He then returned to his old home in Pennsylvania, and on account of his wounds he was discharged Jan. 15, 1864. In the month of March, the same year, President Lincoln commissioned him as Second Lieutenant of the veteran reserve troops, and on the 15th of that month he was ordered to report with his command to Maj. Sidell at Louisville, Ky. In the following April Lieut. Morrison was ordered to take command of a detachment of unassigned troops at Camp Joe Holt, Ind., but in May he was relieved there and sent to take command of the 83d Company, Veteran Reserve Corps, at Jefferson General Hospital, Jeffersonville, Ind., and in August the 84th Company, Veteran Reserve Corps, was added to his command, and he was made military assistant to the surgeon in charge, and commander of the post of four companies on duty there, and he held that position until January, 1866, when he was relieved from duty at that point, and he received

his discharge from the army, in which he had served so faithfully, June 30, 1866.

The Lieutenant after his retirement returned to his Pennsylvanian home, and visited his friends there until October, when he sought the then Territory of Nebraska to begin life anew in its invigorating climate. He came to Nebraska City, and in March, 1867, established himself in the jewelry business, buying the stock and good-will of the store. He has since added the sale of musical instruments, and is doing a fine business. Our subject is a frank, unassuming man, and well endowed with those qualities that make him an important social factor of this community. He is prominently identified with the following organizations as a member: Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter No. 2, Royal Arch Masons; Mt. Olivet Commandery No. 2; William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R.; and military order of the Loyal Legion of the U. S. Commandery of Nebraska.

Among the portraits of leading and well-known citizens of Otoe County may be found that of our subject.



**A**DOLPH ALBRIGHT is recognized in the farming community of Belmont Precinct as one of its best citizens and most successful agriculturists. He at one time owned 500 acres of land, but deeded most of it to his son, reserving for himself eighty-five acres, which constitutes his homestead, and a very neat and comfortable one it is. His has been a career filled with industry, during which, by his excellent management and perseverance, he has accumulated a competence, surrounding himself and his family with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

The early home of our subject was in the Fatherland on the other side of the Atlantic, in the town of Gandersheim, Brunswick, where his birth took place Feb. 16, 1833. His parents, Ludwig and Julia (Finkenstet) Albright, were natives of the same Province, and of pure German ancestry. They are now deceased. Their family consisted of seven children, of whom three are now living.

Mr. Albright, in common with the children of his native country, was given a thorough education, and

reared to manhood in his native town. In early youth he learned the trade of shoemaker, which he followed for a period of twenty years. At the age of twenty-two, believing he could do better upon the soil of America than in his native Empire, he crossed the Atlantic, and was settled for a time in Brooklyn, N. Y., where he followed his trade until 1856.

At the date above mentioned our subject, turning his face toward the Great West, crossed the Mississippi, and coming to this county located first in Nebraska City, where he followed his trade until the spring of 1870. He had in the meantime, with true German thrift and forethought, saved a snug sum of money, and invested a part of this in eighty-five acres of land in Belmont Precinct. Since that time he has made his home in this locality, so loving principally the pursuits of agriculture. He is accounted one of the most reliable citizens in the county, highly respected wherever known.

Miss Louisa Schmidt became the wife of our subject on the 26th of September, 1858, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Nebraska City. Mrs. Albright was born in the Grand Duchy of Hesse, Germany, Oct. 19, 1837, and came to the United States in September, 1855. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, five of whom are living, namely: Emma, Alex, Lucy, Minnie and Mary. Emma is the wife of Theodore Wirth, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, and the mother of two children—Anna and Olive. Lucy married Mr. Oswald Wirth, a brother of the above-mentioned gentleman, who is residing in Belmont Precinct. The other children are at home with their parents, and being given the education and training in keeping with their position in life. Mr. Albright has been generous with his property as regards his children, and nothing pleases him better than to see them prosperous and honored citizens.

While a resident of Nebraska City Mr. Albright was a member of the Council for two terms, and he has also officiated as Assessor in Belmont Precinct four years. He was the Census Taker of this precinct in 1880, and that same year was also made the candidate of the Democratic party for their Representative in the State Legislature. He was

reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which he loyally adheres, and which constituted the religious faith of his honored parents. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., and has passed all the Chairs in his lodge at Nebraska City. He is a quiet, unassuming man, who invariably commands the respect of both friend and stranger.



**D**ANIEL RIEGLE wherever known occupies a high place in the estimation of those by whom he is surrounded, and as one of the younger members of the farming community of Palmyra Precinct, active and industrious, is apparently destined to a successful future. His chief interests are centered in the homestead, comprising 160 acres on section 28, where he is giving his principal attention to stock-raising, and meeting with flattering success. He has had ample experience among the various employments of farm life, and entertains a genuine affection for the sweet-smelling soil, the growing crops and the golden harvests. With his tastes lying in this direction, and tempered by that practical application which must be connected with every enterprise successfully carried out, it is predicted for him that in the near future he will be a leading light among the business and agricultural interests lying along the western line of Otoe County.

Winnebago County, Ill., was the early tramping ground of our subject, his birth having taken place one mile southeast of the beautiful little village of Davis, in a prairie region claimed to be the fairest in America. He first opened his eyes to the light Jan. 21, 1849, and is the son of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Hartzell) Riegel, who after lives of worthy industry are enjoying the fruits of their labors in a comfortable home at Davis, Ill. They are both natives of Pennsylvania, and of German ancestry. They emigrated from the Keystone State to Northern Illinois after their marriage, and at a time when the territory comprising the counties of Stephenson and Winnebago had scarcely been disturbed by the plowshare. The father secured a tract of land from the Government, and with the primitive imple-

ments at hand proceeded as best he could with the cultivation of the soil, while his family were sheltered in a small house on the prairie. As years passed by, and the country around him began to be settled up, the pioneer who was in the advance guard, uniformly keeping a little ahead of his neighbors, began to gather around him modern conveniences, and in due time the uncultivated tract of land was transformed into a valuable homestead.

Among the other possessions of Jonathan and Elizabeth Riegler eleven children had come to bless their union, six sons and five daughters, of whom the subject of this sketch was the ninth in order of birth. They grew up intelligent and industrious, and following in the footsteps of their parents were "early to bed and early to rise," and if not becoming wealthy, became well-to-do and wise. Daniel, like his brothers and sisters, received careful home training, and at an early age imbibed those sentiments of honor and integrity which have formed the basis of a most admirable character.

Our subject received only limited opportunities during his boyhood and youth, but made the most of them, and kept his eyes open to what was going on around him. He remained a member of the parental household, assisting in the development of the homestead until reaching manhood, and then determined to build up for himself a home beyond the Mississippi. In 1875 he had purchased 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct, this county, and in the spring of 1878 resolved to settle upon it, and begin the establishment of a future home. He still remains a bachelor, his domestic affairs being presided over by himself. His land has been laid out with neat and substantial fences, and he has effected all the improvements naturally suggested to the thorough and skillful agriculturist possessing modern enterprise, and ambitious to keep pace with his neighbors. He has a good residence, while the barns, sheds and corn cribs adjacent provide ample accommodation for the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. To the latter he has given particular attention, feeding and shipping each year numbers of cattle and hogs, and from which he realizes a generous income. He usually keeps a herd of seventy head of cattle and 125 head of

swine, making his purchases usually from his neighbors, and his sales at Nebraska City and Omaha.

Mr. Riegle in the multiplicity of his agricultural employments wisely takes time to keep himself posted upon matters of general interest, and although never ambitious for office, is public-spirited and liberal to the extent that he believes in "America for Americans," and protection for every man in the enjoyment of his free and equal rights. The principles of the Republican party appear to him the clearest exponent of these sentiments, and to this he accordingly gives his earnest support. He is a man who is genial and companionable in the social circle, and wherever his lot is cast invariably attracts to himself hosts of friends.

**A**BSALOM TIPTON. The pleasant home of this gentleman lies on the part of section 31 which has recently been attached to Nebraska City Precinct, and which is consequently quite valuable. Here he has 110 acres, the greater part of which he pre-empted from the Government, and to which he subsequently added, bringing the whole to a fine state of cultivation. In addition to general farming he is largely interested in fruit-growing, and has a fine apple orchard of about 500 trees in good bearing condition, and 700 cherry trees, besides the smaller fruits, several acres being devoted to these also. Among his specialties is the raspberry, of which he has 7,000 plants, 4,000 blackberry and 100 blueberry, all of which are in a flourishing and productive condition.

Mr. Tipton has been one of the pioneers in fruit-raising in this part of the county, and keeps himself well posted upon modern methods of culture, and the new varieties which are constantly appearing. Prior to his arrival in Nebraska he had lived in Iowa and Missouri. He crossed the Missouri in the fall of 1854, and located in this county in September. He secured a warranty deed of his land as soon as it came into market, being very soon after the treaty between the Government and the Indians had been ratified. A portion of Eastern Nebraska, however, had been exempt, although Indians were numerous at that time, and the settlers

were obliged to pay tribute to them to keep the peace while waiting for the lands to come into market, which was accomplished in the early part of 1856.

Mr. Tipton was born in Holmes County, Ohio, Dec. 16, 1829, and comes of an old and highly respected family. His father, Luke Tipton, was a native of Maryland, and son of Luke, Sr., a New Englander, a farmer by occupation, and a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The latter was celebrated for his fine physique, and he made a brave and daring soldier, who received the approval of his superior officers for his courage and gallantry. After the war he went South, and died in Tennessee at the advanced age of about one hundred years. A brother who served with him in the American Army afterward settled in Maryland, where he spent the remainder of his life. The Tiptons are of Welsh descent, and the first representative of the family in this country crossed the Atlantic at an early period in its history. He was a cooper by trade, and left his native soil under threat of being beheaded on account of political disaffection existing during the time of Cromwell, the same as was the great-grandfather of the President-elect, Gen. Harrison. The original Tipton was placed in a barrel for safe transportation across the Atlantic, and settled among the Alleghany Mountains, where he lived partially secluded for a long period. The records indicate that he was one hundred and five years old at the time of his death.

Luke Tipton, Jr., the father of our subject, spent his boyhood days in his native Maryland, and had hardly got beyond these when his two brothers enlisted in the army and served in the War of 1812. Before reaching his majority he accompanied his father to Ohio, where he was married a few years later to Miss Mary Young. This lady is a native of Pennsylvania, and of Dutch ancestry. She removed with her parents to Ohio in her girlhood, where her parents died when quite well advanced in years. The young people emigrated to Iowa in 1852, and lived in that State and Missouri until the death of the father, which occurred in Mills County, Iowa, in 1871, when he was seventy-three years old. Mrs. Mary Tipton is still living, and makes her home with her son Saul, in Mills County. Al-

though eighty-seven years old, she is well preserved and active in mind and body. Both parents united with the Methodist Episcopal Church many years ago, and the father, politically, was first a Whig and then a Republican.

Absalom Tipton, the subject of this sketch, was the fifth child and third son of a family of five sons and six daughters. He was reared and educated in Putnam and Lucas Counties, Ohio, and attained his majority in the Buckeye State. He found his bride in the West, being married in the northeastern part of Missouri near the State line, to Miss Martha N. Norris. This lady was born in LaPorte County, Ind., in 1833, and was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Brock) Norris, who spent their last days in Hamburg, Iowa. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parents were married in Indiana. They were very excellent and worthy people, greatly respected by their community, and making it the rule of their lives to do by others as they would be done by. The mother held to the doctrines of the Baptist Church, but Mr. Norris, although a Christian man, never identified himself with any church organization.

Mrs. Tipton was reared and educated in Indiana, whence she removed with her parents to Missouri, and under the careful training of a Christian mother imbibed those sentiments and principles by which she became possessed of all the womanly virtues. She was more than ordinarily intelligent, hospitable and kind among her neighbors, and most faithfully devoted to the interests of her family. By her union with our subject she became the mother of seven children. One of these, a daughter, Flora, died at the age of fourteen months, and twins died in infancy. Of the survivors the record is as follows: Oscar is farming in Logan County, Col., and quite prosperous; William married Mrs. Lizzie Bruner, and lives in Omaha; Cora remains at home with her father, attending to his domestic concerns and devoting herself to his comfort. She is a very intelligent young woman, possessing largely the amiable qualities of her excellent mother. Schuyler is attending school in Nebraska City. Mrs. Martha N. Tipton departed this life at the homestead, Nov. 28, 1875, deeply mourned by her family and a large circle of friends and acquaint-

ances. Mr. and Mrs. Tipton identified themselves with the Methodist Protestant Church about 1858, to which our subject has since given a liberal and cheerful support. Both he and his sons are staunch Republicans, politically, and have done good service for their party in this section.



**JAMES WILSON.** The home of this excellent old gentleman and his estimable wife is one to which their host of friends always love to repair, and at whose threshold the stranger is welcomed with equal courtesy. In their lives is illustrated the result of well-spent years, and in their eyes the clear light of a good conscience and souls at peace with all the world. By years of industry and economy they have gathered around them all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, including the fine farm of 240 acres, which, with its buildings and other appurtenances, forms one of the most attractive features of the landscape of Russell Precinct. The estate lies on section 12, and is a credit not only to the wise management of the proprietor, but to the county at large.

The childhood home of Mr. Wilson was many leagues from his present one, his birth having taken place in Norway, Jan. 19, 1835. His boyhood days were spent upon the farm of his father, and later he learned the trade of ship carpenter, which he followed until a man of twenty-five years. In the meantime he had received a common-school education, and was well fitted both by habits and training for the battle of life. He had as a boy been bright and thoughtful beyond his years, and at the age of thirty-three years, not being satisfied with the prospects of the future held out to him upon his native soil, he resolved to seek the New World of which he had heard so much, and to which many of his countrymen were hastening. He accordingly set sail from Liverpool on the steamer "Etna," and after a stormy voyage of forty days set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he proceeded by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., and not long afterward we find him in Nebraska City. Thence he proceeded to the western part of the county, and homesteaded eighty acres of land. He

and his little family were sheltered for a brief time in a small room, and he made it his first business to provide for their most urgent necessities. Around him stretched the uncultivated prairie, and in order to put up a dwelling he was obliged to haul lumber from Nebraska City, thirty miles away. His neighbors, however, had done the same, and he suffered nothing to discourage him as long as he was in the enjoyment of his health and strength.

To Mr. Wilson, as to every individual who persistently labors and suffers himself to be dismayed by no discouragement, his industry brought its legitimate reward. The soil under his careful cultivation began to yield plenteously, and as time passed on he was enabled to erect the buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience. In due time there appeared a comfortable frame dwelling, a barn and all the other necessary outhouses, while Mr. Wilson planted groves and an orchard of 150 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. Later he invested a portion of his surplus capital in additional land, adding eighty acres to the home farm and purchasing 160 acres on section 10. It has all been brought to a state of cultivation, and is the source of a handsome income.

Mr. Wilson came a bachelor to this county, but on the 6th of March, 1880, was united in marriage with Miss Celestia Mills, who was born near the city of Cleveland in Summit County, Ohio, June 1, 1848. She received an excellent education, being graduated from the Peru Normal School, and taught school two years before her marriage. Her parents, Andrew and Jerusha (Dickinson) Mills, were natives of the Buckeye State and Connecticut respectively; and came here in the fall of 1869. The father purchased a quarter-section of land in Hendricks Precinct, in the southwestern corner of Otoe County, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. The mother passed away in the fall of 1873, and the father in March, 1887. The latter was sixty-four years old. Their five children were named respectively: Celestia, Emma, Minnie, Russell and Frank. Of these all are living, residing mostly in Nebraska and Dakota.

To Mr. and Mrs. Wilson there were born three children, one of whom, a daughter, Laura, died when five months old. Effie G. and Andrew are

aged six and four years respectively. Mr. Wilson upon becoming a naturalized citizen allied himself with the Republican party, of which he has since been a uniform supporter. He has served three years in his school district, and socially, belongs to the I. O. O. F., at Weeping Water. He is a man who has been prompt to meet his obligations, made it a point always to live within his income, and one whose word is considered as good as his bond.

Thomas Wilson, the father of our subject, was, like his son, born in Norway, and married a native of the same place. The elder Wilson was a wealthy ship builder, and he owned a farm of 500 acres in his native district. He died there at the age of sixty years, about 1855. During the invasion of Norway by England, in 1812, he did good service as a soldier in protecting his native land from a foreign foe. The mother, after the death of her husband crossed the Atlantic, and going to Salt Lake City, made her home with her daughter there until her death, which occurred Jan. 28, 1888, after she had reached the advanced age of eighty-nine years.



**D**AVID STALL. This gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Otoe County, in connection with his extensive business interests as a stock raiser and dealer, and enjoys quite a reputation as a farmer and thresher. His home is upon section 8 of Palmyra Precinct, where he owns 240 acres of very fine farming land, but also operates 160 acres on section 11.

The subject of our sketch was born in Knox County, Ohio, on the 14th of March, 1836, to William and Susannah (Firebaugh) Stall. This family is of German extraction, and the original settlement was made in Pennsylvania, where the parents of our subject were married and made their first home, but removed to Ohio among the early settlers of that section of country. Our subject was the youngest of ten children born to them.

The early days of David Stall were spent upon the home farm amid surroundings common to agricultural life. He began to work with his father when quite a little fellow, and at ten years of age

received his first lessons in plowing, and began to work at the threshing-machine when but twelve years of age. True, he was large and stout for his age, bright and intelligent, but it was undoubtedly quite an early day for a boy to begin the serious duties of life.

Until his marriage, June 2, 1861, our subject made his home with his parents, but at that time he was united in wedlock with Elizabeth Bechtel, and they began their new life on the farm he was born on. She was born in Ohio, in Tuscarawas County, June 14, 1834. Of this union there have been born four children, whose names are as follows: Alonzo M., William H., Elizabeth E. and Alfred L.

Selling the Ohio farm in the year 1863, Mr. and Mrs. Stall settled in Davis County, Ind., and there Mr. Stall followed the combined occupations of farming and threshing, and owned 200 acres of land. In 1872 they came to Bennet, Neb., and purchased 400 acres, but this they sold after one year, and then came to Palmyra, in this county, where they became the owners of 400 acres of land, well situated and calculated to meet his requirements as an agriculturist and stock-raiser. He has put up several valuable improvements in the line of farm buildings, and has also erected a very fine stone residence. He is the owner of seventy head of cattle of the various varieties. The fall of 1888 was his eighteenth consecutive season as a thresher, in which he is quite expert.

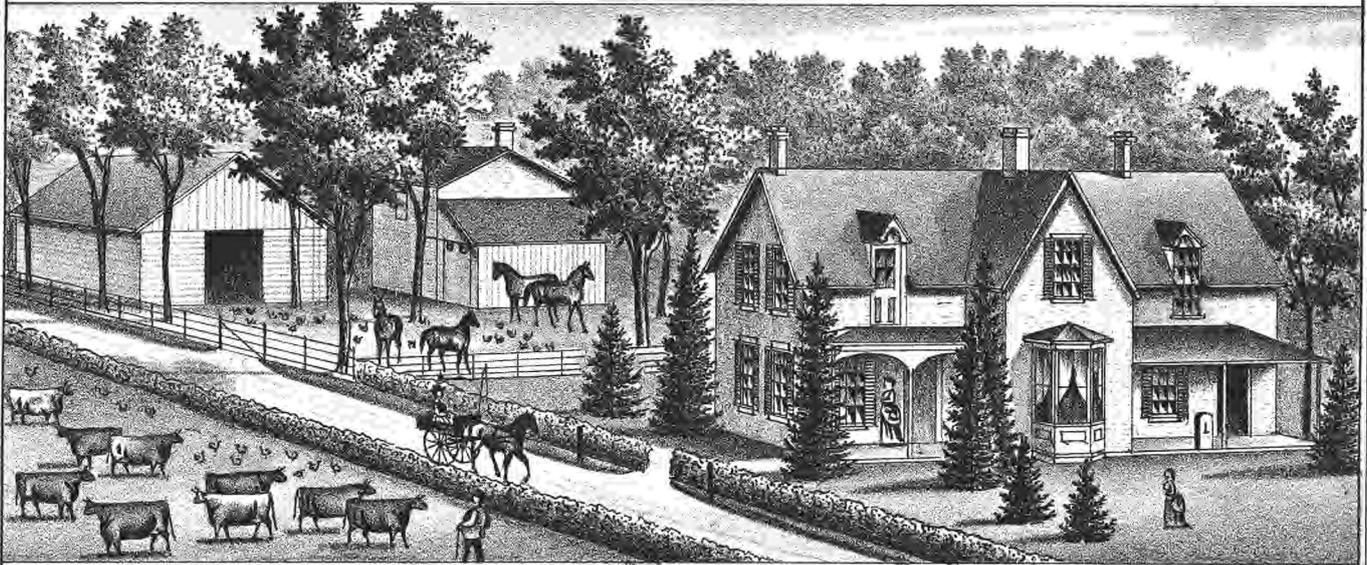
Mr. and Mrs. Stall are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at Palmyra. Our subject is a member of the Anti-Horse Thief Association of Nebraska. Politically, he is a Republican, and, although not a leader in political affairs, he is deeply interested in all current questions connected therewith.

**G**EORGE QUIBLE. The broad acres which constitute the estate of the gentleman above named present one of the finest bodies of land in South Branch Precinct, being 380 acres in extent, upon which have been effected the modern improvements in keeping with the progress of the

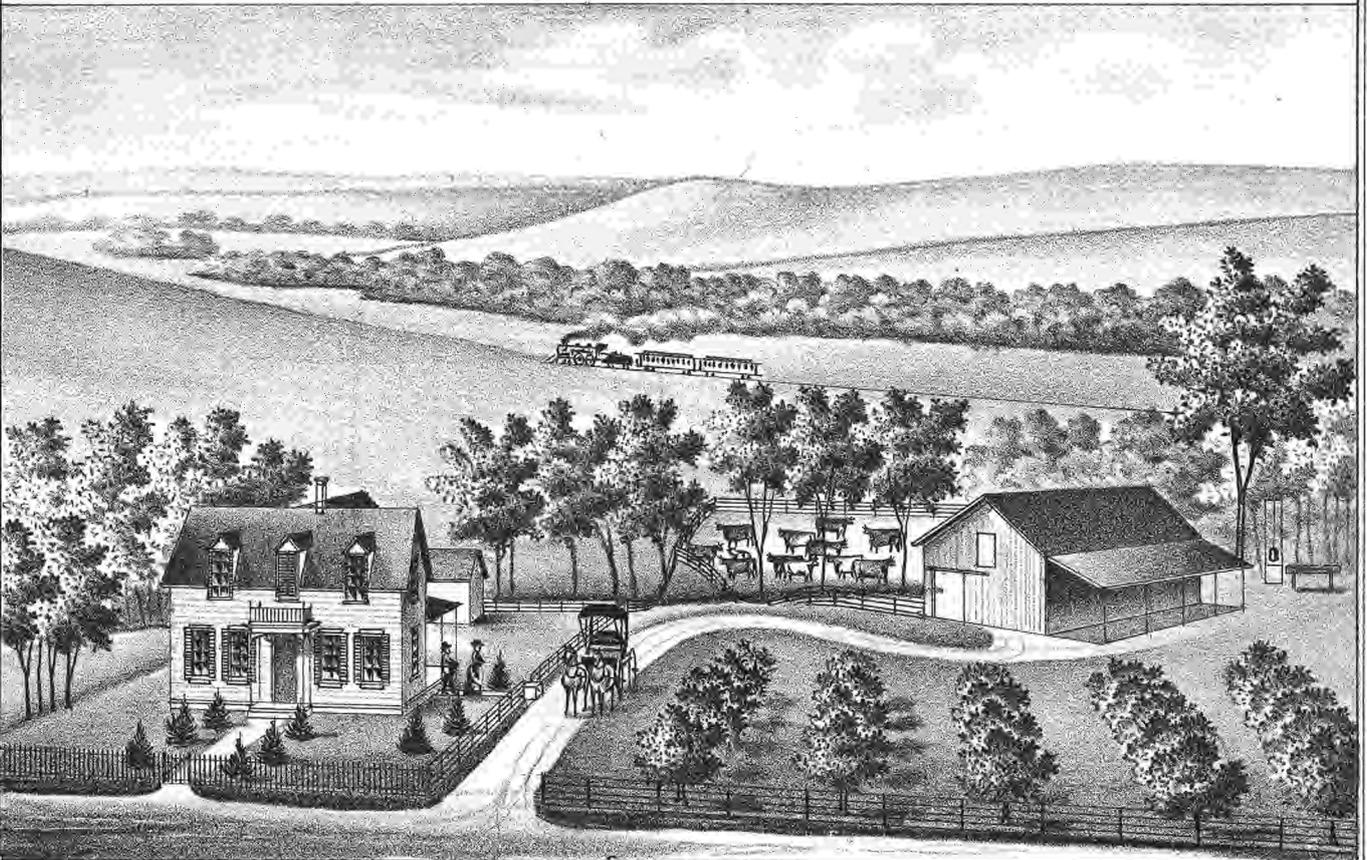
present day and age. A neat and substantial dwelling, with barns, outhouses, shade and fruit trees, orchards, live stock and machinery, form a picture of prosperous rural life which is delightful to contemplate.

The leading spirit in effecting the improvements upon a tract of land which was comparatively uncultivated when he came upon it, is one of the most public-spirited citizens in his community, and while his farm indicates a vast amount of labor, he has yet found time to interest himself in the enterprises calculated for the good of his community and the building up of its educational, moral and religious interests. To these Mr. Quible has contributed liberally of his time and means, and many are the struggling but worthy projects which would have failed had he not aided them so generously. It is not to be wondered at then that he is held in the warmest regard by his fellow-citizens, and with one accord is numbered among the most useful members of his community.

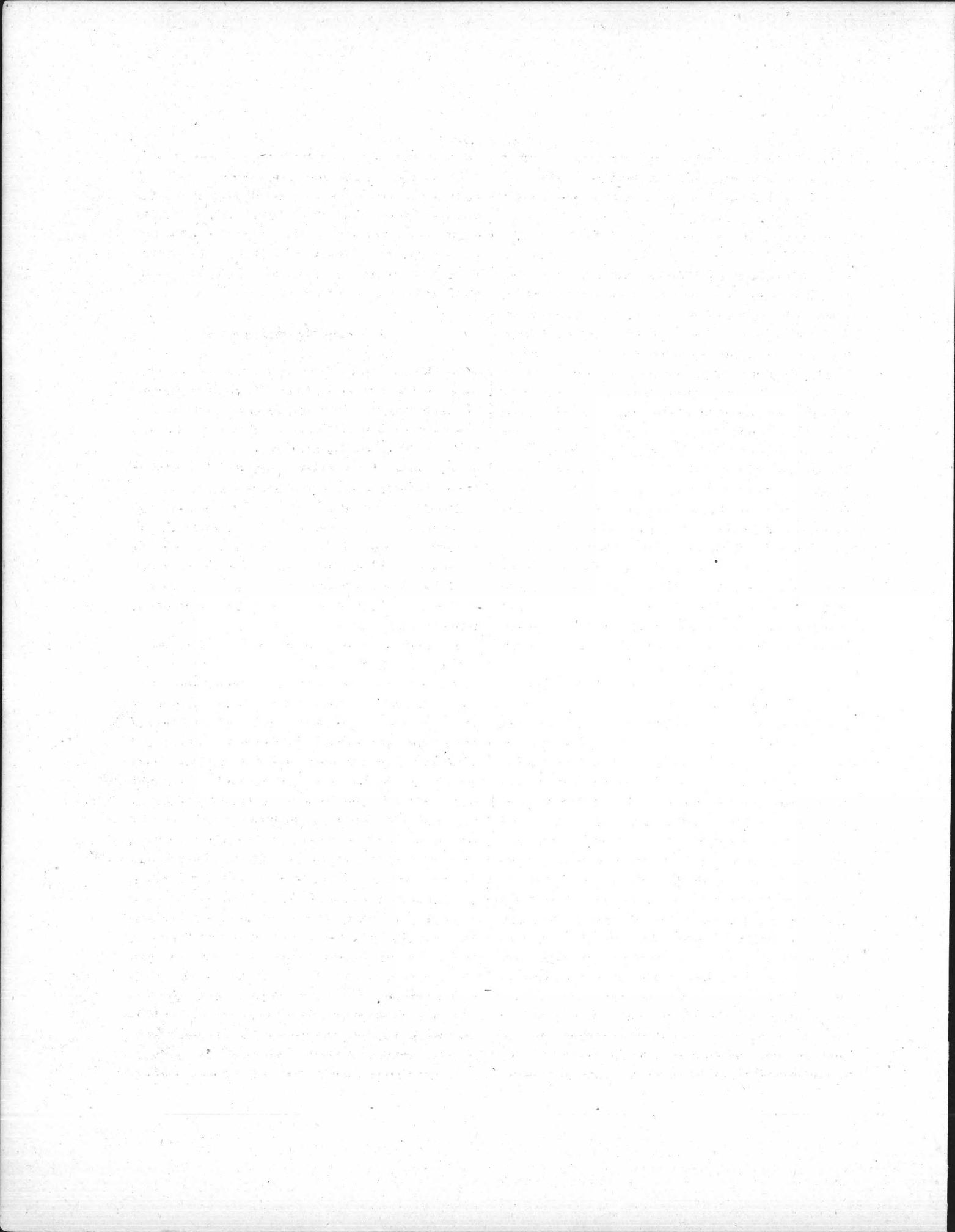
The family of our subject is of English ancestry, his parents being John and Annie Quible, who were natives of England, and spent their entire lives upon the soil which gave them birth. Their family consisted of three children, of whom George was the youngest. He was born in England, Sept. 10, 1832, and when a child of five or six years, being orphaned by the death of his parents, came to America with friends who settled in Will County, Ill., where he lived with them until a youth of fifteen years. They then returned to their native country, but young Quible resolved to abide in America. He began working out by the month, and was thus occupied in Will County until the spring of 1859. He then came to Nebraska, while it was a Territory, and sojourned the first year near the then unimportant town of Nebraska City, where he engaged in farming. He next moved to another tract of land near by, operating this one year, returned to town again, and in the spring of 1866 took possession of the land which he transformed into his present homestead. He first purchased 160 acres, upon which he effected various improvements, reducing the soil to a productive condition. He has an orchard of 200 trees, considerable wire fencing, and in 1880 added to his



RESIDENCE OF EDGAR CLAYTON, SEC. 24. OTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF GEO. QUIBLE, SEC. 29. SOUTH BRANCH PRECINCT.



real estate by the purchase of 160 acres. His land is well watered, and the soil has yielded generously under his wise management.

Mr. Quible was married, April 22, 1857, in Lockport, Will Co., Ill., to Miss Emma A., daughter of John and Marietta (Bassett) Nichols. The parents of Mrs. Q. were natives of New York State, where they spent their entire lives, dying, however, when only middle aged. Their daughter Emma was then taken into the home of an aunt in Canada. She received a common-school education, and of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, one of whom, Ira, died when two years old. The survivors are: Ella M., who was born in Illinois; Etta M., Ernest B., Henry G., Rhoda and Cora E., the others all natives of Nebraska. Ella is the wife of F. S. Hazelton, a real-estate dealer of Norton County, Kan., and the mother of one child, a daughter Edna; Etta married Frank D. Arnot, who has a cattle ranch in Cherry County; they have two children, Pearl, and an infant son Ralf. The other children make their home with their parents. Ella and Etta taught school considerably before their marriage, the former for a period of seven years and the latter five years very successfully.

For a number of years Mr. Quible was largely interested in the cattle business, and engaged in herding at one time from 1,000 to 1,500 head, and had from sixty to 100 of his own. He cast his first vote for John C. Fremont, at the organization of the Republican party, and has since given his earnest support to this party. He has always been interested in the maintenance of schools and churches, and given of his means as he was able for their advancement. Mrs. Quible is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, of which their daughter Rhoda is the organist, being a young lady possessing more than ordinary musical talent. All the children take naturally to music, learn readily and sing with taste. Mrs. Q. has been a teacher in the Sunday-school for some time. Our subject, aside from being a member of the School Board for a period of nine years, has invariably declined official honors, and although elected Justice of the Peace and Assessor several times, he would not consent to serve.

In the view of the Quible homestead which will be found in this connection, are illustrated the diligence and taste which have been exercised in its construction, and which reflect credit upon the proprietor in a most admirable manner. The self-appointed surroundings of an individual are usually a safe index to his character.



**E**DGAR CLAYTON, an early settler of Otoe County, is one of the most extensive farmers in Eastern Nebraska, his landed estates comprising more than 1,000 acres of the richest and most valuable farming land to be found in all the country around; the greater part of it is located in Otoe Precinct, where he has his home, and the remainder is in Nemaha County. It is under high cultivation, is amply supplied with substantial, conveniently arranged farm buildings and all the necessary machinery for conducting agriculture successfully; is well stocked, and, altogether, is considered one of the best managed and most profitable farms in the vicinity.

Mr. Clayton is of English birth and ancestry, Berkshire, England, being his native place, and Suffolkshire that of his father and grandfather, both named Robert. The latter was a farmer, and spent his entire life in his native shire. The father of our subject was reared in the home of his birth, but after marriage removed to Berkshire, and there rented land and engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1868. He then came with his family to America, hoping to better his financial condition. He settled in Otoe Precinct, and in the following year, 1869, died in his new home. The maiden name of his wife, mother of our subject, was Sarah Watts, and she was born in Suffolkshire, England, and was a daughter of Isaac Watts. She survived her husband's death but one month, dying on the home farm. To this worthy couple were born six children, namely: Betsy, Robert, Emma, Edgar, Belle and Ephraim. Betsy and Robert never came to America; Betsy is still living in England, and Robert was in Australia the last time he was heard from. The rest came to America and are all living.

Edgar Clayton was reared until sixteen years of

age in his native county, and was carefully trained by wise parents to a practical, useful life. But he was a lad of more than ordinary energy and ambition, and at that youthful age determined to go forth from his old home to see the world and to seek the fortune that often rewards the venturesome and the daring. The limited space of this biography forbids our following him in the long voyages that he made to many-strange lands in the ensuing years, or to relate the sights and exciting incidents of his travels; we can but give a brief *resume* of the countries that he visited. He first set sail from London for Australia, where he engaged in mining in the interior for seventeen months. He then spent a month in Sydney, and from there went to the island of New Zealand. After a few months' stay there he returned to Australia, and spent a while in the cities of Sydney and Melbourne, whence he went to Hadley. We next hear of him in Van Diemen's Land, and then in King George's Sound. He subsequently visited different parts of the Mauritius Islands, the Cape of Good Hope, St. Vincent, the Madeira Islands, and from thence returned to his old home and friends in England. Four months later he again started on his travels, this time visiting scenes nearer home, going first to Ireland, then to Scotland, from there to France, and then back to England, making the trip in two months. In all his travels he had not visited America, so in 1855 he set out for this country, and after landing in New York City made his way to the western part of the State, and spent the ensuing winter in Honeoye Falls, Genesee County. In the spring he started for the Great West, coming by rail to Iowa City, then the western terminus of the railway, and from there he crossed the State of Iowa, going all that long distance almost wholly on foot to the city of Council Bluffs, then but a small hamlet. He staid there but a short time, and then continued his journey to Sidney, Neb., where he stopped one week before proceeding to Nebraska City, performing the journey between the two places on the back of a pony that he had purchased in the former city. There he found only a small collection of houses, there being, perhaps, less than 100 people living there at that early date. The country round about was in a wild state, being sparsely settled, and In-

dians still lingered about their old haunts. He staid here but a few days, and then began his wanderings again, starting for Kansas, and riding on his pony over the plains of that State about a month. He, however, found no location that pleased him better than Otoe County, and following an Indian trail he returned to this vicinity, and being pleased with the advantageous situation of the site of Otoe Precinct, he decided to settle here, and secured a claim on section 24, the southeast quarter, now included in Otoe Precinct, and when the land came into the market he entered it from the Government at the land-office in Nebraska City. When he first located on it he kept bachelor's establishment in the rude log cabin that he found on the place. Later he erected a frame house, which, in its turn, has given way to the present commodious brick residence in which he and his family make their home. He has also erected a fine frame barn and other necessary buildings. By superior management and untiring industry Mr. Clayton has accumulated a large and valuable property, and he has added to his landed estates until he owns more than 1,000 acres of as good land as the sun ever shone upon.

Mr. Clayton was married, in 1870, to Miss Eleanor Horn, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of James and Ellen Horn. Mrs. Clayton died in 1881, and her family was bereaved of a devoted wife and a loving mother, her neighbors of a kind friend. Two children were born of that marriage, Eleanor and Nettie; they are both students at the State Normal School at Peru, Neb. To his present wife, who so pleasantly dispenses the hospitalities of their charming home, Mr. Clayton was married in 1882. Mrs. Clayton's maiden name was Sarah Church. She is a native of Iowa, and a daughter of Reuben and Lydia (Little) Church. For sketch of her parents see history of Reuben Church.

As will be seen by perusing this sketch, Mr. Clayton possesses a full amount of the ability, enterprise and decision of character that mark the men who have been leaders in the work of developing the marvelous agricultural resources of Nebraska, building up her towns and extending her commercial interests. He is public spirited and takes pride in contributing to the various schemes for the im-

provement of Otoe Precinct and Otoe County. He is open hearted and gives generously of his abundance to the needy. He is a man of wide experience and varied information, sturdy and independent in his views of men and things, and is in his political affiliations a strong Republican. A view of Mr. Clayton's homestead is given on an accompanying page.

**E**DWIN MOORE, a well-to-do English farmer of Russell Precinct, crossed the Atlantic when a young man twenty-one years of age, with no capital save his strong hands and resolute will, determined to carve out for himself a good name among his fellowmen, and a position worthy of the efforts of any honest man. He had been thrown upon his own resources early in life, his mother having died when he was a little lad five years of age, and when a lad of twelve years he commenced the struggle of life on his own account. His career has been one so far of which he need not be ashamed.

Our subject was born in Lincolnshire, England, Jan. 19, 1848, and is the son of William Moore, a native of the same county. The latter married a Miss Gibbons, who was also born in that locality, and they became the parents of five children, namely: Mary A., George, Joseph, Edwin and William, all of whom are in America. Mary, Joseph and William are residents of Lee County, Ill., and George lives in LaSalle County, that State. After the death of the mother, which occurred in 1853, the father of our subject emigrated to the United States, and for four years thereafter resided in New York State, where he was occupied at farming. Thence he changed his residence to LaSalle County, Ill., where he purchased eighty acres of land and carried on farming until his death, which occurred in January, 1886, when he was seventy years of age.

After the death of his mother our subject was taken into the home of his maternal grandfather, and received a limited education in the common school. He remained in England until reaching his majority, and in 1869 set sail from Liverpool, and twelve days later landed in the city of Quebec,

Canada. Thence soon afterward he came into the States, and joining his father in LaSalle County, Ill., employed himself at farm work until the fall of 1877. He had in the meantime saved what he could from his earnings, and purchased a tract of land near his father, upon which he farmed two years. The result of his labors not being entirely satisfactory, he resolved to cross the Mississippi, and coming to this county purchased eighty acres in Russell Precinct, the ownership of which he still retains. He has set out groves and an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides trees of the smaller fruits. Much of his land is enclosed by neat wire fencing, and it is all well watered by running streams. He has been prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, and added 160 acres to his first purchase, having now a fine farm of 240 acres, all under a good state of cultivation. The residence is a neat and substantial structure, while the barn and other out-buildings reflect credit upon the proprietor.

Our subject, while a resident of LaSalle County, Ill., was married, Dec. 4, 1872, to Miss Sarah A., daughter of John and Sarah (Young) Cottew, who was born in that county, Oct. 15, 1853. The parents of Mrs. Moore were natives of County Kent, England, whence they emigrated to America about 1845, and settled in LaSalle County, Ill. They were among the earliest pioneers of that region, and the father, securing a tract of land, carried on farming successfully for a number of years. He became the owner of 240 acres, upon which he erected good buildings, and gathered about him the comforts and conveniences of the modern farmer. He has now retired from active labor, and at the age of seventy years is still living upon the old homestead. The mother died in 1887, aged seventy-three years. Their five children were named respectively: Abram, William, Harriet, Mary A. and Sarah A. William during the late war enlisted in an Illinois regiment, and yielded up his life in the Union cause. The surviving children are residents of the United States.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born seven children, namely: John W., James M., Flora M., Charles H., Nettie, Joseph and Harrison. The eldest of these is thirteen years of age and the youngest is a babe. Mrs. Moore is a very well-

educated and intelligent lady, a first-class house-keeper, and well versed in those little arts which have so much bearing upon the comfort and happiness of a household. The dwelling both within and without is remarkably neat and tidy, and it would seem as if Mr. Moore and his wife were in harmony upon the question of cleanliness and good order.

Mr. Moore cast his first Presidential vote for Grant, and since becoming a naturalized citizen has uniformly supported Republican principles. He has been a member of the School Board in his district for the last five years, and in religious matters belongs to the Episcopal Church. Mrs. Moore is a member of the United Brethren Church.



**G**EORGE W. BOYER, an honored resident of Nebraska City, with a pleasant home beautifully located on Kearney Heights, is a successful and well-to-do farmer, whose farm, lying in Four Mile Precinct, is one of the most valuable in the county. Mr. Boyer was born in Stark County, Ohio, Sept. 9, 1825. His father, Peter Boyer, was born in Pennsylvania, and was there reared and married, Elizabeth Binkley becoming his devoted companion and helpmate. She was likewise a Pennsylvanian by birth and breeding. For some time Mr. Boyer kept a tavern at Sinking Springs, Berks County, and it being before the era of railroads, all transportation was done with teams, and he used to furnish entertainment for the teamsters and their horses.

In 1818, accompanied by his family, Mr. Boyer went down the Ohio River to Ohio, and settled in Stark County, buying there a tract of land. After a residence there of four years he moved to Knox County, and went into the milling business, having purchased a mill for \$1,700, and he operated it to its fullest capacity, night and day, for four years. He found a ready market for the flour that he manufactured near Lake Michigan, shipping it to that point by team. He also established himself in the mercantile business, carrying it on in connection with the mill until 1837, then, selling the

latter for \$4,500, disposed of his other property, and again took up his march for the West.

Mr. Boyer next went by way of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, his family accompanying him; thence up the Missouri River to Independence, then a small place of about 400 inhabitants. He then proceeded with a team to Platte Purchase, and located in that part now included in Buchanan County. The city of St. Joseph had then no existence, there being simply a trading-post on its present site, kept by a French-Canadian named Rubedeux, who had a family in St. Louis, and a large family of Indians at the trading-post. Mr. Boyer and two partners who were employed in the United States land-office tried to buy Rubedeux's claim, and he at last consented to sell, but backed out and laid out the city himself about 1844.

The father of our subject was one of the first to buy a lot, for which he paid \$100, paying for it in wheat at twenty-five cents a bushel. After the city was laid out its growth was quite rapid for those days, and it finally became important as an outfitting post for freighters, who were engaged in drawing freight to the various military posts and settlements in the West. The country was then in a wild state, sparsely settled, and with plenty of wild game, such as deer, turkeys, antelopes, etc. Mr. Boyer made a claim, and soon made arrangements to purchase of the Government 1,600 acres of land, but before he had paid for it he was robbed of his money. In the face of this discouraging fact he did not give way to despair, but with characteristic energy he immediately set about making up the deficit by collecting the money owing him in the county. He took cattle in payment, which he drove all the way to Philadelphia, Pa., and there sold them at a good price. His trip occupied six months, and after his return he entered his land, and built a hewed log house on the place, and at once commenced making improvements. He was extensively engaged in farming there until his death in 1856, at which time Buchanan County, Mo., lost one of its most useful and wide-awake citizens.

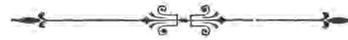
Mr. Boyer was a straightforward man, keen and sharp in his dealings, but always to be found on the side of honesty and right. When he first set-

tled in Buchanan County, Weston, thirty-five miles from St. Joseph, was the nearest market, and there he sold bacon from one to one and one-half cents a pound, oats at seven cents a bushel, wheat at twenty-five cents a bushel, and good three-year-old steers were sold for \$3 or \$4 apiece, the hide being worth more than the live steer. The mother of our subject died on the old homestead in Missouri three years after the death of her husband. They were the parents of twelve children, nine of whom grew to maturity.

George Boyer was a lad of twelve years when he accompanied his parents in their removal to Missouri, and he remembers well the incidents of the pioneer life in that State where he grew to manhood. He attended the schools there, which were conducted on the subscription plan, and in the intervals assisted his father on the farm. At the age of twenty-two our subject left the parental roof to establish a home of his own, his father having given him a tract of unimproved land, part timber and part prairie. His first work was to build a double log house, and to this he brought his bride, formerly Miss Sabina Bowen, a native of Berks County, Pa., and a daughter of Ephraim and Catherine (Coucher) Bowen, to whom he had been united in marriage in August, 1847. Our subject improved the greater part of 315 acres of his land, and continued to reside in Missouri until 1866. But the same pioneer spirit that had moved the father was strong in the son, and in that year he sold all of his property, and sought under the sunny skies and in the genial climate of Nebraska a new home. He came to Nebraska City and bought his present residence on Kearney Heights, and also purchased a farm of 160 acres in Otoe Precinct, residing in his city home, and managing his farm with good results until in 1876, when he sold it, and bought the farm in Four Mile Precinct that he now owns. Since coming to this State he has been very successful in his agricultural ventures, and has a well-managed, well-cultivated and well-stocked farm, from which he obtains a good annual income.

To our subject and his amiable wife have been born six children, all of whom are living, namely: Catherine Ellen, the wife of Hugh L. Hopkins; Edwinna, who married Stephen Lyon; Isabella, the

wife of O. H. Shaw; James I. married Miss Florence Carry, and resides in Denver, Col.; Matilda, the wife of Charles Davidson, and Alice. All, with the exception of Alice, who is a teacher in the public schools of Otoe County, are residents of Denver, Col. The Boyers are gifted with fine physiques, coming of a strong, vigorous and long-lived race, and fourteen grandchildren had been born to our subject and his wife before there was a death in the family. They are all members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and are in high standing in religious and social circles. Mr. Boyer's life record is that of a conscientious, upright Christian, and he is deeply respected by all in the community. He is greatly interested in the political questions of the day, and is, and always has been, a firm Democrat.



**R**OBERT C. ELVIN, M. D., a practicing physician of Nebraska City, was one of the first settlers of Nebraska, having crossed the Missouri River as soon as the Territory was open to settlement. He is one of the leaders in the re-organized Church of Latter-Day Saints, which differs radically in its doctrines from the Mormons of Utah, and he was at one time President of the Southern Nebraska District, and has been one of the most powerful and popular preachers of the sect.

Dr. Elvin is a native of Scotland, Renfrew Parish, in the town of Paisley, being his birthplace, and May 11, 1823, the date of his birth. His father, John Elvin, and his grandfather, Charles Elvin, were also natives of Scotland. The latter was for many years a soldier in the British army, and died in the East Indies while in the service. The father of our subject was born while his parents were with the army, and he was reared amid military scenes until he was quite a boy, when he was sent to Dublin to be educated. From there he went to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend school for a time, and he there devoted his attention to the study of medicine, and after graduation was appointed surgeon in the army. He accompanied his regiment to Spain, and was present at the siege of Cadiz, and also at the battle of Waterloo. Soon after the latter event he

resigned on account of impaired health, and returned to his native Scotland, where he settled in Paisley, and spent his last years. Our subject's father spent his last years in the northern part of Scotland, his death occurring in 1849. The maiden name of his wife was Mary A. Barnett, and she was a native of England and a daughter of John Barnett. She died in Paisley in June, 1823. There were seven children born to her and her husband, three of whom grew to maturity, Robert C. being the only one who ever came to America.

Our subject was but an infant when his mother died, and at the extremely youthful age of seven years he was thrown on his own resources and became self-supporting. At the age of ten he commenced working in a drug-store, and even at that early age he commenced to read medicine with a view of preparing himself for the medical profession, for which even then he displayed a decided talent, having inherited in part his father's genius and temperament. He remained in a drug-store until he was twelve years old, and then, with remarkable enterprise, established himself in the mercantile business, keeping a store with a small stock of goods in Glasgow.

When he was fifteen our subject concluded to try his luck in America, and set sail from Liverpool in January, 1837, and landed in New York after a voyage of seven or eight weeks. There our embryo physician and merchant sought employment in a drug-store, where he was engaged as clerk for eighteen months. He then entered a dry-goods store in the same capacity, and worked there until 1840, when he went back to Scotland, and, in partnership with his brother, carried on the shoe business in the town of Beath, and later went to Irvine and manufactured shoes there. He continued in that business a year and a half. He then joined the Church of Latter-Day Saints, and was soon called to the priesthood, and preached for that society until 1849. In that year he returned to America and located in St. Louis, where he engaged in the upholstery business until the fall of 1851. He then bought land in Council Bluffs, near the city, and engaged in farming, and at the same time practiced medicine. That was in the very early settlement of that section of the country, and there were no

railways west of the Mississippi, all travel being by boats on the river or overland in teams.

The Doctor resided in Iowa until 1854, the year in which the Government made the treaty with the Indians that was signed on the 16th of March, by which they agreed to vacate Eastern Nebraska. Then our subject, with others, crossed the Missouri to look at the country. They staid a short time, and then went back to Iowa, and in May he returned to make a claim in Douglas County, Neb. Our subject cut logs to build a cabin, but was soon obliged to return home on account of sickness in his family, and while he was gone his claim was jumped. The Doctor then went to Cass County and made a claim on the bank of the Weeping Water, the land still belonging to the Government, and not an acre of it surveyed. He built a log house on his land, and in the spring of 1855 moved his family there. He entered the land from the Government as soon as it came into the market, and lived on it until 1859, when he sold it, and in November of that year came to Nebraska City. He immediately established himself in the general merchandising business, which he continued with good success for eighteen years. In 1869 he was burned out at a loss of about \$12,000 above the insurance. But, with his usual energy and courage, he at once re-established himself, and carried on his business until 1874, when he disposed of it very advantageously.

Our subject had severed his relations with the Church of Latter-Day Saints in 1852, because he did not believe in the doctrine as preached and practiced at Salt Lake City, but in 1866 he joined the Reorganized Church of Latter-Day Saints, and has been prominently identified with it since. He was made President of the Southern Nebraska District, and after settling up his business affairs he traveled extensively and established churches in different places, and also practiced as a physician. In 1880, desiring to perfect his knowledge of medicine, already considerable, he became a student at the School of Medicine at Omaha, and threw himself into his studies with all the ardor and interest of youth. He attended there one year, and then, on the organization of the Omaha Medical College, enrolled himself as a pupil in that institution, and

studied there two terms. He thus became thoroughly conversant with the most advanced methods of practicing medicine, and to-day ranks high among his professional brethren. When we consider that this was the step of a man already past the meridian of life, for he was fifty-seven years old when he became a student, an age when many men who have been successful in business are thinking of retiring to a life of ease, we have no words in which to express our admiration of such force of character and indomitable will. After leaving college our subject opened an office in Omaha, and was busily engaged in practicing his profession there for three years. At the end of that time he returned to Nebraska City, and then for a time with his wife he traveled East and West, and saw much of his adopted country. In 1887 he re-opened his office here, and has been in active practice since.

Dr. Elvin was married, March 16, 1845, to Martha Baird, a native of County Monaghan, Ireland, and of Scotch and English parentage. Of their marriage eight children have been born, five of whom are now living, as follows: Robert resides in Lamoni, Iowa, and is a preacher in the Latter-Day Saints' Church; Elizabeth is at home with her parents; John lives in St. Paul, Minn.; Martha is the wife of Fred Borstram, and lives in Nebraska City; Walter A. also lives in this city.

Our subject, in his double capacity of physician and preacher, does all that lies in his power to allay the suffering and sin in this world. In him the weak, the unfortunate and the down-trodden find a steadfast friend, and he has done much to elevate such and bring them to a higher life. The Doctor is identified with the A. F. & A. M., and is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2.



**B**ENJAMIN F. HAYWARD, who for many years has been identified with the business interests of Nebraska City as a contractor and builder, is the son of David and Loretia (Chapman) Hayward, both of whom were born in the State of New York. Upon their marriage his parents settled in Essex County in that State, and there our subject was born Feb. 5, 1819.

His father died in the year 1834, when forty-five years of age, and his mother in the same year, at the age of thirty-five years. Their family included seven children, four of whom were boys.

The grandfather of our subject, Ephraim Hayward, was born in England. He came to this country and served in the Revolutionary Army when about sixteen years of age, and was a drum major in Washington's first regiment, continuing in the service throughout the war. His son David, the father of our subject, took an honorable part in the War of 1812, and afterward enjoyed no little prosperity in the business which he made his chosen occupation, viz, that of carpenter and lumberman. He went to Essex County, N. Y., with his parents at the time they established the pioneer colony of the county.

The subject of our sketch was about fifteen years of age when his parents died, leaving him almost entirely alone to struggle in a world that affords little help to the oppressed and helpless, even under the most favorable circumstances. He immediately looked around in a hopeful and self-reliant spirit for some employment, and was engaged to work by the month at farming, at the rate of \$6 per month. Up to that time our subject had been attending school, but until he was eighteen he found no opportunity for continuing his education, but at that time he spent eight months in a private school, and crowded into that period all the hard study and faithful work possible.

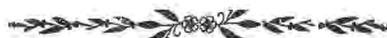
The marriage of our subject was celebrated in 1842, the lady of his choice being Vienna Reynolds, of New York State. It was their happiness to enjoy this companionship for but the short period of eighteen months, when the bonds were severed by her death. After this bereavement he determined to go West, and accordingly found his way to Johnson County, Ill., and there followed his business as a carpenter, and also dealing in real estate.

In the spring of 1846 Mr. Hayward enlisted in the United States Army for the Mexican War, and became a member of Company F, 2d Illinois Infantry. The enlistment was followed by the necessary preparation of drilling at Alton, when they were sent to the front, and went to San Antonio, Tex. The Mexicans were met at Buena Vista in a terrible con-

flict, and there, as on other fields, he earned for himself a name that has not yet been forgotten, as a true soldier, gallant, intrepid and fearless.

Receiving an honorable discharge in 1847, our subject returned to Illinois. The following year he entered married life a second time, being united with Miss Elizabeth Chapman, a native of New York State. They made their home in Illinois for about nine years, until 1857. Then with his wife and children he came West, making the entire journey by means of wagons and teams. The following children have been born to our subject, viz: William J., who died in infancy; Benjamin F., Jr., George, Sarah L., Samuel J. and Elizabeth. The two latter are now deceased. Benjamin F. is a carpenter and builder, of Nebraska City; George is engaged in business in San Francisco; Sarah L. is at home. In 1862 the wife and mother departed this life, thus leaving him a second time bereaved.

Among the first work done by Mr. Hayward in Nebraska City was the erection of the Morton House, and also the residence of Gen. Coe. These were but the beginning of a business success that reflects the greatest possible credit upon our subject. In politics he has ever been stanch and true as a Democrat. He has watched the course of thirteen Presidential campaigns, including two campaigns during the time that Nebraska was yet a Territory. It is doubtful if in the county there is any citizen more truly esteemed and respected than the subject of this sketch. His life and character are such as to command such sentiments, and he is generally admired as one whose long life, which has been uniformly honorable and upright, deserves the entire confidence and regard of the community.



**C**HARLES WEATHERHOGG, a man standing high in his community, and the subject of a very interesting history, owns and occupies one of the most valuable homesteads in Palmyra Precinct, comprising 160 acres of land on section 17. Conspicuous among its improvements is the large and valuable orchard which he set out in the spring of 1873, and which now yields annually hundreds of bushels of most luscious fruit. He also

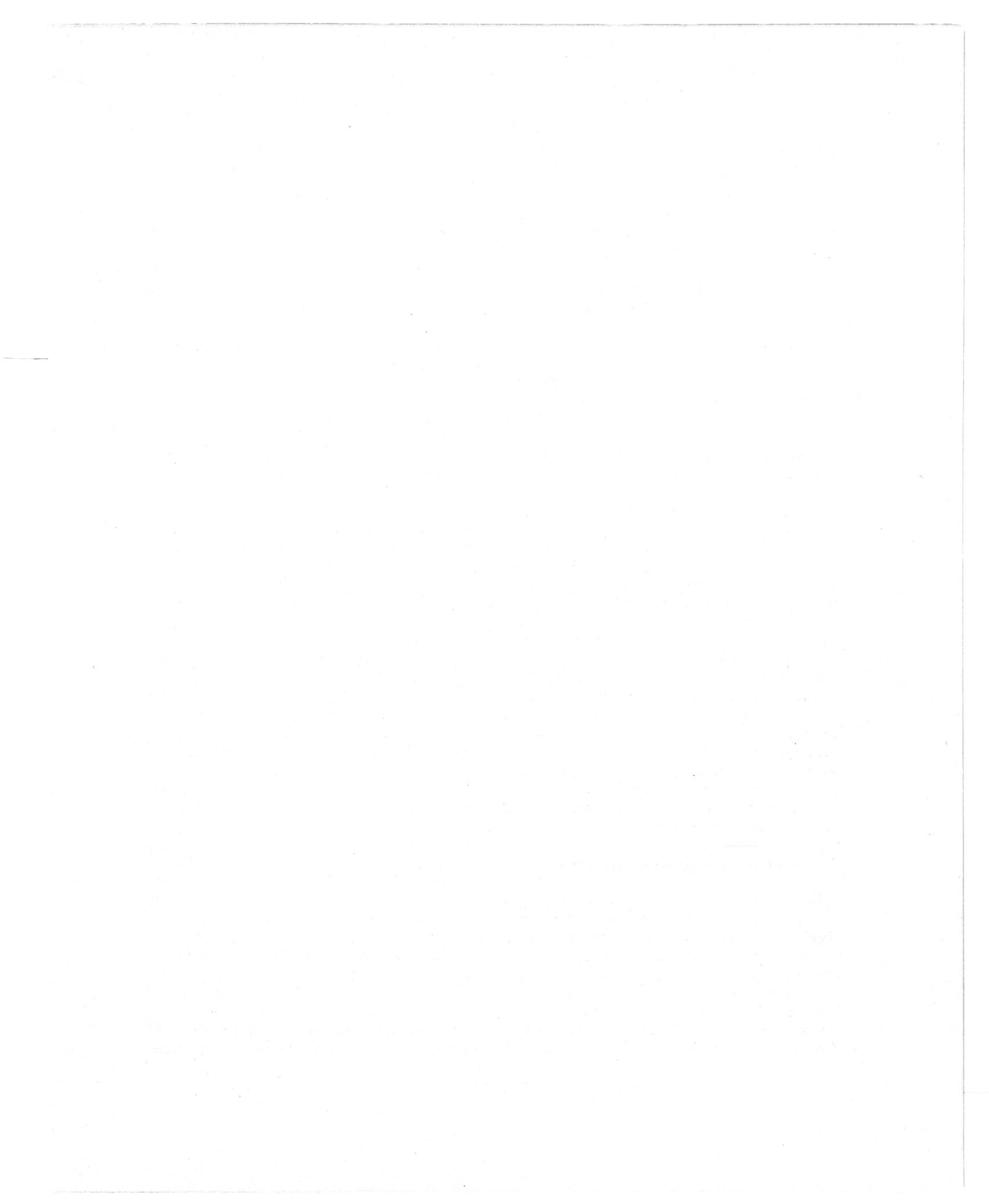
has the smaller fruits in abundance, and the groves of cottonwood, maple and other forest trees, planted by the hand of thrift and industry, serve as a shelter to man and beast from the heat of summer and the blasts of winter. The farm of late years has been devoted largely to stock-raising. Mr. W. makes a specialty of Poland-China swine, and in this line exhibits some of the finest animals in the county. All his agricultural operations are carried on in that methodical manner which has been the secret of his success and laid the foundations of a competence.

The eldest child of John and Ann (Coates) Weatherhogg, our subject was born in Lincolnshire, England, Nov. 21, 1823. His parents were natives of the same county, and the father, a farmer by occupation, died in 1843, at the age of forty-eight years. The mother survived her husband a period of forty-three years, and died in 1886, aged eighty-five. She was married a second time, to Joshua Gresham. By the first marriage she became the mother of six children, five sons and one daughter.

Our subject received but a limited education, and remained a resident of his native shire until a man of twenty-seven years. In the spring of 1850 he resolved upon a change of location, and accordingly, accompanied by friends, set sail from Liverpool about the 20th of May. The 4th of July following found him in the city of Albany, N. Y., whence he repaired to Dansville, expecting there to meet relatives and remain for a time. The relatives, however, had embraced the Mormon faith, and this not being agreeable to Mr. Weatherhogg, he quickly parted company with them and hastened back to Rochester, in the vicinity of which he was engaged in farming and butchering for two or three years.

Our subject in the meantime had made the acquaintance of Miss Rose Stinson, to whom he was married in October, 1852. This lady was born in Canada, and departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, May 15, 1881. They had in the meantime removed from the Empire State to Illinois, settling near the embryo town of Mendota, where Mr. W. engaged in farming on rented land for a period of ten years.

In the spring of 1863 our subject started with his family for Pike's Peak, accompanied by his broth-





*Yours Truly*  
*J. H. Masters*

ers William and Thomas. From Mendota they made their way by wagons to the mountains, and arrived in Gilpin County, Col., seven weeks later, where our subject engaged in mining and prospecting. From the first he realized very good results, but the latter incurring heavy expenditures rather offset his profits. He, however, saved some money, and in 1870, seeking once more the bounds of civilization came to this county, and located upon the land which he now occupies. It was then in an uncultivated state, and two years passed away before he succeeded in raising any crops. In 1874-75 he suffered like his neighbors from grasshoppers, chink bugs and drouth, but the men of those days seemed to possess more than ordinary courage and perseverance, and Mr. Weatherhogg was not lacking in any of these qualities.

Mr. Weatherhogg contracted a second marriage, with Miss Nina Conger, in Bureau County, Ill. Her parents, Calvin and Aranda (Horton) Conger, were natives of Syracuse, N. Y., and are now residing in Illinois.



**H**ON. JAMES HARRIS MASTERS, the pioneer nurseryman of Nebraska, occupies an honorable place among the able, energetic and enterprising men who reclaimed this part of the country from the "Great American Desert," and helped to give it its present proud position among its sister States as a great and prosperous commonwealth, whose wonderful growth and development have excited the marvel and admiration of the world. Mr. Masters came here in December, 1854, shortly after Nebraska had been organized as a Territory, and since that time he has been closely identified with its best interests. He engaged first at his trade as carpenter, and worked on the second brick building ever erected in Nebraska City. The Territory was at that time a reservation of the Indians, and there were but very few white inhabitants in any part of it, it being a wild, unsettled country, the hunting-ground of the red men, where they chased the buffaloes, the deer, antelopes and other wild game. In 1854 he bought a claim which is included in his present farm, the

northeast quarter of section 21, Four Mile Precinct, three miles from the court-house in Nebraska City, and as soon as the land came into the market in 1857 he entered it at the land-office in Nebraska City. In March, 1855, he commenced to remove his fruit trees from his nursery in Atchison County, Mo., and on the 16th of the month set out the first apple trees ever planted in the South Platte country, and, doubtless, the first in Nebraska. At that time his sales were few and slow, as the settlers were not many in numbers and were scattering, and their financial condition was such that they were unable to buy trees; but he gradually established his business on a sure foundation, his trade increased and extended further West, and in after years became very profitable, so that he became one of the leading nurserymen of the State. He is now closing out his nursery business. He is a prominent member of the State Horticultural Society, which was organized at the first Territorial Fair which was held in Otoe County in 1864. He holds a life membership in the society, and was its first President, serving in that capacity for eight years, and it is largely due to his zeal, influence and rare judgment that it has proved such a valuable auxiliary to the agricultural interests of Nebraska. His aid and counsel have been sought in the administration of public affairs, and as a member of the State Legislature in 1872, when he served as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and of the committee that had charge of the railway and public land interests of the State, the ripe wisdom and sound common sense that characterized his views on important questions favorably impressed his fellow legislators, and bore much weight in their decisions.

Mr. Masters was born Aug. 15, 1819, in Warren County, Ky., ten miles from Bowling Green, and four miles south of Shakertown. His father, Richard C. Masters, was born in Orange County, N. Y., and his grandfather, Richard Masters, was a native of England, and was there reared and married to a Miss Campbell, a native of Scotland. They came to America in Colonial times, and with them a brother, and settled in New Jersey. The grandfather of our subject lived in that State for a time, and then moved to Orange County, N. Y., and was

a pioneer there. At the breaking out of the Revolution he immediately entered into the service of the Colonists, and throughout the entire conflict was an active and efficient soldier. He was a bearer of dispatches, and received for his pay continental script, which depreciated until it was of no value. He was a wagon-maker, and had a shop on his farm in which he did repairs when not engaged in agricultural pursuits. Directly after the war he removed to Virginia, but it is not known where he first located in that State. He subsequently settled in Greenbrier County, where he had bought a tract of land. In 1808 he left Virginia for Kentucky, the removal being made with teams, and he became a pioneer of Warren County. He was quite well along in years, and made his home in that State with his son Charles until his death.

The father of our subject was a young man when his parents went to Virginia, and he accompanied them, and there met and married Agnes Cochran, a native of the State. He learned the trade of wagon-maker from his father, and removed with him to Kentucky in 1808. He bought a tract of land in Warren County on which was a log cabin, and in that humble dwelling the subject of this sketch was born. There were a few acres of the land broken, and Mr. Masters erected a log building for a shop, and worked at his trade in connection with farming. The life that he and his family led there was the most primitive imaginable, as they were pioneers in a pioneer country. The mother had to do her cooking by the fireplace as she had no stove, and she used to spin and weave wool, cotton and flax, carding all the wool and cotton by hand, and for years she made all the cloth used in the family, to say nothing of making it up into clothes. In 1828 the father of our subject rented his place, and removed to Illinois, his family and household goods being conveyed in two wagons drawn by two yokes of oxen and one pair of horses. He settled at Springfield, Sangamon County, which was then only a small village, before the location of the capital there. He entered eighty acres of Government land, which is now included within the city limits. He built a log house, and resided there until 1835, when he sold and moved to Bureau County, Ill., and was a pioneer there, settling nine

miles northeast of Princeton, where he made a claim, and as soon as the Government threw the land on the market, entered it at the land-office in Galena. There were then no railways in the State, and Chicago, 110 miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Masters improved a farm, and resided on it until 1853, and then made his home with his son, a few miles distant, until 1860, when he removed to Minnesota, and died at Waterford in that State, in the fall of 1861, at the home of his son Robert. Thus, at a ripe old age, after an honorable and useful life, he was gathered to his fathers. His amiable and devoted wife had preceded him in death, in 1856, at their home in Princeton, Ill. There were nine children born of their marriage, of whom the following six grew to maturity: Robert, John; Elvina, wife of T. J. Cole; our subject; Archer C. and William H.

James Masters, of whom we write, was nine years old when his parents moved to Illinois, and remembers well the incidents of the journey, and of the pioneer life there. He worked in the shop with his father, and having a natural aptitude for mechanics became very handy with tools, and at the age of eighteen commenced to learn the carpenter's trade, which he followed in Illinois until 1853. In that year he moved to Atchison County, Mo., his intention being to cross the river to Nebraska (which at that time was an unorganized Territory and an Indian reservation) as soon as the Indian titles to the land should be abrogated by the Government, and start a nursery. So during his residence in Atchison County, Mo., he grew seedlings and root grafts for that purpose, and in December, 1854, as before stated, came to Nebraska City to make his future home in Otoe County, and we have already noted how he has prospered in his undertakings.

Mr. Masters has been three times married. First in 1844, April 10, to Miss Ann E. Pierce, who was born in New Hampshire, Sept. 27, 1826, and died Oct. 19, 1846, leaving one child, Abbie E., now the wife of William Harrison Wilson, of Lincoln. The second marriage of our subject was to Elizabeth Keiser, July 4, 1847. She was born May 28, 1825, and died June 9, 1861. Four children were born of that union, three of whom are now living, namely:

Josephine E., wife of Albert Sarnes, of Jefferson County, Neb.; James William, who lives in Lincoln; and Alice L., wife of David O. Tait, of Otoe County. Mr. Masters was married to his present wife June 3, 1863. Her maiden name was Susan M. Cramer, and she was born in Brown County, Ohio, June 24, 1831. For the history of her parents, B. D. and Calista (Granger) Cramer, see sketch of B. D. Tait. Mrs. Masters had been previously married before her union with our subject. Her first marriage, which took place Feb. 26, 1852, was to Edward Beyette, a native of Montreal, Canada. He came to the "States" at nineteen years of age, and settled in Ohio in the village of Boston, where he was engaged as a painter until his death, May 31, 1860. Mrs. Masters had three children by that marriage, only one of whom is now living, Doughty Cramer, a farmer, who resides near Syracuse, Neb. After her husband's death Mrs. Masters sold her home in the village of Boston, and in the spring of 1862 came to Nebraska City and located. One child has been born to our subject and his wife, Charles L., who was born April 4, 1864, and died May 3, 1878. Mr. and Mrs. Masters are influential members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he has been Trustee and Steward for many years.

Mr. Masters is a man of great intelligence, is well read, and is considered an authority on horticulture, to which he has devoted years of study. This brief record will show that he is a good citizen, and he is, moreover, thoroughly respected for his high character, and we take pleasure in presenting his portrait in the galaxy of portraits of leading citizens of Otoe County given in this ALBUM.



**E**RNEST D. GARROW is widely and favorably known throughout the eastern part of the county for his energy and fine business capacities. He has seen much of life on the frontier, having come to the West during the early settlement of this county, landing in Nebraska Territory on the 3d of April, 1859, when a boy eight years of age. During his youth and early manhood he attained a close acquaintance with farming pursuits,

and entered upon a successful career, which has wound up with a good business as a live-stock commission merchant, being connected with the firm of Savage & Green, commission merchants of South Omaha.

Our subject comes of one of the best nationalities on the face of the earth, his parents, David and Margaret (McDonald) Garrow, having been born in Scotland, where the father was a farmer in good circumstances, and where the family lived until about 1854. Then, selling out, David Garrow emigrated to Canada, but within the space of six weeks suffered the loss of his wife and three children. Not long afterward, turning his back upon the scenes of so much affliction, he came over into the States, locating in LaSalle County, Ill., with his remaining motherless children, and farmed there upon a tract of unimproved land for a period of two years. At the expiration of that time he crossed the Mississippi, and spent his last days in Otoe County, Neb. The brothers and sisters of our subject were named respectively: Peter, James, David, Alex, John, Isabel and Elizabeth. Peter, James and John died in Canada.

Mr. Garrow who, like his parents, also first opened his eyes in the "land of the thistle," is a native of Aberdeenshire, his birth taking place Feb. 17, 1851, and, although less than three years old when leaving his native hills, he has a distinct recollection of the stone mansion which sheltered his infant head, and the barns adjacent, also built of stone, and the air of plenty which pervaded the whole. He also remembers the sea dogs, whose heads frequently appeared above the water during the voyage across the Atlantic. His mother's family, the McDonalds, were people of wealth and prominence, as was likewise the father of our subject, but the latter hoped to still better himself on the soil of America. From the loss of his wife and children he never fully recovered, and it was an event which shadowed not only the subsequent life of the father, but that of his son, our subject.

Mr. Garrow, of this sketch, studied his first lessons in LaSalle County, Ill., but upon coming to Nebraska his education was sadly neglected, as there were no schools near the pre-emption claim upon which the father had settled. He was very

ambitious, however, remarkably industrious, and always aspiring to something better in the future. At the early age of thirteen years he left home, and engaged with the firm of Smith & Galbraith to drive an ox-team and wagon, loaded with provisions, principally corn, meats and bacon, to Ft. Smith, on the Big Horn River. They started out in the spring of 1866, and arrived at their destination six months later. Upon returning our subject found that his father was dead, and the family living in Nebraska City. In April of 1866 Mr. Garrow went with a train to Ft. Laramie, and was at that point at the time of the massacre, when, within the space of an hour, ninety soldiers and three citizens were killed by the Indians. Subsequently he engaged in many skirmishes with the Indians in journeying from Ft. Laramie to the Sweetwater mines, near the present site of South Pass City. He thereafter followed teaming through the mountains for a period of seven years, when for the most time his only shelter was the firmament of heaven, his couch the ground and his covering a blanket. For about two years he traveled in Wyoming, having for his companion during this time Frank Wheeling, who is now with Buffalo Bill as his steward.

In the winter of 1867 Mr. Garrow engaged with Antoine Reynolds, a man who had dealt with the Indians for a period of forty-three years, and who was at one time a member of the old American Fur Company. He at this time operated the Cold Springs Trading Ranch on the North Platte, twenty-two miles below Ft. Laramie. While in his employ Mr. Garrow became familiar with the Sioux language, a knowledge of which afterward served to save his life on several occasions. One day he went to Ft. Laramie for the purpose of obtaining provisions, riding a pony. Upon his return, in crossing a deep gully with his pony and provisions, he was suddenly confronted by a band of thirteen bucks, whom he saw at once were bent on plunder, if not murder. They were decorated in their war regalia, and the situation for our subject was alarming, but he soon regained his self-possession, and addressing them in their own language, invited them to go to his own fireplace and share his evening repast. To this they consented, and all rode to the ranch together, a distance of seven miles. After partaking of an

evening meal they departed in peace. In the fall of 1868 Mr. Garrow made a solemn vow, that, if Providence would pardon him for ever associating with the Sioux, he would forever abandon their country. He consequently set out for the Sweetwater mines in Wyoming, where he spent some time, and was quite successful in his operations there. Afterward he was employed by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in hauling timber for the construction of a branch road, and when this contract was ended made his way to Salt Lake City, where he sojourned two months. Thence he went to Montana, where he spent in that Territory and Idaho two or three years, and in the fall of 1871 we find him in Pioche, Nev. There he placed his money in the hands of a commission broker to be invested in a silver mine, but the broker absconded, and our subject suffered a loss of \$10,000.

Mr. Garrow continued in Nevada from 1871 until 1876, engaged in prospecting and mining in different parts of the Territory, and developed several paying mines, with results similar to that described by Tourjee in his "Fool's Errand," spending much time and a large amount of money at almost a total loss.

After this our subject started out on horseback from Nevada to Washington Territory, and traveled in that manner through Oregon and California, and in fact through nearly all of the country on the Pacific Slope. Upon returning eastward he struck Nebraska City on the 29th of October, 1879, not, however, with the intention of staying. A few months later he entered the employ of Gen. Coe, as superintendent of his ranch at Humboldt, Nev., where he occupied himself four months. He was homesick, however, for a better civilization, and, returning to Nebraska City, prepared to engage in the mercantile and stock business. There was at the same time another attraction which drew him to this point, namely, a most estimable young lady, Miss Addie Lane, to whom he was married Sept. 5, 1880. This lady was born in Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 9, 1860, and is the daughter of J. C. Lane, who with his wife was a native of Virginia; they are now living in Nebraska. They came to Nebraska when their daughter Addie was a young girl of thirteen years, and she completed her edu-

cation in its schools, remaining with her parents until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. G. have since lived in Nebraska City, and have become the parents of two sons and a daughter—Alexander Wayne, Wesley Claude and Mamie.

Our subject, in 1879, entered into partnership with his brother Alex, and they still operate together. The latter is a resident of the city of Lincoln. Mr. Garrow has always had great faith in the future of both Nebraska City and his adopted State, but his interests naturally center mostly in the former. He has been a man prompt to meet his obligations, and stands high in the business community, his transactions aggregating \$100,000 annually. He has valuable property on Fourth avenue, consisting of a good residence and grounds, and is interested in other real estate in the city. Politically, he terms himself a "flat-footed" Republican, that is, he allows nothing to swerve him from his support of the principles which preserved the Union. Socially, he belongs to Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., where he is prominent among the brethren and in which he has done good service. His excellent wife is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church.



**A**DAM SPRINGMAN, of Palmyra Precinct, is very pleasantly situated in life, having a fine homestead, a competency and a household in which he finds his chief enjoyment. The latter is presided over by a very estimable and capable lady of sterling worth, who looks well to her domestic affairs, and possesses those qualities which go so far toward making up the sum of satisfaction and enjoyment within the precincts of home. Although not elegant, the home of the Springmans is replete with all needful comforts, and it has often been noted that in these quiet and unpretentious households more often exists true happiness than in many of those where splendor and luxury abound.

Mr. Springman, during the earlier years of his life, was a resident of Stephenson County, Ill., and identified with its early history. Upon the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in Company G, 46th Illinois Infantry, and during the vicissitudes

of army life marched through the States of Missouri, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, and was also at Mobile, Ala. After a faithful and patriotic service of two years he was mustered out at Baton Rouge, La., in February, 1866.

Our subject was the eighth child of his parents, and was born in Lycoming County, Pa., Nov. 4, 1836. He was reared as a farmer's boy, and at an early period in his life he was trained to those habits of industry which he has preserved to the present time, and which have been the secret of his success in life. Upon approaching manhood he learned the trade of carpenter, and remained at home in Pennsylvania until the spring of 1859. Thence he emigrated to Freeport, Ill., about the time of the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad through Central Illinois, where he followed his trade, and in the fall of 1862 was first married, to Miss Sarah A. Lauck, whose home was in the vicinity of Rock Grove, Stephenson County. This lady died while our subject was in the army, in October, 1864. Of their union there was born one child, a son, Harvey F., who married Miss Anna Tanner, and is the father of a son, Edward A. He is living in Otoe County, and engaged in farming.

Mr. Springman, on the 25th of September, 1866, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Rebecca E. Sidles, who was born in Somerset, Pa., and is the daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Zorn) Sidles, who were natives of Pennsylvania; the father is now deceased, and Mrs. Sidles makes her home with her daughter, wife of our subject. Mrs. Springman was the sixth in a family of nine children, four sons and five daughters, and was born July 16, 1844.

Catharine Sidles, wife of Daniel Sidles, deceased, was born Sept. 5, 1805, in Berlin, Somerset Co., Pa. Her father's name was Charles Zorn, who lived to the age of sixty-five years; he was married to Barbary Wiant, who lived to the age of sixty-eight. Their union was blessed with eleven children, seven of whom survived their parents. Catharine Sidles was confirmed, and united with the German Reformed Church at the age of fourteen, was converted at a camp meeting in Somerset County, Pa., at the age of thirty, and united with the Evangelical Church, of which she remained a faithful member until the

year 1875. There being no class of that church in Dakota, Ill., where she then lived, she united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and has proved a consistent member of that church. She was united in the bonds of matrimony, March 26, 1828, at the age of twenty-two, to Daniel Sidles. They were blessed with nine children, all of whom survived their father, he being the first to break the ties of the family. Daniel Sidles, her husband, was a blacksmith, and worked at his trade in Somerset County until 1854, when they moved to Illinois and settled on a farm of eighty acres two miles south-east of Dakota, where they lived until 1867, when they sold this farm and bought twenty acres adjoining the village of Dakota. They built a comfortable dwelling, and lived there happily together until December, 1879, when her husband was removed by death, to join the angelic host above.

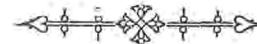
“DIED.—At his home in Dakota, Ill., Dec. 19, 1879, Daniel Sidles, aged seventy-two years, nine months and twelve days. He was born in Dauphin County, Pa., but mostly reared in Somerset County. He was married to Catharine Zorn in 1828, with whom he lived happily until his death. They have lived in Stephenson County twenty-five years. Forty years ago he was ‘born again,’ and has since shown Jesus’ power to keep. He was not able to lie down for more than a year, and his sufferings were intense, yet his soul triumphed over pain, and God was ‘an ever present help.’ He feared the Lord and walked in His ways, and saw ‘his children’s children and peace upon Israel.’ He was buried Sunday, the 23d. George H. Wells, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, his pastor, preached at his request from the 128th Psalm. He leaves a wife, four sons and five daughters, the father being the first to break the family ranks. The old settlers and their families turned out largely, and many wept, as memories past and prospects future passed in visions before them. ‘Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.’”

Mr. and Mrs. Springman continued residents of Stephenson County, Ill., until the spring of 1875, when they came to this county, and Mr. S. soon afterward purchased eighty acres of land, which is now included in his present farm. He had only \$800 in money, and in the building up of his homestead commenced upon an uncultivated tract with

few implements or other conveniences. He was prospered, however, and in due time added to his real estate, and gradually abandoning his operations as a tiller of the soil, turned his attention to the easier and more lucrative business of a stock-raiser. He usually keeps a herd of sixty-five head of cattle, besides horses and swine. A man honest and fearless in the expression of his opinions, he gives his support to the Democratic party, and has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, otherwise than serving as Assessor and in the minor positions in his precinct, which it is important should be filled by competent men.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Springman are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to which Mr. S. has contributed liberally, and is a Trustee. Socially, as an ex-soldier, he belongs to the G. A. R., of Palmyra. He is the father of three children by his present wife—John D., Clayton I. and Estella C.

The parents of our subject, John and Agnes (Stull) Springman, were natives of Pennsylvania, the former of whom died at the age of sixty-one years, in January, 1861, at his home in Pennsylvania. The mother survived her husband twelve years, spending her last years with her son Fred, in Pennsylvania, and passed away in 1873, at the advanced age of seventy-five. The paternal grandfather, Mesias Springman, was a native of Germany, and crossing the Atlantic during his early manhood, settled in Lycoming County, Pa., where he carried on farming and spent the remainder of his days. The hereditary traits of his character, honesty, industry, and his unostentatious manner of living, were transmitted in a marked degree to his descendants.



**J**OSEPH SAUNDERS, one of the very first settlers of Palmyra Precinct, came to the present site of the city of Hendricks as early as 1857, eleven years before the Territory of Nebraska was admitted to the Union as a State. He took up a homestead claim on the South Branch of the Nemaha, and here he has since lived. He improved a valuable farm from the wilderness, and

is numbered among the most enterprising men of the county. He avails himself of the latest improved machinery, has a substantial and commodious dwelling, ample barns and other out-buildings, a choice assortment of live stock, and everything indicating the modern and progressive agriculturist. While uniformly successful in his business and farming transactions he was most fortunate in the selection of a wife and helpmate, Mrs. Saunders being a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, a thorough and careful housekeeper, and fully alive to all those little details which make home the most attractive spot on earth, and conduce to the happiness and comfort of the family. The homestead presents one of the pleasantest pictures of rural life, where peace and plenty reign, and upon which Providence has smiled in an unusual manner.

The family history of our subject is in its main points as follows: His father, Thomas Saunders, was born near Bowling Green, in Virginia, in 1804. The paternal grandfather was of English descent, and served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He spent his last years in Pennsylvania. The mother of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Leah Hudson, and the parents were married in the Old Dominion. Shortly afterward they emigrated to the vicinity of what is now Etna, Ohio, where he worked as a carpenter, and also by degrees converted a tract of timber land into a good farm. A man of strong anti-slavery principles, he concluded to leave his native State on account of his hatred of that peculiar institution. From Ohio, in 1848, he removed to Jackson County, Iowa, where he purchased a half-section of land, and subsequently added to it forty acres more. He continued there until the death of the mother, which took place in 1875, when she was seventy-six years old—the same age as her own mother at the time of her decease.

After the death of his wife Thomas Saunders retired from active labor, and made his home with his sons in Chautauqua County, Kan., where his death took place in 1876. Both parents were members in good standing of the Baptist Church. They had a family of eight children, viz: John; David, deceased; Jackson, Washington; Joseph, our subject; Isaac and Mary, deceased, and Sam-

uel. The latter during the late war served as a Union soldier in an Iowa regiment under the command of Gen. Grant. He is now living in Crawford County, Kan.

The subject of this sketch was born in Greenfield County, Ohio, Feb. 24, 1835, and remained on the farm of his father until reaching his majority. The second school-house in which he pursued his studies was built of hewn logs and plank, and he attended school mostly in the winter season, assisting in the labors of the farm during the summer. He remained at home a year after reaching his majority, and then in the spring of 1857 started for the West with a yoke of oxen, crossing the principal streams on a flatboat, and a month later found himself in this county. At that day there was not even a steam ferry. He crossed the Missouri River at the present site of Nebraska City, on the 10th of March, and a week later selected the land which comprises a part of his present homestead. He built the first fence in this section of the country, and constructed a dwelling of logs for his first shelter. The fine grove of cottonwood trees which stands adjacent to the present residence has grown from the sprouts which Mr. Saunders pulled up along the Missouri River bottom with his own hands. Besides these he has a fine orchard of 300 trees, and other fruit and shade trees in abundance, all planted by himself. It is hardly necessary to say that he watched the growth of these with fatherly solicitude, and his retrospection over a period of thirty years has been in the main a very pleasant one. Game at that time was very plentiful, elk and deer being abundant within a radius of thirty miles. Mr. Saunders was present at the first burial in Hendricks Precinct, and assisted in making the coffin.

The lady who has been the companion of our subject for a period of over thirty years became his wife July 10, 1856, the wedding taking place at her home in Jackson County, Iowa. Her maiden name was Louisa Hendricks. She was born in Delaware County, Ind., Nov. 16, 1835, and is the daughter of George B. and Sicily (Thompson) Hendricks, who were natives of Kentucky and Virginia respectively, and spent their lives in Nebraska. A sketch of them will be found elsewhere

in this volume. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born thirteen children, two of whom, Melissa and George, died, aged six months and five years respectively. The others are: Albert, deceased; Laureta, Arminta C., Margareta, Joseph, Charlotte, Mary L.; Janette, deceased; James, Norah and Jennie. They are now mostly residents of Nebraska. Mr. Saunders in earlier life supported the Republican party, but his warm interest in the temperance cause led him later to array himself on the side of the Prohibitionists. He was three times chosen as a delegate to the Republican conventions, and has always been a busy, wide awake man, giving his support and encouragement to the enterprises calculated for the best good of the people. He was at one time identified with the South Branch Grange, and both he and Mrs. Saunders have for many years been active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Hendricks, in which Mr. S. officiates as Class-Leader. It is hardly necessary to say that they are known throughout the greater portion of the county, and they open hospitable doors to hosts of friends.



**F** W. FRENZEL. The thrifty and industrious German element has made itself felt largely in the Great West, and in no section has it accomplished more admirable results than in Southern Nebraska. The subject of this sketch is one of the finest representatives of his nationality, and owns a valuable farm of 240 acres on section 19, in Wyoming Precinct, and 193 acres in Berlin Precinct. This he brought up from an uncultivated condition, has tilled the soil to the best advantage, and effected the improvements naturally suggested to the modern and enterprising agriculturist.

Mr. Frenzel has been in possession of the homestead which he now occupies since the spring of 1872. He first purchased eighty acres, and subsequently added a quarter-section, and has effected all the improvements which have made it one of the most valuable estates in this part of Otoe County. His family consists of an intelligent and estimable wife and six children, namely: Mary,

Edwin, Richard, Louisa, Gertrude and Bismark. Three other children died in infancy. The survivors are bright and intelligent, the eldest fifteen years of age and the youngest two.

The Province of Schlesien, Prussia, contained the early home of our subject, where he was born beneath the modest roof of his parents, Nov. 19, 1848. The latter were Traugott and Christina (Donad) Frenzel, who were of pure German ancestry, and natives of the same Province as their son. The father carried on farming in a limited manner, but in the spring of 1872 resolved to seek his fortunes in America, having been persuaded to this step by some of his elder children who had already emigrated. Coming directly to Nebraska, he established himself on eighty acres of land in Wyoming Precinct, where, with his excellent wife, he is still living. They are aged seventy-five and fifty-eight respectively, and are people generally respected by their neighbors, while they have for many years been devout members of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was the eldest of seven children, three sons and four daughters comprising the parental family, and in common with the youth of Germany was carefully educated, and received that home training which prepared him for the future duties of life. After leaving school he learned the trade of a stonemason. In 1869 he announced to his parents that he was coming to America. They raised little objection to this scheme, which they considered really quite sensible, and he thus preceded them three years, being comfortably established and ready to welcome them when they joined him here. He followed his trade three years after coming to Nebraska.

Mr. Frenzel came to the United States a single man, but in March of 1873, a year after the arrival of his parents, was united in marriage, in Wyoming Precinct, with Mrs. Sophia (Karsten) Wehling. The wife of our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, Sept. 6, 1849, and emigrated with her parents to America in 1866, when a young girl of seventeen years. They came at once to Nebraska, the year before it was admitted into the Union as a State, settling among the pioneers of Berlin Precinct, this county,

Mr. and Mrs. Frenzel began their wedded life





Yours Truly  
J. C. German

together at their present home, and have labored with the mutual purpose of building up a comfortable home for themselves and their children, also securing a good position in their community as people worthy of the highest respect. Their home and its surroundings is one of which they have reason to be proud.



**J**EREMIAH C. GILMAN, proprietor of one of the largest farms in Nebraska City Precinct, is a gentleman well known throughout this section as one of the old settlers of this State, coming here as early as 1857. Through a life of industry and wise economy he has acquired a competency, and since his return to this locality twenty years ago, he has built up a comfortable, commodious home, one of the most attractive in the precinct. Mr. Gilman comes of sturdy New England stock, his ancestry being of the hardy, self-reliant, energetic class that has sent so many brave, resolute men to conquer and people the Western wildernesses and prairies. His forefathers were probably early settlers of New Hampshire, the birthplace of his immediate ancestry. His paternal great-grandfather, Jonathan Gilman, was born in 1720, and resided in Carroll County, N. H.

John Gilman, the grandfather of our subject, was born Sept. 8, 1749, it is supposed in the State of New Hampshire, and among her rocky hills and pastures he passed his life as a farmer, dying at last in Carroll County. His son Andrew, father of our subject, first opened his eyes to the light of day Oct. 5, 1798, on a New Hampshire farm, and after attaining manhood chose the honorable calling to which he had been reared, and which had been that of his forefathers from generation to generation. He married Dolly Pike, likewise of New Hampshire birth, born in Coos County, April 5, 1802, and they commenced their wedded life in the wilds of Coos County, where he had bought a tract of timber land, which he proceeded to clear and prepare for cultivation. The country roundabout was sparsely inhabited, and for some years Portland, Me., 100 miles distant, was the nearest market. Mr. Gilman

improved a farm, and there spent his declining years, dying in 1848. He was a man of sound common sense, a hard worker, just and kind in his relations to others, and in his death the community where he had spent so many useful, busy years was deprived of a good citizen. His estimable wife spent her last years with her daughter in Carroll County, N. H., where she died in 1885. There were six sons and one daughter born to her and her husband, namely; Joseph, John K., Fanny E., our subject and his twin brother Andrew, George and Pike. Jeremiah and his brother John were the only members of the family who settled in the West. John died in Nebraska City in 1886.

Jeremiah C. Gilman was born Nov. 8, 1834, at the home of his parents in the beautiful town of Bartlett, and there amid the grand old hills of his native State he was nurtured to a vigorous manhood. He was educated in the district school, and resided on the old homestead assisting in the farm work until 1854. In that year he and his brother John left the shadow of the White Mountains to seek a home and fortune on the broad prairies of the Far West, more than a thousand miles away. They went by rail to Rock Island, Ill., then the western terminus of the railway, and crossing the Mississippi on a ferry boat to Iowa, took passage on a stage for Ft. Des Moines, and from there to Greene County, where they identified themselves with the early settlers. They laid out a town, which they called Kendrick, and erected a steam sawmill and a corn cracker, which they operated there for one year, and then moved it to Warren County, where they managed it until 1857, then sold it, and in December of that year came to Nebraska.

Our subject and his brother in coming to the Territory, located in that part of Nebraska City called Kearney, and engaged in the livery business together for two years. Then the brothers sold out, and again in 1859 started westward, settling in that part of the Territory now included in Lincoln County. The whole of that entire section of the country was wild prairie; deer, antelopes and buffaloes roamed across it in large numbers, and there were no settlements nearer than Ft. Kearney. The brothers went there to start a ranch, raise stock, and

to trade with the Indians, having taken a supply of goods with them. They used to buy their goods in Nebraska City and St. Louis, and had them transported with teams to their post. During the years 1861 and 1862 the brothers, who were all these years in partnership, began freighting west of the Missouri River from Nebraska City to Denver, Col. They had two trains of twenty-six wagons each, and consequently had to give employment to about sixty men. They carried their cooks and camping outfit with them. All the parties were armed, as a protection against marauding bands of Indians. The freighting business was profitable, the tariff on goods being about six cents per pound. The brothers were engaged in that business about four years, and during several winters they traded with the Indians as far as 200 to 300 miles south of the North Platte. They thus dealt mostly with the Sioux and the Southern Cheyennes.

Mr. Gilman and his brother took the contract from the Government from Maj. O'Brien, 7th Iowa Cavalry, to build Ft. McPherson, seventy-five miles west of Ft. Kearney. This was in the fall and winter of 1863. They constructed the main building of hewn logs, also the hospitals and the commission buildings. The quarters for the private soldiers were constructed of round logs. The second year Mr. Gilman and his brother remodeled the forts and quarters. The amount involved was about \$150,000, and yielded the brothers a handsome profit.

The Gilman brothers continued the operations above mentioned until 1868, and then, having accumulated considerable money, they returned to Nebraska City, where they invested in 640 acres of land, of which 320 acres were on section 7, township 8, range 14, and the remaining 320 acres were on section 1, township 14, range 7, Otoe County. Our subject settled on section 7, Nebraska City, and has resided here continuously ever since. He does general farming, raises a large amount of grain, fruit, etc., and devotes much time to raising cattle and other stock, of which he has many fine specimens of high grades.

Mr. Gilman was married, in 1866, to Miss Elizabeth Alice Fitchie, daughter of James and Eliza (Douglas) Fitchie. Mrs. Gilman is a native of

Allegheny County, Pa., and of her marriage with our subject six children have been born, namely: Larsh, Andrew, Nellie M., Marmaduke, Lee and Charles.

When Mr. Gilman was living on the plains of Lincoln County he took an active part in public affairs. There was an attempt made then to organize a county to be called Shorter, and he was elected Sheriff, but as the organization was not perfected he was not called upon to serve. Though past the prime of life, he is active and enterprising as many a younger man, and is always busy looking after his agricultural interests, and carefully manages his property so as to get the best returns from it. He possesses a clear head and a sound intellect, and is a man to be relied upon in any and every case. He is a sturdy advocate of the policy of the Republican party, and is keenly interested in all the questions of the day that pertain to the welfare of our country.

As a man who has been closely connected with the development of Southern Nebraska, it is eminently proper that the portrait of Mr. Gilman be given in connection with this sketch, and we herewith present it from the hands of our special artist. There is no doubt it will be regarded with more than ordinary interest.



**G**EORGE SMITH. There are in Palmyra Precinct many agriculturists who compare favorably with any in the State, and among these must undoubtedly be mentioned the gentleman whose biography is here outlined. His property is situated on section 23, where he operates 160 acres. As his name would imply, he is of Scottish parentage; his parents, William and Mary H. Smith, were born at Fenwick, Scotland, and shortly after their marriage came to America and settled in Missouri. The chosen occupation of William Smith was that of a stonemason. He was usually employed upon large buildings, and took large contracts for public and other buildings. His life in Missouri began in the year 1838, and the public buildings of St. Louis and neighboring cities bear marks of his handiwork; but his business was

not successful, owing to the failure of a company with which he was connected, and he removed to Galena. Here he worked upon the brewery, and put up the first arch of that building. After a few years a removal was made to Elk Grove Township, LaFayette Co., Wis. This was his home until his death, in 1886, when he was eighty-seven years of age.

Mrs. Smith is eighty years of age, and is still living, making her home with her eldest daughter in Wisconsin. There were seven children born to her and her husband, five of whom grew to mature years and are still alive. Their names are mentioned as follows: Catherine, Mary, Elizabeth, George and Robert H. From this it will be seen that the subject of our sketch was the youngest child but one. They have all been educated and trained after the model of Scottish strictness and care in regard to the higher qualities of character and morals.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 6th of July, 1852, at the Wisconsin home. His advantages in the line of education were undoubtedly excellent, and he developed an unusual capacity and liking for his studies, and became quite a good scholar in all the common branches. One trouble the teacher had with him was on account of his being naturally left-handed. It was only by persistent efforts that he learned to write as others do, but he has this advantage that he can use his pen as well with one hand as with the other.

Not having a large farm our subject's father gave him and his brothers the privilege of their own time and earnings, in order to get some start in life. When about thirteen he started to work for his brother-in-law by the month. As soon as he had money enough he bought a horse, and from that as a beginning went on to accumulate little by little. During the winter months he still continued his studies, and was more earnest as a student because he began to realize the value of an education.

The marriage of our subject with Miss Eliza Jane Herron was celebrated on the 18th of March, 1879. His wife was the daughter of James and Mary Ann (Nolan) Herron; her father was born near Dover, in Delaware, while her mother first saw the light in the vicinity of the city of Dublin, Ire-

land. She was a sister of the Rev. John Nolan, and a lady of large mental capacity, of complete education, possessed of many accomplishments, and this endowment she was only too glad to share with her daughter Eliza, so that she was also prepared to take her place in her home, and bring to it all the beauties of refinement and culture. The parents of Mrs. Smith were married in Wisconsin, and there continued to make their home. The business interests of Mr. Herron were at Galena, where he owned extensive lead mines. His death occurred on the 6th of February, 1885, when he was eighty-three years of age. His wife is still living in Wisconsin, and is now sixty-eight years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Herron were pioneers of LaFayette County, Wis., and were universally respected wherever they were known. They were exceedingly active in religious circles, and were pillars of the church to which they were united in membership. They were the parents of ten children, whose names are as follows: Susannah S., William E.; Wesley J., who died when fourteen years of age; Henry J. and Osley F. (twins), Eliza J., Mary A., Olivia V., Carson D. and Elmer E. Mrs. Smith was born on the 20th of December, 1851, in LaFayette County, Wis., and was educated in the common schools of the district. After taking the Normal course at Platteville, when seventeen years of age she received a high-class teacher's certificate, after which she followed that profession. For five terms she had charge of the Elm Grove public school. Her parents being among the wealthiest in the community this engagement was a matter of choice only. She was very fond of teaching and showed an admirable tact in the management of her school.

For two years after the marriage of our subject and wife, Wisconsin continued to be their home, and there their first child was born. The removal to this State was made in 1880, Mr. Smith having spent the fall of the previous year in prospecting, and had then purchased their present farm, comprising 160 acres, of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company; he also has 160 acres on section 35, within two miles of Douglas. All the improvements made upon the property are those of our subject. Stock-raising seemed to offer a more

profitable as well as more congenial employment, and he has consequently engaged largely therein, breeding chiefly Clydesdale horses, although he has a number of other very high-grade animals. He is the owner of the celebrated stallion "Young Donald." In cattle he has not confined himself to any particular breed, but has quite a large herd of very fine creatures. He also owns between 150 and 200 hogs of the best grade.

Mr. Smith has been called upon at various times to fill positions of public trust, and has always done so in the most perfect and happy manner, winning the esteem and respect of the entire community. He has been Road Supervisor, and has also filled other offices, and is one of the energetic members of the Republican party. In the Methodist Episcopal Church Mr. and Mrs. Smith find that which is congenial to them religiously, and there is little proposed or accepted either by the church, Sunday-school or societies with which they are not connected, either as the promoters or supporters.

There are few who can look back to the names of honored ancestors with more pride than the subject of our sketch, whose forefathers and members of the family have upon several occasions suffered martyrdom, and sealed their religious confessions with their life blood. This has been a treasured memory to the generations, and has undoubtedly been a powerful lever in the sustaining and onward movement of the transmitted high standard of moral power and character.

**R**OLLIN M. ROLFE, a retired merchant, has been an esteemed resident of Nebraska City since 1860, having made his advent in this place October 15 of that year. He at once identified himself with the mercantile interests of the city, engaging in the wholesale and retail grocery business, being the first wholesale jobber of groceries in Nebraska south of the Platte River. There were no railways west of the Missouri River at the time, and none nearer than St. Joseph, and all transportation was done with teams for some years, making freights very high, the average rate paid on freight between Nebraska City

and Salt Lake City being twenty-five cents a pound. The greater portion of the Territory of Nebraska was then in its primitive wildness, and buffaloes, deer and antelopes roamed at will over the prairies. There were military posts en route, but not a city between here and Denver. Our subject was a potent factor in opening up the undeveloped country, and was instrumental in the building of the wagon road to Ft. Kearney, and was afterward one of the original incorporators and first Secretary of the Midland Pacific Railway Company.

Our subject is a native of New York, born near Bath, Steuben County, Oct. 12, 1830. The Rolfes have figured conspicuously in English and French history, it having been Count Rolfe, the father of William the Conqueror, to whom Normandy was ceded by Charles the Simple, King of France. Simon Rolfe was known to have been a resident of Sarem, England, in 1660, and he had the power to issue coins, one of which is now in possession of the subject of this sketch. It bears on one side the name Simon Rolfe, and on the reverse side the family coat of arms. From the records of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society we learn the following: "John Rolfe, with his wife and two sons, John and Thomas, who were from Melchitt Park, Wilts County, England, set sail from London in April, 1638, in the ship "Confidence," and on arriving in this country settled in Massachusetts. Later other Rolfes came to America and settled in Salisbury and Haverhill, Mass., and Concord, N. H. Descendants of these families are scattered about in different parts of the Union, the branch from which our subject sprang settling in Virginia, where Moses Rolfe, the grandfather of our subject, was born. He removed to Monmouth County, N. J., and thence, about 1805, to Ovid, N. Y., where he was a pioneer, and where he spent the rest of his life. The maiden name of his wife, grandmother of our subject, was Mary Coon. After the death of her husband she removed to Steuben County, N. Y., and spent her last days with her children, who had married and settled there.

Joseph Rolfe, the father of our subject, was born during the residence of his parents in Monmouth County, N. J., May 5, 1800. After his fifth year his early life was passed in New York State, where

he received his education and engaged in the lumber business, manufacturing his lumber and floating it down the Susquehanna River and its various tributaries, where it found a ready sale in the seaport towns. The last years of his life were spent in the home of a son in Lawrenceville, on the Pennsylvania State line, his death occurring in January, 1878. In politics he was formerly a Whig, but joined the Republican party on its formation, and was afterward a firm supporter of its principles. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Eliza Reed, who was born in Dutchess County, N. Y. Her grandfather, the great-grandfather of our subject, Gilbert Reed, a native of Kinderhook, was connected with the Commissary Department at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War, and being a wealthy man, devoted to the interests of his country, did not hesitate to advance \$100,000 from his private funds, for which he was paid in continental script.

The subject of this biographical sketch was reared in his native town, and there received his education in the district school. At the age of fifteen years he commenced his mercantile career, engaging as a clerk in a general store at Monterey, Steuben County, receiving \$4 a month the first year, besides his board. The following year his salary was increased to \$10 a month, the third year to \$20, and the fourth year he received a further increase of \$5 a month. He remained in that place five years, then went to Elmira, where he secured a similar position, and from there to Geneva, where he clerked a short time in a dry-goods store. Subsequently our subject returned to his native town, where he worked as a clerk for five years. From Bath Mr. Rolfe, who was ambitious of bettering his financial condition, and thinking the Far West offered special inducements, went to Keokuk, Iowa, where he remained about a year. Proceeding to Memphis, Tenn., our subject rented a flouring-mill, which he operated six months, then disposed of his property and moved to St. Louis. There he engaged in the auction and commission business, remaining there until Oct. 15, 1860, when he came to Nebraska City. As before mentioned he at once established himself in the grocery business, and was thus employed until 1884. During this time Mr. Rolfe was

engaged in different branches of business, and was for some years connected with James Sweet and others in the banking business, under the firm name of James Sweet & Co. In 1879 our subject built a fine residence on the outskirts of the city, familiarly known as Boscobel, and resided there until 1886, when, on account of the ill-health of his wife, he sold it and bought his present residence in the city.

Mr. Rolfe was married, June 28, 1859, to Miss Harriet Emmons, a native of Springville, Erie Co., N. Y., and a daughter of Hon. Carlos and Harriet (Eaton) Emmons. Mr. Emmons was born in Vermont and moved from there to the Empire State, settling in Springville, where he practiced medicine. He identified himself with the best interests of the town, county and State, and served as State Senator two terms. He was subsequently offered the nomination of the Governorship of the State by his party, but declined the honor, and was also offered a portfolio in the cabinet of Millard Fillmore.

To our subject and his wife have been born three children, namely: Emmons, Charles and Harry.



**S**QUIRE EDWIN H. BALDWIN ranks prominently among the honored pioneers of Otoe County. He came to this section during its earliest settlement, and has been President of almost every Fourth of July celebration ever held in Palmyra. This fact is suggestive not only of his patriotism but of the estimation in which he is held by his fellow-citizens. It is hardly necessary to say that he is also prominently identified with the Old Settlers' Association of Nebraska. He has never aspired for political preferment, but has earnestly sought the best good of the people around him, and labored to the best of his ability to build up the interests of his adopted county.

Mr. Baldwin, as the consequence of a life of industry, is now in the enjoyment of a competency, living at his ease in a good home and surrounded by all the comforts of life. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, both educationally and financially. Deprived of his father's care when a lad of twelve years, he was then thrown upon his

own resources. The paramount thought in his mind at that time was the acquirement of a good education. With this end in view he labored and lived economically until reaching the age of twenty years, in the meantime making good use of his limited opportunities at the common school and of the books which came in his way. At the age mentioned he became a student of the Epworth College, of Iowa, in which he took a six-years course, teaching in the meanwhile and otherwise employing himself to pay his expenses. Having now secured that which could not be taken from him, he entered upon the serious business of life, engaging at first in merchandising at Manchester, Iowa. He was greatly prospered, but was finally persuaded to dispose of his business, and in consequence suffered a loss of about \$7,000 on account of the rascality of the man with whom he dealt.

This calamity visited our subject the first spring after his marriage, and in consequence was doubly trying. He, however, suffered himself to lose no time in bewailing his misfortunes, but resolved to endeavor to repair them in the Far West. He accordingly made his way to the Territory of Nebraska, and the result of this determination may be seen in the position to which he has attained, socially and financially. He has become one of the prominent and wealthy men of his county, and by his upright and honorable career is numbered among those who enjoy the esteem and confidence of the people around him.

The property of Squire Baldwin includes 700 acres, laid off into four farms in Palmyra Precinct, while he also has a farm in Eagle Precinct, Cass County. The main points in a history of more than ordinary interest are as follows: Mr. Baldwin was born June 4, 1837, in Fredonia, N. Y., and is the son of Chester and Mary (Terry) Baldwin, also natives of the Empire State, and whose early home was in the vicinity of Oswego. The family is supposed to be of English ancestry; the paternal grandfather of our subject carried a musket in the War of 1812, and later did service during the Indian War of 1841.

Chester Baldwin was a carpenter and joiner by trade, and after their marriage the parents settled near Fredonia, in Cattaraugus County, N. Y., where

the father built up a comfortable home and was fairly prospered. He was a man of decided views and prominent in the political circles of his county. He only lived to middle age, however, his death taking place on the 6th of June, 1850, at the age of forty-four years. The mother was married the second time and removed to Minnesota, where her death took place June 26, 1867, at the age of sixty-seven and one-half years. Of her first marriage there were born eleven children, namely: Mary A., Cerilla A., Sarah, William D., Edwin H. (our subject), Chester, Wesley, Charles, Frank, Corydon J. and Emma J. Of these seven are now living, and residents of New York, Tennessee and Dakota.

Squire Baldwin continued a member of the parental household until a youth of eighteen years, working on the farm and also away from home until he could see his way clear for entering college. In the meantime he frequently served as janitor for his tuition and sawed wood for his board. He was a student at Earlville Academy one year, and attended Epworth Seminary five years. From the latter institution he was graduated in 1860 with the degree of L. B. For a year thereafter he was Principal of Earlville Academy. In the spring of 1864 he entered upon his mercantile career, and in the fall of 1864 was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Catron. This lady is the daughter of his former partner, who is now living on a farm in Delaware County, Iowa. The parents of Mrs. Baldwin, John and Elizabeth Catron, were natives of Indiana, and are now aged respectively sixty-seven and sixty-five years. Their eight children were named William V., Sarah F., John W., Frank, Etta, Ella, Edgar and Effie.

Mrs. Baldwin was born June 13, 1841, in La-Porte, Ind., and was a little girl nine years old when her parents removed to Iowa. She took kindly to her books, and after securing a good education commenced teaching, and was a preceptress in the Iowa University for one year. Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin in making their journey from Iowa to Nebraska came overland with a wagon and team of horses, bringing with them their worldly effects and their one child. They arrived in the then unimportant village of Nebraska City on the 8th of June, 1867, and Mr. B. at once homesteaded 160 acres in

the vicinity of what is now Hendricks. Upon this he labored until bringing it to a good state of cultivation, and in time added to it another quarter-section. Of this property he retained possession until the fall of 1877, when he sold out and purchased his farm of 105 acres west of Palmyra.

During these years our subject has given strict attention to his business as an agriculturist and stock-raiser, in the meantime also buying and selling land. From these several resources he has realized a handsome income. No man has watched with warmer interest the development and growth of Nebraska, and few have given more generously of their time and means to the various enterprises having this end in view. A Republican, "dyed in the wool," Mr. Baldwin has given his vote and influence in support of the principles of his party, but aside from serving in the school offices has refrained from assuming greater responsibilities. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1876 and served two terms. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with which they have been identified many years. Our subject was one of the founders of the Old Settlers' Association, and one of the chief workers in keeping it together and maintaining an interest among its members.

To Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin there were born seven children, namely: Charles W., who died at the age of two years; Frank Pearl, Rilla May, Cora E., Harry G. C., Carl S. and Addie. Those surviving are at home. They have been carefully trained and educated, and as rising members of the community will do credit to the name of their honored parents.

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**W**ILLIAM KOONTZ, the well-known contractor and builder of Nebraska City, is the son of Baltzer and Susan (Whistler) Koontz, who are natives respectively of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Both are of German descent. The paternal grandfather emigrated to and settled in this country when the father of our subject was about seven years old. After ten years they removed to Ohio. In that State the parents of our

subject were married, and continued to reside for several years. The father was by occupation a carpenter, and continued at his trade until he was about forty years of age, when he engaged in farming.

The subject of our sketch was the last child but one of fourteen born to his parents. His birth occurred in Stark County, Ohio. His parents removed to Indiana when he was about eleven years of age, and in 1853 finally settled in Whitley County, where they died, the father in November, 1877, the mother on the 12th of July, 1884, being eighty-four and eighty-five years of age respectively.

The birth of our subject occurred on the 9th of September, 1842. He was brought up on the home farm in Ohio and Indiana. He was, however, privileged to enjoy but very meager educational opportunities. At the time of the outbreak of the Civil War our subject was serving an apprenticeship to the cabinet-making trade, but left his tools and the workshop to enlist in Company H, of the 15th Indiana Infantry. He engaged to serve for three years or during the war; this event transpired upon the 6th of August, 1862. The regiment was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, and he was present at some of the hardest fighting of the war.

Among the battles in which our subject took part may be mentioned those of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Buzzard's Gap, through the Atlanta campaign with Sherman, and on with him in his march to the sea; thence up through the Carolinas, and was at Raleigh when the news of Lee's surrender reached them. His military experiences closed with the grand review at Washington, after which he in common with his comrades received an honorable discharge.

Returning home, our subject remained there until 1869, and then came to Nebraska. Arriving in Nebraska City he went to work with the determination to make his fortune. There was no opening in the cabinet-making business, and so he turned his attention to carpentry, working as a journeyman. He has been unusually successful as a contractor and builder, and has erected many of the large buildings of the city, among them the Odd Fellows' Block and the Kee's residence.

Mr. Koontz is enthusiastic over the prospect of

the future of the city, and bases his judgment, first, on its natural location, second, on the location and enlargement of its stockyards, third, on the greatly increased railroad facilities by the way of "Q" bridge and the Union Pacific Railroad. Thus far he has been fully justified, and his expectations have been more than realized. His hopes therefore for the future would seem to be well founded.

In the year 1872 the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Emma J. Howe, the daughter of Noah and Sarah M. Howe. She was born in the State of Virginia, Oct. 22, 1832, and was about seven years of age when her parents migrated to Nebraska City just before the war. There have been given to Mr. and Mrs. Koontz five children, whose names we mention as follows: Maggie May, Nellie M., Alfred O., Edgar B. and W. Carl, all of whom are at home with their parents, and in attendance at the city schools.

Feeling the cramping through lack of education in his own life, our subject is anxious to make the education of his children as complete and thorough as possible. We would not be understood as implying that our subject is not a well-informed man, for to recognize the need of study and instruction was for him to bend every energy to the task of obtaining knowledge, so that to-day he is well posted upon the usual topics, and has a clear understanding and appreciation of current political affairs, and such a grasp of his business affairs as to make him thoroughly successful, and is a citizen of whom the community is proud, exerting an influence among his fellows that is favorably recognized.

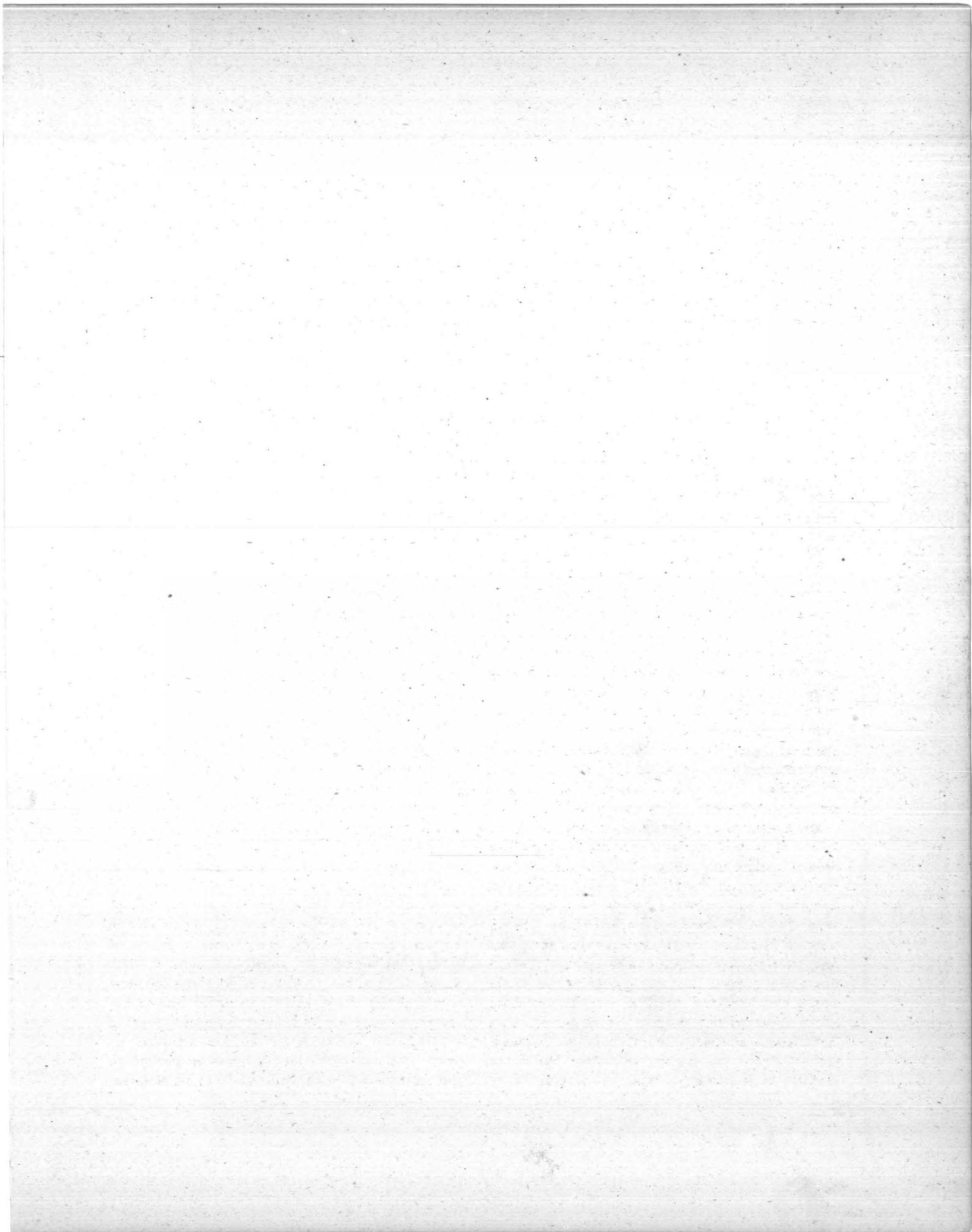
Mr. Koontz is an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R.; he is Past Commander of the Post, and is at present holding the position of Officer of the Day. He is also a member of the I. O. O. F. In religious associations he is affiliated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is also a Trustee. Politically, he is a Republican, and always takes deep interest in matters relative to the party. On the Board of Education he is recognized as one of the active, clear-thinking, practical working members, and is respected accordingly. In his general ideas and patriotic sentiments he is thoroughly American, and entertains the highest ambitious hopes and laudable pride in view of what he conceives to be

the future position of his adopted State in the Union.

T. D. Babcock, at present Noble Grand of the I. O. O. F., Lodge No. 3, says of our subject: "I admire him as a man; as a worker in our fraternity he is well and favorably known as being one of its most worthy members. In his connection with the fraternity his character shows itself plainly, as being that of an honest and upright man."

**F**REDERICK DOW. Among the early pioneers of Nebraska Territory the subject of this sketch is entitled to occupy a position in the front rank, he having settled in Cass County as early as the fall of 1857. He lived there on a partially cultivated tract of land for a period of seven years, then came to Wyoming Precinct, this county, taking up his abode on section 14, where he purchased eighty acres of land, and where he has since lived. He began to build up his present homestead from first principles, there having been no attempt at cultivation or improvement at the time it came into his possession.

Mr. Dow is a self-made man, and, when pursuing his journey into Cass County, carried his worldly possessions on his back. He had lost most of his household goods on the journey from Chicago to Nebraska. He was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, June 23, 1823, where he was reared to man's estate, and when of age entered the regular army and served a period of seven years in the Grenadier Guards, enduring all the vicissitudes of a soldier's life, and coming out at the close with a clean record and an honorable discharge. He set out a single man for the United States in 1852, landing in the city of Quebec, Canada, and going thence to Chicago, Ill., where he employed himself at working on a railroad for a time. There also he was first married to Miss Mary Stahl, a native of his own Province in Germany, and born in 1826. She came alone to the United States about the same time as her husband, and accompanied him to Nebraska, assisting him in his first struggles at making a living. Of this good wife he was deprived by death Dec. 17, 1866, when she was in her prime and most needed by her little family of six children.





Yours Very Truly  
C. W. Seymour

These all lived to mature years: Sophia and Minnie were married, but are now deceased; Frank is farming in Custer County, this State; John is living in Stockton, Cal.; William is farming in Wyoming Precinct; Frederick, Jr., is living in this county.

Mr. Dow contracted a second marriage, in August, 1871, with Mrs. Rebecca J. (Searle) Nail. This lady was born Nov. 4, 1835, in Scioto County, Ohio, and was first married to John Nail, in that county, where he died a year later. Mrs. Nail came to Nebraska City after the death of her husband, and by her union with our subject there have been born three children, two of whom died young. The survivor, a son, M. Albert, born in Otoe County in 1875, continues at home with his parents. Mr. Dow and his first wife were trained in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, uniformly votes the Republican ticket. His present wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**HON. CHARLES WILLIAM SEYMOUR**, whose portrait graces the opposite page, is a distinguished citizen of Nebraska City, and one of the first lawyers of the State. He has mingled much in public life, and has held many important offices for which his ability and legal attainments have eminently fitted him. He is a native of Ohio, Hartford, Licking County, being the place of his birth, and June 4, 1838, the date thereof. His father, John William Seymour, was born in Salem, Conn., and his grandfather, Medad Seymour, and his great-grandfather, Zachariah Seymour, were both natives of and lifelong residents of that New England State, the former having been born in Hartford. The Seymour family is of ancient English ancestry, and is descended from the famous Duke of Somerset, which statement is confirmed by the Encyclopedia Britannica. The American branch of the family were early settlers of Connecticut, the first ancestor of our subject coming to this country in 1649.

The father of our subject was reared in his native State, receiving a substantial education, and

when a young man he went to Rahway, N. J., to teach school. From there he went to Ohio about 1836, and located at Hartford, Licking County, where he was prosperously engaged in the mercantile business until 1868. In that year he moved to Mt. Vernon, Knox Co., Ohio, and receiving the appointment as special agent of the Etna Insurance Company, continued in the insurance business in that town until his death in the month of July, 1872. He was a man whose ability, intelligence and integrity were of a high order, and he was valued as a loyal and upright citizen. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah J. Clark, and she was born in New York City, of which her father, Thomas Clark, was likewise a native. He spent his entire life there, and was for many years engaged in the mercantile business. The mother of our subject died at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in 1880. There were eight children born to her and her husband, and he had one child besides by a former marriage.

Charles W. early showed a taste for scholarly pursuits, which was gratified by a liberal education at one of the best universities of the day in the West, the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio. He entered that institution of learning in 1854, and after attending there three years, he left for awhile to take a business course in a commercial college at Cleveland. On receiving his diploma there, he resumed his studies in the Wesleyan University, and was graduated from there in 1860, having attained high standing in his classes, and with the degree of A. B. and subsequently A. M. He immediately commenced the study of law in the office of the renowned jurist, Judge Allen G. Thurman, at Columbus, Ohio. Having under the Judge's instructions acquired a good, practical knowledge of the legal profession, in 1861 he came to Nebraska City, and in 1862 was admitted to the bar. He at once opened an office with William H. Taylor, who was his partner for two years. Mr. Taylor then moved away, and our subject continued to practice alone until 1865, and then was with B. M. Davenport until 1868. He then carried on an extensive law business alone until 1886, when his son William became his partner. Mr. Seymour was appointed Notary Public in 1863, and has held the office ever since. In 1870 he received his appointment to

his present position as United States Commissioner. In 1862 he was elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was re-elected the following year. He was Master in Chancery for ten years and Land Commissioner for the Midland Pacific when he first located here, and was Prosecuting Attorney for one year, appointed by Judge Streeter. At the time when the removal of the capital of the United States from Washington was agitated, Mr. Seymour was sent as a delegate to the convention held at Cincinnati for the purpose of discussing the question. He was a member of the commission that met at Chicago in accordance with an act of Congress to locate the Union Pacific Railway. On two occasions he acted as Chief Clerk of the State Legislature at the opening of the session. He is one of the leaders of the Republican party, he having always been a Republican since he attained his majority, and he has served as Chairman of the State Central Committee. Our subject also has an honorable military record. When the war broke out he was in early manhood, and just about to enter upon his brilliant career as a lawyer and a statesman, yet notwithstanding his bright prospects of winning his way to an assured position in his profession, he put aside all personal aims and ambitions at the first call for troops, and enlisted as a member of the 2d Ohio Infantry, for a term of ninety days. He served with his regiment that length of time, and was present at the first battle of Bull Run. In 1863 a regiment of State Militia was raised, and he was appointed Major by Gov. Saunders, of Nebraska, and at the same time he was serving as Captain of the Union Guards. Our subject is identified with the following societies: Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.; Keystone Chapter No. 2; and Mt. Olivet Lodge No. 2. He is also a member of the Alpha Consistory—of the Ancient and Accepted Order of Scottish Rite Masons, having attained the thirty-second degree. In St. Mary's Protestant Episcopal Church Mr. Seymour is a Vestryman.

In this brief summary of the many responsible civic positions which he has held, we have not spoken of the conspicuous ability that Mr. Seymour has brought to bear upon his work, nor the lofty sense of duty that has been the guiding motive of all his

acts, so that he has never been accused of neglecting public trusts for private interests. He has a keen, cultivated intellect, a clear and comprehensive knowledge of the law, and by the force of an indomitable will, has attained his present eminence as one of the most astute and successful lawyers now practicing before the Nebraska bar, although he is not yet much beyond the prime of life.

The brief limits of this biographical sketch will not permit us to more than glance at the home life of our subject. He was married, July 4, 1863, to Catherine Ella Holly, a native of Savannah, Mo., and a daughter of Judge Charles F. Holly. Her father was born in Stamford, Conn., and went from there to Kenyon College, Ohio, to complete his education. After graduation he was married, and then went to Savannah, Mo., where he edited a paper a number of years. In 1855 he came to Nebraska City, and was one of the first lawyers ever located in Nebraska. In 1863 he went to Colorado, and was soon after elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was made Speaker of that body. In 1864 he enlisted, and was commissioned Captain, and served until the close of the war. Soon after that he was appointed District Judge. He went from Colorado to New Mexico, and was there engaged in a land speculation. He now resides in Paskack, N. J.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour have a delightful home, the center of a refined and cultured life, and their pleasant wedded life has been blessed to them by the birth of five children—William F., Catherine Ella, Howard S., Hugh A. and Louisa Maria.

 **C**ONRAD MULLIS. The agricultural interests of Wyoming Precinct are admirably represented by the subject of this sketch, who until recently was the owner of 380 acres of highly cultivated land, which embraced one of the most valuable farms in the county. The homestead proper is on section 25, and adjacent is quite an extent of land which Mr. Mullis has divided among his children. He may most properly be ranked among the pioneers of Nebraska Territory.

He crossed the Mississippi as early as 1854, lived for a time in Fremont County, Iowa, and thence came to Nebraska City when it was but a hamlet.

Our subject, during his early manhood, had learned blacksmithing, which trade he pursued in Nebraska City until 1860, when he was burned out. He then concluded to change his occupation, and accordingly settled on a part of the land in Wyoming Precinct which he now owns and occupies. His labors as a farmer have been crowned with success, he now having a competency for his old age, and being surrounded by all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Mullis was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in Switzerland, March 22, 1821. His parents were also of Swiss birth and parentage, and spent their entire lives upon their native soil. The father was a laboring man and the family was in modest circumstances. Conrad was the youngest, and was reared and educated in the place of his birth. When twenty-three years of age he set sail in 1844 for America, taking passage on an English vessel, and after a rough voyage of seven weeks, landed in New Orleans. In addition to the storms which beset them on the passage the provisions gave out, and both passengers and crew suffered greatly for lack of food.

Mr. Mullis soon left the Crescent City and made his way to Madison County, Ill., where he arrived \$14 in debt and without a cent in his pocket. There he learned his trade of blacksmith, his honest face securing him friends and employment. In due time he had cancelled all his obligations, and is now not only out of debt but may be called a wealthy man. After taking up his residence in Fremont County, Iowa, he made the acquaintance of a very estimable young woman, Miss Nancy Hill, to whom he was married. This lady died at the birth of her first child, the latter dying also.

Our subject after coming to this county contracted a second marriage, with Miss Magdalena Lohse, who was born in Holstein, Germany, Oct. 6, 1834. Her parents, Henry and Catherine (Hanschild) Lohse, were also natives of Germany, and after their marriage settled in Holstein, where they lived until after the birth of two daughters, Mrs. Mullis and her sister Anna, now Mrs. Kausboy, of

Cass County, this State. They then, in 1858, set sail with their little family for the United States, and coming directly to Nebraska located near the present site of Nebraska City. The parents joined their married daughter in Cass County, where the father died seven months after his arrival in the United States. The mother after being a resident of Cass County eight years, joined her husband in the better land.

The wife of our subject received a good education in the German tongue, and was about twenty-two years old when she came to America. She has proved the suitable helpmate of such a man as her husband, encouraging him in his worthy efforts and contributing her full share toward the building up of the homestead. Of their union there have been born four children, the eldest of whom, a son Henry, continues at home with his parents. Conrad, Jr., married Miss Josephine Barhurst, and they are living near Dunbar, this county; John is at home assisting his father in the labors around the homestead; Anna is attending school in the convent at Kearney Heights. Our subject and his estimable wife have wisely retired from active labor, and, surrounded by their children and friends, are spending their declining years amid the comforts which they have gathered around them by lives of industry and economy. Although not connected with any religious organization, they have made it the rule of their lives to do unto their neighbors as they would be done by. No family is held in higher respect and none are more deserving of the esteem and confidence of their community. Mr. Mullis in politics is independent, aiming to support the men whom he considers best qualified for office.

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**G**EORGE OELKE, of Otoe Precinct, is one of the most prominent and prosperous farmers within its limits, being the owner of 340 acres of good land, embracing 160 acres on section 5, and 180 acres on section 8. His home is located on the former section. He is a man who at once commands attention as evidently possessing more than ordinary abilities, and physically is of fine stature and commanding presence. His quali-

ties of mind are in proportion to his physical development, as is indicated in his surroundings, his home being one to which the admiring eye of the passing traveler is at once attracted, and which forms one of the most pleasing features of the landscape of Otoe Precinct. He has a tasteful and commodious dwelling, which is one of the handsomest in the precinct, with good barns and outhouses, corn-cribs, sheds, etc., and everything appertaining to the modern rural estate.

The main points in a most interesting history are substantially as follows: Our subject was born in the town of Sumte, near the city of Nauhaus, Germany, Nov. 12, 1842, and is the son of John and Maggie (Myer) Oelke, who were also of German birth and parentage. The father was a farmer and wagon-maker combined, and a man in prosperous circumstances. He came to America with his whole family in the summer of 1857, settling in Clayton County, Iowa, but only lived four years afterward, his decease taking place in 1861, when he was sixty-five years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son George, and has now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years.

The parental household included twelve children, of whom John, Henry, William, Minnie, Emma, Bertha, Emma (2d) and Louisa are deceased, the four latter dying when quite young. The survivors are Mary, who is the wife of Henry Heye; they live in Delaware Precinct. Fred; George, our subject, and Christ. They are living in Otoe County, Neb. George was carefully educated in his native tongue, and soon after coming to Nebraska, June 15, 1863, purchased his first land in company with his brother Frederick. Prior to this he had operated as a renter. He was married, Dec. 22, 1864, to Miss Lena Sharp, a native of the Province of Holstein, Germany, and who came to America when a young girl of twelve years, with her parents, they settling at once in this county. Her father is dead, but her mother is still living. She is the daughter of Timothy and Mattie (Hauchildt) Sharp.

Our subject purchased first eighty acres on section 5, Otoe Precinct, and labored early and late in the development of the soil and the building up of his homestead, and continued to add thereto until

he now owns 340 acres. His farm is six miles south of the court-house in Nebraska City. The household circle has been completed by the birth of nine children, namely: John, George, Mattie, Timm, William, Jesse, Emma, Eddie and Josie, all living at home and single. The eldest is twenty-three years of age, and the youngest two years. Mr. and Mrs. Oelke, together with their children, are all connected with the German Lutheran Church at Nebraska City. Mr. Oelke votes the straight Republican ticket, and is serving his second term as School Treasurer of his district. He is also engaged in buying and shipping hogs. His shipments are mostly made from Paul Station on the Missouri Pacific, to Nebraska City and Omaha.

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**J**OHN DUNBAR, an extensive land-owner and retired farmer in good circumstances, and at present a resident of Dunbar Village, is a gentleman widely and most favorably known throughout this section for his honesty, integrity and straightforward manner of transacting business, and his thoroughness and skill as an agriculturist. From him the precinct and village of Dunbar are named, though the former has since been changed.

A native of County Londonderry, Ireland, our subject was born Oct. 28, 1820, and is the son of Thomas Dunbar, who was born in County Antrim, and came to the United States with his family in the spring of 1829. They settled first near Ogdensburg, N. Y., where our subject lived until the spring of 1832. He then went over into Canada West, and from there, in 1856, came to the Territory of Nebraska, settling on a tract of land in Delaware Precinct, and has since then been a resident of this county.

It is hardly necessary to say that the country was wild and new at that period, there being but very few settlers this side of the Mississippi. The father and paternal grandfather, Thomas H. Dunbar, had preceded our subject to this section in June of the same year, being joined by John on the 14th of November following. There were then but a few houses between this point and Nebraska City. Deer, wolves and Indians were numerous, and the latter,

Pawnees, stole a team of horses from our subject, which he never recovered.

Mr. Dunbar was married, Sept. 11, 1851, to Miss Ann E., daughter of James Watson, now deceased. This union resulted in the birth of twelve children, namely: Emily, Mary, Thomas H., John A., Leona; Sarah J., deceased; William F., Edwin W., Merritt W., Ann E., Ella Dora and Alfred. Mary is the wife of Merle D. Smith, of Blount, this State, and the mother of two children—Clarence and Ralph; Leona married Elias C. Reed, of Syracuse Precinct, and has two children—Anna L. and Herbert; William married Miss Charlotte Latter, and lives on the old homestead.

Mr. Dunbar has always been prominent in the affairs of this county, and about 1869 platted the town named in his honor. His property embraces 640 acres of land, which he has brought to a good state of cultivation, and erected thereon substantial buildings. The first wheat shipped from the precinct was of his raising. He officiated as Justice of the Peace for a period of twenty years. He then rested for a time, but in 1887 was prevailed upon to resume his official duties, and now holds the office. He has always taken a warm interest in the temperance movement, and in religious matters is a member of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, taking the Bible for his rule of faith and practice. He has been an extensive reader of the Scriptures, and possessing a remarkable memory, is able to quote largely therefrom. He usually upholds the principles of the Republican party, but is somewhat independent, aiming to support the men best qualified for office, irrespective of party.

**B**ROWN BROS. Charles A., Frederick L., George E. and Frank F. have operated together in the cultivation of one of the finest tracts of land in North Branch Precinct, and lived together since they were born until the marriage of George E., since which time the latter and his wife have been in a home of their own, while the three brothers continue with their mother.

Amos Brown, the father of these brothers, was

born in Windsor County, Vt., in 1828, and when quite a lad removed with his parents to Illinois, they settling on a farm in the vicinity of Peoria, but which was in Tazewell County. They were among the earliest pioneers of that region, and there Amos Brown grew to manhood, assisting his father in the development of his homestead. He married Miss Sarah I. Lackland, who was born in Tazewell County, Ill., Feb. 27, 1835, and is the daughter of David and Elizabeth (Hale) Lackland. The latter were natives of Tennessee, where they were reared and married, and whence they emigrated in 1830 to Illinois. They settled at first in Sangamon County, but shortly afterward changed their residence to Tremont Township, Tazewell County, and were, like the Brown family, among the earliest settlers. Mr. Lackland entered land from the Government, improved the farm, and continued at the homestead which he had thus built up until the time of his death, which occurred about 1856. The wife and mother had died in 1844. They were the parents of eight children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: Nancy, now deceased; Louise, Mrs. Davidson, of Livingston County, Ill.; Martha, Mrs. Owen, of Tremont, Tazewell County; William R., deceased; Margaret, who was the first white child born in Tazewell County, and is now the wife of Stephen Stout, of Marshall County, Kan.; and Sarah, the mother of the Brown brothers.

Amos Brown and Miss Sarah Lackland were married in 1851, and for seven years afterward lived in the then little village of Pekin, Ill., where Mr. Brown followed his trade of carpenter. Later they settled upon a farm in the same county, where the death of the father took place in 1870, he leaving five children, four of whom, Brown Bros., are still living. The mother with her sons continued her residence in Tazewell County until 1877, then at the instance of the latter came to Nebraska, and invested a portion of her capital in 160 acres of land in North Branch Precinct, where she and her three sons still live. They were prospered in their efforts to build up a homestead, and added to their first purchase until their estate now embraces 400 acres of land, with all the buildings and machinery required for the successful prosecution of agriculture. A large portion is devoted to stock-raising, and

they keep the best grades, including Morgan horses, Polled-Angus cattle, graded stock and pure-bred Poland-China swine.

George E. Brown was married to Miss Nellie E. Cornish, May 18, 1886, at the home of the bride in Minnesota. They took up their residence in a snug dwelling in North Branch Precinct. This son and his mother are members in good standing of the Congregational Church. Charles, politically, is a Democrat, while the other brothers are earnest supporters of Republican principles. The family are widely and favorably known throughout this part of the county, and are closely allied to its agricultural interests, which, in the building up of one of its finest farms, they have thus greatly facilitated, adding to their wealth and importance.

Grandfather Nathaniel Brown was born in New Hampshire, Jan. 3, 1783, and died Oct. 5, 1842. He was married, in May, 1826, to Miss Sally Densmore, who was born in Alstead, N. H., Sept. 19, 1789, and who died Nov. 7, 1875. The parents of Grandmother Brown removed to Pittsfield, Vt., when she was a child. The Browns emigrated from Rochester, Vt., to Illinois in the summer of 1838, reaching Enoch Emerson's on the 1st day of August, after having been five weeks on the road. They had journeyed overland with teams to Buffalo, N. Y., and at that point the horses and wagons, and the family, numbering five persons, were loaded upon a steamboat and taken to Detroit. Thence they resumed their journey by wagon to Illinois.

These travelers first went up Lake Erie to avoid the Miami swamp in Ohio. It was not safe to travel through Canada on account of the rebellion. The name of the great-grandfather was also Nathaniel, and he married a Miss Groves. They became the parents of seven children, namely: Thomas, Reuben, Nathaniel, Amos, Daniel, Amanda and Polly. On the other side of the house the great-grandfather, Zebadiah Densmore, married Miss Elizabeth Todd, and they became the parents of ten children, namely: Thomas, Zebadiah, Jr., John, Amos, Joel, Elizabeth, Jemima, Sally, Lucy and Polly. Both the great-grandfathers served all through the Revolutionary War. Uncle Joel Densmore was in the army four years during the War of 1812, entering the ranks as a drummer boy when fourteen

years of age. During that war a company of volunteers, under command of Grandfather Brown as Captain, marched to Plattsburg at the time of the concentration of forces there, but did not succeed in arriving until after the battle. Capt. Brown, as he was afterward familiarly called, was the offspring of a family noted for their industry and integrity of character, and these traits have descended in a marked manner to the Browns who have come after.



**C**HARLES B. BICKEL has for more than twenty years been prominently identified with the building interests of Nebraska City as contractor and builder, and thus it has been his privilege not only to witness its growth, but to be an energetic factor in promoting it. He was born in Gallia County, Ohio, May 16, 1826. His father, Anthony Bickel, a native of Botetourt County, Va., was the son of a German who came to America some time during the last century, and settled in Botetourt County, which remained his home until his death.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, and when a young man went to North Carolina, and there married Diana Chappell, a native of that State. After marriage the parents of our subject removed to Ohio, traversing the long and weary distance over the Alleghany Mountains in a wagon containing their household goods drawn by Indian ponies, for this was before the introduction of railways into that part of the country. They located in Gallia County, and were thus identified with its early settlers. Mr. Bickel rented land for a time, and later bought a tract, but, being unfortunate, was unable to pay for it. He continued to be a resident of that county until his death in 1858, respected and esteemed by his neighbors for his many sterling qualities. He was quite young when the War of 1812 broke out, but during the latter part of it he enlisted and started to join the army on the Virginia coast, but the war, however, closed before he reached his destination, and he was discharged with his comrades and walked home. Mrs. Bickel survived her husband only a few years, dying in Gallia County. There were eleven chil-

dren born of that marriage, nine of whom grew to maturity.

Charles Bickel, of this biographical notice, was reared amid the pioneer scenes of his native county, where the advantages of an education were very much inferior to those enjoyed by the youth of the present day. The nearest school was two and one-half miles distant from his home, and was conducted in a rude log building, with seats or benches made of slabs without backs or desks; a board that rested on wooden pegs that were driven into the logs served for the scholars to write on. As soon as he was large enough to do so our subject commenced to help his father on the farm. When he was fourteen years old the care of the farm devolved upon him entirely, as his father was stricken with rheumatism. But he was a bright, active lad, and was fully equal to the occasion, and a manliness and self-reliance beyond his years were thus early developed in him. He lived at home until he was twenty years old, and then hired a man to work in his place, and went to Virginia, where he commenced to learn the trade of bricklayer, serving an apprenticeship of three years. His first job as a builder was in Virginia, when he superintended the construction of his brother's house. He formed a partnership with another brother, and they took contracts to erect buildings, always burning their own brick. As an excellent specimen of their work the court-house at Barboursville, the county seat, may be mentioned. Mr. Bickel continued in business as bricklayer and contractor in Virginia and Kentucky until 1857, when he went to Quincy, Ill., to work at his trade. When he first went there business was good and he earned \$4 a day, but in about three months all building ceased, and he was thrown out of work. He then started for Maryville, Mo., where a brother lived, going by way of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. His family was with him, and when they arrived at Maryville the boxes containing all their best clothes and most valuable household effects were missing, and they had to start anew. Maryville was then a village of 300 or 400 inhabitants, and the surrounding country was wild and sparsely settled.

Mr. Bickel found employment at his trade for a few months, and then business was suspended, but

he was a man of resources, and not easily discouraged, and determined upon renting a farm. While attending to that he took up plastering, and finding that he could do well at that, he worked at it as opportunity offered. During the war times were hard, and the state of affairs was so unsettled in Missouri that he could not get work there, so he concluded to go West. He divided his last \$30 with his wife, and with the small sum of money remaining to him started across the plains for Colorado. Arriving in Denver, then a town of 4,000 or 5,000 inhabitants, he found employment by the day, and was thus engaged for a time, until he formed a partnership with J. B. Lull, and engaged in contracting. They built the Governor's residence, a Methodist Church, and other noted buildings of that day. Mr. Bickel remained in the Queen City until the fall of 1864, and then wishing to return home, he engaged passage by a mule team, the most convenient mode of carriage before the railways stretched across the plains, and paid \$17 fare to Nebraska City. From here he proceeded to Graham Village, Mo., where his family lived. In January, 1865, he sold his property there and removed with his family to this city, where he at once took a contract to erect an extensive warehouse. Since that time he has been a respected resident of this place, and is still conducting business here, the greater part of the brick buildings in the city being monuments of his handiwork. His four sons are interested in the business with him, and their work is not by any means confined to Otoe County, but extends as far as Omaha.

Mr. Bickel was married, in 1852, to Miss Isabella Kelly, a native of the Isle of Man, Great Britain, and the following are the six children who have been born to them: Mary, who married Jacob Schulenberger, and died in Nevada; John K., Anthony A., Charles C., Rosa B. and George R. Mrs. Bickel came to America with her mother when she was five years of age, her father, Thomas Kelly, having come here two years before. Her father was born on the Isle of Man, coming of an old family of that isle that can trace its ancestry back several generations. When he first came to America he lived for awhile near Columbus, Ohio, and from there he removed to Lawrence County, in that

State, where he spent the remainder of his life. His wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Kirk, was also a native of the Isle of Man, and came of an old and respected family. She likewise died in Lawrence County, Ohio. Mr. Bickel has always shown a spirit of enterprise, and is ever ready to assist in anything to benefit Nebraska City or Otoe County. In 1883 he was one of the company that attempted to start a barbed wire manufactory in this city. In 1872 he bought a half-interest in a tannery at Lincoln, located on the northwest corner of O and Twenty-fourth streets, and retained it until 1887, when he sold it at a good advance. Mr. Bickel is a time-honored resident of Otoe County, and in his useful career has gained the respect of the many who have had dealings with him, as he is always strictly just and honest in all his transactions, and no blot has ever been cast on his name. He is influential in public affairs, and has served two years as a member of the City Council. He affiliates with the Democratic party, although he was in early life a Whig. He is a member of Nebraska City Lodge No. 12, A. F. & A. M., and also of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F. He and his wife are members in high standing of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church.



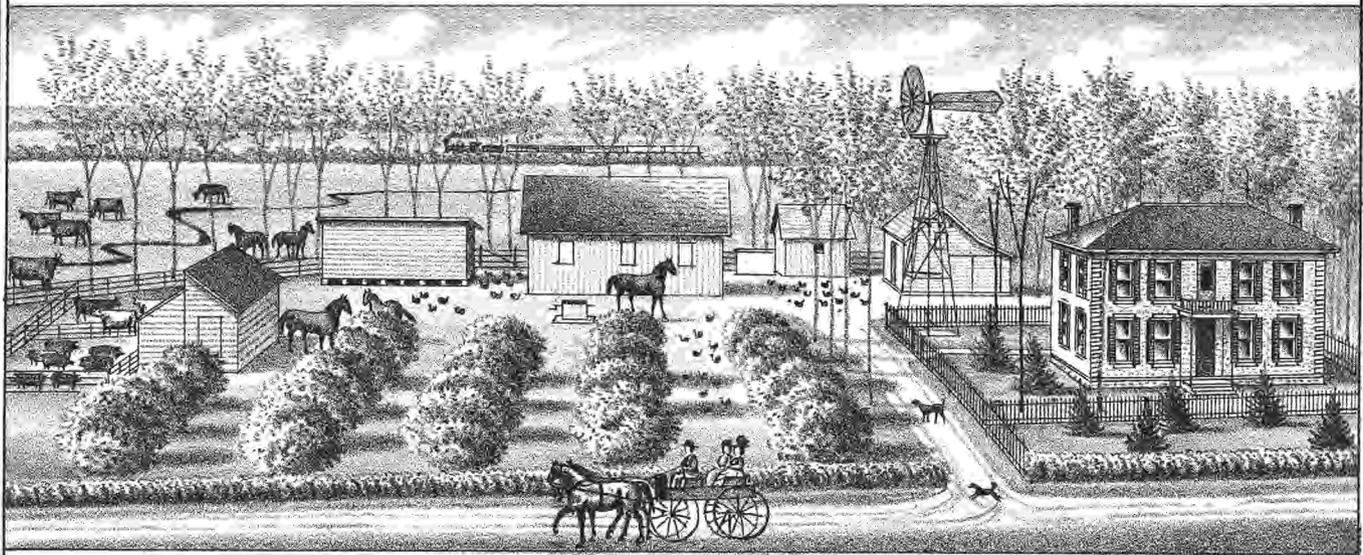
**J**OHN FRERICHS. The finely cultivated farm of 210 acres which occupies a portion of section 24, McWilliams Precinct, has for the last eighteen years been under the management of the subject of this sketch, and indicates in a most forcible manner his characteristic enterprise and energy. He has built up a fine farm from an uncultivated tract of land, placing thereon neat and substantial buildings, and gradually adding the comforts and conveniences which have become indispensable to the well-being and satisfaction of the citizen of to-day, with his modernized ideas. A self-made man in the truest sense of the word, Mr. Frerichs has been the architect of his own fortune, building up his property slowly but surely by the labor of his hands.

Our subject was born in Madison County, Ill.,

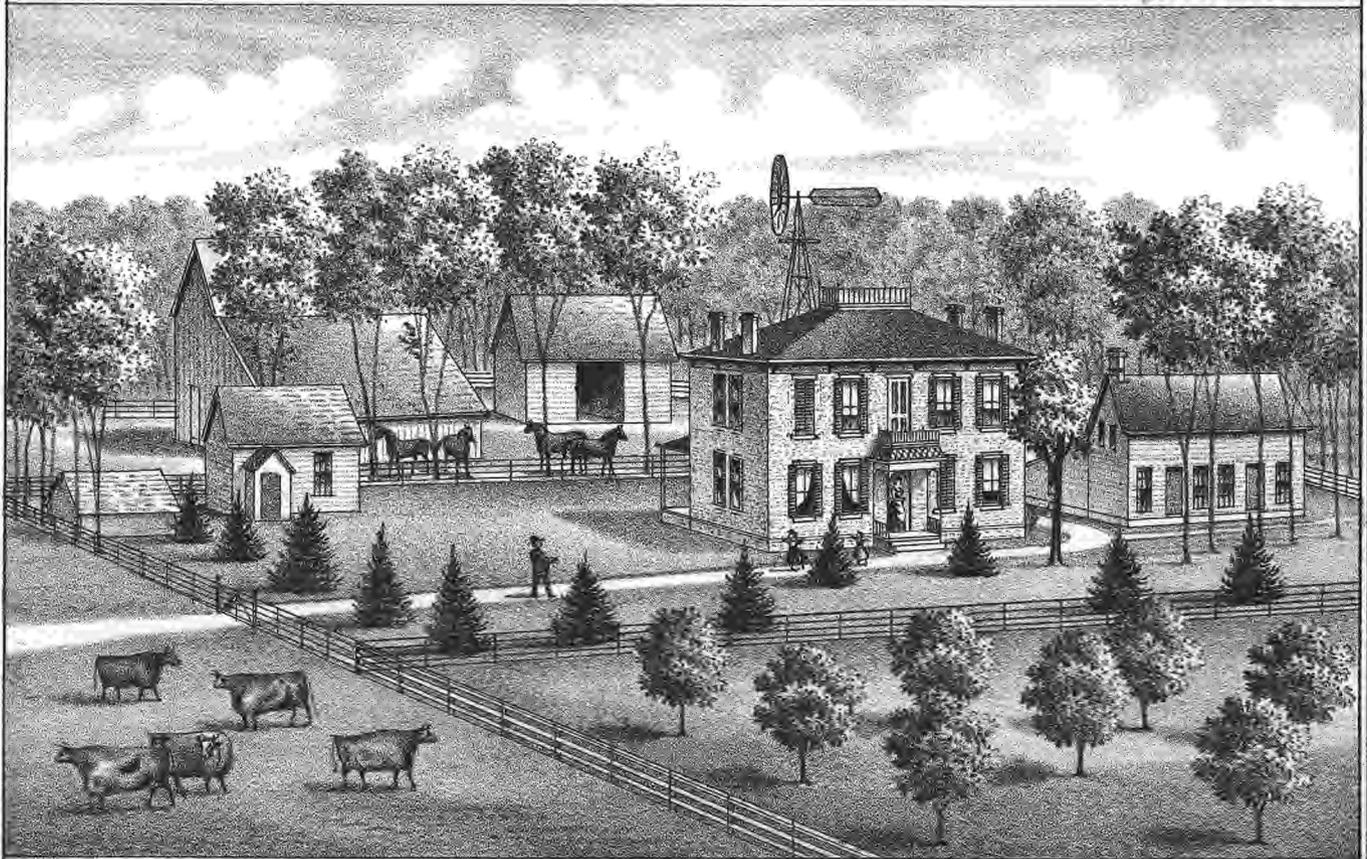
Nov. 31, 1857, and when a lad of thirteen years accompanied his parents to this State, which had but just emerged from a Territory. They located on a farm in McWilliams Precinct, this county, which is now the property of our subject. The father, Abraham Frerichs, was born and reared in Hanover, Germany, and was there married to Miss Gretje Ubben, a native of the same. They remained upon their native soil until after the birth of five children, and upon coming to the United States sojourned in Madison County, Ill., for a period of thirteen years. John, of our sketch, was the youngest of the family, and the only one born on this side of the Atlantic. The father upon coming to Nebraska remained upon the homestead now occupied by our subject until his death, which took place Feb. 15, 1875, when he was sixty-five years old. He was a good man in the broadest sense of the term, honest and industrious, a man prompt to meet his obligations, and a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church. After becoming a naturalized citizen he identified himself with the Republican party, of whose principles he was a warm supporter until the day of his death. The mother is still living, and resides with our subject. Their family consisted of five sons and one daughter; the latter is deceased; the sons are residing in this State.

John Frerichs completed his education in this county, and after the death of his father continued on the homestead with his mother, assisting her in its management. He was married, Oct. 22, 1885, to Miss Mary L. Ritter, who was born in Bureau County, Ill., Sept. 20, 1865. The wedding was celebrated at the home of the bride in McWilliams Precinct. The parents of Mrs. Frerichs were Rev. Josiah and Charotta Ritter, who are still living on the farm where they settled when first coming to this county. The father has been a minister of the Lutheran Church for many years. The parental household included three children, who are all living in Nebraska.

Mrs. Frerichs was quite young when her parents came to Nebraska, and completed her education in the public schools of McWilliams Precinct. She remained with her parents until her marriage, and is now the mother of one child, Lydia S., who was



RESIDENCE OF JOHN FRERICHS, SEC. 24. Mc WILLIAMS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF F. JOE SAND, SEC. 15. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.

1870  
The first of the year was a very dry one  
and the crops were much injured  
by the drought. The weather was  
very hot and the ground was  
very hard. The crops were  
much injured by the drought  
and the weather was very hot  
and the ground was very hard.

The second of the year was a very  
wet one and the crops were  
much injured by the rain. The  
weather was very cold and the  
ground was very hard. The  
crops were much injured by the  
rain and the weather was very  
cold and the ground was very  
hard.

The third of the year was a very  
dry one and the crops were  
much injured by the drought. The  
weather was very hot and the  
ground was very hard. The  
crops were much injured by the  
drought and the weather was very  
hot and the ground was very  
hard.

The fourth of the year was a very  
wet one and the crops were  
much injured by the rain. The  
weather was very cold and the  
ground was very hard. The  
crops were much injured by the  
rain and the weather was very  
cold and the ground was very  
hard.

The fifth of the year was a very  
dry one and the crops were  
much injured by the drought. The  
weather was very hot and the  
ground was very hard. The  
crops were much injured by the  
drought and the weather was very  
hot and the ground was very  
hard.

born Sept. 5, 1886. Like their parents before them, Mr. and Mrs. Frerichs are identified with the Lutheran Church, and Mr. F., politically, is a staunch Republican. He has held various minor offices, and is a man who inspires respect among all who know him. The handsome lithographic view of his homestead which will be found on an accompanying page illustrates the industry and energy which form the leading elements of his character.



**F**RANK JOSEPH SAND occupies a prominent place among the young agriculturists of Otoe County who are active in sustaining and still further developing its great agricultural interests. He is second to none in enterprise and practical ability, and he has a thorough knowledge of farming in all of its branches. The homestead on section 15, Nebraska City Precinct, that was once his father's, has descended to him; a goodly heritage, indeed, with its broad, highly cultivated fields, comprising 160 acres of exceedingly fertile land; its farm buildings, neat, substantial and conveniently arranged; and its many other valuable improvements, which makes it one of the finest farms for many miles around.

The father of our subject, Joseph Sand, was a pioneer first of Missouri, and later of Nebraska, in each case doing his share to promote the growth of the county in which he located. He was a German by birth and breeding, born in Bavaria, March 9, 1811. He early learned the trade of blacksmith in the Fatherland, and coming to America about 1838, worked at his trade in various States. He finally settled in Atchison County, Mo., about 1840, and was a pioneer of that section of the country. He entered a tract of Government land, on which he immediately erected two log cabins, one for a dwelling and the other for a smithy, wherein he plied his calling, and, as opportunity offered, worked on his land. In 1860 he rented his place and came to Nebraska, then a Territory, and located in Otoe County, where he bought 160 acres of land on section 22 of Four Mile Precinct, of which thirty acres broken and a log house constituted the im-

provements. He lived there one year, and then bought 160 acres on section 15 of Nebraska City Precinct, which is the place now occupied by our subject. It is beautifully situated two miles from the court-house in Nebraska City. There was a small frame house and a log stable on the place then, and about fifty acres of the land were improved. Mr. Sand was much interested in fruit growing, and devoted a great deal of his time to that branch of agriculture, planting quite a large vineyard and fine apple, pear and peach orchards. He erected frame stables, and commenced the erection of a commodious brick house which our subject completed. He was very successful in his ventures, and accumulated a fine property. His death, June 5, 1882, was a severe blow to the industrial interests of the community, as he was a man of rare sagacity and sound judgment, a hard worker, and one whose reputation as a good citizen, a kind husband and a wise father was of the best. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Anna Bach, and she was also a native of Bavaria. She died in 1862. The following is the record of the five children born to them: Anthony died at the age of thirteen years; Theresa married Emile Zimmerer, and died in her thirty-fourth year; Frank J., our subject; Fridoline is now a resident of Germany; Philomena married John Zimmerer, and resides at Seward, Neb.

The subject of this sketch received his early education in the public schools of Otoe County. When he was twelve years old he went to Germany with his father to complete his education, and after studying there four years he returned to Nebraska and assisted his father on the farm, and when the latter fell sick the entire charge of the homestead fell to him. He now owns and occupies the old place, which under his able management is still kept up to the high standard of cultivation that it had attained under his father's care.

Mr. Sand was married, May 5, 1884, to Miss Rosina Wirth. She is a native of Atchison County, Mo., and a daughter of Anton and Walburga Wirth, natives of Bavaria. The union of our subject and his wife has been blessed to them by the birth of three children—Mary, Johnnie and Helena. Mr. and Mrs. Sand are devoted members of the Bene-

dictine Catholic Church, and they carry their religion into their daily lives. Mr. Sand is an intelligent, well-informed man, inheriting from his father the highest principles of honesty, industry, sobriety and truthfulness, and he acts well his part as a citizen, as a husband, as a father and as a neighbor, and is respected accordingly by all who know him. Politically, he is a staunch Democrat. We call the attention of our readers to the fine lithographic view of the handsome residence, surroundings and farm of Mr. Sand on an accompanying page.



**J**OSEPH F. WELCH. Upon the first introduction to this gentleman one is impressed with the fact that he is an Englishman by birth. He presents all the happy national traits of that people, and yet is so sufficiently and thoroughly American that nothing objectionable can be found by the most critical patriot. He is at once popular and respected; his business is that of a manufacturer of store fronts, store and office fittings, moldings, sash, doors and blinds. He is also President of the Nebraska City Chair Manufacturing Company. He was born on Charlotte street, Fitzroy Square, London, England, Feb. 25, 1834.

Our subject is the son of James and Harriet Welch. His father was by occupation a plumber, but it was the misfortune of our subject to lose him by death when a very young child. His mother is also deceased. Our subject was the only child, and was brought up with an aunt, and did not go back to London until he was sixteen years of age.

The educational advantages afforded Mr. Welch were comparatively few, and he began to work with his uncle, who was a builder; when he returned to London he was engaged as an improver and finisher. He continued working in the city for some time as a journeyman, and then went into business as a builder with a young man who was also a thorough mechanic, and carried on quite a large business, their pay-roll frequently amounting to over \$500 per week.

During the period of his life in London our subject was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth

Baker. This lady is the daughter of James and Elizabeth Baker, and was born in Worthing, Essex, England. Of this union five children were born in England prior to their journeying to the New World, which event transpired in 1870. Passing direct from New York to Nebraska City, the family resided in that place until the Chicago fire; that event led our subject to that city, and he continued working there and helping to rebuild it for the space of about one year, and then returned to Nebraska City, where he began his work as a builder and contractor.

Mr. Welch is one who has grown up with the city, and has all the time kept himself to the front. He had about \$1,000 when he first came from England, which certainly was a powerful lever to success, but there have been many disadvantages to be overcome, and losses to be sustained. He takes great pride in his sons, to whom he claims is largely due the prosperity that has attended him in this country, because they have, as he puts it, "stayed right by him in everything." In 1880 he started with a four-horse power engine in a small planing-mill business in Griggsport, and happily the business outgrew the capacity of the shop. Purchasing the ground upon which his property now stands, he built his present extensive factory, and put in the plant in 1883. He put up the first building of the Blind Asylum in the Third Ward at Griggsport, that portion of Nebraska City lying on the hill in the northern part of the town.

In 1880 Mr. Welch went into the lumber business, and is now engaged quite extensively and prosperously. The Nebraska City Chair Factory, of which company, as above mentioned, he is President, is one of the earliest enterprises of the city, and has from the first been assured of success with such a moving and controlling spirit as our subject. It is now one of the important industries, and its shipments are quite large.

The family of our subject has included five children, viz: Elizabeth C., who died in England; Frederick William, James, Emily J., and Ellen, who died in this State; all were born in England. Mr. Welch has from the first been thoroughly American in regard to matters of legislation and political economy. He is not bound by party lines or prefer-

ences, always seeking to deposit his ballot in favor of such candidates as in his judgment will best serve the people. The same liberality marks his approach to religious questions, for he is not confined by lines of denominational demarkation. He is by no means an unbeliever in the Christian faith, but is large-souled and generous in his thoughts of others.



**W**ILLIAM R. GRAHAM, junior member of the firm of Catron & Graham, millers at Walnut Creek, is, with his partner, doing a lucrative business, and has the general management of the mill, which is situated in the eastern part of Nebraska City Precinct. It is an old and reliable institution, well equipped with modern machinery, and has a capacity of 3,000 pounds per twelve hours. The mill under its present management does a large custom trade, and yields to its proprietors a handsome income. Mr. Graham has been connected with it for a period of four years, and has had a practical experience in the business for twenty-seven years. He was at one time connected with the Walnut Creek Roller Mills, which are well known and popular in the county.

Prior to taking up his residence in Nebraska Mr. Graham was engaged in milling in Mills County, Iowa, for two years, being connected with the Phoenix Mills, of Glenwood, and was for a period of six years connected with the Factoryville Mills, located on the Little Weeping Water, in Cass County. A native of Amherst County, Va., he was born Jan. 26, 1846, and is the son of Joseph and Frances (Thomas) Graham, who were also natives of the Old Dominion, the father a miller by trade, and the mother a lady of more than ordinary intelligence and good education. About 1883 they removed to East Tennessee, where they are now living, well advanced in years. They celebrated their golden wedding May 24, 1888, an occasion which called together a large number of warm friends and acquaintances.

The parental family consisted of nine children, six of whom are living. William R. learned the miller's trade under the careful instruction of his father, and remained a member of the parental

household until reaching his majority. He then set out on his own account, following his trade in his native State until coming to the West. He understands the business in all its details, and has been largely instrumental in building up the present business.

Our subject was married in his native State, March 28, 1867, to Miss Betty A. Austin, who was born in Campbell County, Va., Nov. 16, 1846. The parents of Mrs. Graham were Thomas L. and Martha N. (Ward) Austin, who are still living, and now residents of Rock Creek Precinct, this county. A sketch of them will be found elsewhere in this volume. Mrs. Graham was well reared and carefully educated in her native State, and lived with her parents until her marriage. Of this union there are no children. Mr. and Mrs. G. occupy a good position in social circles, and our subject is considered one of the leading business men of the place. Politically, he votes the straight Democratic ticket, and has built up for himself the record of an honest man and a good citizen.



**W**ALLACE STEVENSON. The present biographical epitome presents the more salient features in the life of an ex-County Clerk of Otoe County, who, at the same time, was one of the very promising, progressive agriculturists of the county, and operates 480 acres of fine land situated in Russell Precinct, section 14. He is the son of Oliver and Maria (Sherwood) Stevenson. His father was born in Wayne County, Pa., in 1808, and his mother in Sullivan County, N. Y. Their marriage was observed in Pennsylvania.

The forefathers of this family were among the first Quakers who settled Burlington, West Jersey; there were three brothers, Thomas, John and William, all of whom married the three daughters of Samuel Jennings, Governor of the Province, about the year 1680. The great-grandfather, Joseph Stevenson, a descendant of William Stevenson, moved from New Jersey to Wayne County, Pa., in 1796. The name of his son, the grandfather of our subject, was James Stevenson, and his son Oliver, the father of our subject, who represents the fifth generation of

the family in this country, bore worthily a name that had been honored in other years. By occupation he was a miller, and his work was in Honesdale. This mill burned in 1858, and the following year he removed to Brownsville, Neb., where they spent the winter. In the spring of 1860 he went to Nebraska City, and there built a mill at the foot of Main street, and carried on business. As the years passed he grew more prosperous. He owns considerable property, chiefly situated in Nebraska City. For three years he filled with ability the office of Sheriff of Wayne County, Pa., and was State Senator of Nebraska for one term, and three times was elected to fill the office of County Commissioner. His politics are identical with those of the Democratic party, which ticket he accordingly votes.

The subject of our sketch is one of four children born to his parents, viz: Henry (deceased), Granville, Marietta and Wallace. He was born on the 3d of April, 1853, in Wayne County, Pa., and was six years of age when his parents removed to Nebraska. He staid in Nebraska City until he was about eighteen years of age. He was well and carefully educated, being graduated from the common school, then taking a thorough course in the Presbyterian High School at Nebraska City. In 1871 he went to the State University at Lincoln, and took the scientific course, being graduated with the degree of B. S. in the class of '74.

Mr. Stevenson taught school for one year after leaving college, and then began farming in Russell Precinct on his present farm. The 480 acres which constitute his property, in connection with his father, is well kept and cultivated. Valuable improvements are found on every hand, and the value of the property is further enhanced by the flowing of Wolf Creek through it.

On the 18th of January, 1888, near Burlington, Iowa, our subject was united in wedlock to Lucy Hurlbut, the daughter of of T. K. Hurlbut, who was born in Hartford, Conn. Her mother's maiden name was Jane Tweedy, and she was born in Massachusetts. Mrs. Stevenson is the third of nine children born to her parents. She was born in Des Moines County, Iowa, Jan. 15, 1857. She is a lady well educated, and has taken a thorough course of

music at the Oberlin College, Ohio, and from the time of her graduation until her marriage she was busily engaged in imparting instruction to others.

The political relation of our subject is with the Democratic party, but his ability and character are recognized, and resulted in the election of 1883 creating him County Clerk for the term of two years, and for six years he served as Director on the School Board of his school district. He is also one of the order of the Knights of Pythias, and as such is well received and much esteemed.



**J**OHAN A. MILLIKEN is one of the practical, progressive and prosperous farmers of Russell Precinct, where he operates 160 acres of excellent land on section 16. His parents, Alexander J. and Fanny J. (Clark) Milliken, were natives of New York. Upon the paternal side of the family our subject is of Irish descent, while the ancestry of his mother is Scottish. The father of our subject had a woolen manufacturing establishment in successful operation in Orange County, N. Y., but in the year 1840 he sold his business and plant and began farming. After reaching sixty-five years of age the father died in the year 1865. He had been an active member of the Republican party and took much interest in questions of public interest. The mother died in Orange County in 1876, aged sixty-three years. Both were ardent Episcopalians. They were the parents of five children, viz: Anna and Margaret, both deceased; Elizabeth, who resides in New York; James C., deceased, and our subject, John A. Alexander Milliken, the grandfather of our subject, was of Irish descent. He was born in 1760, and died in 1803, in Walden, N. Y. He served as a Captain in the War of 1812.

The birthplace of Mr. Milliken was in the vicinity of Walden, Orange Co., N. Y., the event occurring on the 18th of July, 1842. The common schools supplied him with a foundation of education and mental training, but he continued his residence at home until he attained his majority. In the year 1861, when the call was made for defenders of the Union, he enlisted in the 124th New York Infantry, serving in Company H, under Capt.

Crist, the regiment being under command of Col. Ellis. He was mustered in at Gosben, N. Y., went to Washington and then into Virginia. At the battle of Abington Heights he was injured by a bayonet thrust in the right knee, and was laid up in the hospital at Washington for three weeks and was then discharged, owing to disability. Upon fully recovering he went into the woolen-mills, and continued for nine years, and then made a change, going into the manufacturing of knives, which he continued for about four years.

In 1873 the subject of our sketch came to Nebraska, journeying by rail to Nebraska City. He arrived on the 1st of March. He then went on to Russell and rented a farm, where he remained for one year. He then bought eighty acres of land and ran it upon his own account for a time. Afterward, renting his land, he went to Lincoln and sold ice for about a year. Owing to the loss caused by the grasshopper plague he was compelled to let his land revert back. He then rented land for about four years. At the end of that time he had recovered his financial power and purchased his present property. He came to it when it was yet in an unimproved condition, and in beginning turned the first furrow upon the place. In the fields, farm buildings or dwelling may be seen at every turn improvements, arrangements and conveniences that indicate the enterprise and intelligence of the owner of the place. He is chiefly engaged in raising stock of various kinds, including cattle and hogs. He has also some nine head of horses of high-grade Norman stock.

In Orange County, N. Y., on the 3d of May, 1870, Mr. Milliken celebrated his marriage with Miss Angeline Houston, who is the daughter of Robert and Elena (Vandelyn) Houston. The father was a native of Ireland, and the mother of Dutch and Scotch descent. The former came to America when about fifteen years old, and later became a prosperous farmer in New York, afterward entering into mercantile pursuits, where he was likewise very successful financially. In 1874 he came to Russell Precinct in this county, and in 1880 bought eighty acres of land. In 1882 he went to Unadilla, where he purchased a house, and there lived a retired life until his death, which occurred on the

16th of June, 1888, he at the time being sixty-eight years of age. His widow is still living at Red Oak, N. Y., and is seventy-one years of age. This lady has been twice married. By her first marriage she is the mother of one child, Louisa Wilkins; by the second union, of six children, viz: Mary A., Sarah, Angeline, John, James (deceased) and Jane E.

The wife of our subject was born in Bradford County, Pa., on the 20th of September, 1846. She obtained her education in the usual institutions and led an active life until her marriage. She presented her husband with four children, only two of whom survive, viz: Eleanor Frances and John Gerald. The deceased children were named James C. and Charles C. Mrs. Milliken is an earnest member of the United Brethren Church at Pleasant Hill, and has been connected with the society for thirteen years. She is a lady of good family, possessed of those graces and refinements that mark a noble woman. Her home speaks eloquently of her domestic powers, and it is safe to say that she has given zest and tone to the life of our subject since the acquaintance began which has so happily resulted.

If the subject of our sketch has anything outside his home that receives more thought, care and attention than another it is horses; using the word in its best sense we could almost say it is his hobby. He is the owner of some very fine creatures, and takes the greatest delight in caring for them. He is a man who has made his way in the world largely by his own exertions, energy and thrift, although since his marriage the mutual help of his faithful wife has done very much to this end. Both are highly esteemed in the community in which they reside.

**h** G. CASSEL, a native of this county, and one of the oldest living white residents born within its limits, has his home with his mother on the farm which was taken up by his father from the Government. He was born Oct. 22, 1856, and is the son of Thomas and Mary (West) Cassel, who were natives of Ohio, the former born in Warren County and the latter in Champaign County.

Thomas Cassel accompanied his parents to In-

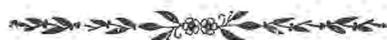
diana when a boy, where he was reared to manhood, becoming familiar with farm pursuits. There also he was married to Miss West, and settled upon a tract of land in Warren County. Five years later, in May, 1856, the father believing he could do better west of the Mississippi, disposed of his Indiana homestead, and gathering together his family and personal effects set out for the Territory of Nebraska. They located upon a quarter-section of land on the eastern line of this county, four miles northeast of which later grew up Nebraska City.

The parents of our subject endured in common with the people around them the hardships and privations of pioneer life. They brought with them their two children, Emma and Louisa, the latter of whom died when a child two years of age. H. G., our subject, was born the same year of their arrival here. The father, however, was not permitted to carry out the plans which he had cherished in regard to the building up of a homestead, as his death occurred two years later, April 19, 1858, when he was but thirty years of age.

The mother of our subject after the death of her husband moved back to Indiana, where she lived until our subject was a lad of fifteen years. In the meantime she had been married to John Steely, who died in Indiana Feb. 11, 1883, leaving three children. Our subject at the age mentioned set out in life for himself practically, and coming back to Nebraska completed his education in the schools of Nebraska City. Since first coming to this State he made ten trips back and forth. In 1884 he engaged in the hardware and implement business at Palmyra, in partnership with W. M. Thaler, and was thus occupied until January, 1888. He then disposed of his interest in the business to his partner, and invested his capital in his present homestead. His widowed mother makes her home with him. His two sisters are married and live in Indiana. The farm of our subject embraces 160 acres of land, occupying the southeast quarter of section 2, Palmyra Precinct. Although his residence here has been brief, it is apparent that he will in the near future be numbered among the skillful agriculturists of Southern Nebraska. He is a young man of more than ordinary capacities, wide-awake, intelligent, and possessed of excellent judgment. A man prompt to meet his

obligations, and of the strictest integrity, he has fully established himself in the esteem and confidence of his community. He cast his first Presidential vote for R. B. Hayes, and is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He still remains a bachelor, and in him his widowed mother finds her chief support and comfort. He gives his attention principally to general agriculture, although having a fair assortment of live stock, and his farm buildings are fully adapted to all the purposes of rural life.

By her second marriage the mother of our subject has three children, namely: Richard H., William W. and Ella. The boys make their home with their mother, and the daughter is now the wife of W. J. Pierce, of Warren County, Ind.



**E**MIL REIBER, dealer in dry-goods, gentlemen's furnishing goods and groceries, is transacting a thriving business on Central avenue in the business portion of Nebraska City, and is regarded as one of its leading men. He is not only of excellent business capacities and sound judgment, but a man possessing a good education, and of great natural refinement. A native of the Kingdom of Saxony, he was born near the city of Frankenhause, Sept. 19, 1842, and in common with the children of his native Empire, began a thorough education, which, however, was interrupted while he was a little lad by the emigration of his parents to America.

John F. C. and Mary Elizabeth Reiber, the parents of our subject, were of pure German ancestry, and the father a farmer by occupation, which he carried on in a skillful and intelligent manner, and while cultivating the soil allowed neither his own mind nor that of his children to run to waste. The household circle consisted of seven sons and one daughter, who were all born in the Fatherland, and in 1850 they all started for the United States. Soon after landing upon American soil they made their way to Washington County, Ohio, where the father became owner of forty acres of land, and where our subject was reared until a young man of twenty years. The death of the mother took place



Page County, in the southwestern part of Iowa, where he had lived two years, and to which place he had migrated from Martin County, Wis. In the Badger State he had farmed and worked in the lumber regions, settling there upon his emigration from the Fatherland, about 1853. He was born in Posen, Prussia, Jan. 2, 1828, and is the son of Christian and Mary (Ledenan) Kuhn, and his mother died when he was seventeen years of age. He accompanied his father to the United States in 1853, bringing with him also his wife, Mrs. Rose (Krintza) Kuhn, and their two children. One of the latter died a few weeks later at Michigan City, Ind. They were obliged to leave the remains of the little one in the cemetery at that place, and with sore hearts pursued their onward journey. They settled in Martin County, Wis., and there the father died in 1869, at the age of seventy-six years.

To our subject and his wife there were born six more children after they became citizens of the United States, and they now have seven living. The eldest daughter, Augusta, is the wife of Claus Peterson, a well-to-do farmer of Hendricks Precinct, this county; Charlotte is the widow of Jacob Haberne, and lives in the city of Lincoln; John is married and living on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Frederick, also farming in this precinct, married Miss Katie Schudler; Bertha, Daniel and Julia are at home with their parents, and all are members of the Evangelical Church. Mr. Kuhn cast his first Presidential vote for Horatio Seymour, but exercises the right of a free American citizen, being independent and supporting the men whom he considers best qualified for office.



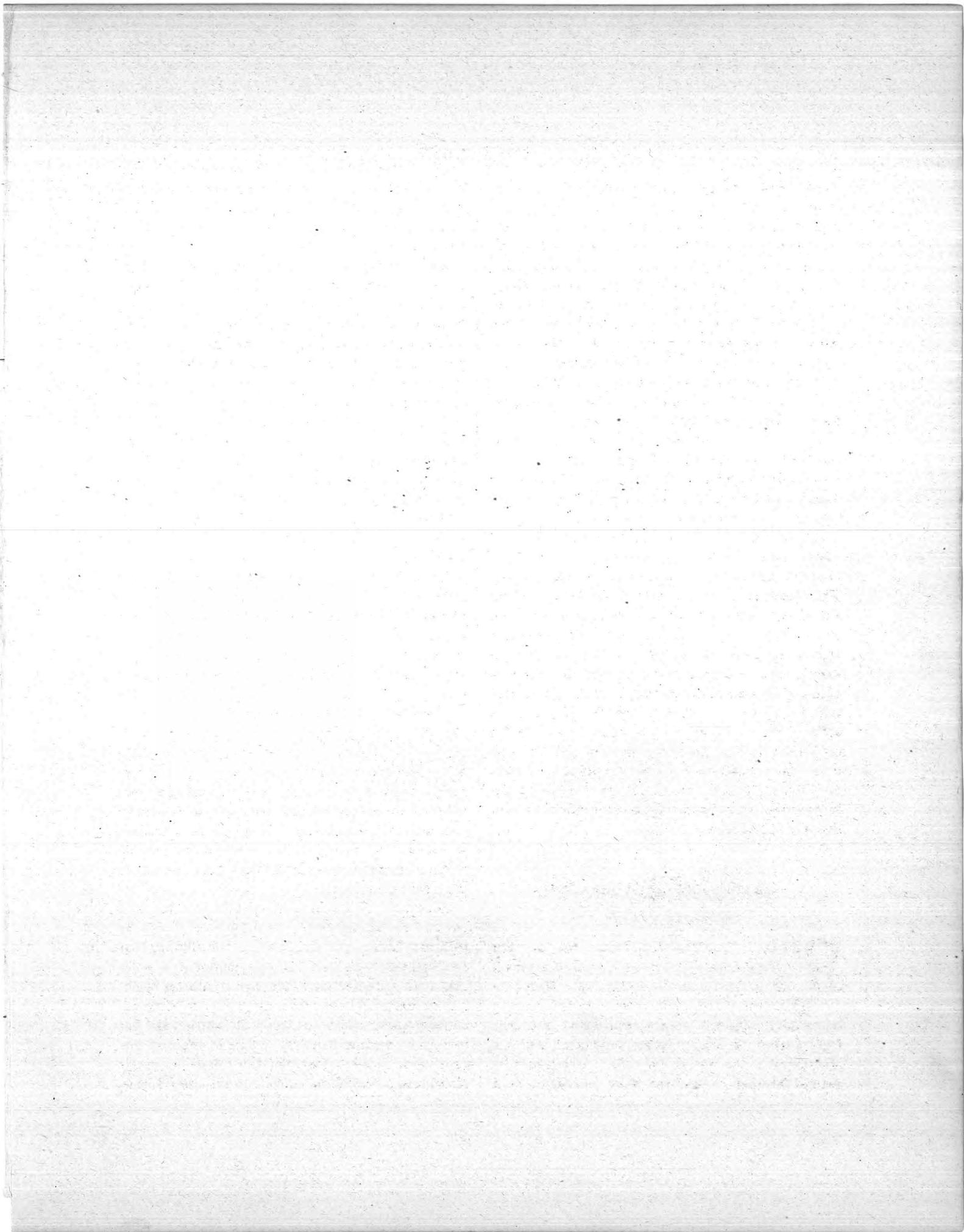
**R**OBERT C. FERGUSON has for the last fourteen years occupied a snug homestead of eighty acres on section 20, Wyoming Precinct, and is the owner of 160 acres in its vicinity. He has been a resident of Nebraska for a period of twenty years, having crossed the Mississippi in the spring of 1869. In addition to general farming he has been very successful as a

stock-raiser, and, as a prominent man in his community, represents a goodly proportion of its real estate, and has made for himself a good record as a citizen.

Erie County, N. Y., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place Jan. 4, 1851, under the modest roof of his parents, William and Agnes (Crystal) Ferguson, who are natives of Scotland, and born near the city of Glasgow. They were of pure Scotch ancestry, which they traced back several generations, and which they look upon with pardonable pride. The parents each came to the United States early in life. They were then the parents of four children, and settled at once in Erie County, N. Y., where the father established himself upon a tract of land, and made a comfortable living for his family until the spring of 1869. They then all came to Nebraska, locating in Wyoming Precinct, where the death of the father took place in 1876, at the age of sixty-nine years. William Ferguson was a good man in the broadest sense of the term, being kind, charitable and hospitable, and assisting those around him whenever opportunity afforded. He became the center of a large circle of warm friends, and is always spoken of as one of the best citizens ever coming into Otoe County.

From New York State the family went to Guernsey County, Ohio, and there the death of the mother took place when she was fifty-two years old. She was a woman remarkable in some respects, being more than ordinarily attached to her family, and rearing her children in the most careful and conscientious manner. She, with her husband, was a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, in the doctrines of which they had been reared in their native Scotland.

Robert C. Ferguson, our subject, was the first child of his parents born in this country. Of the parental family five children are yet living, four sons and one daughter. Robert continued a member of the parental household, and soon after reaching his majority began farming on his own account, and was quite successful from the start. He has performed creditably all the duties of life with one exception, namely, that he still clings to single blessedness, making his home with his sister Lizzie,





John McCarthy



Mrs Emma McCarthy

also unmarried, a very intelligent lady of most estimable qualities and a good housekeeper. Both are members of the Presbyterian Church, like their honored parents.



**J**OHN McCARTHY, deceased. The McCarthy homestead, which is located in the northeastern part of Wyoming Precinct, and which was built up by the subject of this sketch, now deceased, stands prominently among the other farms of note in this county as the monument erected by the hand of perseverance and industry, the result of the labors of a self-made man. Mr. McCarthy began life dependent upon his own resources, and his labors, continued for a series of years, met with their legitimate reward. He left at his death, which occurred Feb. 3, 1888, a valuable estate, embracing 600 acres of land in this county, and eighty acres in Cass County. The place where he made his home is provided with suitable farm buildings, the improved modern machinery necessary for successful agriculture, a goodly assortment of live stock, and all the other comforts and conveniences of the modern country estate.

Mr. McCarthy came to this county as early as 1857, and in 1864 took possession of the land which constituted his homestead, and where he spent the remainder of his life. It was then an unbroken stretch of prairie, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. Mr. McCarthy worked early and late, through storm and sunshine, for many years, keeping steadily in view his purpose of acquiring a comfortable property for his family, combining general farming with stock-raising, and in due time realized the reward of his labors. He brought the greater portion of his land to a good state of cultivation, and around the dwelling planted shade trees and shrubbery, an apple orchard and trees of the smaller fruits, and gathered together those little comforts which have so much to do with the happiness of a household.

Our subject was born in the county of Leeds, Province of Ontario, Canada, Jan. 5, 1831, the home

of his parents being at that time in Elizabeth Township. He came of pure Irish ancestry. His father, Florence McCarthy, was born in the city of Cork, Ireland, in 1798, of a family of high standing, and was educated for the priesthood. He possessed more than ordinary intelligence, but declining holy orders, emigrated when a young man to Canada, and for twenty-six years thereafter was a teacher in the schools of Leeds. There also he was married, March 30, 1830, to Miss Elizabeth Moore, a highly intelligent and religious lady, and spent the remainder of his days in Canada, having purchased a farm in Kitley Township, where his death occurred March 25, 1862. He departed considerably from his early religious teachings, having united with the Methodist Episcopal Church some years before his death.

In 1867, five years after the death of her husband, the mother of our subject came to the United States, joining her children at Ames, Story Co., Iowa, where, twenty years later, her death took place, July 12, 1887. She was a lady of deep piety, active and intelligent, and, like her husband, exercised a great influence upon those around her, and one which was always for good. The parental family included nine children, five of whom are living.

Mr. McCarthy was the second child of his parents, and was reared in his native county, where he received a common-school education. Before attaining his majority he set out to earn his own living, and not long afterward, about 1848, crossed over into the States, and traveled over a considerable part of New England. Finally turning his steps westward, he purchased land near Marshalltown, in Story County, Iowa, but early in the sixties made his way to Nebraska, of which he was afterward a resident until his death.

Mr. McCarthy, in 1864, with his own team, started from Nebraska City on a freighting trip across the plains to Denver; that business in those days proved to be very profitable. He continued to add team after team until he owned a train of seven teams. He made his last trip in 1866, accompanied by his wife. They started from Nebraska City May 24, 1866; two wagons were drawn by six mules each, the other teams by oxen. On the return trip Mrs. McCarthy drove a team of six

mules, and as she says paid her way coming back. The trip to her was a very pleasant one, and she refers to it as one of the pleasant summers of her life. They returned landing at home August 13. In these business ventures Mr. McCarthy accumulated what was practically his substantial start in life, which enabled him to purchase the broad acres which he has left to his wife and children.

Mr. McCarthy not long after coming to this county, and finding himself on the road to prosperity, evidently able to earn a living and more, took unto himself a wife and helpmate, Miss Emma Grosjohn, to whom he was married March 4, 1866. This lady was born on the banks of Wood River, in Madison County, Ill., March 22, 1851, and is the daughter of Peter F. and Sophia (Perry) Grosjohn, who were natives of Switzerland, and of French and Swiss ancestry. Both had left their native country quite young in life, and coming to the United States with their parents settled in Madison County, Ill., where they were married. The father first located upon a farm, but later engaged in merchandising at Cave Spring, that county, near Alton, Ill. Finally, selling out, he came to Nebraska, and located in what was then the old town of Wyoming on the Missouri River, and which has seen its best days. There also he engaged in trade, and was Postmaster for six years. Later he again resumed farming in Wyoming Precinct, and his death took place at the old homestead there, May 17, 1876, when he was sixty-two years old. He was a man of decided views, and politically, a staunch Democrat. The wife and mother is still living, making her home with her children, and is now sixty-eight years old.

Mrs. McCarthy was but six years of age when she came with her parents to Nebraska, and she was educated in the schools of Wyoming Precinct. She is a very intelligent and capable lady, and since the death of her husband has managed the farm and the various interests connected with the estate in a most admirable manner. Of her marriage with our subject there were born ten children, two of whom died in infancy. The survivors are, Lycurgus F., Lola Montez, Annette, John E., Percentia E., Florence, Charles and Dolly E. The eldest of these is twenty-one years of age, and the youngest four,

and they all remain with their mother at home, being given a good education and careful training. Mr. McCarthy, politically, was independent.

In connection with this sketch we present the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy.



**IRA P. CONGER.** The city of Syracuse has come to the front chiefly by reason of its business men and its surrounding agriculturists, among the most honored, enterprising and prosperous of whom is the gentleman whose life is herein briefly sketched. Mr. Conger settled in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, in June, 1865. He is a native of Ohio, and was born in Huron County of that State upon the 10th of August, 1836, and is a son of Christian and Lydia (Westfall) Conger, who were natives respectively of Albany County, N. Y., and Essex County, N. J. The Conger family resided in the New England States for several generations, and James Conger, the grandfather of our subject, made his home for the greater part of his life in New York State, and at the time of his death was a resident of Cayuga County, N. Y. The family originally was French, and all the members thereof this side of the Atlantic are descendants from two brothers who came to America in an early day.

The father of our subject followed as his chosen calling in life the pursuit of husbandry. He was married in Cayuga County, N. Y., and there settled, making it his home until 1831, when he removed to Ohio, and became one of the pioneers of Huron County, where he settled upon a tract of heavily timbered land. At that time its echoes had never been awakened by the woodman's ax and agriculture was an impossibility. In order to do this, however, he quickly began a clearing. He felled the trees, provided the material for the first house, and it was not long before the family were settled in comparatively comfortable quarters. He became the owner of 130 acres, and as soon as the farm was well established he provided a more substantial, commodious and pleasant home for his family, and erected good farm buildings for his stock, etc. In 1863 the parents moved to Michigan, our subject

accompanying them. There they settled in Calhoun County, and there the father died in 1864, at the age of fifty-nine years. The mother of our subject survived her husband, and later removed to Nebraska, where she died on the 14th of November, 1866, aged fifty-seven years. She was the mother of two children, our subject and his brother James W., now a resident of Omaha, where he enjoys an extensive and profitable practice as a physician and surgeon.

The subject of our sketch was reared upon the farm of his father. The educational facilities of his youth were conspicuous by their inadequacy and inefficiency, and he was only able to obtain from such sources the rudiments of learning, but upon that foundation he has been careful to build a substantial and not inelegant superstructure, and takes his place now among the best informed on all practical subjects, and is by no means a stranger to those that are commonly supposed to be for the purposes of polish in education. At an early age his youthful strength was brought into requisition upon the farm, where he first had experience in that department of labor.

In the year 1859 Mr. Conger was married; the lady upon whom his choice fell was Henrietta Place, the estimable daughter of Solomon and Abigail (Shaw) Place. This lady was born in Huron County, Ohio, where her parents had been among the early pioneers. In 1863 Mr. and Mrs. Conger removed to Michigan, where our subject purchased a farm from his brother, who had commenced the study of medicine. Two years later they came to Nebraska, and at first purchased 240 acres of land and resided upon the same until 1879. During that time he effected many improvements, and brought the greater part of the land to a very desirable condition from the agriculturist's standpoint. In 1879 this property was sold and his present farm purchased. This was done chiefly that his daughter might enjoy the advantages of the school.

Mr. Conger now owns 160 acres of land adjoining the city limits of Syracuse. This he has brought to a high state of cultivation and has provided excellent farm buildings for the various requirements. He is also the owner of a farm of 160 acres

in Iowa, and also some property in Syracuse. All that he has been enabled to do in the advancement of the interests of himself and family generally has been upon the same line as that of his education. There was no one to give him a start in life to any extent, and therefore he made his own; there was no one to help him along in life, and therefore he helped himself; and whatever he is to-day in finance, influence or otherwise, is the result of his own continued earnest effort, in which he has ever been sustained and encouraged by the faithful companion of his life, who has at all times and under all circumstances been a source of inspiration and helpfulness.

Mr. and Mrs. Conger are the happy parents of one daughter, to whom has been given the name of Eda. In social circles our subject and wife are held in high regard and are always assured of a welcome as a natural result. Mr. Conger is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and is a member of both the Blue Lodge and Chapter. He is also one of the Knights of Honor, and is attached to the local assembly. In all questions of political economy he is one of the Democratic party, but at the same time attaches much importance to the question of the candidate and his principles as well as the party to which he is attached, believing that it is but right that such men as will best serve the interests of the people should hold office, and consequently lends his influence to that end.



**C**HARLES D. RICHARDSON and his estimable wife, of Palmyra Precinct, are the only members of a colony of Eastern people who located here in October, 1872. They had made the journey from Massachusetts to Nebraska accompanied by five other families, and bringing with them their two children. This part of the county was at that time in an unsettled condition, and all the others becoming discouraged left for other parts.

Our subject, however, determined to give Nebraska a very thorough trial before turning his back upon it, and has since had reason to congratulate himself on his decision. He battled with the

difficulties and hardships of pioneer life, and in the course of a few years began to reap his reward. He is now numbered among the most prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of this region, and his homestead is one of the most valuable in Palmyra Precinct.

Mr. Richardson was born in Lowell, Mass., Oct. 4, 1841, and is the son of Dana and Emily (Sweet) Richardson, who were also of New England birth and parentage. The father was a farmer and real-estate dealer by occupation, and with his excellent wife spent his entire life in his native State, his death taking place about 1871, when he was sixty-two years of age. The mother had died in middle life at the age of forty-two. They were the parents of seven children, three sons and four daughters, of whom Charles D. was the fourth in order of birth. Those surviving are residents of Massachusetts, New York, Mississippi and Nebraska.

Our subject, reared upon a farm, was given a very good education, completing his studies in the academy at Andover. He was a young man of nineteen years at the outbreak of the late Civil War, and in November, 1861, enlisted in Company C, 30th Massachusetts Infantry, going into Camp Chase for drill, and thence accompanying his regiment to the Gulf, being assigned to the Army of the Gulf. He first saw the smoke of battle at Fts. Jackson and St. Phillips, and afterward participated in many of the important battles of the war, namely: Plain Store, La., May 21, 1862; the sieges of Ft. Hudson and Forlorn Hope, and was at Cock's Plantation in July, 1863. On the 19th of September, 1864, he was at Winchester, Va.; he was also at Fisher's Hill. On the 19th of October occurred the battle of Cedar Creek, and our subject was afterward engaged in many other skirmishes, escaping unharmed. He remained with the army for some time after the close of the war, being appointed Quartermaster Sergeant at Sumter, S. C., on the 1st of March, 1866.

After receiving his honorable discharge at the close of his first term of enlistment, Mr. Richardson veteranized, Jan. 1, 1863, and remained in the army until July 5, 1866, when he was mustered out with the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant, after having given to his country his service of four

years and eight months. In the autumn following, having returned to his native town, he made the acquaintance of a lady, Miss Sarah T. Whittier, to whom he was married Sept. 11, 1867. Mrs. Richardson was at that time visiting at Lowell, Mass. She was born in Northfield, N. H., Sept. 23, 1841, and is the daughter of Isaac and Fanny P. (Mc-Questen) Whittier. On the paternal side of the house she is a relative of the poet, John G. Whittier. Her brothers and sisters were: Francis, Isaac N., Daniel B., William P., Lizzie M., Curtis C. and M. Woodbury. William P. and Curtis C. served during the late war in a New Hampshire regiment, and the former died at his brother's in Massachusetts. Her parents were natives of New Hampshire, and are now dead. The mother was an invalid for many years, and her daughter Sarah was at an early age called upon to assume the management of the household. She, however, acquired an excellent education, completing her studies in the college at Silton in company with her sister. She also attended New Hampton Seminary. Her father, Mr. Whittier, was a merchant of thirty years' standing, carrying on business in Londonderry, Goffstown, Union Bridge and Northfield. In the latter place Mr. and Mrs. Richardson were married. Mr. Whittier was a very capable and intelligent man, and served as Justice of the Peace for many years. He died at Northfield in October, 1878, at the age of seventy-eight years. The mother survived her husband six years, her death taking place at Lowell, in 1884, she being also seventy-eight years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson lived in New England five years after their marriage, and then came directly to Nebraska. They are the parents of three children, Lilla Gertrude, Fannie May and Lizzie, the latter of whom was born in this State, and died when six weeks old. Their eldest daughter is the wife of S. S. English, a merchant at Eagle, and the mother of one child, a son, Charles Herbert. Fanny, an interesting girl of eighteen years, is attending the college at Crete, Neb.

Mr. Richardson votes the straight Republican ticket, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church at Eagle. Both are active workers in the Sunday-

school, and Mrs. R. is President of the Ladies' Aid Society. The latter has been especially efficient in church matters, being a practical worker, and aiding greatly in the furnishing of the building, the audience room and the Sunday-school room.

Mr. Richardson commenced at first principles in the building up of his homestead, there having been very little attempt at improvement on his land when he first became owner. Of late years he has given considerable attention to stock-feeding, and ships annually numbers of cattle and hogs. He is Past Commander of the G. A. R. Post, of Palmyra. He is also President of the New England Veteran Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, of Nebraska. One of the most useful members of his community, he has naturally gathered about him a large circle of friends and acquaintances, is a man whose integrity is unquestioned and whose word is considered as good as his bond.



**H**ON. WILLIAM P. BIRCHFIELD is engaged in the grocery business in company with his son in Nebraska City. He was one of the pioneers of 1854, and was an important factor in the early development of Otoe County, taking an active part in public affairs, and it was through his wise and vigorous course while serving as Sheriff of the county, that law and order were maintained, and peaceful citizens were protected in their rights in those Territorial days. He was at one time a member of the Territorial Legislature, and in him his constituency found an able representative, who looked well after the interests of the county and State.

Our subject was born July 4, 1824, in Franklin County, Mo., to John and Rebecca (Hamilton) Birchfield. His mother was a native of Georgia, and a daughter of William Hamilton. She died in 1837, leaving in the minds of her friends the memory of a true woman, a faithful wife and a devoted mother. The father of our subject was, it is supposed, a native of Kentucky. He removed from that State to Illinois in its Territorial days, and after the War of 1812, in which he took an honorable part, he again made a move and penetrated to

the wilds of Missouri and located in Franklin County. In 1833 he went to another part of the State, and became a pioneer of what is now known as Taney County. He took up some timber land, entered it from the Government, and at the time of his death in 1844 had cleared a large tract. He was a man of enterprise and good judgment, and acquired an extensive property.

William Birchfield was nine years old when his parents went to Taney County to reside, and there he grew to manhood. There were no free schools, as they were conducted under the subscription plan, and in such a one he acquired a very good education, and taught two terms himself. His education and well-known ability made him influential in public affairs, even before he had attained his majority. When he was twenty-one he was elected Assessor of Taney County, and for four years discharged the onerous duties of that office to the satisfaction of his fellow-citizens. He married at nineteen years of age, and his father gave him a tract of land, on which he erected a log house, and in that he and his young bride commenced house-keeping. The house had a puncheon floor, and as they moved into it before the chimney was built, his wife did the cooking over an improvised fireplace outside for a time, and even after that he had no stove for some years, as they were almost unknown in that part of the country at that time. His wife was an adept at spinning and weaving, and made all the cloth for herself and husband. In 1850 Mr. Birchfield sold his property in Taney County and moved to Holt County, Mo., where he lived until the spring of 1854, at which time he identified himself with the pioneers of this then Territory of Nebraska. He made a claim one and one-half miles southwest of the present site of Nebraska City, which at that time contained only the log buildings of the abandoned fort of the Government, and the ferry house near the river, the first permanent habitation in the city or county, built by John Boulware. The land was not then surveyed, as the Indian title to it had not been extinguished. Mr. Birchfield built a log house on his claim, and had it ready for occupancy on the 4th of July, and on the day following our National holiday he returned to Holt County, Mo., for his

family, and on the 17th of August arrived with them at his cabin, the farthest settlement from the city at the time, the removal being made with an ox-team. Indians were plentiful here then, and he made peace with them by paying the interpreter \$10, with the agreement that his stock was to be protected from the raids of the savages, and that they should not beg from him during the winter. Mr. Birchfield had but twenty-five cents left after his private treaty, but by industry and good management he managed to keep the wolf from the door. In the fall of 1854 and the spring of 1855 he broke forty acres of his land, and in the latter year sold his claim, as the land had not been thrown on the market, and moved into the city to live, having taken as part payment for his land a house and lot situated on the northwest corner of Eighth and Second Corso streets, and he soon after bought the land now occupied by the Government building. He was elected Sheriff of the county in 1855, and was twice re-elected, thus serving three full terms. In the fall of 1861 he was elected a member of the Territorial Council, or Legislature. In 1862 Mr. Birchfield returned to Holt County, Mo., where he spent the succeeding three years. He then returned to this city and opened an auction and commission store, which he managed very profitably until, on account of ill-health, he was obliged to retire from the business in 1880. He went to Burlington Medical Springs, in Nodaway County, Mo., to recuperate, and while there kept a hotel two years. He subsequently went to Holt County and engaged in the mercantile business for two years. At the expiration of that time we find him once again in Nebraska, this time in Nemaha County, where he opened a museum of living curiosities, and traveled with that a year and a half. In 1887 he located once more in Nebraska City, and established himself in the grocery business with his son. They have a well-appointed, well-stocked store, and have already built up quite an extensive trade among a good class of customers.

Mr. Birchfield has been three times married. In 1843 he was united to Mary N. Bledsoe, a native of Indiana. She died Sept. 2, 1865, leaving three children: Sarah, wife of Thomas Dickinson, lives in Philadelphia; James lives in Johnson County,

Neb.; Richard, who is in company with his father. The second marriage of our subject, which took place in 1867, was to Mary J. (George) Cooksey. She died eleven months later. Mr. Birchfield was married to his present wife, formerly Miss Margaret McNamara, a native of Indiana, in 1868. Of this marriage one child, Pearl, is living.

Mr. Birchfield is a pleasant talker, and can tell many a good story illustrative of life on the frontier in the fifties. He was a great sportsman and keenly enjoyed the hunt, and in November, 1855, he was out one day in search of game, and discovered an animal which he thought to be a wolf. He returned to the house for his dog and horse, intending to give it the chase. On his return he soon found that he had made a mistake, and had started a bear. He followed it out toward the open prairie, around the hills and bluffs, and back again into the heart of the city. A bear so near to the habitations of man was a novelty, and all the citizens in the town turned out to join in the chase, and all the dogs in town went after Mr. Bruin, but after getting one lick from his huge paw were glad to retreat. The animal was finally treed near the cemetery, and all gathered around, and our subject was delegated to do the shooting. He fired and broke the bear's shoulder, which loosened his hold on the tree and he tumbled to the ground and rolled into a ravine, which was partly filled with water. There the two dogs that had not been frightened away tackled him. He soon got the better of one of the dogs, and was about to squeeze him to death, when the owner of the dog went to his rescue, jumping into the ravine with a spade in his hand. Thereupon the bear turned his attention to his human assailant, who in his excitement tried to climb the embankment backwards. Then the remaining dog made a vigorous attack from the rear, and the bear was soon rolled into the water and drowned. A council was then held to know what should be done with the bear, and it was decided that Mr. Birchfield should skin the animal and sell it, not letting any one have more than two pounds, so that each one should have a share. He, however, distributed it gratuitously, and that was the last bear seen in this vicinity.

Mr. Birchfield relates that in the summer of 1855

the surveyors encountered a band of Indians several miles west of the city, and deeming them hostile, were frightened and returned to the river settlements for help. The whites turned out from the various settlements, our subject going with the Nebraska City force, and they wended their way to Salt Creek, where the Indians were encamped. They found the supposed bloodthirsty savages to be peaceably disposed, and the red men shared their provisions with their visitors, and thus the dreaded encounter was turned into a sort of a picnic, and the settlers returned without trouble.

**G**EORGE LOCKIE, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct, owns 200 acres of land on section 4. He is of sturdy Scotch ancestry and parentage, and was himself born among the lowlands of Roxburyshire, in June, 1829. He received his early education in the schools of Roxburyshire Parish, and was trained by wise and sensible parents to those habits of honesty and industry which have served him well in all his later years.

Mr. Lockie has seen much of life, and traveled long distances on old ocean, being a seeker of gold in the Australian mines six years. That period of his life was necessarily spent among a rough class of men, but he did not suffer himself to lose sight of the principles which had been taught him in his boyhood. His father was a miller by occupation, and George remained under the parental roof until twenty-eight years of age, when he was seized with the Australian fever, and set out from Liverpool for Port Philip on the steamer "James Chancellor," in 1851. During a violent storm it was supposed the ship would go down with all on board, but the gallant vessel finally weathered the winds, and landed the crew safely at their destination, 103 days from the time of starting. This was on the voyage to America.

Our subject went at once into the mines, taking a claim for himself, and four years later returned to his native Scotland with quite a little fortune. Two and one-half years later, in 1861, he set sail for America on the same "Chancellor," and after being tossed about on a stormy sea for a period of

five weeks, landed in New York City. Thence he emigrated to Delaware County, Ohio, where he operated on rented land for a period of seven years.

In the summer of 1868 Mr. Lockie, accompanied by his family, set out overland with one team for the new State of Nebraska. He crossed the Missouri River on a flatboat, and, coming to Russell Precinct, this county, homesteaded eighty acres of raw prairie. His first business was to put up a shelter for himself and family, and he then commenced breaking the soil and effecting the improvements suggested by his necessities. In due time he planted forest and fruit trees, and has now two fine groves and seven acres in an orchard of 100 bearing apple trees, besides the smaller fruits. His fields are separated by beautiful hedge fencing, and the land is supplied with running water. As soon as his means justified Mr. Lockie added 140 acres to his first purchase, this latter lying on sections 3 and 4. Of late years he has turned his attention largely to stock-raising, and ships annually one or two carloads of cattle and swine.

Mr. Lockie was married, June 4, 1861, in New York City, to Miss Barbara, daughter of James and Barbara (Oliver) Bast. Mrs. Lockie was born Jan. 10, 1830, in Scotland, and, like her husband, is of excellent Scotch ancestry. Her parents were born in Roxburyshire, and her father was shepherd for a firm who did an extensive business in sheep. The father died in his native shire, the mother in Canada. There were only two children, both daughters, Agnes, the younger, is in Scotland.

To Mr. and Mrs. Lockie there have been born six sons and three daughters, namely: Agnes, James, Mary, George, Thomas; Barbara, who died when four years old; John, Robert and William. Agnes is the wife of Thomas Burrell, a well-to-do farmer of Russell Precinct, and the mother of three children. The others are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. L. are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject votes the straight Republican ticket.

The parents of our subject, James and Mary (Wilkins) Lockie, were natives of Roxburyshire, Scotland, where they were reared and married. They spent their entire lives upon their native soil, and the father, from the time of his early manhood,

followed milling until his death, which occurred when he was seventy-seven years of age. The mother died at the age of seventy-eight. Of their five children the record is as follows: Bettie resides in the city of Edinburgh; Isabelle also continues in her native Scotland; James, John and Joan came to America about 1880; the former is farming in Cass County, this State, and the latter fills the position of housekeeper. George, our subject, was the youngest of the family. He has become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and is a worthy representative of one of the best nationalities on the face of the globe.



**J**OHAN H. MOHRMAN, of the little village of Talmage, is prominently identified with its grain trade, having been buying and selling at this point in the interests of O. T. Hulbert some years. He came to Talmage during the first inception of the village, six years ago, and first established himself in the farm implement trade, being the pioneer of this business here. He was thus occupied a number of years.

Previous to his settlement in this part of Otoe County Mr. Mohrman had been a resident of Nebraska City, to which he had removed from Clayton County, Iowa. He had been a resident of the Hawkeye State for a period of twenty-five years. His boyhood days were spent in New Bremen, in the State of Ohio, he having been born in Auglaize County, Sept. 17, 1847. His father, John C. Mohrman, was a native of the Province of Hanover, Germany, from which he emigrated early in life with his parents to the United States. They settled in Ohio, of which they were residents for a number of years. The paternal grandfather, Herman Mohrman, lived to become a resident of Iowa, and died in Clayton County when over ninety years of age. His wife had died in Ohio when ripe in years.

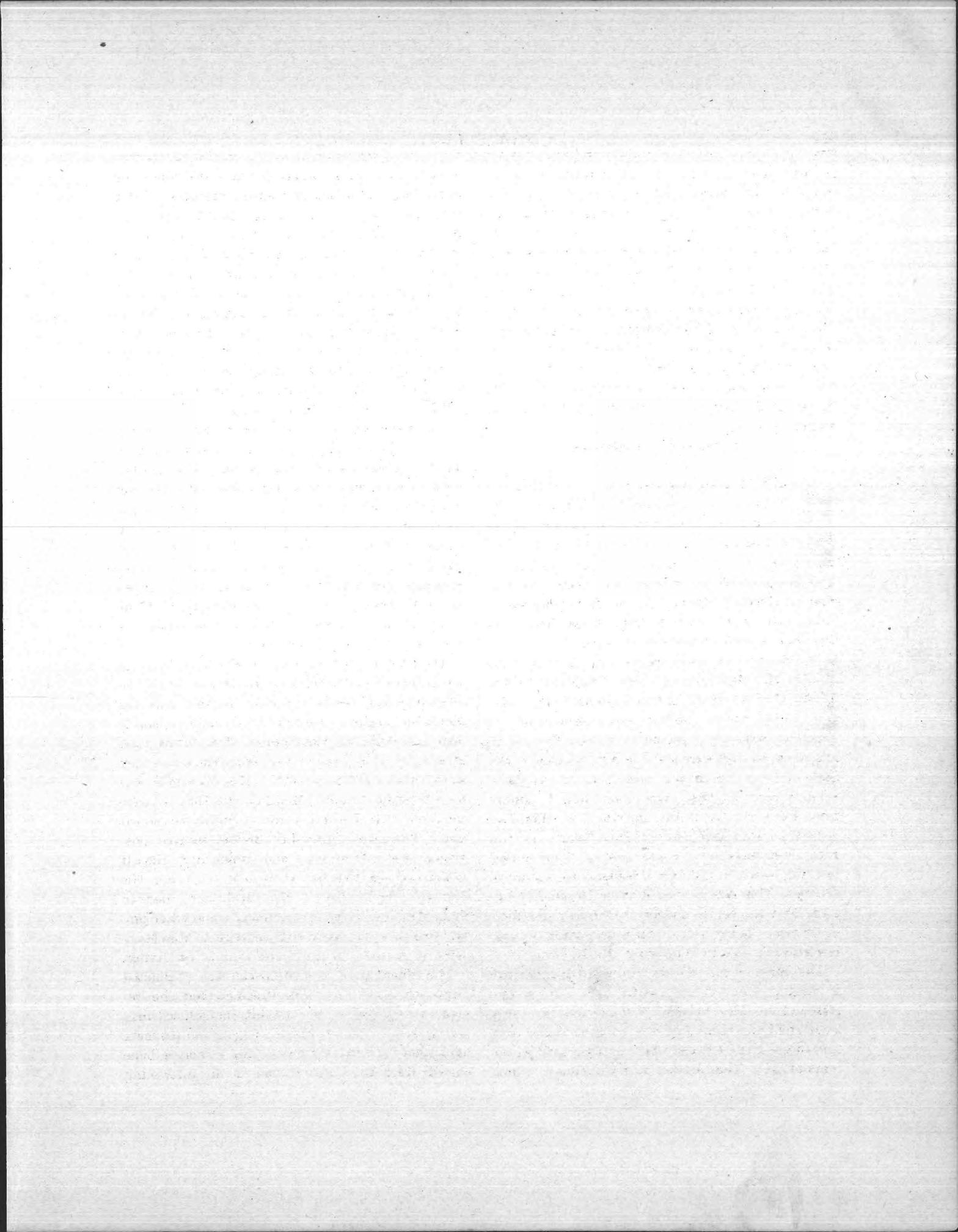
The father of our subject was reared and married in Auglaize County, Ohio. His wife, who in her girlhood was Miss Rebecca Willenbruch, was also a native of Germany, and was brought by her parents to the United States when a little girl seven years of age. They settled near Cincinnati, Ohio,

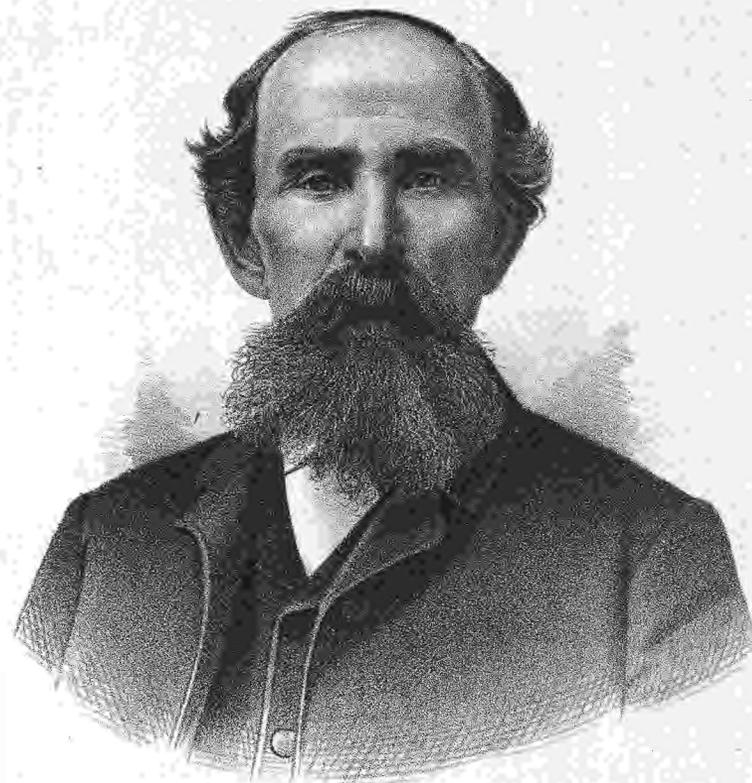
where they lived a number of years, and where the father engaged in the mercantile business. Later they also removed to Auglaize County, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. After marriage the parents of our subject took up their residence in New Bremen, Auglaize County, where the father engaged in general merchandising until his removal to Iowa. In the Hawkeye State he commenced farming, and was thus occupied successfully for a number of years, at the expiration of which he once more changed his residence, this time to Nebraska City, this State, where he died in 1879, at the age of sixty-five years.

The father of our subject was a man of much force of character, a Lutheran in religious matters, and in politics a sound Republican. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her son Fernando, in Nebraska City; she is now fifty-eight years old, and is also connected with the Lutheran Church. John H. was the second of their eight children, the parental household comprising three sons and five daughters. Seven of the children are still living, and with the exception of the youngest daughter are all married and settled in comfortable homes of their own.

The education of our subject was completed in the common schools of Clayton, Iowa, where he arrived at man's estate and cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. He came to Nebraska a single man, and made the acquaintance of his future wife, Miss Mary A. Brown, in Nebraska City, where they were married March 6, 1879. Mrs. Mohrman was born in Saline County, Mo., Feb. 28, 1854, whence she came with her father to the above-mentioned city. The latter, Strawther Brown, secured possession of a tract of land and established himself as a farmer near the city, where he is still living. His first wife, the mother of Mrs. Mohrman, died in Four Mile Precinct, this county, some years ago. Mr. Brown was subsequently married to Miss Mary Jefferies, a native of this State, who is yet living.

The education of Mrs. Mohrman was completed in the schools of Four Mile Precinct, and she remained a member of her father's household until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children—Ada L. and a babe named Kenneth. The former is an interesting





Jesse Campbell Jonathan R Swalley

little girl of eight years, attending the village school in Talmage.

Mr. Mohrman, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. In religious matters he is a devout member of the Lutheran Church, and his wife of the Southern Methodist Church. He has been quite prominent in public affairs, serving as a member of the School Board and the City Council, and making himself useful as opportunity occurs in advancing the social and moral status of the community.

**JESSE CAMPBELL.** The subject of this biography came to Nebraska Territory from Moniteau County, Mo., in the fall of 1861, with his parents. Since that time he has been mostly a resident of this county, and is now proprietor of one of the best farms of Wyoming Precinct, embracing 160 acres of land on section 6, while he also owns 120 acres in Liberty Precinct, Cass County. He has fair improvements, including a neat and substantial dwelling, together with a suitable barn and out-buildings, adapted to the storing of grain and the shelter of stock.

Our subject, a native of Ohio, was born about twelve miles from Mt. Vernon, Knox County, March 6, 1848. His father, Robert Campbell, a native of Pennsylvania, was the descendant of an excellent old Scotch and German family, from whom he inherited those qualities of character essential to good citizenship and an upright life. He was reared to manhood in his native State, receiving a common-school education and being employed mostly in farming pursuits. He took for his wife a lady of his own county, Miss Mary McClure, who was born and reared in Washington, the county seat of Washington County, Pa., and was of Irish descent. Her birth took place Feb. 1, 1813. Her parents lived and died in Washington County, Pa. Robert Campbell and wife after the birth of a part of their family removed from Pennsylvania to Ohio, where two more children were added to the household circle, our subject and his brother Robert.

In August of 1854 the Campbell family, gathering together their household effects, the father

having disposed of his property, started for the farther West, crossing the Mississippi and locating in Moniteau County, Mo., where eventually the father became owner of 220 acres, and where they lived for a period of seven years. They were not satisfied, however, with their surroundings and the prospect for the future, and accordingly resolved to cast their lot with the people of Nebraska. The father became possessor of another farm in Wyoming Precinct, located on section 6, where he built up a good home, and where his death took place July 19, 1869, when he was fifty-nine years old. He was a very intelligent man, and a citizen held in high respect in his community. Politically, he had been a member of the Republican party since 1860, having voted for President Lincoln. The wife and mother is still living, making her home with her son Jesse, our subject. Although seventy-five years old she retains her faculties, mentally and physically, in a remarkable degree, and is able to tell many an interesting tale of pioneer life across the Mississippi, as well as in Ohio.

Jesse Campbell had only the advantages of a common-school education, but he is a man who has kept his eyes open to what is going on around him in the world, and is more than ordinarily intelligent and well informed. He is a reader and thinker, and keeps himself well posted upon current events by the perusal of instructive books and newspapers. With his excellent mother, he is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. By his father he was naturally imbued with Republican principles, but his warm interest in the temperance cause has made of him a Prohibitionist.

In this connection is shown a portrait of Mr. Campbell.

**JONATHAN R. SWALLEY.** The subject of this biography is proprietor of one of the most beautiful farms in Otoe County, occupying an elevated situation overlooking the Missouri River. It embraces 200 acres of highly cultivated land, upon which have been erected a handsome residence and other convenient farm buildings. Mr. Swalley settled here in June

of 1868, and there is ample evidence of the industry and perseverance with which he has labored. He, however, settled in Nebraska City in April, 1855.

Besides the property above mentioned our subject also owns valuable land in Syracuse Precinct. He came to Nebraska ten years before it was transformed from a Territory into a State, and when the land which he now occupies was but little removed from its primitive condition. He made the journey overland from his native State of Ohio, landing in this county on the 10th of April, 1855, and operated on land in another part of the precinct two years before making his purchase. He was born in Crawford County, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1833, and is the second son and fourth child of Solomon and Elizabeth (Miller) Swalley, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, and of substantial Dutch ancestry. The father was a farmer by occupation, and after his marriage and the birth of three children, migrated with his little family to Crawford County, Ohio, where Jonathan R. was born not long afterward. In due time eleven more children were added to the family circle, which eventually included six sons and nine daughters. Of these five sons and seven daughters are still living, and all have been married.

Our subject was reared to manhood in the Buckeye State, where he became familiar with agricultural pursuits and acquired a common-school education. In the meantime he learned the trade of carpenter, and thus, armed with a good trade and a knowledge of farming, crossed the Mississippi, and soon afterward began to carve out his fortune among the pioneers of Nebraska Territory.

Mr. Swalley, after laying the foundation for a future home and competence, was united in marriage with Miss Nancy J. Holmes, who was born in Howard County, Mo., Dec. 9, 1844. Mrs. Swalley is the daughter of George and Susan (Ethell) Holmes, natives of Boone County, Mo. Her father died when she was quite young, and she was taken into a good home in Davis County, Iowa, where she was reared to womanhood, and soon afterward came to Nebraska with her mother and stepfather. She is a very intelligent and capable lady. Of her union with our subject there were born three sons, two of whom are deceased, George E. and an infant

unnamed. The former was born Aug. 30, 1869, and died April 7, 1874. Herbert B. was born Nov. 29, 1873, in Wyoming Precinct, and is now a promising boy, making his home with his parents.

Mr. Swalley is a Republican, politically, and is esteemed among his neighbors as a man whose word is considered as good as his bond. Quiet and unobtrusive in his habits, he has never sought office, although keeping himself well posted upon current events, and encouraging the enterprises calculated to advance the people socially and financially. The Swalley homestead invariably attracts the attention of the traveler along the northern line of this county, being not only one of the most beautiful, but one of the most valuable in its precinct. Everything that the hand of industry could accomplish and taste could suggest, has been done to fulfill the idea of the modern country estate. A portrait of Mr. Swalley accompanies this sketch.



**J**OHN H. TETEN, Sr., one of the most thrifty German farmers of Rock Creek Precinct, has been for the last twenty-one years successfully cultivating 160 acres of land on section 29. Here he established himself in the midst of an unbroken stretch of country, when his neighbors were few and far between, and when what is now a populous district of intelligent and enterprising people was then inhabited principally by wild animals and roamed over by Indians. Not only had Mr. Teten come to the wild West, but had journeyed across the ocean to a strange country, from his native Province of Hanover, in Germany, which was a Kingdom at the time of his birth, which occurred on the 15th of August, 1831.

The father of our subject, John Henry Teten by name, accompanied the latter hither, and died six months after his arrival at the home of his son in Rock Creek Precinct. The mother, Mrs. Gesche Teten, had died in her native Germany. John H. was one of the younger members of the household, and, like most of the children of Germany, received a thorough education. Upon reaching manhood he was married to Miss Sophie C. Ekhoft, also a native of Hanover, and who was born April 10,

1826. They came to the United States after the birth of five children, and after their arrival here one more child was added to the household circle. These children are all living: J. Henry, Jr., married Miss Margareta Walken, who was born in Germany and came to the United States when a young woman, three years before her marriage. They have two children—John H. and an infant named Gerhard A. This son and his family live with our subject, and assist in the management of the farm. He is a very promising young man, fully as energetic and industrious as his father. John J. married Miss Barbara Orban, a lady of German birth and parentage, and is in the drug business in Nebraska City, and City Clerk; Herman is farming for himself in Otoe County; H. Christina is the wife of Herman J. Neemann, who is engaged in farming in Russell Precinct; Talka M. and Anna Z. are at home with their parents.

Our subject and his family all belong to the Lutheran Church, to the support of which they contribute cheerfully and liberally, and in which Mr. T. is a leading member and one of its pillars. He is an earnest advocate of the principles of the Democratic party, and Vice President of the Democratic Club of Rock Creek Precinct.

**C**APT. H. H. CHILDS, who represents the lumber trade in Talmage and Douglas, dealing largely in every variety required in every department of house building material, has been identified with the business interests of Talmage since its foundation in 1882. He is a successful business man, and a much valued citizen. He first carried on the yards established by W. H. Hasseft, of Tecumseh, for seven months, and then continued the same for the successors of that gentleman, Stewart, Chute & Co., remaining with them until he purchased the yards and became sole proprietor. He threw himself into this business with his usual ardor, and considerably extended it, opening the yards at Douglas in order to meet his growing trade. Latterly his business represents an annual total of \$15,000.

Prior to engaging in the lumber business Mr.

Childs had followed agricultural pursuits in Spring Creek Precinct, Johnson County, where he took up land in 1870, and until he came to this place continued to operate his farm, which comprised 160 acres of fine, arable, fertile land. He first came to Nebraska in 1866, and lived about fourteen miles north of Lincoln, but after three years moved to Saline County, and ran a saw and grist mill quite close to where Crete now stands. In 1869 he sold his interest in this, and moved to the above-mentioned farm.

Until coming to Nebraska Capt. Childs had lived chiefly in Wisconsin since he was about ten years of age, at which time his parents removed from the township of Messina, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y., where he was born. He is a son of Elijah and Sabrina Childs, who gave him the best opportunity possible to obtain an education, and were very careful to bring him up so that his life and character might end in a right direction.

Our subject was living in Juneau County, Wis., upon the farm of his father, when the first call for 300,000 troops was made by President Lincoln, in April, 1861. He at once presented himself, and became a private in Company A, 6th Wisconsin Infantry, which became part of the Army of the Potomac, under the command of Gens. McClellan and McDowell. Our subject served at the second battle of Bull Run, but previous to the engagement he had been transferred to the 4th United States Light Artillery, and served in Company B. The 2d, 6th and 7th Wisconsin, 19th Indiana and 24th Michigan Infantry comprised the "Iron Brigade" of the Army of the Potomac. He served in that battery at the battle of Rappahannock Station, Aug. 20, 22, and 23, 1862, at Warrington Springs on the 26th of August, at Gainesville on the 28th of August, Bull Run on the 29th and 30th, and South Mountain on the 14th of September; three days later he was wounded at the battle of Antietam, Md., by a gunshot wound through the right shoulder, and was in the hospital at Chester, Pa., after lying upon the battle-field for ten days. He was discharged on the 7th of February, 1863, from the hospital on account of the wound having disabled him from further service at that time; therefore he returned to his home in Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1864, being completely restored to health, our subject re-entered the army, joining Company E, 41st Wisconsin Infantry—in fact, he raised the company. He received the commission of Captain at once from the Governor of the State, and then at the head of his company, and, of course, with his regiment, he went to the front. They served in the Army of the Cumberland, and were in the engagement at Memphis, Tenn., under General Commander Washburne, who opposed the Confederate forces under Forrest. After six months' fighting here and there, he was discharged on account of the expiration of his term of enlistment, and returned with his company to Wisconsin in September, 1864. Feb. 20, 1865, he and a Mr. C. W. Farrington started to raise another company. This was effected within twenty days, and our subject was commissioned Captain of the same. It was assigned to the 49th Regiment, under Col. Samuel Fellows, now of Chicago. The regiment became part of the Army of the West, and served chiefly on detached service and Provost Marshal duty at Rolla and St. Louis, Mo. Capt. Childs held the position of Assistant Provost Marshal while on duty at the former place, and was retained in St. Louis until February, 1866. During the latter month he was called to do duty on a court-martial and commission, of which Gen. Beverly, of Illinois, was the President. A commission was appointed to try the boat burners of the Mississippi River, and was appointed, by the Secretary of War.

Shortly after his final severance from military service Capt. Childs came to this State, and has since been a resident almost continuously. He is one of the leading and valued citizens of this district, and an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R., and was attached to the Talmage Post. He has frequently been called upon to fill different offices, and is at present one of the Village Board of Talmage. Politically, he is a Prohibitionist, and is one of the energetic workers in the campaigns where special effort is desirable.

Capt. Childs was married in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., to Miss Luthera Atwood, who was born at Massena, in that county, and was there brought up and educated. Subsequently she became a teacher

in the county, and otherwise identified with that place. Her father, Franklin Atwood, is still living there, and has reached an advanced age. Her mother died when Mrs. Childs was a little girl of about two years. Two children have been born to our subject, one of whom, Albert, died when three years of age; the other, Frank L., manages the Douglas department of his father's business, and in doing so evinces an ability most gratifying. He is well educated, having attended the State University, and also the State Normal School at Peru.

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**M**ARTIN BROWN. Germany, which has given so many of her sons to the development of the western portion of this hemisphere, holds the birthplace of the subject of this sketch, where he first opened his eyes to the light Sept. 9, 1832. His childhood home was in the little Kingdom of Wurtemberg, of which his parents, Joseph and Barbara (Seubert) Brown, were also natives, and where they spent their entire lives.

The father of our subject was twice married, having seven children by each union, and Martin was the third child of the first marriage. He was given good educational advantages, and served a regular apprenticeship as a stone cutter and mason. He was thirteen years old at the time of his mother's death, and shortly afterward was taken to the home of his maternal uncle, Michael Seubert, a contractor and builder, with whom he lived until attaining his majority.

Young Brown became an expert in his calling, and as the employe of his uncle assisted in the erection of many public buildings and important works in his native Empire. Among these was the bridge at Makmiel, and one extraordinarily large culvert in Italy by direction of the Italian Government. Soon after becoming his own man, however, our subject resolved to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, in March, 1853, he boarded a sailing-vessel at Havre in company with an aunt, and five weeks later landed in New York City. Finding difficulty in procuring work at his trade he wisely accepted whatever else he could find to do, employing himself as a gardener

and coachman, and thus wisely spending no idle time.

After about one year thus occupied, Mr. Brown engaged as fireman on an ocean steamship, and during the voyages of two years thereafter, visited the principal ports of England and France, Africa, Cuba and Panama, and finally San Francisco. This proved a rich experience, which he has never regretted. When again becoming established on terra firma he began farming in Lee County, Ill., which brought him up to about the time of the breaking out of the Civil War. Having become thoroughly identified with the interests of his adopted country, and understanding the importance of an undivided Union, he enlisted in Company G, 8th Illinois Cavalry, for three years, or during the war. He was under the command of Gen. Sherman, and joined in the famous march to the sea. He had the satisfaction of witnessing the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, and bears an honorable scar from a wound received in a sabre charge. He had a horse killed under him by the explosion of a shell, but aside from these hairbreadth escapes came out uninjured. He was present in the grand review at Washington, and mustered out there in July, 1865.

After returning from the army, Mr. Brown took up his residence in DeKalb County, Ill., and engaged in farming. He was married in November, 1859, to Miss Martha Giffin, who was born in Pennsylvania in 1834. Her parents, Robert and Sarah (Osborn) Giffin, were natives respectively of England and Pennsylvania. The father was a cooper by trade, but met his death by drowning when comparatively a young man. The mother later took up her residence in Perry County, Pa., and spent her last years in Petersburg, Pa. She was a widow at the time of her marriage with Mr. Giffin, having been married first to a Mr. Anderson, by whom she became the mother of two children. Of her marriage with Mr. Giffin there were also born two children—Martha L. and her brother Henry, older.

Mrs. Brown when a young girl went to Illinois with her guardian, and lived in DeKalb County until her marriage with our subject. Of this union there were born six children, namely: Mary C., Sarah A. E., Clara B., Susannah M., Harry M. P. and Sherman. In the year 1867 Mr. and Mrs.

Brown were visited by a terrible affliction in the loss of their three youngest children of diphtheria within a period of two weeks. The light seemed well-nigh shut out of their household, but they received the sympathies of many kind friends, and their affections have naturally twined closely around those remaining. The elder of these, Mary C., is now the wife of Lloyd Gibbens; Mr. G. is a well-to-do farmer of Nemaha County, Kan., and they have five children—Estella May, Henry Otis, Ethel, Charles and Martha. The other daughter, Sarah A. E., is the wife of William S. McCarthy, and they reside in Sandwich, Ill.; Mr. McC. is a painter by trade, and they are the parents of four children: Clarence B., who died when two years old; Jerdie, Ida and a babe unnamed.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown settled on a farm in DeKalb County, Ill., where our subject operated as a tenant several years. Subsequently he purchased land in Lee County, upon which he lived until 1878, then came to Nebraska. Here he has effected great improvements, having his land now under a fine state of cultivation, a tasteful and comfortable residence, a barn with good cattle sheds, and other structures necessary for his profit and convenience. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and held in the highest esteem by his fellow-citizens.

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**N**ICHOLAS A. DUFF, President of the First National Bank, of Syracuse, and holding the same position in relation to the Bank of Unadilla, is also senior member of the firm of N. A. Duff & Co., dealers in grain, and owning eleven elevators in as many different towns, embracing, with one exception, all the elevators in Otoe County. His connection thus with the most important interests of the county is sufficient evidence of the enterprising character of the man, and his course has been that which has secured for him the esteem and confidence of all with whom he has had dealings.

Mr. Duff is the pioneer grain merchant of Syracuse, having been established in business here as early as 1872. He was born near the little town of New Diggings, in LaFayette County, Wis., Sept. 9,

1852, and is the son of Christopher and Ann (McNulty) Duff, who were born and reared in County Dublin, Ireland. The father was a blacksmith by trade, and the parents emigrated to America after their marriage, settling in New Jersey about 1835. Thence they removed later to the Territory of Wisconsin, locating at New Diggings, where the father followed his trade until his death, which took place in 1854. The mother is still living, making her home with her son, our subject, in the city of Syracuse.

Six children comprised the family of the parents of our subject, three of whom grew to mature years, and are now living, the two besides our subject being Michael E., a grain dealer of Nebraska City, and Christopher J., a stock commission merchant of Denver, Col. Nicholas A. was but two years old at the time of his father's death, and was reared by his mother, receiving a good education, and completing his studies in that well-known institution, the College of Notre Dame, at South Bend, Ind. Upon leaving school, being then eighteen years old, he came to Nebraska City, this State, and engaged in the grain trade in company with W. A. Cotton, continuing here for two years. Mr. Duff then began operating in Syracuse, putting up an elevator, and from time to time built elevators in other towns. The firm of Cotton, Duff & Co. continued for a period of fourteen years and until 1886, at which date M. E. Duff succeeded Mr. Cotton, and the firm became Duff & Co., and thus continues. In 1882 Messrs. Cotton, Duff & Co. organized the Farmers' Bank, of Syracuse, and in the fall of 1883 reorganized under the National Banking Laws with a capital of \$50,000, Mr. Duff being the principal stockholder. He was also at that time chosen President, a position which he has since occupied.

Mr. Duff, in February, 1888, organized the Bank of Unadilla, with a capital of \$25,000, of which N. A. Duff & Co. are the principal stockholders. Our subject is also a stockholder in the Farmers' and Merchants' Insurance Company in Lincoln, this State. He came empty-handed to Nebraska City, and his accumulations are the result of his own industry, enterprise and good judgment. The firm of Cotton & Duff commenced operations on a capital

of less than \$1,000. Mr. Duff has wisely invested a portion of his surplus capital in farming lands and residence property in Syracuse. He has studiously avoided meddling in politics, and aside from casting his vote with the Democratic party, and discharging, unpaid, some of the duties of the local offices, takes little interest therein. He has served as President of the Village Board, and socially, is a member of the Knights of Honor. Genial and courteous, he is a general favorite in social and business circles, and is one of those rare characters, a perfect gentleman, both in the home circle and among his business associates.

Mr. Duff while a resident of Syracuse was united in marriage with Miss Mary, daughter of W. J. Armstrong, the wedding taking place May 21, 1878. A sketch of her father will be found elsewhere in this volume. Of this union there are three children—Nora, Ralph and Gertrude.



**B**ERMAN NEEMANN. In Rock Creek Precinct there are few more thoroughly practical and prosperous farmers and stock-raisers than the subject of this sketch. He owns a very fine and improved farm of 150 acres on section 30. This is the home farm; besides it he has one-sixth interest in 160 acres on section 31, that is not at present so well-improved, but is useful for his stock in its present condition.

The subject of our sketch came to this district with the first settlers in 1859, and since that time has resided almost continuously on his present property, having entered his land at that time, and progressing with his improvements. His residence is among the finest farm dwellings in the county, being constructed of the best brick obtainable, and not without some pretensions in the way of design. Of the farm proper it is only necessary to add that it is well cared for and highly cultivated, while his pastures and cattle sheds show at a glance the foundation of considerable wealth in prospect if all goes as well as is to be hoped.

Mr. Neemann came to this place from Madison County, Ill., where he had resided about a year; previous to that time his home was in his native

Fatherland. He was born in Hanover, Nov. 16, 1833. His father it was his misfortune to lose while he was but a lad. The name of this gentleman was Albert Neemann, and almost until the time of his death, which occurred when he was seventy-two years of age, he continued to support himself and family as a farm laborer. He was a devout member of the German Lutheran Church, as was also his wife.

The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Margret Berns. In the early months of her widowhood she came to the United States with her children, but only lived for about eighteen months after arriving in this county. She was then about sixty-two years of age, and had been a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church. She was in every sense of the word a wife and mother, and allowed no opportunity to pass without improving it that promised good for her family.

Mr. Neemann is one of the younger of seven children who comprised the home circle. He was about twenty-five years of age when he came to the decision that he would come to this free land. When he attained that age he, with his brother, Dick A. Neemann, came to this country to make a permanent home, which they did in the above precinct. This was in the year 1859. He was married here to Agdie Bruns. She was born in Hanover, Germany, and was twelve years of age when she came with her parents and settled in the above-mentioned district. Mrs. Neemann from that age was brought up in McWilliams Precinct until she came to womanhood, making her home with her parents. She has presented her husband with nine children, of whom her son Ockie died at the age of eleven years, but the remainder of the family are still living. These bear the following names: Mattie, Fannie R., Albert J., Hannah C., John G., George F., Lena W. and Henry C.

Mr. and Mrs. Neemann and family are active members of the Lutheran Church, into which they were brought in early years. Our subject is one of the church Directors, a position he has held for five years. He has several times been called upon to hold several of the school offices, and is much interested in educational work. He has made it his business to understand the institutions of his

adopted country, and gives no little thought to political matters, usually voting the Republican ticket. He is a man of fine reputation, and one of the capable and worthy citizens of the district.

**G**EORGE W. HAWKE has been a resident of Nebraska City since 1862, and was for several years prominently identified with its mercantile interests. He is a native of the county of Carroll, Ohio, born one mile from the town of Malvern. He is of Irish ancestry, his grandfather, William Hawke, being a native of Ireland, as was also his father. The former was reared and married in the old country, and about 1811 came to America, with his family. He cast in his lot with the early pioneers of Stark County, Ohio, and there bought a tract of heavily timbered land, and cleared a good farm from the wilderness, where he dwelt the remainder of his days. He was a man of remarkable vigor of both mind and body, and lived to the extreme old age of one hundred and two years, and up to within two weeks of his death was able to walk to town, two and one-half miles distant. His wife was likewise a native of Ireland, and five of the children of their marriage grew to maturity, namely: William, Jane, Eliza, Robert and James.

William, the father of our subject, was their eldest child, and he was born in Ireland, May 12, 1799. He was twelve years of age when he accompanied his parents to this country, and he was reared on his father's homestead in Stark County, Ohio, and remained with his parents until his marriage with Eliza Jane Farra, who was born of Southern parentage Sept. 25, 1805. After his marriage he settled near the home farm across the line in Carroll County, where he bought a tract of timber land, on which he erected a log house, in which humble abode the subject of our sketch was born. Mr. Hawke cleared a farm, felling the tall old trees of the primeval forest which covered his land, and rolling the large logs together, that would now be very valuable, and burning them. The nearest market for grain and produce was at Wellsville, thirty-six miles distant, and Philadel-

phia, Pa., was the market for live stock. There being no railway at that early day, horses, mules, cattle, hogs and sheep that the Ohio farmers raised were driven all the long way to that city. Mr. Hawke sold that farm in 1842, and moved to Holt County, Mo., going by team to Wellsville, and thence with his team and all on a boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Rubedeux Point, now St. Joseph, and there disembarked with his team, and he and his family proceeded to Holt County, of which he became a pioneer. He selected a suitable location, and entered the tract from the Government; his land was partly prairie, and the rest timber, bordering on the Missouri River. The nearest store or mill was at Rubedeux Point, which was a mere trading-post kept by a French Canadian for the purpose of bartering with the Indians, there being no white settlers there. In 1844 Mr. Rubedeux laid out the present city of St. Joseph on the site of his post. There being no markets in that part of the country Mr. Hawke found it to be of little use to do much farming, so he left the farm work to his sons, and he turned his attention to his trade of brickmason. He built the first brick house ever erected in Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, Iowa, and was busily employed at his trade in different places. A few days after the arrival of the family in Missouri, and before they had scarcely had time to settle in their new home, the shadow of death fell over them, and Sept. 9, 1842, the devoted wife and tender mother, who had sickened on the journey, passed away from the scenes of earth. In 1846 Mr. Hawke established himself in the mercantile business in Kanesville, becoming one of the early merchants there. He continued as a merchant there, and at Hemmie's Landing until 1850, when he sold out, and started westward with a party bound for California. He engaged in the mercantile business at Jacksonville, that State, and continued there until his death, March 1, 1855. The following is the record of the eleven children, nine of whom grew to maturity, who were born to him and his wife: Robert was born Jan. 25, 1826; and died in Nebraska City, May 2, 1887; Jacob F. was born Feb. 16, 1829, and died in Nebraska City, Feb. 14, 1876; John was born Aug. 20, 1830, and died in Califor-

nia, Sept. 27, 1867; Hamilton was born Feb. 15, 1832, went to California with his father, returned a few years after, went to California again in 1859, and was last heard from in 1862; Whiting was born Nov. 24, 1834, and died in Holt County, Mo., Feb. 14, 1856; Nancy was born July 25, 1835, married John Brusha, and now resides in Clay County, Neb.; George W., our subject, was born April 19, 1837; Mary was born Jan. 11, 1839, married Huston Nuckolls, and now lives in Crete, Neb.; Hannah was born Dec. 22, 1841, married William E. Dillon, and lives in Nebraska City.

George W. Hawke was five years old when his parents moved to Missouri, and his mother dying a few days later, the care of himself and his young brothers and sisters fell on the older members of the family. In 1848 he and his three sisters were taken to Carroll County, Ohio, and there George and one of his sisters made their home with their uncle, Robert Hawke, and the other sisters with an aunt. He made the best of his opportunities to gain an education, attending the district school, two miles distant. While not in school he assisted on the farm until 1856, when he returned to Missouri, and engaged as a clerk in a general store at Hemmie's Landing. At the end of a year he left the store and came to Nebraska, which was then under Territorial Government, and took charge of his brother's store at St. Stephen's, Richardson County. He managed the store successfully for a year, and in the spring of 1858 entered into partnership with his brother Jacob, and opened a store at Rockport, Atchison Co., Mo., under the firm name of J. F. & G. W. Hawke. In the fall of 1859 they moved their business to Glenwood, Mills Co., Iowa, where he resided until March, 1862. He established himself in the mercantile business here, and conducted it with great financial success until the 4th of March, 1872, when he sold out to his brother Robert. He then bought a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, and turned his attention to the improvement of a farm. He still continued to reside in the city, however, and for the past few years has not been actively engaged in business, aside from looking after his private interests, until his brother Robert's death, when he was selected to settle the estate.

To the good wife who presides over his home, our subject was united in marriage May 24, 1859. She was formerly Miss Susan, daughter of John L. Dozier, a native of Kentucky, and a pioneer of Holt County, Mo., where she was born. Six children survive the union of our subject—Leone, Edna, Georgia, Farra, Nellie and Robert. Birdeau became the wife of A. B. Browne, and died Feb. 24, 1888, leaving one daughter, Lillian. Mrs. Hawke and three of her daughters are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are zealous workers in the cause of religion. Mr. Hawke takes a warm interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of his city or county. Politically, he is a Democrat, and is now Deputy Revenue Collector. He is well liked in this community, and his neighbors find in him a true friend.



**H**ON. GEORGE W. SROAT is distinguished as a pioneer of Nebraska, he being one of the early settlers of Nebraska City, of which he is still an honored resident, and we are pleased to be enabled to represent him in this ALBUM. He was born in Jefferson County, Ky., Aug. 3, 1829, his father, Peter Sroat, having been a native of the same county. His grandfather, also named Peter, was born in Pennsylvania, of German parentage, and removed from there to Kentucky previous to 1800, the removal being made by way of the Ohio River on a flatboat. He landed at Louisville, which then comprised only three buildings, one of hewed logs and the other two of round logs. He did not tarry there, however, but pushed on into the depths of the primeval forests fourteen miles distant, and settled on Floyd's Fork of the Salt River, where he took up a tract of timber land, adjoining the present site of Fishersville. He built up a log cabin in the woods and lived there with his family, clearing a good farm, and dying there, having rounded out a useful life of seventy-seven years. Bears, deer, and all other kinds of wild animals common to the country abounded in the forests near his home, and the savage Indians were numerous and oftentimes troublesome. There were no markets in those days, and

they were practically dependent on home supplies, raising all their provisions, generally using rye for coffee. Mr. Sroat raised flax and cotton and kept sheep, and his wife spun, wove, and made all the clothes for the family. She was a woman of uncommon energy and force of character, and was endowed with good nerves and a courageous spirit. She was an expert in the use of the rifle, and when over eighty years of age shot a wild turkey. She died on the old homestead in Kentucky at the remarkable old age of one hundred and one years. Her maiden name was Catherine Lethermann, and she was a native of Germany. Her father, the great-grandfather of our subject, came to America from Germany and settled in Maryland, and his was the first barber-shop opened in Hagerstown, the place where he resided.

The father of our subject was reared in his native county, learned the trade of millwright, and resided there until 1846. He then went to East Tennessee and located in Henry County, where he bought land and engaged in farming and stock-raising. He died in his new home about a year and a half after his removal to it. He was a man of great worth, industrious in his habits, and was highly thought of by all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Conn, and she was born in Jefferson County, Ky., where her death afterward occurred about 1833. Her father, the grandfather of our subject, Edward Conn by name, was a native of Maryland, and an early settler of Jefferson County, Ky., where he improved a farm.

George W. Sroat was reared in his native county until he was seventeen years old, when he accompanied his father to Tennessee. He lived there three years, and then returned to his native State to learn the trades of plasterer and brick and stonemason. He resided in Kentucky until 1855, when the same bold, enterprising spirit that had made of his father and grandfather pioneers, determined him to seek the broad prairies of the then but little known Territory of Nebraska. Accordingly, he traveled this way on the waters of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, there being no railroad west of the Mississippi River, and all transportation was done by water or with teams overland. He

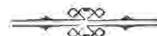
located in Nebraska City, which at that time had a population of less than fifty people, and the country all around was in a rude, unsettled condition. The old block house built by the Government was still standing and occupied by the settlers, as was the Government Hospital, and there were but a few houses besides, and but one brick building. There were no villages in the interior of Nebraska at that time, although some venturesome settlers had taken up claims a mile and a half west of the city, and all the land was owned by the Government. Indians were much more plentiful than white people; deer, elks and antelopes abounded, and also a few bears, wild turkeys and wolves were to be seen.

Our subject relates that the first morning after his arrival here he was awakened about daybreak by the howling of wolves, and looking out of the window he counted twenty-eight wolves in front of where the court-house now stands. Mr. Sroat immediately took up a claim of land a mile and a half south of the city, built a log house thereon, and kept a bachelor's establishment throughout the following winter. In the spring he commenced to work at his trade as contractor and builder, and the growth of the city being quite rapid during the next few years, he did an extensive and profitable business; he being a master of his trade, his work was always in demand. In 1860 he abandoned the building business to deal in real estate, which he has conducted ever since, and he has thus in another manner contributed to the development of the city and its interests, and is numbered among its prominent citizens.

Mr. Sroat has built up a commodious and comfortable home, in which he has been greatly assisted by his estimable wife, to whom he was united in marriage Oct. 21, 1861. Mrs. Sroat was formerly Miss Georgenia North, daughter of George and Maria E. North, natives of Ireland. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Sroat has been blessed to them by the birth of nine children, namely: George N., Frederick (who died in infancy), Arthur (who died in infancy), Grace E., Paul H., Bertha, Irving, Edith and Alice C.

Our subject has always been a firm adherent of the Democratic party, and he is influential in polit-

ical and public affairs, and has held some of the highest and most responsible offices in the county and city, discharging their onerous duties in such a manner as to reflect credit on himself and his constituency. In 1860 he was appointed Sheriff to fill a vacancy, and in 1861 he was elected to that office, to which he was re-elected in 1863. After that he served as Deputy Sheriff for two years. In 1866 he was elected Representative to the Territorial Legislature, and served with great ability in that capacity for two sessions. His wide experience, trustworthiness and practical sagacity have rendered him an invaluable civic officer of this municipality, and he has been a member of the City Council, Justice of the Peace and City Marshal. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sroat are influential members of the Baptist Church, in whose organization he zealously assisted, and he has served as Trustee and Deacon. Socially, Mr. Sroat is identified with the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M.



**B**UCEPHALUS WOLPH, a very intelligent and well-educated gentleman, and a graduate from the classical department of Doane College, at Crete, finds his chief pleasure and pride in skillful agriculture, and is proprietor of one of the best stock farms along the banks of the Weeping Water. He is the son of one of the wealthiest men of Cass County, and has been given all the advantages incident to refined and cultivated life. His home is presided over by a very estimable and amiable lady, who in the adornings of her dwelling and the management of her domestic affairs, has the true perception of those things which conduce to the comfort and happiness of the household circle.

The parental history of our subject is in the main as follows: His father, Hon. Henry C. Wolph, was born in Richland County, Ohio, and married Miss Esther Bevier, a native of the same. The paternal grandfather emigrated to Ohio during its pioneer days, locating near Rome, where he carried on farming successfully, and spent his last years in Nebraska. The maternal great-grandparents traced their ancestry back to the French Huguenots, and

emigrated from their native France to the United States, settling in New York State, where they carried on agriculture successfully, and where they spent the remainder of their lives.

The Wolph family is of German descent. The father of our subject left the Buckeye State in 1849, and journeyed overland to California, where he worked in the mines three years with good success, and then returned home, making the journey via the Panama route. Not long afterward he was taken ill, and, in addition to having lost an eye in California, suffered a long time, but finally partially regained his health. All this time he had been unmarried, but after his wedding, which took place in Ohio, he went with his young wife immediately to Glenwood, Iowa, where he lived a year, and then removed to the vicinity of Mt. Pleasant. There he purchased 160 acres of land, upon which he labored two years, and then took up his line of march to this county.

In Berlin Precinct the father of our subject purchased 360 acres on section 2, which he improved, and where he made his home for a period of twenty years. In the fall of 1874 he removed to Crete; he is now residing in Cass County, and has accumulated a fine property. His farm comprises 400 acres of valuable land, and he is chiefly engaged in stock-raising. He served one term in the Nebraska Legislature before the Territory was made a State, and one afterward. In early manhood he identified himself with the old Whig party, but upon its abandonment cordially endorsed Republican principles. He is a man enterprising and public-spirited, and a member in good standing of the Congregational Church at Eagle. He is now sixty-five years of age, and the mother is the same. The parental family consisted of three children, who were named respectively: Our subject, Bucephalia and Shasta.

Our subject, a native of this State, was born in Mt. Pleasant Township, Oct. 8, 1855. He was two years old when his parents came to this county, and his first recollections are of the log house on the uncultivated prairie land. He lived at home with his parents until sixteen years of age, and then entered the college at Crete, from which he was graduated six years later, in 1878. He began teaching in Cass County, and subsequently followed this

profession at Nehawka for three years, and at Eagle for one year. This confinement, however, was far from being conducive to his health, and he returned to the farm, working again with his father two years.

In the spring of 1884 our subject purchased 160 acres of land in Cass County, and forty acres in Otoe. In 1886 he bought 320 acres of land, and in the summer of the year 1888 moved to his present place, in Berlin Precinct, which adjoins the latter. Here he has erected good buildings, and this land is amply watered by Sand Creek and the Weeping Water. He has 170 acres of valuable timber, and has planted an apple orchard with trees of the smaller fruits. The fields are enclosed with neat wire fencing, and the live stock comprises excellent grades of cattle, Poland-China swine and good horses. In addition to what he raises Mr. Wolph is also engaged in the buying and feeding of cattle, and ships numbers annually.

The wife of our subject, to whom he was married April 2, 1884, at her home in Cass County, was formerly Miss Gertrude Sheldon. Mrs. Wolph was born in Nehawka, Neb., in July, 1861, and was given a thorough education, completing her studies in the State University, at Lincoln. She has considerable musical talent, and is quite proficient in the art. Of this union there have been born two children, daughters, Julia E. and Mabel E. Mr. Wolph is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church. Politically, he is a staunch Republican. Mrs. Wolph is the daughter of Lawson and Julia (Pollard) Sheldon, who were natives of Vermont, and are now residents of Cass County. Her father is a farmer by occupation, and a man who by his thrift and industry has accumulated a fine property.

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**E**DMUND E. WOOLSEY. This gentleman is widely and favorably known throughout Wyoming Precinct and Otoe County, being one of the wealthiest men of this county, and one who has taken the lead among its agricultural interests. He is the owner of 2,000 acres of land in Otoe County, and is an extensive cattle raiser,

making a specialty of graded Durham stock, while he also is a breeder of Poland-China swine, and his stables contain some remarkably fine horses, mainly Hambletonians. The homestead lies on section 14, and in all its appointments is indicative of the cultivated tastes and ample means of the proprietor and his wife. The land has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and the farm buildings and machinery are of first-class description, erected after the most approved plan, and thoroughly adapted to the requirements of the scientific and progressive agriculturist. The residence, "Prairie Home," is built in modern style of architecture, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country, and a living stream affords abundant water, being a never-failing branch of the Squaw Creek. Adjacent to the building is an orchard of 400 bearing apple trees, and there are varieties of the smaller fruits in abundance, besides shade trees and shrubbery, which add greatly to the value and beauty of the property.

Perhaps that in which Mr. Woolsey takes most pride is the stable of fine horses, at the head of which is Black Hawk Harry, who was raised by our subject and is now ten years old. He has acquired a reputation as one of the most valuable roadsters and general purpose horses in this part of the county, and is kept at the homestead proper, which embraces 160 acres of choice land, and to which Mr. W. has naturally given the greater part of his time and attention. His lands are in Wyoming, Belmont and Delaware Precincts. He has been a resident of Wyoming Precinct for a period of thirteen years, and to which he came in February, 1876, from Cass County.

Edmund E. Woolsey was born in Ulster County, N. Y., March 16, 1834, and is the son of Elijah and Ruth (Hawkins) Woolsey, who were natives of Orange County, that State. There they were reared and married, and took up their residence in Ulster County, where the father carried on farming until his death, which occurred July 7, 1881, when he was seventy-three years old. He came from an excellent family, had been taught habits of industry, and was an industrious worker all his life. The mother is still living, and makes her home with a younger daughter, Ida, Mrs. Deyo, in

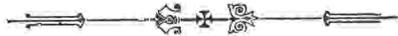
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. She is now seventy-five years of age. Her father, Jonathan Hawkins, was a soldier and a patriot, doing good service in the War of 1812. He spent his last years in Orange County, N. Y.

Our subject was reared to manhood on his father's farm, and acquired a common-school education. He came to the West a single man, crossing the Missouri in May, 1857, and settling in Cass County, near Mt. Pleasant, in Rock Bluff Precinct, where he operated on rented land a year, harvesting his first crop in the summer of 1858. He finally pre-empted 160 acres, and soon bought 160 more, it being the north half of section 34, Rock Bluff, Cass County, upon which he resided until 1876, and where he effected such improvements as enabled him to sell for the snug sum of \$10,000. He then transferred his interest to this county, of which he has since been a resident.

Mr. Woolsey after coming to this State made the acquaintance of Miss Helen M. Tuxbury, to whom he was united in marriage in Nebraska City, Dec. 9, 1867. Mrs. Woolsey was born near Windsor, Vt., April 15, 1838, and is the daughter of Albert and Harriet (Gallup) Tuxbury, who were natives respectively of Vermont and New Hampshire, and who, leaving New England in June, 1854, first settled in Rock Island, Ill., and several years later came to the Far West, locating in the eastern part of Otoe County, on the present site of Nebraska City, which was then a hamlet of but a few houses. The father after a time assumed the management of the Morton House, following the calling of "mine host," to which he had been accustomed from early manhood. He was a very popular landlord, and naturally made the acquaintance of a large number of travelers passing through the country, who, whenever possible, never failed to put up with him when stopping at this place. The mother died in Nebraska City, Oct. 20, 1875, when about seventy years of age. Mr. Tuxbury survived his wife a few years and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Woolsey, in Wyoming Precinct, Oct. 8, 1882. The parental family consisted of four children, and Mrs. Woolsey is the only survivor of the family.

Mrs. Woolsey received a good education, com-

pleting her studies in the academy at Greenfield, Mass. Under the training of an excellent mother she became familiar with all household duties, and like the women of Scripture, looks carefully after the needs of her family. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, two of whom, Lewis E. and Charles B., died at the ages of three and ten years respectively. Little Lewis was drowned by falling head foremost into a barrel of water, being unable to extricate himself. Their eldest living son, Fred A., is a very intelligent and well-educated young man, having completed his studies in Doane College at Crete. The two daughters, Ida and Harriet, bright and interesting girls, are at home with their parents. Mrs. Woolsey is a devout member of the Episcopal Church, while our subject, politically, is a sound Republican. He has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office, preferring to give his time and attention to his extensive farming interests. He is a man of decided views, one who keeps himself well posted upon current events, and one whose opinion is held in universal respect.



**J**OHAN W. TANGEMAN. This gentleman is a member of the firm, well-known in business circles throughout the county, of Becker & Tangeman, doing business at Talmage, McWilliams Precinct. They are handling all kinds of hardware, both for farm, household, and other purposes, agricultural implements, etc. The firm was established in 1882, and succeeded the business house of T. E. Farnsworth. The trade is quite extensive, and has grown to represent a business of about \$60,000 annually. This year promises to go some thousand above that figure, for although their patrons are chiefly local, yet the territory drawn upon is very large. The reputation of the firm and their excellent stock account for the large business done.

Previous to engaging in his present business Mr. Tangeman followed agricultural pursuits in Osage Precinct of this county for about one year. His residence in the county dates from the year 1868; the greater part of the time he made his resi-

dence in that precinct with his father, John G. Tangeman, who was an extensive farmer, and our subject remained until he attained his majority, when he started out for himself.

The subject of our sketch was born in Clayton County, Iowa, Nov. 17, 1851. He is the second child of six born to his parents. His father was a native of Hanover, Germany, when ten years of age accompanying his parents to this country. They located in Auglaize County, Ohio, removing subsequently to Clayton County, Iowa. There they continued to live for about thirty years. There also are laid the scenes of youth and early manhood of Mr. Tangeman, Sr., and also that of his marriage; his wife, like himself, was born in Hanover. She was but five years of age when her mother brought her to America, and their home was made in the city of Cincinnati. Her father died in Germany about three years prior to the emigration of his widow to this country. From Cincinnati the mother removed to Clayton County, her daughter of course accompanying her. After about one year the mother died at her home, and later the daughter united her fortunes and life with that of our subject, as above mentioned.

The parents of our subject are now living in Jennings, La., having gone South in the spring of 1888. They had been residents of Otoe County for eighteen years. The father had been interested in milling and farming, and still owns an interest in the flouring-mill in McWilliams Precinct. He is, however, retired from active participation in business affairs. In the Lutheran Church the father and mother are active and respected members, and have so continued throughout their lives.

The subject of our sketch was educated in Blairstown, Benton Co., Iowa, and received a thorough, serviceable, English education. He came to Nebraska before he was of age, and married Miss Lizzie O. Risser in Osage Precinct, Otoe County. This lady was born in Lee County, Iowa, on the 4th of December, 1858. She is the daughter of David and Christina (Hubach) Risser, both of whom look to the Fatherland as the place of their nativity. There also they were brought up, educated and married, but came to the United States almost immediately after that important and interesting in-

cident. They also at first made their home in Ohio, but removed thence to Lee County, Iowa, where they lived upon a farm until 1870, from there removing as a family to Osage Precinct in this county, where they have since continued to follow husbandry. They also are attached to the German Lutheran Church, in which they were brought up.

Mrs. Tangeman, the wife of our subject, was educated after she came to this county. She is now the mother of two children, who have received the names of Elmer and Ella. These are now receiving instruction in the schools of Talmage, and with the additional advantages which are theirs in this direction, doubtless their future will be brightened by the roseate halo of successful life. Our subject and wife are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church. Mr. T. indeed holds the office of Deacon, which he has filled since 1888. Politically, he is a Republican, and enjoys the confidence and esteem of his fellows and the community at large.

**F**RANK P. IRELAND. Among the lawyers of Nebraska Mr. Ireland has a reputation that places him in the front rank. He is a member of a good family, justly esteemed, and takes laudable pride in the fact. The highest regard of which he is capable is given to his family and his profession. Everywhere he is much respected, and as a lawyer enjoys the well-nigh perfect confidence of the people. Political honors have no attractions for him, and the only office he would ever accept was that connected with the Board of Education, of which he is Secretary. The duties connected with that department are to him a pleasure because he is devoted to children and everything that concerns them, and especially such fundamental matters as those that look to their education, and among the young people he is intensely popular, they being quick to recognize in him a true friend.

The subject of our sketch was born in Newburyport, Essex Co., Mass. His birth occurred Dec. 6, 1851. His father, Jere R. Ireland, engaged in various pursuits, largely as a shipping merchant at Newburyport. The family of which he was a member was originally of English blood. The first

representative thereof to come to this country was John Ireland, who was the great-great-grandfather of our subject. He came from England in company with his brother Nathaniel, and settled in New Hampshire about the year 1710. His brother made his home in New Jersey, and his children scattered and settled at various points in the South and West, while those of John Ireland inclined to make their homes in the North and East, and in later years in the West.

The father of our subject was born at Newburyport, May 11, 1823, and lived to attain the age of sixty-five years; by his occupation, that of shipping merchant, he was enabled to accumulate a competency. His death occurred April 21, 1888, at Newburyport, Mass. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Eliza B. Pickett. She is still living on the old homestead. Their family circle included four children, viz: Charles W., Frank P., Ben P. and Jere R. Charles is a resident of Syracuse, in this State; Ben is upon the old homestead, and the youngest son is in New York City and occupies the position of agent for the Monumental Mills of Housatonic, Mass.

The education of our subject was obtained in the common schools, supplemented by a High School course, being graduated from that institution at the close of the course, when he was about fifteen years of age. He then entered the Bowdoin College to take the classical course, but at the close of his junior year he entered upon a course of legal study under Col. E. F. Stone, of Newburyport, with whom he continued for three years. In the meantime he also took a course in the law department of the Boston University. He was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts after a careful examination, and began the practice of his profession in connection with his former preceptor, and continued the same until he came to Nebraska City, in the spring of 1874. In this place he opened his office on what is now Central avenue, and from the first made a most favorable impression. At the close of the first year he entered into partnership with G. B. Schofield, which continued for about four years.

On the 14th of November, 1878, the subject of our sketch was united in the bands of wedlock, at

Nebraska City, with Miss Eloise Coe, the only daughter of Gen. Isaac Coe. (The reader is referred to the sketch of this gentleman to be found on another page). This most excellent lady was born in Middlefield, Conn., July 14, 1852. There has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Ireland one daughter, who received the name Sarah Coe, and has manifested, as the years have passed, the foundation of a character and a disposition unusually attractive.

Mr. Ireland was admitted to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts in April, 1872, and to that of Nebraska in 1876; to the Circuit Court of the United States for the district of Nebraska, on the 14th day of November, 1876, and to the Supreme Court of the United States on the 8th day of May, 1882. He was appointed United States Examiner in Chancery by the District Court of the United States in 1877. In 1876 Mr. Ireland offered himself for District Attorney, and ran far ahead of his ticket, which was Democratic. Upon three different occasions Mr. Ireland has presided with much ability over the Democratic State Convention for Nebraska, viz: in 1880, 1881 and 1884. Religiously, he is most thoroughly in favor of the teaching of the Unitarian Church, and is an able and generous supporter of the same. He has the greatest possible faith in the future of Nebraska City.



**S**ACKETT C. CASE, M. D., was one of the first physicians to locate at Syracuse. His native place was Binghamton, Broome Co., N. Y., where his birth took place Feb. 2, 1842. His parents were Covell and Minerva (Sackett) Case, who were natives of New York. The father died in Philadelphia in 1836, and the mother resides in Michigan.

To Covell and Minerva Case there were born five children, and the family lived on a farm near Binghamton, where our subject grew to manhood and received his literary education. At an early age he had decided upon his future calling in life, and soon after leaving school commenced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Hart at Binghamton. Later he attended lectures at the medical department of the Michigan State University at Ann Arbor, and was

graduated from the Medical University of Iowa City, and commenced the practice of his profession at Omaha, Neb., about 1866. He subsequently removed to Decatur, Neb., and in 1869 to Nebraska City. In the latter place, abandoning the regular profession for a time, he confined himself mostly to the insurance business.

Dr. Case in the fall of 1874 took up his residence in Syracuse, and from that time on gave his close attention to the practice of his profession until his death, which occurred March 27, 1879. At the time of his coming here the country around was thinly settled, and he rode over a large extent of territory. His promptness in attending to the calls of duty, and his conscientious methods of treatment, secured for him a large and lucrative patronage. He meddled very little with political affairs, although a strong advocate of Republican principles, and at different times was persuaded to discharge the duties of the local offices. He thus enjoyed a large acquaintance with all classes of men. He was of studious habits and literary tastes, and was a frequent correspondent both of the local and Eastern papers. In this capacity he chronicled the early history of Syracuse, a paper which possessed much interest for those most nearly concerned. Socially, Dr. Case belonged to the Masonic fraternity and the Good Templars.

Mrs. Mary C. (Warner) Phillips was wedded to Dr. Case Nov. 27, 1870, at Nebraska City. Mrs. Case is a daughter of Seth O. and Sarah (Warner) Warner, although no relative of her husband before marriage. She was born in the town of Clay, Onondaga Co., N. Y., Sept. 11, 1835, and completed her education in the seminary at Fulton, Oswego County. In 1858 she was married to Augustus Phillips, a native of LeRoy, N. Y. He, during the Civil War, enlisted, in 1861, in the 24th New York Infantry, served two years, and was mustered out with the rank of Captain. Later he re-enlisted, in the 184th New York Infantry, and met his death at the battle of Cedar Creek, from which Gen. Phil Sheridan accomplished his famous ride to Winchester.

Mr. Phillips had participated in many of the important battles of the war, being with the Army of the Potomac. Of this marriage there was born one

child, a daughter, Maude A., who is now the wife of D. T. Cornell, of Nelson, Neb. To Dr. and Mrs. Case there were born two children: Ernest S., May 14, 1872, and Leonora, March 15, 1876.

Mrs. Case, with tastes similar to those of our subject, had since her girlhood been interested in medicine, and after her marriage with him spent her leisure time reading and receiving instruction from him. She frequently told him "When the babies are grown up I will assist you in your practice." But alas for human calculations, the father died before this could be accomplished, and she was left with the care of a little family. She persistently clung to her first purpose, however, and continued her reading of medical works under the tutorship of Dr. Littlefield, the successor of her husband. In the winter of 1883 she took a course of lectures in the medical department of the State University at Lincoln, Neb., from which she was graduated with the class of '85, and entering upon the regular practice, has been very successful. She was thus enabled to support and educate her children in a manner approaching her desires. She became a resident of Nebraska City soon after the death of her first husband, removing thence to Syracuse at the time of her marriage with Dr. Case. She is a member in good standing of the Congregational Church, and in her practice exercises that conscientious care which has gained her the confidence and esteem of the community.



**M**ARTIN R. WALBRIDGE, deceased. This gentleman was for twenty years one of the esteemed citizens of Wyoming Precinct, and one of the progressive and prosperous farmers who had grown up with the country. He was born in Vermont, on the 27th of April, 1826, and was the son of John and Polly (Reynolds) Walbridge; while yet a child our subject was left motherless. Shortly after this event the father left Vermont and emigrated to LaPorte County, Ind., where he resided for the remainder of his life, which, however, was not of long duration. Thus in early youth our subject had to face the world an orphan.

Remembering the innumerable difficulties consequent upon the above-mentioned condition, the success that afterward became his reflects to great credit upon our subject. He began the struggle for existence not only orphaned but poor, and was compelled to work hard for his living. He did not, however, neglect schooling, which happily it was within his power, as it is within the power of every American child, to obtain in the usual institution. When about eighteen years of age he sold all his earthly possessions in order that he might start West. He first purchased a good cow, and then started for Wisconsin, where he located in Iowa County, not far from Madison, at which place he had a brother, who had gone there some time previously, and was engaged in farming and was doing well.

After a few months our subject returned to LaPorte County, Ind., and there entered into his first matrimonial alliance. This deeply interesting event occurred upon the 17th of February, 1853, the lady being Sarah A. Thurber. She was born in LaPorte County, and there also brought up and educated. The day of her nativity was the 31st of August, 1834. She came of good family, and her home training was such as to make her a true help to her husband. She was a lady of great personal worth, prepossessing and of splendid disposition. Of this union five children were born; of these two are now deceased, viz: Ida M. and Ross W. Those still living bear the following names: Jessie, who is married to Montgomery Robb, of Wyoming Precinct; Charles P., who is living in New Mexico, was married, in September, 1883, to Miss Louisa Yard, of Princeton, Ill.; Carrie A., who is living in South Bend, Ind., where she is a prominent and well-established teacher of music, and is a graduate from Central Music Hall Conservatory, Chicago, Ill. On the 20th of June, 1874, Mrs. Walbridge died at the old homestead in Wyoming Precinct.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated in Wyoming Precinct, April 27, 1876, the lady of his choice being Mrs. Ellen Cherry, *nee* Jones, who was born in Seneca County, Ohio, Aug. 21, 1837. She is the daughter of Filander H. and Lydia A. (Jewett) Jones, who were natives of Vermont, where they were brought up and educated.

They were married at Detroit, Mich., and Mr. Jones there entered the profession of teaching, having been thus engaged in early manhood. He continued thus employed in Michigan for many years, and later went to Indiana. He is now seventy-five years of age, is retired from active work, and makes his home in Weir City, Kan. His wife is seventy-one years of age, and is still the light and brightness of their home. Mr. and Mrs. Jones are members of the Methodist Church, and he has been a staunch Republican in political affairs for more than a quarter of a century.

The wife of our subject was the first of the children born to her parents. She was educated in Indiana, and until her marriage with Mr. Cherry made her home with her parents. This important event occurred Sept. 11, 1858, the name of her husband being R. W. Cherry. This gentleman was born in Marion County, Ohio, April 19, 1835. He had been carefully trained by his parents and well educated, and was engaged subsequently in mercantile pursuits. For two years he served gallantly as a soldier in the late Rebellion, and was finally honorably discharged, owing to disability. He served in Company I, 29th Indiana Infantry. His death occurred in Rochester, Fulton Co., Ind., Nov. 20, 1872. He was a good, honorable and intelligent man and an esteemed citizen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Cherry were born four children, two of whom, Adelbert and Minnie, are now deceased. The living children are: May L., who is a successful teacher in the public schools of Cass County, and a member of the Otoe County Teachers' Association; Nellie D. is happily married to C. M. Fenno, a successful farmer in Thomas County, Kan.; they have two little ones, named Ellen M. and John R.

The subject of this sketch attained to the advanced age of sixty-two years before he passed to his place with the silent majority. He died deeply regretted by all who knew him, at his home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 10th of May, 1888, where he had lived since the year 1867. In his politics he was a sound Republican, and was at all times a truly loyal and upright citizen. Mrs. Walbridge is a devout member of the Baptist Church, and attends with the congregation meeting at Ne-

braska City. With her two sons, Frank B. and Eugene M. Walbridge, she resides upon the farm which has so long been her home; it comprises 160 acres of fine agricultural land, and is situated on section 15 of the above-mentioned precinct.

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**W**ILLIAM H. JOHNSON, a farmer and carpenter combined, claims to have put up one of the first dwelling-houses in his neighborhood in Russell Precinct, where he now lives. He is the owner of the north half of section 9, and is one of the most prosperous of the early pioneers of this county. Much of the time he has operated as builder and contractor, and some of the best structures in his community are the result of his taste and skill. His own residence is more than ordinarily attractive and convenient, and its surroundings are indicative of cultivated tastes and abundant means.

Our subject is the offspring of an excellent New England family, Jedediah and Mehetabel D. (Clark) Johnson, who were natives respectively of Middletown and Chester, Conn. Both the grandfathers, Freeloove J. Johnson and Girard Clark, were old Revolutionary soldiers, and a book entitled the "History of England," found by Grandfather Johnson many years before his death, is still preserved with great care by some of the members of the family living in Connecticut.

Later in the history of the United States, Jedediah Johnson, the father of our subject, served in the War of 1812, being present at the battle of New London. After laying down his musket he took up the implements of agriculture, and tilled the soil of his native Connecticut until the final illness which resulted in his death on the 19th of May, 1863. He was then seventy years of age. The mother, who was considerably younger than her husband, survived him a number of years, her death taking place in 1875, when she was seventy-six years old.

Of the fourteen children comprising the parental family, eight lived to mature years, namely: Hamlin F., Sarah S., L. Janette, Nancy J., Samuel S., William Henry, Edwin R. and Ellen R., the two

latter twins. With the exception of Samuel S. and our subject, William H., the living are residents of New England. Edwin R. died in 1873, leaving two children.

The subject of this sketch was born Oct. 1, 1832, on the banks of the Connecticut River in Middlesex County, Conn. He grew up on the farm, and remained a member of the parental household until twenty-six years of age. He then learned the trade of carpenter and joiner, which he followed for a period of twenty years. In his native State he put up the Custom House and State House at Middletown, and a large number of other buildings, including some fine private residences.

In the spring of 1860 Mr. Johnson, leaving New England, went to Licking County, Ohio, but not being satisfied with this experiment, after nine months returned home. In the meantime he had accumulated considerable property, and in the summer of 1878 again turned his face toward the setting sun. Upon coming to this State, the outlook impressing him favorably, he made his way to this county and purchased a tract of railroad land, paying cash down. Russell Precinct since that time has been the scene of his operations, and his fine large farm of 320 acres is one of the most valuable in the western part of this county.

June 6, 1883, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Catherine G. Raymond, who, like himself, is a native of Connecticut, and born in West Hartford, Aug. 12, 1848. The parents of Mrs. Johnson were Josiah and Fanny A. (Hurlbut) Raymond, natives of Connecticut, where the father spent his last years. The mother makes her home with our subject. The father traced his ancestry back to Richard Raymond, who landed at Plymouth Rock with his two nephews, William and John, in the year 1622. From these sprang the Raymond family in the United States. They were the scions of an energetic and enterprising race of people, and became closely identified with the early history of New England. Grandmother Raymond was a niece of the Hon. James Hillhouse, who is frequently mentioned in the history of those times. The father of Mrs. Johnson during the session of 1858 was a member of the Connecticut Legislature, and died in 1862, at the age of forty-

seven years. The mother is still living, making her home with her daughter Catherine, Mrs. Johnson; she is now sixty-eight years of age. The seven children in the parental family, of whom Mrs. J. was the eldest, were named respectively: Catherine G., Robert O., John F., James H., Fanny E., Charlotte H. and Henry J.

Mrs. Johnson received a good education, completing her studies in the High School at Hartford, and was for some time engaged as a teacher there. She came to Nebraska with her mother's family in the spring of 1879. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children, a babe unnamed and Henry Raymond, both of whom died in infancy. They have now an adopted daughter, Emily Catherine, four years old. Mr. Johnson has been identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church a number of years, and Mrs. J. seeks religious consolation among the Presbyterians. Our subject votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has steadily refused becoming an office-holder.



**H**ON. J. O. MOORE, an ex-member of the Nebraska Legislature and one of the most prominent citizens of Otoe County, is still a gentleman in the prime of life, and it is to be hoped has yet before him many years of usefulness. He became a resident of Palmyra March 4, 1872, and has become closely identified with the interests of Southern Nebraska.

Our subject is the offspring of an excellent family, being a son of Kimber A. and Nancy J. (Speer) Moore, natives of Pennsylvania, the mother born in Franklin County. The paternal grandfather, also a native of the Keystone State, was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life there. The great-grandfather did good service as a Major in the Revolutionary War. He was a native of Scotland, and crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days, settling after the war in Pennsylvania. Grandfather Speer was a native of Ireland. He was a merchant, and spent his last years in Bedford County, Pa.

The parents of our subject, after their marriage, settled on a farm in Fulton County, Pa., where the

father, in addition to the successful pursuits of agriculture, achieved local fame as a politician. He was a Whig until the abandonment of the old party and then cordially endorsed Republican principles. After the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted as a Union soldier, being the eldest of eight brothers, all of whom gave their services in a like manner to their country.

Kimber A. Moore emerged safely from the dangers of warfare, and leaving his old home in Pennsylvania in the fall of 1868, crossed the Mississippi to this State, and settled on a tract of land in Gage County. He is still living but now retired from active labor, being seventy years of age, and making his home in Adams, Gage County.

The parental household included eight children, namely: John O., our subject; Ella, D. H., Augustus, Etta, Gertude V., Union L. and Ernest. The latter died when a lad of thirteen years. The survivors are mostly residents of Nebraska. John O. was born near New Grenada, Fulton Co., Pa., March 10, 1844, and after emerging from the district school, pursued his studies in a select school in Wells' Valley for several terms. He then began to work in the coal mines of his native county, and during the eight years in which he was thus occupied filled every position from mule driver and office boy to that of waymaster. He was holding this position upon a good salary at the breaking out of the Rebellion. The year following he was constrained to follow the example of his honored father, and accordingly enlisted as a Union soldier, Aug. 7, 1862, in Company F, 125th Pennsylvania Infantry, going in as a private under the command of Capt. J. J. Lawrence. The latter had been a railroad Superintendent, and they entered the service in response to the nine months' call.

This regiment was drilled at Ft. Bernard and Arlington Heights. They left the latter place on the 6th of September, 1862, and first saw the smoke of battle at South Mountain. On the 17th of the same month they were at Antietam, where their regiment suffered a loss of 162 men within the space of ten minutes. Mr. Moore was wounded by the explosion of a shell, although not seriously. He was, however, rendered insensible, but upon regaining consciousness resumed his position in the

ranks. After lying thirty days at Maryland Heights, this regiment with others went to Loudoun Valley, Va., and thence to Fairfax Court House, engaging in the conflict there. The scene of their next engagement was at Stafford Court House, where they remained in camp thirty days, and in due time met the enemy at Chancellorsville. They moved on to Harrisburg, where our subject, with his comrades, received his honorable discharge on the 23d of May, 1863, having served nine and one-half months.

Mr. Moore now returned to his native county, and resumed his former position as waymaster until the 1st of March, 1865. He next repaired to Washington, attended the inauguration of President Lincoln, and was appointed Superintendent of the Government stables at a point in Virginia. He was occupied with the duties of this position until the 1st of October, then going back to his native State engaged in farming until the fall of 1867.

Our subject now began making preparations for settlement in the West, and in the spring following came to Nebraska, arriving in Adams Precinct, Gage County, on the 10th of March, 1868. He at once took up a homestead claim, and while carrying on to a limited extent the improvement of his property, also taught school and engaged in breaking prairie for other parties. In the fall of 1871 he took up his residence in the embryo town of Bennet, where he engaged in the lumber and grain trade, at the same time having charge of the freight and express business of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and also the post-office.

In March, 1872, Mr. Moore changed his residence to Palmyra Precinct, of which he has become a resident. Here he also engaged in the lumber and grain business, establishing the first yard in the town of Palmyra and operating with a partner, the style of the firm being Hill & Moore. In 1874 they disposed of their lumber business and purchased a flouring-mill in Palmyra, which they operated in connection with their grain business successfully until 1883. Mr. Moore then forming a partnership with J. R. McKee, began dealing in live stock, and was engaged in buying and shipping three years. In July, 1884, he became manager for a Chicago lumber company, and still holds the posi-

tion. In 1880 the heavy rainfalls caused a general washout, doing great damage to mill property by the carrying away of dams, and there also occurred great loss of stock by drowning, and depreciation in value to the extent of \$5,000. The credit of Mr. Moore, however, remained unimpaired, and in due time he recovered from his losses.

Our subject, on the 15th of June, 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Mary R., daughter of William and Catherine Blachart, who at that time were residents of Adams Township, Gage County, where the wedding took place. Mrs. Moore was born in Blairsville, Pa., Aug. 26, 1835, and was a maiden of sixteen years when she came with her parents to Nebraska. In the meantime, however, they had removed from the Keystone State to Mercer County, Ill., where she lived from a child of five years until the age mentioned. She received a common-school education, completing her studies in Gage County. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and are now living in Gage County, this State.

To Mr. and Mrs. Moore have been born four children, the eldest of whom, a daughter, Blanche, died at the age of three and one-half years. Lillie G., Myrtle M. and Darley are at home with their parents. Mr. Moore has always taken a warm interest in the progress of his adopted county, and has been identified with many of its leading enterprises. At the incorporation of Palmyra Village, on the 5th of May, 1882, he was elected President of the Village Board, in which office he served two years. He had been elected to the State Legislature in the fall of 1880, and served through the special session held in May, 1882. He introduced Bill No. 71, providing for a license of \$1,000 for selling spirituous liquors. By agreement with Hon. Mr. Slocum, he permitted the bill to go by default, as one introduced by the latter had practically the same provisions. To Mr. Moore is fully due the honor of introducing the first high license bill in the Nebraska Legislature.

Mr. Moore was also actively interested in several other bills in connection with his county and constituency. He has filled many positions of trust and responsibility, and for a number of years has

been sent as delegate to the various conventions of his party. As an ex-soldier, he is naturally interested in the perpetuation of the G. A. R., with which he is prominently connected, being a charter member of Mansfield Post No. 54, at Palmyra. Of this he is now Commander, which office he has occupied three years, and which is in a very prosperous condition. He also belongs to Palmyra Lodge No. 45, A. F. & A. M., having passed all the Chairs, and has several times been a representative to the Grand Lodge. In the I. O. O. F., with which he identified himself in 1866, he has been a District Deputy of the Grand Lodge, has passed through all the Chairs in this likewise, and is Treasurer of the lodge in Palmyra. In religious matters, with his estimable wife, he belongs to the Baptist Church at Palmyra, being Treasurer, and one of the most liberal and cheerful contributors to its support. Mr. Moore and his family occupy a tasteful and comfortable home, their own property, and enjoy the acquaintance of a large circle of friends.



**E**LIJAH D. MARNELL, a young man of exceptional talent and ability, is the well-known Secretary and General Manager of the News Company, and assistant editor of the *Nebraska City Daily News*. He is a native of the city of Hannibal, Mo., March 5, 1855, being the date of his birth. His father, James E. Marnell, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., where his father, who was a native of Ireland, had settled after coming to America in early manhood. He, the grandfather of our subject, married in the City of Brotherly Love, and seven years later moved with his family to Kentucky. He located in Bardstown, and there pursued his trade of hatter until his death, which occurred in 1854.

The father of our subject was an infant when his parents moved to Kentucky, and there he grew to manhood. He learned the trade of tinner, and in 1843 established himself in business in Hannibal, Mo. When the Mexican War broke out he sold out and went to Mexico with Shepard's Regiment, 2d Missouri Cavalry, and was in quite a number of the most important battles, including that of the City

of Mexico. He was discharged with his regiment at the close of the war, and in 1850 made an overland journey to California, where he engaged in mining until the spring of 1853. He then returned to Missouri, by the Isthmus and New York, and was married there, in December of that year, to Miss Kate Hawkins, a native of Maysville, Ky. After his marriage Mr. Marnell opened a stove and tinware store, at that time the only establishment of the kind in the city of Hannibal. He also ran a line of boats to New Orleans in company with his brothers-in-law. Soon after the breaking out of the Civil War he closed his business, but continued to be a resident of Hannibal until his death, June 14, 1870. He was a man of more than usual intelligence, and he inherited the genial, frank manners and ready tact of the Celtic race from which his paternal ancestry sprang, so that he made friends wherever he went. The mother of our subject is still spared to bless her children, and makes her home in Nebraska City. To her and her husband were born six children, namely: Elijah, Edward, Mary, Laura, Frank and Robert.

The subject of our sketch received his early education in the city schools of Hannibal. When he was fifteen years old he began a life of self-dependence in the office of the *Watchman* in Hannibal. He worked there three months, and then engaged as a clerk in the drug-store of J. B. Brown in his native city. He was employed there four years, and the following two years was in the same business with D. B. Barnes. After that he was engaged in the drug business for nearly a year in Illinois on his own account. He then sold out, as his health was not good, and spent eight months among the mountains. In October, 1877, he came to Nebraska City to make his home, that he might enjoy its salubrious climate and its many business and social advantages. He immediately engaged in the office of the *Daily News*, and has been connected with that paper ever since in various responsible capacities—was editor until 1882, and has been assistant editor and manager ever since. In February, 1887, the News Company was formed, and he was elected its Secretary and General Manager. He has been very successful in the management of the affairs of the company, which are in a very prosper-

ous condition, as he pays strict attention to his business, and is zealous and faithful in looking after the interests of his associates. The *News* is a popular sheet, a Democratic organ, and is all that its name implies.

Mr. Marnell was married, Aug. 5, 1880, to Miss Ida Hawley, a native of Nebraska City, and a daughter of Martin and Elizabeth B. Hawley. Their pleasant home has been brightened by the birth of one child, Frank by name. Mr. Marnell has been an enthusiastic Democrat ever since he was old enough to vote, at which time he cast his first Presidential ballot for the Hon. S. J. Tilden. He occupies a prominent position in many social organizations of this city. He is Receiver of Nuckolls Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W.; Commander of Nebraska City Legion of Select Knights of the A. O. U. W. of Nebraska City, and he is Past Master Workman and Venerable Sage of Foster Assembly, K. of L., No. 8,248, and a member of Ramplin Camp No. 331, M. W. A.



**J**OHAN MATTES, of Nebraska City, is well known among its most prominent residents, where he occupies a good position socially and financially. His business is that of a brewer, and he represents a fine amount of property, while at the same time he is public-spirited, liberal, and warmly interested in the welfare of his adopted city and State. Mr. Mattes came to Nebraska City with his family in July, 1886. He was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany, June 4, 1847, and was the youngest of six children, the offspring of Frank and Frances (Sperry) Mattes, who were also of German birth and ancestry, and the father a large land-owner and farmer in his native Province. The brothers and sisters were named respectively: Rosa, Xavier, Aloes, Alex and Paul.

Young Mattes was given a thorough education in the common schools, and in addition to becoming familiar with farm pursuits, also learned the trade of wagon-maker. Three of his brothers, one in 1853 and two in 1864, emigrated to the United States, settling in Burlington, Iowa, and our subject joined them in 1866, when a little over eighteen

years of age. He worked at wagon-making in that place two years, then, in company with his brothers, began operating a brewery at Des Moines, where he lived until the spring of 1886.

Mr. Mattes was married in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1875, to Miss Mary Hummel, of Monroe, that State, and who was born at Cincinnati, Ohio, in January, 1853. Her parents, Michel and Josephine Hummel, were natives of Germany, and emigrated to Iowa in the spring of 1854, when their daughter Mary was less than a year old. They are still living in Iowa.

Our subject had, in company with his brother Paul, put up a brewery in Des Moines, and they were very successful. In 1880 he sold out his interest and rented a brewery in the same city, where he remained until coming to Nebraska City. Here he has since invested a portion of his capital in his brewery, and also has some valuable real estate. Politically, he votes the straight Democratic ticket. He is a man prompt to meet his obligations, and one thoroughly reliable as a business man and citizen.

To Mr. and Mrs. Mattes there have been born eight children, three of whom, Josie, Mina and Frank, died in infancy. The survivors are: Josie (2d), Louis, Rosa, Carl Grover C. and Alexander. The eldest is twelve years of age and the youngest two; they are a bright and interesting group, being carefully trained and educated, and the parents may be pardoned for looking upon them with pride. Mr. Mattes cast his first Presidential vote for Greeley, when a resident of Iowa, and since coming to this country has been a conscientious member of the Democratic party.



**S** H. MASON. In the career of the subject of this biography we find that of a man whose course in life has been such as to commend him in a marked manner to the esteem and confidence of his fellow-citizens. Upright in his dealings, generous and public-spirited, he has been a member of a community exerting a good influence around him and furthering the enterprises calculated to upbuild the moral and religious elements of society. In this praiseworthy

labor he has been encouraged by one of the best of women, a lady possessing rare qualifications, and one who has assisted in drawing around herself and her family the best social elements of the community. We thus find a home, which, without pretensions to elegance, is encircled by an air of culture which makes it a most delightful resort.

The Mason homestead occupies the southwest quarter of section 7, in Otoe Precinct. Before going any further we give a brief glance at the ancestry of our subject. The family is supposed to have been of English ancestry, and the parents of S. H. were Abraham and Elizabeth (Gartin) Mason, the father a native of Albemarle County, Va., and the mother born in what was then Washington County, now Marion County, Ky. Abraham Mason received careful parental training, and during his early manhood served as a soldier in the War of 1812. Afterward he took up his residence in Washington County, Ky., where he was married. Not long afterward he started for the farther West with his young wife, and they settled on a tract of land in Monroe County, Mo. The father purchased 160 acres which now lie in the vicinity of the flourishing city of Paris, which at that time gave no indication of a town. There his death took place in 1849, when he was sixty-one years old. The mother survived her husband twenty years, remaining a widow, and died in 1869, at the age of seventy-seven.

The parental household included eleven children, namely: Perry L., George G., Uriah G., Martin F., Abraham G., Amanda G., Nathan W., Stephen G., Sylvester H. (our subject), Mary H. and William H. The mother of our subject was a child of one of the first families of Kentucky, and many of her relatives are to-day prominent as politicians and professional men, and almost invariably people of wealth and position. Sylvester H. was born near Paris, Monroe County, Mo., on the 28th of September, 1838. Among his first recollections is that of the Presidential election of 1848, when Harrison was seated in the National Executive Chair. Even at that early day the educational advantages of that locality were very good, but young Mason was unable to avail himself of them to the extent he desired on account of an affection of the eyes. This, however, he overcame in due time, and when a youth of

seventeen years went into the office of the *Mercury*, at Paris, to learn the printer's trade. The close application required brought on his old trouble, and he was obliged to abandon his labors in this direction. His brother, Abraham G., also had a taste for newspaper work, and was a man of much literary merit, becoming one of the noted journalists of Missouri. His death took place at Shelbina, Mo., on the 23d of April, 1887. Martin F., another brother, and the only one living besides Sylvester H., is engaged at farming, and continues his residence near his old home in Paris, Mo.

Young Mason after leaving the printing-office embarked in the livery business, setting up in business for himself at Paris, Mo. Upon the outbreak of the Rebellion he sold out and removed to Douglas County, Ill., where he engaged in farming a period of four years, and thence removed to Cass County, Ill., locating on a farm. Before leaving Missouri he had been married to Miss Laura Bounds, who only survived her wedding about ten months. This was a sore affliction to Mr. Mason, and for a time thereafter he felt unable to go on with the duties and labors of life.

After going to Douglas County, Ill., Mr. Mason entered the employ of a very excellent man and an extensive farmer, and in due time, on account of his honesty and fidelity to duty, was given the supervision of a part of the land. After removing from Douglas to Cass County, he made the acquaintance of Mrs. Annie Jenkins, whose home at that time was in Peru, Nemaha Co., Neb., but who was visiting her parents in Illinois. This acquaintance ripened into a mutual affection, and on the 8th of October, 1873, Mrs. Jenkins having returned to her home, our subject joined her there, and they were married.

Mrs. Annie Mason was born in Ohio, in Coschocton County, Oct. 10, 1839, where she lived until a young girl fifteen years of age, and then accompanied her parents to Illinois. She was there married, Aug. 11, 1861, to Henry F. Jenkins, a Virginian by birth, and a farmer by occupation. They came to Nebraska in 1863, settling in Nemaha County, subsequently moving to the present farm in Otoe County, Neb., where the death of Mr. Jenkins occurred Oct. 17, 1869. Of this union there have

been born three children—Mary H., Olive T. and Verda A. Mary H. is now the wife of T. S. Mason, agent of the Missouri Pacific Railroad at Holiday, Mo.; they have one child, Henry M. Olive T. is the widow of George E. Smith, and the mother of two children, Annie M. and Neola G., and lives in Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb.; Verda A. is employed as a typewriter in Kansas City, Mo.

The parents of Mrs. Mason were Elijah and Jane (Hankins) Duling, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Ohio. The Dulings were of Scotch and English ancestry, and were largely represented in the early days in Ohio, being prominent in the Methodist Church, and many of them ministers. They, like the Hankins family, were of English and Scotch ancestry, an admixture of two of the best nationalities on the face of the globe. Mr. Duling was a farmer by occupation, and the parents after their marriage lived in Ohio for a period of twenty-one years. Thence they removed to Cass County, Ill. Before his marriage to the mother of Mrs. Mason Mr. Duling had by a previous alliance become the father of three children, two of whom survive—Nathan McKendry and Syvilla. Of his marriage with Miss Hankins there were born the following children: Laban, William, Annie (Mrs. Mason) Anderson, Elijah, Amelia and John. Mrs. Jane Duling died about 1846, in Ohio, and Mr. D. was the third time married, and became the father of three more children. His third wife was also the mother of three children by her former marriage. An older brother of Mrs. Mason died and left a little girl. They all lived together, so at one time the father's roof sheltered five different sets of children. In 1854 they all removed to Cass County, Ill., where the father carried on farming successfully, and lived to be seventy-eight years old, his decease taking place in July, 1876. He was a man possessing all the better qualities of character, beloved and respected by his neighbors, popular, public-spirited, charitable and kind to all who came within his reach. In early manhood he had identified himself with the old Whig party, and upon its abandonment cordially endorsed Republican principles. The members of that large family are scattered in different States.

To our subject and his present wife there have

been born two children, daughters, Edna J. and Annie B., who attend school and constitute the light and joy of the household circle. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mason are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, attending regularly at Harmony. They have both been active workers in the Master's vineyard, Mr. Mason officiating as Secretary and Trustee of his church, and both largely instrumental in the organization of the Zion Sunday-school at Zion, in 1888, and where Mrs. Mason officiates as a teacher. She is also prominently identified with the W. C. T. U. at Harmony, which enjoys a membership of forty persons. Of this Mrs. M. is the librarian, and a most efficient laborer in this good work. Mr. Mason, politically, votes with the Prohibitionists, and has served a period of nine years on the School Board of his precinct.

**C**ANNOY HANKS is among those pioneers of Nebraska who have given her reputation as a great agricultural State, and who now rank among her most extensive farmers and stock-raisers, his claim to this distinction being based upon the fact that he owns one of the largest farms in the county, located in Otoe and Hendricks Precincts, and has large herds of fine graded cattle.

Mr. Hanks was born in Carroll County, Va., Feb. 10, 1830. His father, Thomas Hanks, was a native of the same county, and his grandfather, Joshua Hanks, was for many years a resident of that county, where he was engaged as a farmer, and he died there.

Thomas Hanks was reared in his native county, and there married to Jane Moore, a native of Surrey County, N. C., where her father, George Moore, so far as known, spent his entire life. Mr. Hanks bought a tract of land in his native county, and there spent the remainder of his life, dying about 1840. His wife, the mother of our subject, died about 1850. They were the parents of eight children, namely: David, Edward, Hallie, Lee, Cannoy, Hugh, Thompson and Susan.

Cannoy Hanks, of whom we write, was reared in his Virginian birthplace. He was ten years old when the sad death of his father left his mother with

a family of small children to care for. She nobly performed her task, carefully training them to habits of industry and self-reliance, and as soon as old enough our subject and his brothers and sisters went out to work to assist in the support of the family. The summer after his father's death our subject, then only a small lad of ten years, went to work on a farm, receiving eight cents a day for his services. As he grew larger his wages were increased, until when he was man grown he was paid fifty cents a day during haying and harvesting. He was prudent and saved his earnings, until finally he had saved money enough to engage with his brother in trading horses, mules, wagons and tobacco, making two trips to Georgia every year for that purpose, between the months of September and April. In the summer seasons they were engaged in farming. In 1855 Mr. Hanks concluded to come West, and in the fall of that year started with a team from his old home in Virginia, and drove the entire distance across Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas and Missouri, to his destination in Nebraska. He arrived at Rockport, Mo., after forty-eight days of travel, spent one night there, then came on to Otoe City, and from there to Nebraska City. For awhile he engaged in teaming between the latter point and Hamey Landing and Sioux City. In 1856 he bought the claim to the land where he now resides in Otoe Precinct, built a log cabin thereon, and, when the land came into the market entered it from the Government in the land-office at Omaha. He farmed one year, and then, in 1857, went to the mountains to engage in mining some twenty-six miles northwest of the present site of Denver, which was not founded until the following year. At that time there were no railways across the plains, and all transportation was done with teams. Mr. Hanks mined in Colorado until the fall of 1861, when he returned to this State, and resumed farming and stock-raising, in which he has since met with more than ordinary success, having increased his real estate to 2,080 acres, and large numbers of cattle of high grades, among the finest in the State, roam over his rich pastures. He has all the conveniences for carrying on agriculture after the most approved methods, and his farm is provided with neat and substantial buildings.

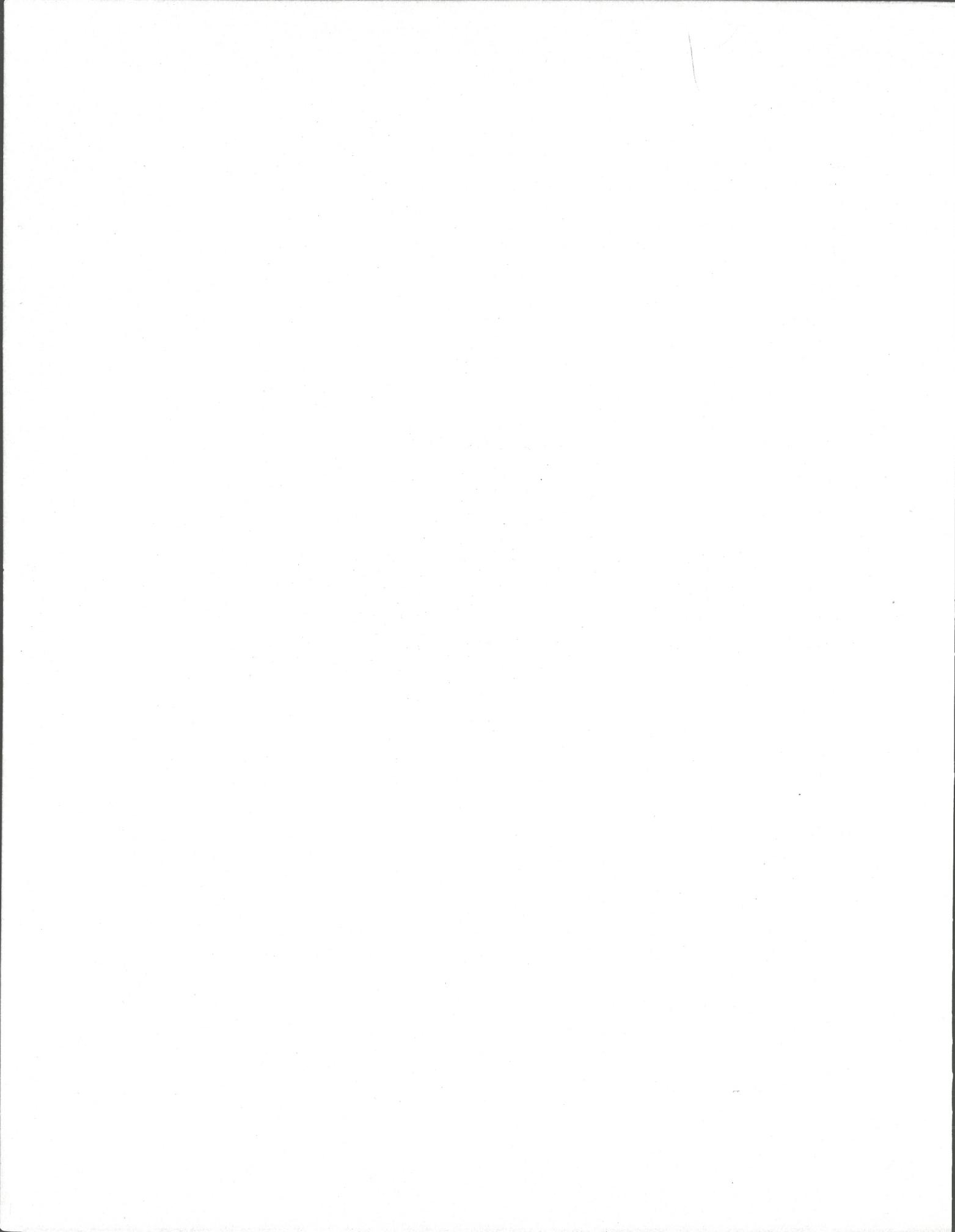




*Julius Hornum*



*Margaret Hammond*



Mr. Hanks was married, in 1864, to Miss Martha Wilkinson, a native of Carroll County, Va., and a daughter of James and Mary (Lyon) Wilkinson, natives of Virginia. Her father was born in the same county as herself, and his father, Thomas Wilkinson, is supposed to have been a native of Virginia, and to have passed his entire life there. Mrs. Hanks' father was reared and married in his native county, and resided there until 1857, when he moved to Lafayette County, Mo., bought a tract of land there, and has made it his place of residence ever since. His wife died in the old home in Virginia in 1847.

In their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Hanks have been blessed by the birth of eight children, as follows: Mary S. is the wife of Charles Bickle, and they live in Omaha; Lee, Currenner, Huston; Stella died in 1877; Gilbert; Cannoy, Jr., died in 1880, and Lola.

Mr. and Mrs. Hanks are devoted members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they are foremost in elevating the religious, moral and social status of the community. Mr. Hanks is a man of strong character, possessing superior judgment and foresight, and he is, moreover, one in whom his fellow-citizens place absolute confidence. In politics he is and always has been a strong supporter of the principles of the Democratic party.



**JULIUS NORMAND.** The subject of this biography occupies a leading position among the extensive land-owners of Rock Creek Precinct, being the proprietor of 1,400 broad acres, lying on sections 5, 7 and 8, the homestead being on section 7. Mr. Normand came to the Territory of Nebraska on the 1st of May, 1858, and secured first 160 acres by pre-emption. His present surroundings and the extent of his possessions indicate the perseverance and industry with which he has labored.

There are comparatively few pioneers who have been so noticeably fortunate in their labors amid the difficulties of a new settlement as Julius Normand. Nature endowed him with those qualities most necessary to success, and a praiseworthy career. Not only has he been diligent and economi-

cal, prompt to meet his obligations, conscientious as a man and a citizen, but in building up one of the most valuable estates in Southern Nebraska has thus been no unimportant factor in the development of its resources. This has not only been an advantage to himself, but has resulted in attracting to this county an intelligent and enterprising class of people, who would not do otherwise than settle in a community promising something for the future, morally, socially and financially.

Mr. Normand prior to his arrival in Nebraska had been a resident of Scott County, Iowa, for a period of three years, having removed there from Blair County, Pa. In the latter he was born Feb. 14, 1830, his early home being in the vicinity of the city of Pittsburgh. The Normand family is of French ancestry. The parents of our subject, James and Catherine Normand, were natives respectively of France and Germany, and spent their last years in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Their family consisted of seven children. Our subject was reared and educated in his native city, where he attained his majority and married Miss Margaret Kylor.

Mrs. Normand was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., Jan. 22, 1833, and is the daughter of George and Mary (Carcon) Kylor, who were also natives of the Keystone State, where they spent their entire lives. The mother died when her daughter Margaret was a little child five years of age, and the latter as soon as old enough began earning her own living. She thus acquired those habits of industry and self-reliance which have enabled her to be a most worthy and efficient helpmate of her husband, by whose side she has labored early and late, working equally with him in securing their valuable property. Of their union there have been born ten children, three of whom died in infancy. Of the survivors the record is as follows: James married Miss Mary Hawn, and is occupied as a butcher in Ft. Byron, Ill.; Augustus wedded Miss Hattie Wilcox, of this State, and lives on a farm in Saline County; Catherine Josephine is the wife of H. A. Crandall, who is engaged in farming near Unadilla, this county; Belle, Mrs. George Barth, lives on a farm in McWilliams Precinct; Julia is the wife of Nelson Tary, and they live on a farm in Johnson

County; Julius and Levi remain at home with their parents.

Mr. Normand cast his first Presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, and is a staunch supporter of Democratic principles. He presents the picture of a man firm in the support of his convictions, and one who is not easily moved after he has once made up his mind. This characteristic has been noticeable all through his career, and has doubtless been the secret of his phenomenal success. His has been a record which his children may look upon with pride, and in the establishment of his homestead and the estate he has built up for himself a lasting monument. Of this latter we are pleased in being able to give an extended view, and also the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Normand. Otoe County may point to them with pride as being among her best citizens, representing her best interests, and being identified with her wealth and progress.



**A**NTHONY A. JAMES. The name of this gentleman, who departed this life at his home in Wyoming Precinct, May 10, 1870, is held in kindly remembrance by a large circle of friends and acquaintances as that of an honest man and a good citizen. As a farmer he was thorough and skillful, and as a member of the community contributed his full quota toward advancing its general interest.

Mr. James was a native of County Donegal, in the North of Ireland, and was born in December, 1830. His father, William James, a farmer by occupation, was also of Irish birth and ancestry, and died in middle life in County Donegal. Anthony at the time of his father's decease was a lad of thirteen years, and a few years later accompanied his mother and the younger members of the family to America, joining some of the elder ones in Butler County, Pa. There they engaged in farming, but a year later changed their residence to Mercer County, Pa., where our subject was reared to manhood. He received a common-school education, and when ready to establish a home of his own was united in marriage with Miss Eliza Burrows, a native of his own country. They lived for a year in

the Keystone State, then concluded to try their fortunes in the regions beyond the Mississippi.

Our subject arrived in this county in the spring of 1860, and purchased 200 acres of land on section 16, in Wyoming Precinct, in the improvement and cultivation of which he was engaged until resting from his earthly labors. He prospered in his labors as a tiller of the soil, but for some time before his decease suffered from a wound which he had received while serving as a cavalry soldier in the White Rock Hills, Dak. Soon after the outbreak of the Civil War he had enlisted in Company F, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, the regiment being chiefly employed on the frontier. In this, as in all other duties in life, Mr. James fulfilled each duty conscientiously, being always at his post when needed, and upon two occasions received quite serious gunshot wounds. He participated in considerable hard fighting, and was always spoken of as a brave and faithful soldier, who received the approval of his superior officers and the respect of his comrades.

To Mr. and Mrs. James there were born six children, two of whom, Sarah B. and John N., died at the ages of seventeen months and seven weeks respectively. Besides these two infants died unnamed. William G., the eldest son living, married Miss Clara A. Swan, who was born in Liberty Precinct, Cass County, June 1, 1865, and is a very intelligent lady, with an excellent education; the younger son is named Robert, and both are very intelligent and enterprising, carrying on the homestead in a manner similar to that with which it has always been conducted, and doing honor to their training. The boys are staunch Republicans, politically, as was their honored father.

Mrs. Eliza (Burrows) James was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, Dec. 29, 1830, and is the daughter of George and Mary (Burrows) Burrows, who were of Scotch ancestry, the latter having been among those who fled from Scotland to the North of Ireland on account of religious persecution. The parents of Mrs. James were also natives of County Tyrone, and Protestants in religion. After marriage George Burrows and his wife settled upon a little farm in their native county, where were born a son and daughter. In the spring of 1834, leaving their eldest child, Eliza, with her maternal grand-

parents, they emigrated to America, bringing with them the younger, and located first in Trumbull County, Ohio. Later they removed to Mercer County, Pa., settling in New Vernon Township, where the father improved a farm from a tract of uncultivated land, and where he spent the remainder of his days, his decease taking place in February, 1883, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. Both parents had identified themselves with the Methodist Church at an early period in life. The mother is now seventy-nine years old. She still lives on the old homestead in New Vernon Township, Mercer Co., Pa., with her son John N.

To the parents of Mrs. James there were born seven children after coming to the United States, and of the nine comprising the parental household all are living but one. These are mostly residents of Pennsylvania. Mrs. James remained with her grandparents in Ireland until a maiden of seventeen years, then came to America accompanied by her aunt and uncle, Hugh Burrows. The meeting with her parents after the long separation was most pleasant and gratifying, and she afterward made her home with them until her marriage.



**O**LIVER C. WIGGIN, M. D., is a descendant of one of the good old New England families, whose name is graven upon the very foundation stones of early New England history. The originator of this family in America was Thomas Wiggin, who had emigrated to this country in 1634, returned to England, and finally returned with his family in 1636, and arrived in the midst of the struggles of the early colonies for an existence and foothold on the Western Continent. He received from his Sovereign a patent of Governor of the North Plantations, which comprised the district now embraced in the State of New Hampshire. This position, that of Governor, he held for several years, and in that time did much to establish the Colonists and bring to them the position of independence and brightness of prosperity that fairly started the young colony on its way. He was the first Governor. The descend-

ants of this illustrious gentleman, Thomas Wiggin, for several generations married into the families of the Massachusetts Governors Bradstreet, Dudley and Winthrop, besides others equally well known that might be mentioned, representing men of worth and note in the higher circles of thought and action in life.

The subject of our sketch is one of the ninth generation from the above-mentioned gentleman, and is the second son of the Hon. John M. Wiggin, of Meredith, N. H. He was born in July, 1810. In his early life the father of our subject manifested no little ability as a student. From his boyhood he had been devoted to earnest thought and careful study, and this he followed from his youth up, always engrossed in a never satisfied effort to assuage his thirst for knowledge. While yet a young man he became instructor in the public schools near the home of his boyhood. Later he turned his attention to the business of architect and contractor, and while his sons were growing up he lived upon a farm in order that they might have such surroundings as would tend to make them true men, that he might the better instruct them in such a manner as would bring out the very best that was in them as regards character and disposition.

Mr. Wiggin was elected by the people of his county (where he had well-nigh innumerable friends, for he was much respected and was very popular) for three consecutive terms to the New Hampshire State Legislature, where he served, as had been expected, the interests of his constituents in a most self-forgetful spirit and with a single eye to their welfare. When about seventy years of age he went to live with his children in Providence, R. I., and there died three years later. He was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church, and was for some years a Deacon in that communion, as his father had been before him. The family for several generations had held its membership within the same church. His wife, whose maiden name was Polly (Fox) Wadleigh, was a descendant of another of the old families of position of New Hampshire. She was a brilliant and yet thoughtful woman, true to herself and to all to whom she was related. She also reached the good old age of seventy-three

years, and died about the same time as her husband.

Dr. Oliver C. Wiggin was born May 3, 1839, in Meredith, N. H., spent the first eighteen years of his life upon a farm, and received his education at the school-house. The institutions of learning of that day were not of course so complete, either as regards the instruction or appointments, as they are to-day. As soon as he was sufficiently advanced to so do he entered Brown's University, at Providence, where he remained for some time, and then entered the Harvard Medical College, being graduated from that institution in the class of '66.

Upon receiving his diploma Dr. Wiggin engaged in the practice of medicine, locating in Providence, where he remained for about twenty years, becoming long before that term had expired one of the most prominent physicians and surgeons of Rhode Island. He was very largely successful in his practice, and perhaps for the reason that it has always been his custom to enter into every transaction giving his whole mind and power to the engagement, whatever that might be, that demanded his attention. During that time he was elected President of the Rhode Island Medical Society, and was also President of the Providence Medical Association, and also President of the Lying-in Hospital of Providence, of which he was the chief promoter and founder. For ten years he continued visiting physician to the Rhode Island Hospital and consulting physician at Dexter Asylum and the Home for Aged Men, and also that for Aged Women.

The marriage of Dr. Wiggin and Mrs. Helen M. Jenckes, eldest daughter of Hon. Charles Nourse, was celebrated Dec. 3, 1878. Her father is now deceased. He was formerly a successful cotton manufacturer in Woonsocket, R. I., and occupied a high position in the community, being prominent in the social, political, religious and educational circles, as well as the business world. His daughter Helen received the best possible education, and was conversant with all the usual subjects then taught, and was also endowed with several accomplishments as then considered, and was fitted by these and her careful home training for any position in life. She became connected with most of

the prominent religious and educational societies, including the widely known Rhode Island Women's Club. It has been a principle of her life to make others happy and to spend herself in helping those who need aid, and she is worthy of rank among the first ladies of the State.

From boyhood Dr. Wiggin has taken the greatest possible interest in fine cattle and graded stock, of which there were several upon the home farm. In 1883 he found his failing health would not permit of his continued practice of medicine, and because of the above-mentioned desire and natural liking for stock, he decided to take up the breeding of blooded stock, and determined only to handle the pure Holstein stock, and in October, 1882, he imported a choice herd of the most noted strains from Holland.

Dr. Wiggin found himself well prepared to keep fully abreast of the times in his new occupation. He began in Providence, but the necessity of seeking broader fields led him to turn his mind to the Western prairies, and in 1886 he transported his cattle and interests to this State, locating in Wyoming Precinct of this county, about nine miles north of Nebraska City and three and a half miles from Union, which is his post-office and is a station on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. His property is splendidly located, and admirably adapted for his purpose. It is known as the "Crown Bluff Stock Farm." Since the transfer to Nebraska the head of the herd has been superseded by a son, an exceptionally fine animal, who is named "Netherland Standard," and the farm is most thoroughly stocked, the herd numbering about fifty.

Partly associated in the business with Dr. Wiggin is a younger brother, whose given name is Charles D. Wiggin, M. D. He also is now a resident of Wyoming Precinct, and is connected with his brother in his stock interests, and at the same time is a practicing physician and surgeon. He was born upon the old homestead in New Hampshire. After obtaining the principles of an education he entered Brown University, at Providence, completing the curriculum of study and being graduated in the class of '68, subsequently receiving the degree of A. M. He then came West, and spent four years in Nebraska on the present farm, which his father had some time before purchased. At the end of

that period, in 1872, he decided to return East. This he did, and entered the Yale Medical School, and devoted himself to hard and faithful study, being graduated with honors in the class of '74, receiving the degree of M. D.

From Yale Dr. C. D. Wiggin went to Providence, R. I., and began the practice of medicine, continuing there until 1886, when he came to this State and joined his brother, our subject. He has since resided on the Wiggin property at "Crown Bluff," continuing, as above mentioned, the practice of his profession. He was united in marriage to Miss Adelaide Buckley, the daughter of John Buckley, of Providence, R. I. She was well educated, and previous to her marriage had been a most successful teacher in the public schools of Rhode Island. While yet in the prime of life she died, leaving two daughters, Marion and Hope.

A second marriage was entered into by Dr. C. D. Wiggin. The maiden name of the lady who united her life interests with his upon that occasion was Lucy D. Bucklin, the daughter of Samuel Slater Bucklin, of Providence, R. I., where she was born. Previous to her marriage she had been engaged for some years as a teacher in the grammar schools of Providence, and in her present position in his home gives abundant evidence of her every qualification for that or any other she might be called upon to occupy.

Our subject and his brother combine the industries of the dairy with their stock farming, and their goods are such as to command a steady market at Omaha. They also have choice family pork products. Their cattle are the most perfect dairy stock that could be found, so far as breed is concerned, their cows coming of the celebrated families of Netherland, Aggie, Alexander, Texelaar, Operdoes, and others equally valuable. It is a frequent thing for them to obtain as much as eighty-seven pounds of milk per day from several of their choicest cows, some of the two-year-olds averaging fifty pounds per day.

Dr. Oliver Wiggin is an acknowledged expert and authority in matters pertaining to cattle breeding, raising and feeding. His arrangements for the sheltering and feeding of his stock are all of a model character. He uses only the best obtainable

feed, supplying them with the ordinary forage as long as it remains green; following that with ensilage, for which he has silos with a capacity of 160 tons, which enables him to feed at the small expense of fifty-four cents per ton, which is a practical demonstration of the utility of this method. For grain feed he gives corn-meal, bran, oatmeal, ground oats, and cottonseed meal in their proper proportions.

Sufficient has been said to portray the position, high character and personal worth of our subject and those associated with him, and we leave the sketch to make its own impression in this regard. Suffice it here to say that the Doctor is most highly esteemed by all who know him. He is a member of the Baptist Church, and as a true and loyal citizen, is a member of the Republican party.



**O** A. SEVERE. The gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch is one of the most prominent cattle dealers of Palmyra Precinct, and a man who, beginning at the foot of the ladder in life has made his way by his own unaided efforts to a good position socially and financially. His farm of 280 acres is finely located on section 13, and forms one of the most desirable homesteads in this region. Upon it is a neat and substantial farm dwelling, and adjacent are the barns, sheds, scales, and all the other appliances adapted to the modern stock-raiser, while for the comfort of the family is a fine orchard and trees of the smaller fruits. A beautiful grove forms another attractive feature of the premises. The household is presided over by an intelligent and accomplished lady, the wife of our subject, and one child, a bright little boy, Harry, who was born April 8, 1883, completes the happiness of the home.

Mr. Severe, a native of Knox County, Ohio, was born in Liberty Township, Jan. 29, 1854, and is consequently still a young man. He was a lad of nine years when he left his native State, and accompanied his parents to Harrison County, Mo., where they lived on a farm a period of six years. Our subject in September, 1869, came to Nebraska and purchased 120 acres of land, to which he added a

like amount a few months later. While a resident of Missouri he was married, Jan. 18, 1877, to Miss Martha E. Morgan, also a native of Ohio, and who was born Sept. 23, 1858. Her parents, Amos and Jane (McCammon) Morgan, emigrated from the Buckeye State to Harrison County, Mo., when she was a young girl twelve years of age. Her parents were natives of Ohio; the father is living in Missouri, and the mother is deceased. Mrs. Severe, a lady who is greatly respected in her community, is a member of the Presbyterian Church at Palmyra.

Mr. S. identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1883, and is now a member of Lodge No. 64, at Palmyra; he also belongs to the Knights of Workingmen, and politically, votes the straight Republican ticket.

The parents of our subject were Bethel and Charlotte (Conway) Severe, who were natives of Ohio and Virginia, and are now living with our subject. The father was a farmer by occupation, and the parental household included two sons and three daughters, of whom one sister of our subject is living.



**A**LLEXANDER McINTYRE. It were hard to find a more worthy and honorable representative of the business world of Palmyra or indeed of Otoe County than the well-known gentleman and much valued citizen whose history is here recorded. Mr. McIntyre is in the dry-goods and general mercantile business, and has established a reputation that is beyond question, and in his daily life manifests a character that is of the highest order.

Mr. McIntyre is the son of Duncan and Catherine McIntyre, of Argyleshire, Scotland. His father was a shepherd all his life. He came to America to join our subject, who had previously settled in this State, and died in Russell Precinct in this county, in 1873, aged seventy-three years. His mother resides in Kansas, with her daughters, and has attained the advanced age of eighty-four years. The family circle includes five children, who received the following names: Archibald, Alexander, Mary, Donald and Catherine.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 2d of

October, 1839, in Argyleshire. His experience was common to that of boyhood in Scotland; his education obtained in the parish schools was thorough and practical, such as would do him good service in the ordinary affairs of life. At fourteen he was apprenticed as clerk in a dry-goods house in Edinburgh, where he continued for three years. This was his business college, and the practical education and training there received are with him in effect to-day, and his customers in this county may trace his efficiency in business back to that time.

In 1856 Mr. McIntyre went to Worcester, England, and there he served for several years in the dry-goods business, thus making, properly speaking, his first start in life, for at Edinburgh, as above mentioned, he was simply an apprentice. On the 1st of September, 1863, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. McIntyre with Sarah, the estimable daughter of Joseph and Ann (Burden) Grainger. The parents of this lady were English, her father being a native of Worcester and her mother of London. Mr. Grainger was in business as a grocer at the above city, and there met our subject. He is still living, and is seventy-five years of age. His wife died in 1875, being sixty-three years of age at the time of her demise. Of thirteen children born to them six grew up, of whom three were girls and three boys. The wife of our subject, who was born on the 24th of February, 1840, is the eldest of the surviving children. Her education was received in private seminaries and is complete.

Four years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre set sail for America. They left Liverpool on April 3, on the steamship "Louiscana." He took a homestead of 160 acres, and in 1867 purchased an adjoining 160. He now found scope for all his experience, and plenty of work that demanded just such determination and muscle as is usually found in natives of Scotland. He continued prosperously as a farmer for seventeen years. On the 3d of January, 1884, he came to Palmyra and engaged in mercantile pursuits, buying out Mr. R. Oakley, who had formerly carried on business here.

Mr. McIntyre is a prominent member of the A. O. U. W., and is at present the Financier of the Local Assembly, of which he is one of the charter members. In religious circles he also occupies a

high position. From his youth he has been much attached to the Presbyterian Church, and of that communion his wife and he are members. He is one of the pillars of the church at Palmyra, and serves it both in the office of Elder and that of Sunday-school Superintendent. In these relations as in every other he is held in the highest possible esteem and regard, sentiments that are accorded in like measure to his wife. In his position as a citizen Mr. McIntyre supports the Republican party, and is now a Councilman of Palmyra, where his manliness of character, his shrewd sagacity and business habits, enable him the better to represent his constituents.



**J**OHAN KASBOHM. The northeast quarter of section 29, in Wyoming Precinct, has been most effectively utilized by the subject of this sketch in the building up of one of the best regulated homesteads of this part of the county, to which he came in the spring of 1879. His land at that time had undergone very little improvement, there being upon it at the time of its purchase by Mr. K. small buildings and no fences. It is hardly necessary to state in viewing his present surroundings, that he has employed his time in the most industrious manner, and invested his capital where it would do the most good.

The buildings of the Kasbohm farm are especially noticeable as being tasteful, compact, and erected in that substantial manner which insures the protection of both man and beast. Mr. K., in addition to general farming, has given considerable attention to live stock, having a good assortment of horses, cattle and swine. He has an orchard of flourishing apple trees, besides the smaller fruits, and has gradually gathered about himself and his family those little comforts and conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness of a home.

Our subject, a native of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, was born Aug. 22, 1839, and was the third child in a large family, the offspring of Jacob and Fredricka (Clocksim) Kasbohm, who were of pure German ancestry, and

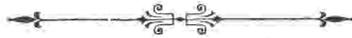
spent their entire lives upon their native soil. The father earned an honest living as a laborer, and died at the age of sixty years. The mother passed away in middle life. They were members of the Lutheran Church, in the doctrines of which they carefully trained their children. Six of the latter are living, three sons and three daughters, and are residents of the United States.

Mr. Kasbohm, in common with the children of his native Empire, was placed in school at an early age, and made his home with his parents until twenty-four years old. He then decided to cross the Atlantic and try to accomplish in America what there seemed little hope of his becoming in Germany—a man of property and influence. He realized that he must make his way by slow degrees, but he possessed largely the qualities of persistence and resolution, handed down to him from his ancestors, and accordingly, after landing in New York City, was ready to employ himself at whatever he could find to do. There and in the city of Brooklyn he lived for the following nine years or more, becoming in the meantime established in a putty and paint house, of which he was a trusted employe. In the spring of 1879, however, he resolved to cross the Mississippi and see what lay beyond.

Mr. Kasbohm has certainly had little reason to regret crossing first the Atlantic and then the Father of Waters. He had little capital upon landing in this country, being thrown upon his own resources in a strange land, but his inherent integrity and his willingness to employ himself at anything which would make him an honest living, soon secured him friends, which he has never lacked to this day. One of the earliest of these was a most estimable young lady, Miss Catherine Maefort, with whom he became acquainted in New York City, and to whom he was married there in 1866.

The wife of our subject was, like himself, born in Germany, on the 18th of October, 1841. She came with friends to the United States, and, like her husband, commenced independently to earn her own living. Their wedded life began in New York, and a few months later they bid adieu to the metropolis and came to the young State of Nebraska. They have been steadily advancing since

making the experiment of life in a new country, and have contributed their full share to the prosperity of Otoe County. Of their union there was born one child only, a boy, whom they named John, and who to their great sorrow died when ten weeks old. Mr. and Mrs. K. are both members of the German Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a solid Republican.



**O**RLANDO J. DAVIS is one of the prominent citizens and enterprising stock-raisers and farmers of North Branch Precinct, and resides on section 35, where he settled in 1880. Mr. Davis was born on the 26th of December, 1844, in North Carolina, of which State his parents, Ruell R. and Biddy (Hobson) Davis, were also natives. The family removed from that State to Nebraska, settling at Mt. Pleasant, in Cass County, in the year 1856. There the father entered land and improved a farm, giving his careful and undivided attention to the cultivation of the same for the remainder of his life, which closed in the year 1864. Mrs. Davis is still living in Cass County, and has reached the age of sixty-three years.

The family circle of which our subject is a member included nine children, of whom but seven are living: Stephen, now a grain merchant at Plattsmouth; Orlando J., our subject; Bradley H., a resident of this county; Wesley A., of Weeping Water, this State; William R., who still lives at Mt. Pleasant; Julia A., the wife of William Jameson, and John H., both of Weeping Water. Eunice, died in the year 1861, at the age of eighteen years.

The subject of our sketch was twelve years of age when the family settled in this State, and can well remember many of the more striking features and incidents of their pioneer life. The journeys his father was compelled to take when any trading or marketing had to be done, either to Plattsmouth or Nebraska City. His father had an unusually fine advantage in settling, being possessed of over \$1,000 in money, besides teams and household goods.

As a lad, Orlando Davis spent his early days upon the home farm, and his recollections cluster around and are filled with the simple, healthful life

at the home. He was from his youth acquainted with agricultural pursuits and farm life, so that it was no difficulty for him to take charge of similar work on his own account. The year 1867 witnessed his marriage with Elizabeth Howard, the daughter of William H. and Julia A. Howard, who were natives of Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard were married in Parke County, Ind., and settled in Vermillion County, where their daughter Elizabeth was born on the 3d of June, 1848. Later they went to Hancock County, Ill., where they lived until 1863, and then came to Cass County, where, two years later, Mrs. Howard died, leaving her husband and six children. Mr. Howard is still living, but is a resident of Lancaster County, Neb.

The subject of our sketch and his young wife continued to make their home in Cass County until 1870, when they migrated to Butler County, Kan., and pre-empted 160 acres of the Osage Trust Lands, which he improved by cultivation, setting out a large number of fruit trees, and erecting good buildings. After awhile he purchased an additional eighty acres, making him the owner of a total of 240 acres. In the year 1873 he lost his crop by grasshoppers, but did not require aid, as he had provisions in reserve, the result of more prosperous years.

Mr. Davis continued his residence in Kansas for a little over ten years, but was not infatuated with the State and did not like the climate, consequently he removed and came to Nebraska, where he purchased his present farm, comprising 160 acres of excellent land, on which he has put up two sets of good buildings for stock and farm purposes. He feeds about fifty head of stock annually, and is the owner of some fine animals. In the vicinity of the house there are two flourishing orchards, filled with fruit trees of diverse kinds of choice variety, and all excellent bearers.

The family of our subject and his wife numbers eight children, whose names are as subjoined: Mary Eva, Frank V., Milton C., Howard O., Winford W., Pearl Ethel, Edward C. and Hannah A. The home is one of the most complete and pleasant that can be found within quite a large distance, and the children reflect the high moral tone of their parents in

their own lives. In the Methodist Episcopal Church Mr. and Mrs. Davis find that which is congenial from a religious standpoint, and their family have been instructed in the same faith.

The subject of our sketch is an old member of the I. O. O. F., and is also affiliated with the Society of Modern Woodmen of America. He thinks strongly and independently upon the temperance question, and is quite a worker in the cause. He has been called upon to hold several local offices, and was also appointed to take the State census for his district in 1875. He is an active worker for the Republican party, which he has continued to support from the time he had the privilege of franchise. He is a member of the Central Committee, and has frequently been called upon to act as a delegate to conventions. As a man he is highly respected, and has the confidence of his fellow-citizens to a marked degree.



**M**ICHAEL HENG, a very prosperous farmer of Belmont Precinct, and one of its most extensive land-owners, is the proprietor of 410 acres of valuable land, all of which is under a fair state of cultivation. It is chiefly devoted to stock-raising, his animals including Short-horn cattle of excellent breeds, Berkshire and Poland-China swine and first-class draft horses. These latter, however, he makes use of mostly on his hand. He has operated with that genuine German thrift and prudence which are among the most distinctive characteristics of his nationality, and is not only in the enjoyment of a competence for the present, but will have sufficient to surround himself with all the comforts of life in his declining years.

Our subject was born in the Province of Alsace, which now belongs to Germany, but was at that time a Province of France. He first opened his eyes to the light Sept. 21, 1834, and is the son of George and Magelend (Saner) Heng, who were natives of the same Province. Michael when a youth of twenty years left his native land in April of 1855, and thereafter for one year was a resident of Shelby County, Ohio. Thence he emigrated to the

city of Dayton in that State, but from there emigrated to Greene County, Ohio, where he lived three years.

Mr. Heng came to Nebraska Aug. 18, 1859, while it was still a Territory, and settled upon land which is now included in his present farm. Of this but thirty acres had been disturbed by the plowshare, and there had been built a limited amount of fence. There was no house, and the scene around presented one extremely wild and desolate, with not the habitation of a white man in view. Our subject, however, was born with that courageous element which did not allow any ordinary matter to discourage him, and he set to work with a will to build up a home and improve his land. His first years were spent in the manner common to the early pioneers, laboring with limited market facilities, imperfect transportation, and amid all the other difficulties which beset the pioneer farmer. In the course of a few years, however, his labors met with their legitimate reward, his farm began to yield in abundance the rich products of Southern Nebraska, and he had gathered around him the various modern improvements which become necessary to the intelligent and progressive farmer. He is now numbered among the most prosperous men of his precinct, and is one of its most valuable and reliable citizens.

After laying the foundation of a future home our subject was married, on the 8th of February, 1865, to Miss Jane Hoffman, who was born in January, 1845, in Germany, and is a daughter of Joseph Hoffman, who, with his wife, was a native of Germany. Both parents spent their last years in Illinois.

To Mr. and Mrs. Heng there were born nine children, namely: George, Mary, Michael, Katy, Wilhelmina, Phelimina, John, Jennie and Sally. Mary is the wife of Mattis Meyer, of Cass County, this State. The other children are at home. The mother of these departed this life at the homestead in Belmont Precinct, June 17, 1884.

Our subject in 1885 contracted a second matrimonial alliance, with Miss Theresa Schrider, who was born in 1850, and is the daughter of Joseph and Catrenia Schrider. Her parents were natives of Germany, and the father died about 1874, in Otoe

County; the mother Feb. 2, 1885, also in Otoe County. Of this union of our subject there are two children, a son and daughter—Frank and Theresa. The career of Mr. Heng has been signalized as that of a man more than ordinarily industrious and clear sighted. He began life without capital, dependent wholly upon his own resources, and from first principles has built up an estate of which he has reason to be proud. He votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has never sought official honors. He and his wife are members in good standing of the German Catholic Church. In the support and maintenance of this he takes a warm interest and is noted for his charities, giving largely of his means to benevolent objects. He is likewise active in his encouragement of education, believing that the young should receive every advantage in order to fit them for worthy and useful citizens. In 1864 the Indians became very troublesome, and Mr. Heng joined a company to suppress them.

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**WASHINGTON C. WOLF.** South Branch has within its confines many thoroughly practical farmers, enterprising and prosperous stock-raisers, men of intelligence and character. Among these and worthily representing the industries is the subject of our sketch, who has 480 acres of splendid land devoted to the above interests, situated on section 30 of that precinct.

Our subject is the son of Frederick and Sophia (Clark) Wolf. His father was born of German parents, who settled in Maryland, in which State he first saw the light. His mother was born in Bowling Green, Ky., where she was married to Mr. Wolf in 1827. The grandfather upon the maternal side was of English family, and served in the War of 1812 as a private.

After some time spent in Kentucky the parents of our subject removed to Ohio, and made their home near Eaton, and at that place all their children were born. In 1832 they removed to Shelbyville, Ill., where Mr. Wolf continued farming until his death, which occurred on the 12th of June, 1879, at the age of seventy-seven years. His wife died at Athens, Ill., on the 1st of October, 1858. There

were thirteen children born to them, the family record giving their names as subjoined: Sarah, Louis, Nancy, Frederick, Daniel, Susan (died when three years of age), Sophia, Rebecca, Cornelius, Jacob, Washington C., Melinda and Oliver. Cornelius was in the 73d Illinois Infantry, was mustered in at Camp Butler in 1862, was taken with fever, and died at Louisville, Ky.

The subject of our sketch was born in Preble County, Ohio, on the 11th of November, 1845. Accompanying his parents to Illinois, he continued to live with them until he was thirteen years of age, attending the classes of the common schools. When his mother died he began working for himself, and at the age of sixteen years he enlisted in the 2d Illinois Cavalry, in 1861, and became a member of Company B. He was mustered in at Camp Butler and served under Gen. Banks. He took part as an active combatant in the siege of Vicksburg, the raid up the Red River, the battle of Memphis, Jacksonville and Baton Rouge, besides many smaller battles, skirmishes and conflicts, and was mustered out after a service of three years at Camp Butler, and there received his honorable discharge.

Hanging up his saber and doffing the Union blue, Mr. Wolf returned to the more peaceful avocation of husbandry. In beginning he started in Township No. 19, Logan County, continuing there until he came to this county in 1879. At that time he settled on his present property, which was at the time entirely unimproved, and offered an inviting field for intelligent industry, unflagging perseverance and resolute energy. The reward of his labor is his.

Mr. Wolf has been twice married; first on the 8th of August, 1867, while residing in Illinois. The maiden whom he sought for his companion in life was Mathilda Donovan, daughter of David and Sarah (Martin) Donovan, who were both born in the Buckeye State. She was the youngest of five children, and was born on the 15th of November, 1848, in Logan County, Ill., and prior to her marriage ably filled the position of schoolmistress. She died on the 24th of November, 1865, leaving her husband their son Charles Edward, as a pledge and memorial of their affection.

The second alliance in matrimony of our subject

was with Mrs. Mary Farrall, relict of Francis Farrall, and was celebrated on the 11th of November, 1885. The first husband of this lady was born in Ireland, and came to this country when a young man, settling in Illinois in Cass County. He then went to Kearney. After seven years they removed in 1875 to this county, where he died on the 17th of March, 1884. He was the father of three children, named John, Lucy and Maggie. Mrs. Wolf was born in Queens County, Ireland, May 22, 1845, and is the daughter of Charles and Bridget (Butler) Flinn. She came to America alone when sixteen years of age.

The farm of Mr. Wolf, which lies partly on section 13 and partly on section 31, comprising as above noted 480 acres, is carefully kept and worked. From house to field, barn to orchard, the improvements are the work of the proprietor. The fields are fertile and very productive, the cattle sheds and pens are well stocked with high-grade stock, including cattle, hogs and horses, many of them very valuable creatures and of fine appearance. Mr. Wolf is Supervisor of roads, and has held other offices, being popular, intelligent, a man of character and social position. Our subject and wife are both members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra. Although one in religious faith they differ materially in politics. Mr. Wolf is a staunch Republican; his wife, although Irish by birth, has carefully studied the institutions of her adopted country, and is very intelligent upon this and upon all general topics, and also some of the more erudite. This lady espouses the cause of the Democratic faith.



**J**UDGE JESSE S. MAPES is one of the most worthy and valued citizens of Nebraska City, and was born July 20, 1838, in Warwick, Orange Co., N. Y., in the same house in which Gov. Seward was born, as was also his father, Sanford Mapes, whose nativity dates the 11th of September, 1811, and his father, Jesse Mapes, and also James Mapes, grandfather of Sanford H. Mapes. The family is of German extraction. The first member of the family to come to this country was Thomas Meppes, great-great-grand-

father of our subject, who was born at Elberfeldt, Germany. (In later generations the name was Anglicized, and is now spelled Mapes.) He settled in Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y., and took up a large tract of land, and clearing a plantation, made for his family a home. There he resided until his death.

The great-grandfather of our subject came with his parents from Germany, and was reared upon the above farm. He served in the War of the Revolution under Washington, after which he retired to his farm, and there made his home until his death, in 1834, when the property passed into the hands of his son Jesse, and then to Sanford H., the father of our subject, who continued to make it his home. The maiden name of his wife was Hannah Little, a native of Orange County.

The father of Jesse S. was brought up on a farm, and continued to operate it. In 1838 with his wife he went to Warwick, and for a time resided on the Seward homestead; while there the subject of our sketch was born, in the month of July, as above mentioned. Mr. Mapes afterward purchased a farm at Warwick, and was there engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, March 8, 1874. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Ruth Rose Mapes, who was born in Blooming Grove, Orange Co., N. Y. The father of this lady, Rumsey Mapes, of the same county, was a soldier in the War of 1812. The maiden name of his wife was Mary, daughter of James and Rachael (Miller) Rumsey. The first husband of this lady, Joshua Miller, was murdered by the Claudius Smith gang during the Revolutionary War. They watched for him, knowing him to be home on furlough, and discovering his hiding-place, followed his wife when she took him food, and sprang upon him and assassinated him.

There were six children born to the parents of our subject, as follows: Jesse S.; Horace was born in 1840, and died in 1862; William served in Company B, 127th New York Infantry, in the late war; he lost an eye in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, and in the battle of Deep Bottom lost a leg, and now resides in Orange County. Mortimer and Walter are both residents of the town of Warwick; Eugene is a minister in the Presbyterian Church,

now stationed at Carlisle, Pa.; he is a graduate of Union College, N. Y., also of the University at Leipsic, Germany.

The subject of our sketch received his early education in the district schools of his native place, and afterward received instruction in the "S. S. Seward" Institute, at Florida, Orange Co., N. Y., an institution endowed by the father of Gov. Seward. After being graduated he served three years' apprenticeship in order to learn the trade of carpenter. In 1861 he was appointed Deputy United States Marshal for the Eleventh New York District, and served until the close of the war, and was then appointed Deputy County Clerk of Orange County; this office he continued to fill for nine years, during which time he was a student-at-law. In 1877 he came to this State, and bought the farm on which he has resided ever since. This is a very fertile and well-cultivated property, comprising 160 acres on section 29 of Syracuse Precinct. In 1879 he was elected Assessor of Syracuse; in 1880 he became Justice of the Peace, was elected County Judge of Otoe County in 1885, and re-elected in 1887.

On the 16th of May, 1861, Judge Mapes was united in marriage with Evelyn F. Randall, which union has resulted in the birth of four children—Jessie Benton, Willie S., Lena and Bernie. Mrs. Mapes was born in New York City, on the 16th of May, 1841. Her father, Culver Randall, was born in 1804, at Goshen, Orange County, while his father, Jesse Randall, was a native of New Jersey; his father, William Randall, the great-grandfather of Mrs. Mapes, was a Welshman, who came to America in the employ of C. C. Seward in the early days of the Colonies.

The grandfather of Mrs. Mapes was a young man when his parents migrated to York State; there he built a gristmill in Goshen, and continued to do business there, at the same time running his extensive farm, upon which the father of Mrs. Mapes was reared. After he was married he went to New York City, and engaged in business there as a ship's chandler, and afterward returned to Goshen to take charge of his father's mills, which ultimately came into his ownership. There he resided until his death, which occurred in September, 1888, when he was eighty-five years of age.

His wife, whose maiden name was Sophia Provost, was born in 1808, in New York City. Her father's name was Daniel Provost.

Judge Mapes has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for twenty-four years, joining at Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y., of which lodge he was Master six years, and has been a Royal Arch Chapter Mason for fifteen years. He is much interested in political matters, and is a staunch Republican. With his wife, he is a member in good standing of the Episcopal Church.



**H**ERMAN KREIFELS. The comfortable and well-regulated homestead of this gentleman embraces 160 acres of land situated on section 10 in Rock Creek Precinct. Most of it has been brought to a productive condition, the buildings are comfortable and in good repair, and the entire premises presents a cheerful picture of rural life.

Mr. Kreifels settled upon eighty acres of his present farm in the fall of 1869, and followed the usual routine of the early settler, enduring many hardships, and being obliged to labor early and late in order to obtain a foothold. He has been fairly prosperous in his labors and been able to surround himself and his family with many comforts. Prior to his arrival in Nebraska he had been a resident of Stearns County, Minn., for a period of fourteen years. To that place he had migrated from Osage County, Mo., where he first took up his residence when coming to the United States in the early summer of 1846, taking up his residence there on the 2d of May.

Mr. Kreifels was born near the River Rhine, in Prussia, Dec. 30, 1824, and is a son of John and Sibela Kreifels, natives of the same country, where the father followed farming, and where both parents spent their entire lives. The father died when his son Herman was twelve years old, and he was then thrown mostly upon his own resources, earning thereafter his own living. He was twenty-one years of age when he decided to seek his fortune in the New World. He was married in Osage County, Mo., to Miss Margaret Bloomer, who was born in

Prussia, April 20, 1828, and came in the spring of 1840 with her father, Matthew Bloomer, to America. They also located in Osage County, Mo., where Mrs. K. was reared to womanhood, remaining under the parental roof. After her marriage with our subject her parents removed to Minnesota, and died in Stearns County.

Mr. and Mrs. Kreifels began their wedded life together on a farm in Missouri, when later they removed to Minnesota, and from there to this county. Of their union there have been born ten children, namely: Peter, Louis, Sebastian, Frank, Melcher, Joseph, Elizabeth, Mary, Anna and Helen. Joseph, Elizabeth and Mary are married, and make their homes in Otoe County. Our subject, politically, is independent, and he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Catholic Church.



**S**TEPHEN A. HAIL is the oldest native-born citizen of Otoe County now a resident within its limits, his birth occurring in Nebraska City June 2, 1855, and ever since attaining manhood he has been identified with the best interests of his native city and county, and is now numbered among the leading business men of this part of Nebraska. He is the youngest son of William B. Hail, of whom an extended sketch appears elsewhere in this work.

Our subject received the preliminaries of his education in the early schools of this city, and completed it by attendance at Talbot Hall, an advanced school, under the charge of Prof. Diffendorf. This school was first conducted in a building erected for the purpose three miles southwest of this city. It was afterward moved to the city, and was known for some time as Nebraska College, but is now called the Nebraska City Academy, Prof. Cary being the proprietor. Our subject was a student of the college after its removal to the city. When he was twenty-four years old he entered upon the mercantile business as a clerk in the store of S. B. Eastman, and was employed in that establishment for two years. He then went to Omaha and kept books for a lumber firm in that city two years. At the expiration of that time he returned to this city and

went into the insurance office of David Brown, and was a clerk for him until 1885. In September of that year Mr. Hail bought Mr. Brown's insurance business, and has conducted it himself ever since with marked success. He represents ten of the leading insurance companies of the United States, and his business extends over Otoe, Nemaha and Cass Counties. By his close attention to his affairs, and his prompt and systematical business habits, he has not only been exceedingly prosperous, but has won the confidence of the many who have dealings with him.

Mr. Hail was married, March 4, 1881, to Miss Anna V. Steinhart, a native of St. Louis, and a daughter of John and Anna Steinhart. In their pleasant and attractive home two children, Warren Lee and Irene, complete the family circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Hail are active members of the Presbyterian Church, and it is through Mr. Hail's efforts as leader of the choir that this church is greatly indebted for its beautiful music, as he is a fine singer and an enthusiast in music.

Mr. Hail is a fine representative of the young men of the West who have grown up within its borders, he having a full measure of the push and energy that characterize so many of them, and make them conspicuous in the industrial, commercial and other business interests of their native towns. He is earnest and sincere in his convictions, straightforward and manly in all his acts, and one upon whom friend or stranger can place the utmost reliance. He is, of course, interested in all that tends to promote the growth of his native city, and as a member of the Building and Loan Association, is an important factor therein. Mr. Hail is an ardent advocate of the policy of the Democratic party in his political views.



**J**OHAN NUTZMANN. The subject of this sketch represents a fine property in the State of Nebraska, including 480 acres of land in Berlin Precinct, this county, and eighty acres in Cass County. His homestead is embellished with first-class improvements, including a commodious residence, a good barn and other out-buildings, and

all the appliances required for the convenience of the extensive stock-dealer, of which industry our subject makes a specialty. For his partner and helpmate Mr. Nutzmann has one of the most intelligent of wives, a lady with fine tastes, who exercises rare and good judgment in the adornment of her home, and is possessed of that genial and hospitable spirit which makes it a most welcome place for friend or stranger.

The family history of our subject is in its main points as follows: His parents, Christian and Mary (Brandt) Nutzmann, were natives of the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Germany, and Grandfather Brandt served in the wars against the first Napoleon. His son Christian followed farming on a small scale in his native Province until 1865, when he emigrated with his family to the United States. Soon after landing in New York City they took up their abode in Milwaukee, Wis., but six months later came to this county, and the father purchased 160 acres of improved land in Berlin Precinct, upon which he operated successfully, and to which later he added forty acres. He thus left an estate of 200 acres at his death, which took place in December, 1870, when he was sixty-one years old. The mother is still living at the old homestead, being now sixty-seven years old. The five children of the parental family were named as follows: John, Henry, Christ, Ernest and Frederick. They are all residents of this State, and well-to-do.

Our subject was born not far from the early home of his parents in Mecklenburg, Germany, Oct. 21, 1846. He received a limited education, and remained under the parental roof until a youth of sixteen years. He then began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, serving until making up his mind to emigrate to America with his parents. They left the city of Hamburg in October, 1865, and after a voyage of nineteen days on an ocean steamer, landed in New York City, and our subject thereafter leaving his parents in Milwaukee, worked at his trade in Chicago six months, subsequently joining them and accompanying them to this county. This journey was made by rail to St. Joseph, Mo., and thence to Nebraska City by steamer. Here our subject resumed his trade, and was thus occupied mostly for two years. In 1869, having with

true German thrift and forethought saved what he could of his earnings, he purchased the quarter-section of land whereon stands his present homestead, and of which he took possession Nov. 14, 1870.

Mr. Nutzmann in starting out to develop a farm began with the raw prairie, with rude farm implements, a far-away market, and other difficulties incident to pioneer life. The provisions which he could not raise and his building material were hauled from Nebraska City. He proceeded with the cultivation of his land, and in due time set out groves of shade trees, 250 apple trees, planted hedge fences, and from year to year added something to the beauty and value of his property. About 1876 he turned his attention more exclusively to live stock. He ships annually a carload each of cattle and swine. He keeps sixteen to twenty head of graded Norman horses, and employs four teams in his farming operations. His land is supplied with running water from Spring Creek, and a fine windmill takes it to the places desired. The land is operated by modern machinery, and no pains or expense have been spared in making the farm first-class in every particular.

Our subject, among the other good things found in Nebraska, found here also the estimable lady who in her girlhood was Miss Philipena Opp, and to whom he was married Nov. 13, 1870, in Nebraska City. Mrs. Nutzmann was born in Prussia, on the 8th of May, 1853, and came to the United States with her parents in April, 1868. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, namely: Richard, Christ, Alfred, Ernest, Julia, John, Rosa and Dina. They form a bright and interesting group, none of whom have as yet fled from the home nest. Mr. and Mrs. M. are charter members of the German Lutheran Church at Avoca, to which they tender a cheerful and liberal support. Our subject, politically, is a true Republican, prominent in the councils of his party in this region, and frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He is a member of the School Board of his district, and was Supervisor two years. Socially, he belongs to Wyrum Lodge No. 29, I. O. O. F., in which he has held the various offices. He has also served on the Grand Jury.

Mrs. Nutzmann is the daughter of John and Cath-

erine (Gruber) Opp, who were born in Rhenish Prussia, where the father carried on farming, and was also connected with a hotel. Grandfather John Opp was at one time a very prosperous farmer, and the owner of a good property, which he lost later. Grandfather Gruber served against the first Napoleon during the War of 1812 and thereafter. He was of Spanish birth and ancestry, and during the wars of Spain with other powers migrated to Germany, where he spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Opp came to America with his family in 1868, and purchased land in the vicinity of Nehawka, Neb., where his estimable wife spent the remainder of her days. She died at the age of sixty-seven years. Their five children were named respectively: Peter, Jacob, Philipena, Nicholas and Catherine. The father is still living, residing in Cass County.

**BURTON DORMAN.** The snug homestead of this gentleman comprises eighty acres of thoroughly cultivated land, lying on section 34, in Russell Precinct. He possesses all the elements of a substantial and reliable citizen, and as an agriculturist has operated with that skill and good judgment which have resulted in the construction of one of the most desirable homesteads in the western part of the county. Everything about the premises is neatly kept and in good order, and there have been added from time to time the little comforts and conveniences which have so much to do with the happiness of a home.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, his parents being Michael and Ann (Burton) Dorman, the former of whom was a native of Worcestershire, England, and the latter of Rutland. Michael Dorman was a successful farmer and stock dealer, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, his death taking place in 1853, at the age of fifty-seven years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land, dying in 1850, at the age of forty-seven. The nine children of the parental family were named respectively as follows: Elizabeth, Mary A., Fanny, Emma and William (deceased), Frederick, Burton, Charles and Thomas. Those

living are residents mostly of England; Thomas lives in Sioux City, Iowa.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, also Michael Dorman by name, was born in Lincolnshire, England, and during the time of the first Napoleon served in the English army, and was present at the battle of Waterloo. He spent his last years in England. Burton, our subject, was born in Medborn, Leicestershire, England, April 23, 1836, and lived with his parents attending school until a lad nine years of age. He then commenced an apprenticeship at the butcher's trade, of which he gained a thorough knowledge in all its details, and which he followed three years in his native town. He was afterward a resident of the city of Birmingham four years, and during the time of the Crimean War. Here he started in business for himself, and was thus occupied a period of twelve years, at the expiration of which time he determined to change his location to the United States.

Mr. Dorman, in pursuance of the above-mentioned plan, engaged passage on the old ship "Denmark," and after a voyage of seventeen days landed in New York. Thence he proceeded to Chicago, Ill., and for a year thereafter was employed in the stockyards adjacent to that city. Afterward he was engaged four and two years respectively in two market houses, and then established in business for himself at No. 1168 State street. In the meantime, in the summer of 1868, he had visited this county, and purchased eighty acres of land in Russell Precinct, and of this, in the fall of 1878, he took possession, and upon it has since remained. It was a tract of wild prairie at the time he purchased it, and the groves, orchards, fruit trees, and buildings which we now behold, are all the result of the perseverance and industry of the present proprietor.

While a resident of the city of Birmingham, England, our subject was united in marriage with Jane Cartwright, on the 9th of January, 1865. This lady was born in Birmingham, Dec. 16, 1841, and is the daughter of George and Sarah (Underhill) Cartwright, natives of the same city. The father was a jeweler by trade, and carried on his own factory in Birmingham, where he accumulated a good property. There he spent his entire life, dying in 1876, at the age of sixty years. The

mother had passed away some years previous to the decease of her husband, her death occurring Oct. 18, 1851, when she was but forty years of age. Their two eldest sons, John and George, died at the ages of nine and forty-one years respectively, while of their two younger sons Albert is deceased, and George (2d) living in England. It will thus be seen that Mrs. Dorman and George are the only survivors of her family.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Dorman there have been born three children—Elma, Fauny A. and an infant who died unnamed. The two daughters are fourteen and seven years of age respectively, and, it is hardly necessary to say, constitute the light of the household. Mr. Dorman has become thoroughly identified with the institutions of his adopted country, and uniformly votes the Republican ticket. He has served as Assessor in his precinct two years, as School Director nine years, and been otherwise intrusted with matters of importance. Religiously, he belongs to the United Brethren Church at Unadilla, in which he has served as Treasurer several years, and also as Superintendent of the Sunday-school. He is somewhat prominent in local politics, and has twice been sent as a delegate to the County Conventions at Syracuse. Mrs. Dorman is a very pleasant and intelligent lady, a genuine help-mate to her husband, and their combined efforts have built up one of the most pleasant and desirable homes which it is the lot of mortals to enjoy.



**P**ATRICK McGUIRE, whose name will be mentioned as one who has both faithfully served his country in her hour of need, and as heartily assisted in the development and advancement of the interests of a comparatively new section of the country, is one of the esteemed citizens of Russell Precinct, at once an old settler and successful farmer. He is now operating 160 acres on section 6 of that precinct. Our subject is of Irish descent, his father, Patrick, and his mother, Katharine (McGrath) McGuire, both being natives of Ireland, and born in the same county. In the year 1838 his father, who had been a small farmer in his native country, emigrated to

America, sailing from Queenstown to New York, where he worked for awhile on the railroad, then removed to Benton Township, LaFayette Co., Wis., where he rented a farm and embarked also in mining, which, however, was not in every regard a success. In 1858 he went to Iowa, and purchased 120 acres of land and improved the same. While in Wisconsin he was one of the petitioners for its admission as a State.

When the War of the Rebellion broke out Mr. McGuire, Sr., watched its progress with much interest, and in 1862 he enlisted, and became a member of a regiment of Iowa Infantry, nearly every member of which was over forty-five years of age, to which possibly is due the nickname they afterward obtained, which was that of "the Graybeards." They were sent South to do garrison duty, after having been mustered in at Dubuque. They were stationed at Nashville and St. Louis, and were at the latter city at the close of the war, but were mustered out at Nashville. Politically, Mr. McG. was a member of the Republican party; religiously, of the Catholic Church. He attained the advanced age of threescore and ten years, and died in 1876. Mrs. McGuire, who is now eighty years of age, is still living at Clermont, Iowa. She is the mother of nine children—Peter, Bridget, Patrick, James and Katherine (twins and both deceased), Rosanne, Thomas, Julia E. and Michael.

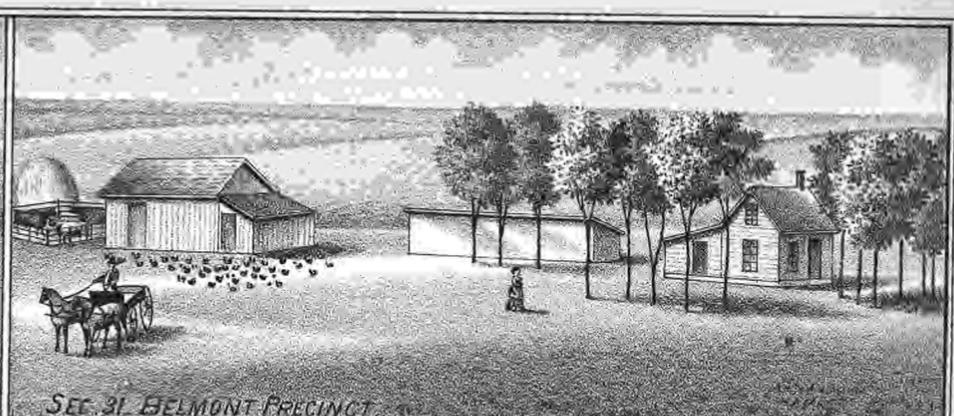
The subject of our sketch was born in Benton, LaFayette Co., Wis., on the 16th of March, 1843. He staid at home upon the farm, and attended the common school until he was about fourteen years of age. About that time his parents removed to Iowa, but he elected to remain upon the farm, and remained operating it successfully until he was about twenty-two years of age. Upon reaching that age he determined to go West, and in the year 1866 he started overland on foot to Cedar Rapids, where he took the train to Boone, Iowa, and from there walked to Council Bluffs, where he took the steamer for Nebraska City. At that time there were only sixty miles of railroad in the State of Nebraska, and considerable money was made, although sometimes at considerable risk, by the carrying of freight and passengers to different points. He entered into this business, and continued freight-



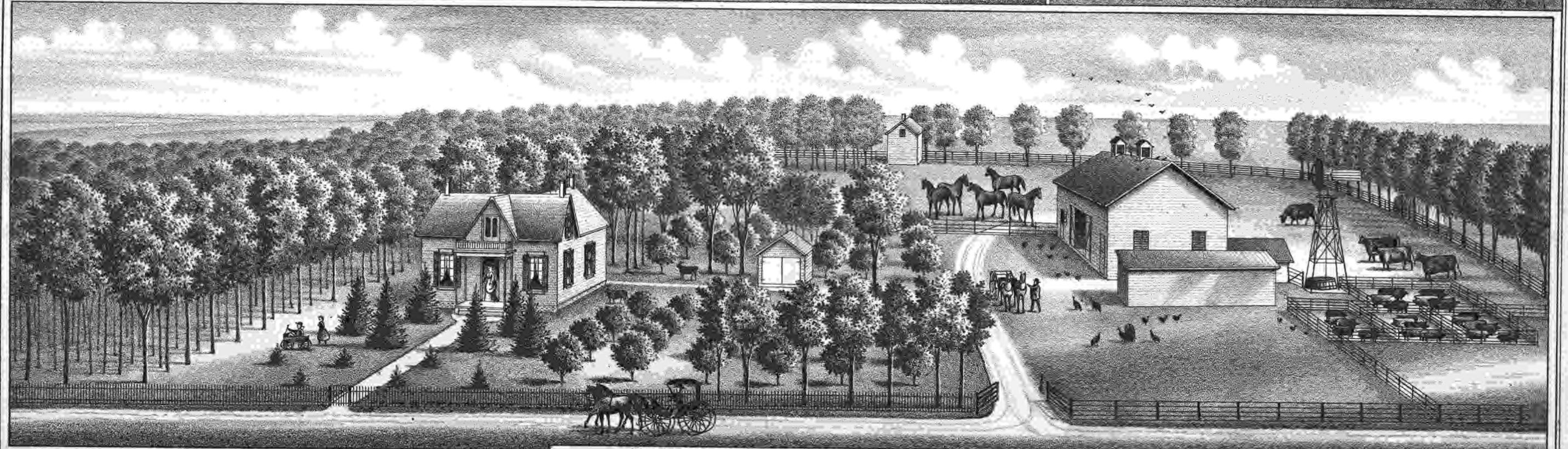
SEC. 8, ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



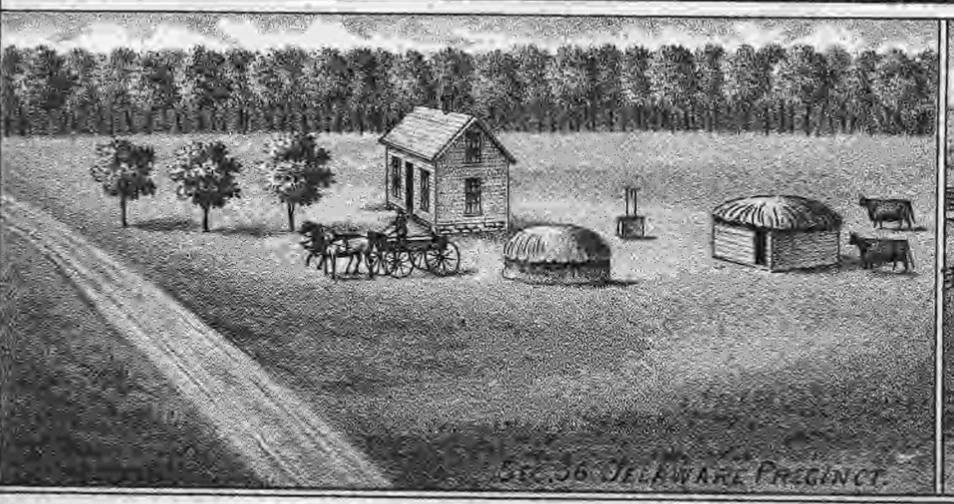
SEC. 5, ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



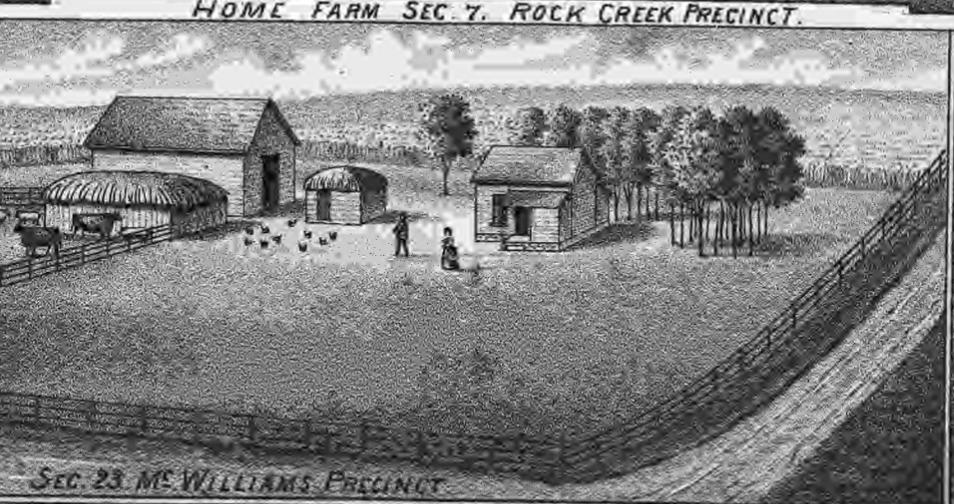
SEC. 31, BELMONT PRECINCT.



HOME FARM SEC. 7, ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



SEC. 36, DELAWARE PRECINCT.

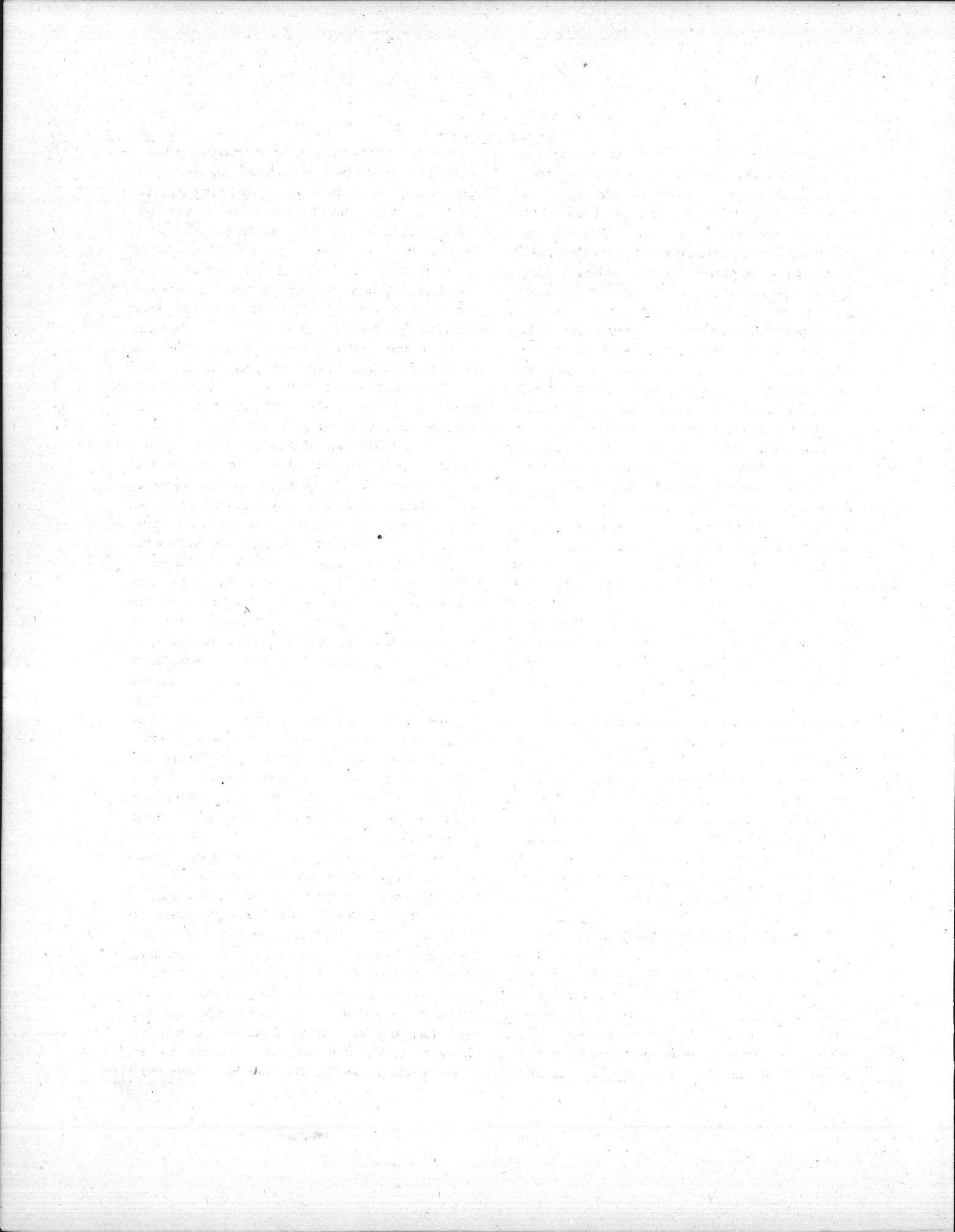


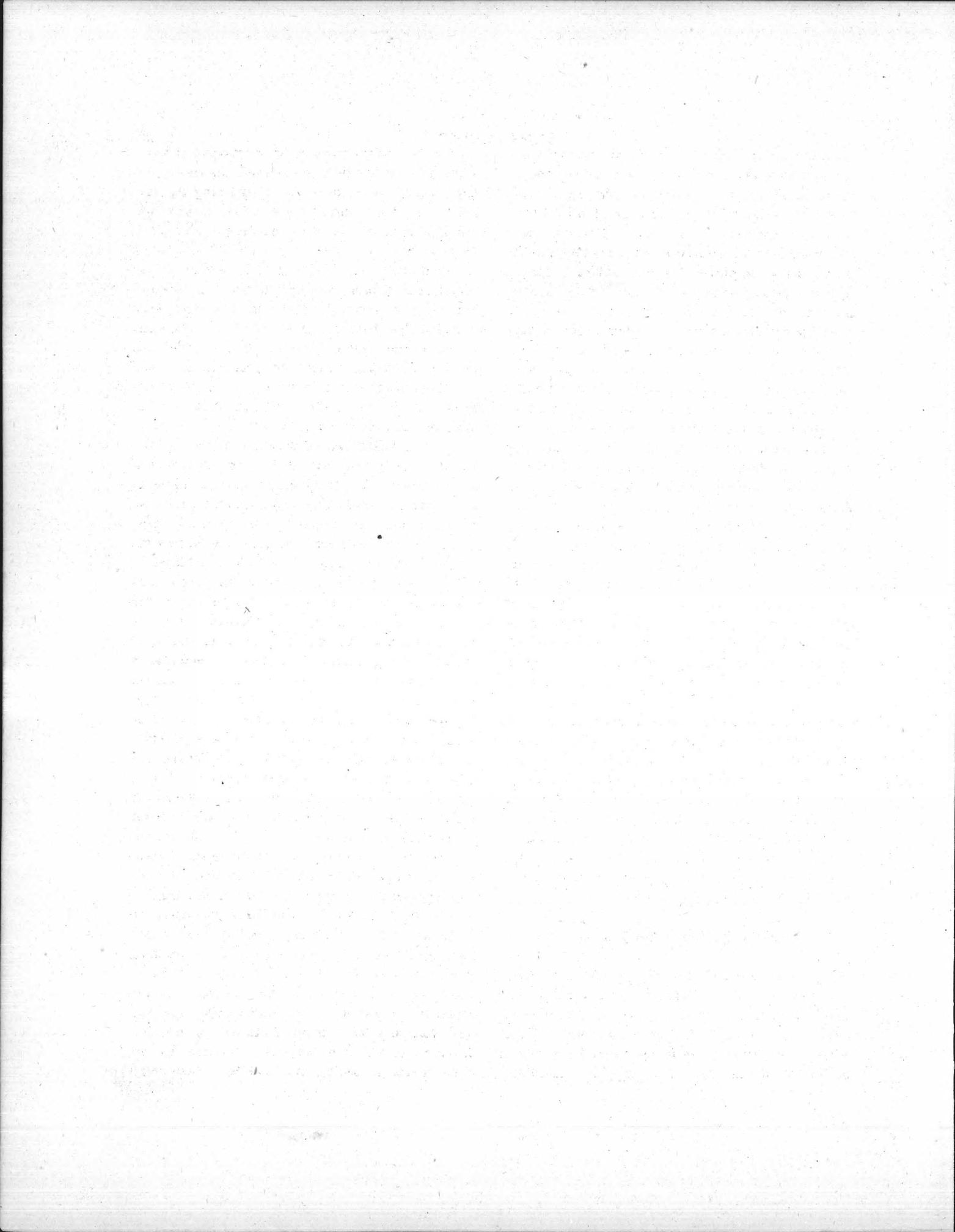
SEC. 23, McWILLIAMS PRECINCT.



SEC. 13, McWILLIAMS PRECINCT.

FARM RESIDENCE AND TENANT HOUSES OF JULIUS NORMAND, SITUATED IN OTOE COUNTY, NEB.





ing, as it was called, for four years, and did well from a financial point of view. In December, 1869, he returned to Iowa.

Mr. McGuire celebrated his marriage with Miss May Fitzgerald on the 18th of April, 1870, at Clermont. This lady is the daughter of Michael and Joanna Fitzgerald, who were born in Ireland. Mrs. McGuire was born in Pennsylvania in April, 1849. Her parents were natives of Ireland, and came to America in 1830, settling in the Keystone State; they farmed there for several years, but later removed to Clermont, Iowa, and purchased eighty acres of land. The father continued farming until 1886, and then retired to enjoy the competency acquired. He is eighty years of age; his wife, the mother of Mrs. McGuire, died in the year 1877, being sixty-five years of age. She was the mother of three children—Michael, Katharine and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire have seven children in the home circle, viz: John, James, Emmet, Hugh, Frank, Mary and Rosa Ella. They are members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and are among the most stanch adherents. Mr. McGuire is a strict Republican, has been called upon to hold several township offices, and is at present serving on the School Board, where he has been for the past five years.



**C**LARENCE L. FRANCE. This young and enterprising farmer owns 160 acres of land on section 9, in Syracuse Precinct, and has been a resident of this county since the spring of 1879. He is a New Yorker by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Orange County, Oct. 25, 1858. He lived there until twenty years of age, and then, being ambitious and anxious to do something for himself in the world, came to the broader fields of the West, and certainly, apparently, has no reason to repent of the experiment. He owns one of the best farms in his precinct, where he has a good residence, with the necessary barns and out-buildings, and is apparently on the high road to a competence.

The parents of our subject were Oliver D. and

Mary A. (Crist) France, who were also natives of the Empire State. The father was at one period a manufacturer of scythes, at Pine Bush, Orange County, where he accumulated a fine property, but lost it subsequently on account of undersigning notes for friends. He afterward changed his residence to Ulster County, where he died Oct. 26, 1888, not far from the county line. The mother died in Ulster County in the fall of 1874. Their seven children were named respectively: Elting, a resident of Middletown, N. Y.; Bernice O., Abbie, Clarence L.; Maria J., the wife of John Beckwith, of Frankfort, N. Y.; Theresa, teaching in this county, and Oliver, residing at home in New York.

Mr. France acquired a common-school education in the counties of Orange and Ulster, and remained a member of the parental household until the spring of 1879. He then set out for the West, with a very small amount of capital, and crossing the Mississippi came to this county, where he secured employment as a farm laborer, and was thus occupied the first year of his residence here. At the expiration of this time he purchased a team and rented a tract of land, upon which he labored successfully as a tiller of the soil until the present time. In the meantime he secured for himself a wife and help-mate, being married, Dec. 19, 1883, to Miss Evagene Andrews, at the home of the bride in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. France, immediately after their marriage, set out on a wedding tour to the old home of our subject, which he had not visited since leaving, and in the interim of four years had not met a man whom he had formerly known. Being a man of business, the visit was necessarily limited, and the young pair returned to the home which our subject had provided, where Mr. France continued farming on land belonging to his father-in-law, where he still resides. He has purchased 160 acres of land half a mile north of the town of Syracuse, which is supplied with fairly good buildings, and upon which he expects to settle on the 1st of March, 1889.

Mrs. France was born May 6, 1863, in Onondaga County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Edwin and Diana (Weller) Andrews, who are natives of New York, and are now residents of this county. Their

family included eight children, who are now residents of Nebraska and Colorado. To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born three daughters and a son, namely: Agnes, Mabel, Warren and Helen. Mr. France, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, but meddles very little with public affairs, preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests and his family.



**E**DWARD MITZNER, Postmaster, and engaged in general merchandising at Paul, Rock Creek, located here on the 23d of January, 1888, and established the first store in the place. He carries a full line of all the articles required in country or village, and is rapidly building up a good patronage. He is a man popular in his community, being upright in his business transactions and prompt to meet his obligations. His store occupies a corner of section 12, on which section he formerly carried on farming, and of which he still owns eighty acres of good land.

Mr. Mitzner came to Nebraska in March, 1871, and on the 23d of January, 1873, made his first purchase of land. He instituted good improvements, laying off the fields with neat and substantial fences, cultivating the soil, and putting up first-class buildings. He commenced at first principles in the development of this farm, there having been no attempt at improvement or cultivation upon it.

For a period of ten years prior to his removal across the Mississippi Mr. Mitzner had been a resident of Cook County, Ill., employing himself at whatever he could find to do as a general laborer. He was faithful and trustworthy, earning good wages, and saved up a snug sum of money. This fact is not surprising when we learn that he is of German birth and ancestry, having first opened his eyes to the light in the Prussian Province of Posen, July 3, 1848. He came to the United States when but a boy fourteen years of age. He had received a thorough education in his native tongue, and been trained by careful parents to habits of industry and economy. His father, Christian Mitzner, preceded him to America one year, and is now liv-

ing on section 11, in Rock Creek Precinct, where he owns a good farm of eighty acres, which he also purchased in 1873.

The marriage of our subject and Miss Caroline Baccard took place at the home of the bride in Rock Creek Precinct, Jan. 29, 1874. Mrs. Mitzner is a native of the same Province as her husband, and was born May 15, 1850. She came alone to America a short time before her marriage, her mother having died in Germany, and her father married a second time. The latter is still living, and a farmer in prosperous circumstances in Germany.

Mrs. Mitzner received a good education, and it was understood between herself and our subject that they were to join their lives and fortunes as soon as the young man could provide a comfortable home for his bride. Of this congenial union there have been born seven children, namely: Molly, Gusta, August, Edward, Emma, Huldah and a babe, Louie. Both our subject and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church. Mr. Mitzner is a sound Republican, politically, and was appointed Postmaster at Paul, in Rock Creek Precinct, Jan. 23, 1888.



**C**APT. DANIEL M. ANDERSON. The name of this gentleman is familiar to most of the older residents of Otoe County, as that of one, who, while watching its growth and development, has been largely instrumental in bringing it to its present condition of prosperity. He is a citizen whom the people regard with both pride and respect, as he has been an honor and a credit to his community. He owns and occupies a quarter of section 23, Wyoming Precinct, which he secured by pre-emption, and upon which he has lived and labored since the year 1856, a period of thirty-two years.

Capt. Anderson, upon coming to this county, found a wild and desolate region with the cabins of the settlers few and far between, and was one of the first to locate in this part of it. His first business was to put up a shelter for himself and family, and

the next to plant a spot of ground with that which would yield most readily for their necessities. The first few years were spent in true pioneer fashion, which has been so often described in this volume, and as time passed on he began to realize the rewards of toil and sacrifice. He was particularly fortunate in his choice of a location, and has been enabled to put up a residence which commands a fine view of the surrounding country. In the distance is seen the Missouri River, and portions of Nebraska City, five miles away. His own fields too, which have been brought to a high state of cultivation, and which yield in abundance the rich crops of this section of country, form a feature of the landscape delightful to contemplate. He has good buildings, all the requisite farm machinery for prosecuting agriculture successfully, and a fine assortment of live stock. For a man who came to this section with little except strong hands and a courageous heart, his career has been one upon which he should reflect with satisfaction. He has withdrawn partially from active labor and is in the enjoyment of a competency.

Our subject was born in Orange County, N. Y., Oct. 22, 1807, and one looking upon his well-preserved frame to-day could scarcely realize that he is eighty-one years old. He has been a man of strictly temperate habits, and has implicit faith in this as a means of prolonging his life and health. In addition to this he comes of a long-lived race. His father, William Anderson, also a native of New York State, was born in Sullivan County, where he carried on farming, and spent his entire life, dying when middle aged. He had been a man prominent in his community and active in every good work, living honestly, and truly earning his bread by the sweat of his brow. The mother, Mrs. Zilpah (Martine) Anderson, was of French ancestry. Her paternal grandfather emigrated from France to this country during the Revolutionary War, and in time to participate with the Colonists in their struggle for liberty. Like his great countryman, Gen. LaFayette, he sympathized entirely with the cause of American freedom, and served valiantly to bring this about. His daughter Zilpah lived to be an old lady, and spent her last days in the vicinity of Ft. Jarvis, Orange Co., N. Y.

The paternal grandfather of our subject was William Anderson, a native of the North of Ireland, and of Scotch-Irish ancestry. He married a lady of the same section of country, and of Holland birth and parentage, and also emigrated to America in time to serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The grandmother's maiden name was Isabella Newkirk. After the independence of the Colonists had been established they located in Sullivan County, N. Y., where they spent the remainder of their lives in agricultural pursuits, Grandfather Anderson dying in Sullivan County, and the grandmother in Tompkins County. He was not connected with any religious organization, but Grandmother Anderson was a devout member of the Presbyterian Church.

The parents of our subject had a family of six sons and three daughters, of whom Daniel M. was the second child. He lived with his parents both in Orange and Sullivan Counties, N. Y., their home being on the dividing line between the two counties, and near the Chewanda River. At the time of his father's death he was but thirteen years of age, and two years later set about to earn his own living. He was first employed with a company of surveyors, at the time of marking out the line of the Hudson and Delaware Canal, for a length of thirty miles. He was a well-developed lad, and about the time of reaching his majority distinguished himself in athletic exercises and hunting, and on account of his agility and strength was given the title of Captain, which has clung to him ever since.

Capt. Anderson subsequently engaged in the butcher business, which he followed in Wurtsboro, N. Y., for a period of eighteen years. In 1838 he was married, in Sullivan County, to Miss Mary Thompson, who was born there in 1805, and was of Scotch-Irish ancestry. Her parents were natives of New York State, and her father, Hugh Thompson, with his wife Mary, spent his entire life in Sullivan County, engaged in farming. Of this union there was born one child, a son, James N., who married Miss Nancy Hale, and is farming in Wyoming Precinct. Mrs. Mary (Thompson) Anderson departed this life at the homestead in the year 1839.

In 1876 Capt. Anderson contracted a second

marriage, with Mrs. Hannah Rundberg, who was born in Sweden in 1829, where she was reared and first married to John Rundberg. The latter died in his native Sweden after he had become the father of two children, William and Axel. The sons and their mother came to the United States, and at once located in this county. They are now assisting Capt. Anderson in the management of the farm.

Our subject cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Jackson, and is a lifelong Democrat. He is a man of sound principles, decided views, and one whose opinions are generally respected. He keeps himself well posted upon current events, and has watched with the warmest interest the growth and development of his adopted State, contributing as opportunity has occurred to the advancement of the people around him.



**J**OHN F. MARTIN, whose beautiful and highly cultivated farm of 165 acres is situated on section 26 of Wyoming Precinct, is one of the older citizens, and is widely known and that most favorably throughout the county. He has lived upon his present property ever since he pre-empted it in 1856. He first came to the county when the Otoes were still in full force, and land was in its primitive condition. His experiences have therefore been varied, and not altogether without a spice of danger, nevertheless he has come through them prosperously, and rejoices in the well-nigh unparalleled progress that has been made by the State of his adoption.

The subject of our sketch was born in Venango County, Pa., on the 29th of March, 1822. There he grew up to manhood, in its schools was educated, and subsequently engaged in farming as his chosen occupation. His father being a farmer trained him to those habits of industry and honesty that are usual in agricultural communities.

The parents of our subject, John and Polly (Foster) Martin, were born in Maryland, and were married in Pennsylvania. The father was a young man and unmarried when he went to that State with his father, John Martin, Sr., a native of Maryland. They settled in Venango County, which

continued to be the home of his father until his death. The maiden name of his wife, the grandmother, was Katharine Mumford, who was a native also of Maryland. They were representatives of a good old Christian family, and for very many years held membership in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the Revolutionary War John Martin, Sr., showed himself a patriot in every sense of the word, fighting bravely and well under the flag of liberty. Like many others he exchanged all his property for Continental money, only to find that he had lost all by the money becoming worthless. He, however, survived, and when his turn came to cross the silent river he was again well-to-do, and was one of the honored and esteemed members of the community wherein he dwelt.

The father of our subject was a Captain in the War of 1812, and, like his father before him, from whom doubtless he received the inspiration, was a soldier worthy the country and cause for which he drew his sword. After his marriage he, with his wife, settled to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture in Venango County, where both continued to make their home until their death, which occurred when they were about seventy years of age.

When he became of age our subject started life by hiring out as a farm hand, and has worked his way up from that first round of the ladder. While yet in the home county he was united in marriage with Miss Maria Reynolds, who was born there on the 6th of June, 1829. They continued their life in the county for some time after marriage, and then removed to Mercer County, Pa., and lived there nine years, coming thence to this State.

There were twelve children born to Mr. and Mrs. Martin. Two of these died in infancy unnamed, and a third, Hiram A., died when about four years of age. The surviving members of the family are as follows: Fantley, who was married to Mary A. Giles, resides in Washington Territory; Anna, the wife of Robert Delard, and now living in Fillmore County, this State; Mary J. is married to Washington Giles, one of the live, wide-awake farmers of Wyoming Precinct; Lassetta is happily married to James Fort, a prosperous farmer in Thomas County, Kan.; Sarah is the wife of Stuart Heath, a grain dealer in Frontier County; Julia is

married to Mr. John Boyd, also of Wyoming Precinct; Albert, unmarried, lives in Washington Territory; George W. L. is at present on his homestead in Thomas County, Kan.; Hiram B. is still at home, and is the "best man" of our subject in his farm work.

Mrs. Martin departed this life at her home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 17th of March, 1881. She impressed all who knew her with the beauties of her character, and the happiness of her disposition. She was a noble woman and true mother, and in every way a helpmate to her husband. Throughout all their married life she was the same in her devotion and true faithfulness to her husband and family. She was the daughter of Hiram and Jane H. (Nickinson) Reynolds, who were among the worthy citizens of Venango County, Pa., where they commenced life together, and continued to live until their death. Hiram Reynolds was born in Genesee County, N. Y., and went to Pennsylvania when a young man. There he made the acquaintance of, and was married to his wife, who was a native of the Keystone State. Both were firm and devout members of the Methodist Church for many years.

The subject of our sketch is, religiously, a Methodist, and in politics has all his life been a Whig and Republican, taking the greatest possible interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the country, especially that section of it in which is situated his home. He is a man of large reserve force, determination and energy, in character upright, and of unimpeachable honor, everywhere respected and by all esteemed.

**H**ENRY A. BUTT, Cashier of the Bank of Unadilla, is one of its most active business men, and has been largely instrumental in the building up of the town. He is Clerk of the Village Board, Notary Public, and is always in some capacity or other performing the duties of a useful citizen, and one warmly interested in the welfare of his community. He has been particularly fortunate in the choice of a wife and helpmate, Mrs. Butt, the presiding genius of the household,

being a finely cultured lady, of good education, and an ornament to the social circle. Their home is one of the most attractive in the place, and is the frequent resort of a host of warm friends.

Our subject until the spring of 1878 was a resident of the Province of Hanover, Germany, where he had spent his boyhood and youth, and where his birth took place Jan. 13, 1862. His father was a farmer in modest circumstances, and Henry A., in common with the children of Germany, received a thorough education in his native tongue. After completing his studies in the High School at Bas-sum, where he attended three years, he studied the English language and the classics, and was in school most of his time until a lad of sixteen years. He then determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

On the 28th of April, 1878, our subject set sail from the port of Bremen, and after a two-weeks voyage landed in New York City. Thence he proceeded to Hoboken, N. J., where he procured employment in a store of general merchandise as clerk, and where he remained ten months. In March, 1879, he turned his steps westward, and soon afterward we find him engaged as clerk in a grocery store in Nebraska City.

The year following, our subject was so well pleased with America that he returned to his home and kindred, resolved to bring his father's family to this country. To this the latter were agreed, and not long afterward set sail, and our subject reached Nebraska City a second time on the 15th of May. The father located on a tract of land in Otoe Precinct, and Henry A. staid with him until the 1st of September. Then returning to Nebraska City, he entered the employ of H. H. Bartling, with whom he remained two years, engaged in general merchandise and the grain business.

Our subject had always been of studious habits and ambitious to learn, and in the fall of 1882, going to Burlington, Iowa, attended the business college there a term of six months, and perfected himself in bookkeeping. He was now prepared to take a good position, and returned to his old employer, with whom he remained this time six months. He next changed his residence to Syracuse, becoming bookkeeper for the First National Bank, with

which he was connected for four years following. In the spring of 1888 he took up his abode in Unadilla, and assisted in organizing the Bank of Unadilla, becoming a partner and also cashier. This institution is now in a flourishing condition, and patronized by the leading business men of Russell Precinct and vicinity.

The evening of the 18th of May, 1887, witnessed the marriage of our subject to Miss Katie I. Woods, who was born in Weston, Mo., May 12, 1863. Mrs. Butt is the daughter of John S. Woods, the latter a native of Kentucky. He and his wife removed from the Blue Grass regions to Missouri at an early day, where the father, as a builder and contractor, operated successfully in that region, and later put up the first building in the now flourishing city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is still a resident of Weston, and in good circumstances. The wife and mother died at her home in Missouri. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: William, John, Perry, Lee, Katie and Sadie. They are residents now of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. Mrs. Butt received a good education, completing her studies in the High School at Weston, Mo. Later she learned dressmaking, which she carried on successfully before her marriage. She is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, while Mr. Butt, who was reared in the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, remains loyal to the teachings of his honored parents. Politically, he is a stanch Democrat, and has been quite prominent in local affairs, serving as Clerk of the Village Board, and occupying other positions of trust and responsibility. On the 16th of January, 1888, he was appointed Notary Public by Gov. Thayer for a term of six years, and has his office at the bank. In all the leading enterprises of the community, social, moral or religious, he bears a prominent part, and is a citizen respected by all.

Henry Butt, Sr., the father of our subject, was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, in 1826, and there married Miss Anna Borchers, a native of the same Province. He carried on farming very successfully upon his native soil until the year 1880, then sold out preparatory to joining the fortunes of our subject in America. Upon arriving in this county he purchased 160 acres

of good land five miles south of Nebraska City, where he has since carried on farming, and still lives with his excellent wife, his age being sixty-two years, and that of the mother fifty-five. Their eight children were named respectively: John H., William J., Mary, Henry A., Catherine, Sophia, Frederick W. and Annie. Three are married, and all are living in this county, being numbered among its most substantial and honored citizens.

**JAMES C. WHITE.** This gentleman is one of the old settlers and prominent farmers and stock-raisers of Russell Precinct. He is the owner of 560 acres on sections 5, 6 and 7. His father, Anderson White, was born in Albemarle County, Va., on the 4th of July, 1794. His mother, Lucinda White, was born in Orange County, Va., in 1802. The family upon the father's side is of English descent. John White, the grandfather of our subject, served as Captain in the Revolutionary War, and has left quite a good record in that connection. The maternal side of the family is of German ancestry.

Mr. Anderson White was by occupation a farmer, and also owned a large plantation, upon which he raised chiefly tobacco. The War of 1812 broke out when he was about eighteen years of age, and he served throughout the war as a private. In the late war he lost nearly all his property and otherwise suffered. He died in the year 1882, aged eighty-six years, and was survived about two years by his wife; both were for many years members of the Baptist Church. There were nine children in the family circle, all of whom came to mature years. Their names are as follows: Susan, Agnes, John (deceased), Cornelia, James C., William, Newton, Franklin and Lucinda. William, Newton and Franklin were each in the late war and served in the same regiment. Franklin died of a fever two weeks after the battle of Bull Run. Newton and our subject served in the same regiment and company.

Like his father, our subject was born in Albemarle County, Va., on the 29th of August, 1829. His education is good and the foundation of it was laid in the common schools of his native place

After leaving the school-house as a scholar he was accredited worthy to return to it as a teacher. This he continued to do for seven years, and then gave his attention to farming and became an overseer. He bought some land, but shortly after sold it again, retaining his position until he went into the Confederate Army, enlisting in the year 1861. The first year he served in Wise's Legion; the second year he was one of Company F, 10th Virginia Cavalry, and served under J. S. Davis. He took part in the Canawale Valley skirmishes, was at Little Sewell Mountains against Rosecrans; in 1862 he was at the battles of Yorktown and Williamsburg, and took part in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac and Virginia. He was wounded at the battle of Julesburg, being shot in the upper part of the arm, the shot going completely through it. Although he was only laid up one month he was unfitted for cavalry service, and until the close of the war discharged the duties of Quartermaster. He was fifteen miles from Gen. Lee when the order came to disband, upon which he returned to his home and more peaceful employment.

For three years after the war Mr. White continued in the old home county, and then removed to Nebraska, arriving on the 28th day of November, 1868. He remained in Nebraska City for about a year, then went to Russell Precinct and homesteaded eighty acres of prairie land. He found a rich but wild soil that required much labor to subdue. This he supplied, and with the buildings and other improvements he put upon the property he soon had a splendid farm. He set out large groves, had an orchard that covered three acres, besides other works in proportion.

In 1883 our subject engaged in the grocery business at Palmyra, in partnership with J. N. Foster. However, he did not like the trade as much as he had supposed he would; he then went back to farming and took the place he now owns. He is now chiefly engaged in raising stock, which he does upon a very extensive scale, buying, raising and feeding cattle of all kinds. He is now raising mules extensively and almost exclusively.

Mr. White was married on the 22d of October, 1850, while still a resident of Virginia. The lady who came to share his life was Mildred A. Hill, the

estimable daughter of William H. and Sarah (Tut) Hill, both of whom are now deceased. She was the eldest of the following children: Mildred A., Betty J., Susan, Fannie, Silecia, Eddie J., Robert and William, both deceased, and J. P.

Mrs. White was born in Culpeper County, Va., on the 10th of June, 1826, and died on the 21st of January, 1886. She was the mother of five children, who are still living, viz.: Alice Susan, James A., William H., Edgar E. and Sarah S. Alice S. is now the wife of W. S. B. Chamberlin, of Grant County, who follows the dual occupation of farming and merchant; they are the parents of four children—Bertie, Abbie, Bessie and Bertha. James A. was married to Miss Mollie Martin; they have three children, who are named Cornelius, Floyd and Glenn. William H. is in Portland, Ore.; Edgar resides in Russell, and is married to Miss Jenny Koons; they also have two children, Lena and Bertie; Sarah still remains at home.

For four years Mr. White served upon the School Board. While at Palmyra he served upon the village board as Councilman, and has been spoken of for several other offices. For many years he has been a member of the Baptist Church, and is affiliated with the A. F. & A. M., holding his membership in Palmyra Lodge No. 45. Politically, he is with the Democratic party at all times, willing to do what is in his power in the interests of the same. He has seen much of both the ups and downs of life, but is a man of stamina and character, respected by all who know him in the various circles and departments of society.

**H**ON. M. L. HAYWARD is one of the leading lawyers of the State of Nebraska and Nebraska City, and is enterprising and successful. He was born at Willsboro, Essex Co., N. Y., Dec. 22, 1840. His grandfather, David Hayward, was a native of New Jersey, but removed to New York State with his parents when quite a little fellow, and distinctly remembers walking the greater part of the journey to the new home, carefully carrying a little tree he desired to transplant, and which has now grown to noble pro-

portions. Subsequently he was extensively engaged in the lumber trade and agriculture. He died in 1832. The maiden name of the grandmother of our subject was Lucretia Chapman. She also was a native of Essex County.

The father of our subject was reared and married in his native county, engaged in the lumber business, and also operated a farm. In 1865 he moved to Wisconsin, and made his home at White Water, continuing there until 1872, when he removed to Kellogg, Iowa, and engaged in the lumber business, removing to Davenport in 1877, where he now resides. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of M. L., was Betsey Leland, who was born in Essex County, N. Y., to Thomas and Priscilla Leland, in August, 1820. This is a New England family, and its representatives may be traced for several generations. Of this marriage there were born four children—Henry, M. L., Eugene B. and Frank.

M. L. was reared in his native county, and was educated in the district schools, and afterward attended Ft. Edward Collegiate Institute, Ft. Edward, N. Y. In 1861 our subject was among the first to answer the call for defenders of the Union, and enlisted in Company I, of the 22d New York Infantry. He was subsequently transferred to the 5th New York Cavalry, and served until December, 1862, when he was discharged owing to disability. He had seen much service, and took part in the several actions up the Shenandoah Valley under Banks and Pope. In the spring of 1863 he entered the Ft. Edward Institute, being graduated in 1866, when he went to Wisconsin and read law at White Water. Upon being admitted to the bar in 1867 he came to Nebraska City, and formed a partnership with T. B. Stevenson, which was continued until December, 1875, after which he continued his business alone.

Mr. Hayward celebrated his marriage with Miss Jennie Pelton June 14, 1870. This lady was born at Cold Springs, Putnam Co., N. Y., to E. A. and Almire (Clark) Pelton, who were natives of Connecticut. She was carefully trained at home and received a good education, and was eminently fitted to take her place either in the home or in society, and is much esteemed by all who know her. There have been born to them three children, whose names

are subjoined, viz: Edwin P., Mattie and William H. Mrs. Hayward is a member of the Baptist Church, and she is there very highly respected. Politically, Mr. Hayward is a staunch Republican, and has always taken an active interest in political affairs. He was appointed to fill a vacancy of Judge of the District Court, in the year 1886, and continued the office until 1887. He was a member of the State Constitutional Committee of 1875, was sent as a delegate to the State Convention on several occasions, and upon three occasions has been Chairman of the Republican State Convention. He is a man of fine character, a clear thinker, energetic worker, genial and popular.



**C**ARL H. KORFF has been for many years prominently identified with the leading business interests of Otoe County, he being a pioneer of Nebraska City, where he is engaged as a merchant. He has also dealt largely in real estate, and has improved a number of farms in Eastern Nebraska. He is a native of the principality of Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany, his birth occurring there Jan. 29, 1830. His father, Charles F. Korff, was born in the same locality, and there grew to manhood and married, Sophia Reinne becoming his wife. In 1846, accompanied by his wife and five children, he started for America, setting sail at Bremen in October, and landing at New Orleans in the following December. From there he ascended the Mississippi River to St. Louis, where he and his family lived until 1852. He then turned his attention to agriculture, at first renting a farm in Sheridan County, Mo., and later buying one, on which he resided until his death, his wife also dying there. They were people of irreproachable character, whose integrity won the respect and confidence of all about them, and by their industrious perseverance and prudence they gained a competency, and built up a comfortable home in their adopted country. The record of their children is as follows: Carl H. is our subject; Caroline is the wife of Henry Neemeyer, and they live in Sheridan County, Mo.; Sophia is the wife of Harmon H. Meyer, of Sheridan County, Mo.; Christine is also married; Frederic,

the third child, was a gallant soldier during the late war, and died a few years later in Sheridan County, Mo.

Carl Korff, of whom we write, attended school quite steadily in Germany, and acquired a substantial education. Soon after coming to America with his parents, he engaged in a foundry in St. Louis, being employed as assistant engineer, and later, with other parties there as engineer. From that city he went to Minnesota, and assisted in building mills at the mouth of the St. Croix River, remaining there two years, ere his return to St. Louis. During that time, with wise economy and forethought, he saved his earnings, and with this capital purchased an interest in a grocery store, with which he was connected about eighteen months. He then sold out and engaged as a shipping and delivery clerk with a commission house, continuing in that capacity for the same firm until 1859. In that year he caught the gold fever, then so prevalent, and started for Pike's Peak, crossing the wild prairies of Kansas and Colorado. When he arrived there he found that there were but few chances to enter on the road for wealth, and with many other disappointed gold hunters, he started to retrace his steps across the plains, and on the 22d day of June, 1859, he arrived in Nebraska City. Being very favorably impressed with the country and the climate, he decided to locate here, and has ever since been a resident of this city. At that date the settlements in Nebraska were few and far between, simply along the streams, and but little attention had been paid to agriculture. Nebraska City, however, was a thriving town, being the headquarters for expeditions and trains going west across the plains, and boats made regular trips up and down the Missouri River, there being no railway communications then in this part of the country. Our subject very judiciously invested his money in real estate, purchasing 160 acres of unimproved land in Nemaha County, a quarter-section in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, pre-empting a quarter-section in the same Precinct; and he also purchased city property, comprising one lot on Lower Main street, three on Sixth street, one on Main, near Seventh street, and three on Ferry street. Having thus invested all his money, Mr. Korff engaged

as a clerk in the establishment of Charles Vogt, who kept a full line of groceries, iron and steel, and also dealt in wool, leather and hides. In 1866 our subject formed a partnership with John H. Arends, and opened a store on the corner of Tenth and Main streets, his present location. The partnership continued until 1877, when Mr. Korff became sole proprietor. He has built up a large trade, and is regarded as one of the moneyed men of Nebraska City. Notwithstanding the care of his mercantile business absorbs much of his attention, our subject has found time to deal in real estate to a considerable extent, and he has also improved several farms, among which may be mentioned the following: a quarter-section in Nemaha County; a quarter-section in Wyoming Precinct, Otoe County; a quarter-section in Delaware Precinct, and three-quarters of a section in Russell Precinct. Mr. Korff has likewise dealt largely in grain.

Our subject was married, in 1866, to Miss Tolka Mary Arends, to whom he is greatly indebted for encouragement, and for making home pleasant and comfortable. She was born in Hanover, Germany, and came to America with her parents, Richie and Tolka Arends, when she was six years old. Their marriage has been blessed to them by the birth of five children, namely: Lillie S., Maurice, Annie, Charles R. and Julia.

Both as a business man and as a private citizen, Mr. Korff is justly held in high regard, as he is in every respect an upright, Christian man, and, with his good wife, is a stanch member of the Lutheran Church. Politically, our subject favors the Republican party, firmly believing that its policy, if carried out, would be for the best interests of the country.



**W**ILLIAM HUNT is a most worthy representative of British-American citizenship in that which pertains to character, enterprise and prosperity. He is the son of John and Mary (Poop) Hunt. They were both born in Devonshire, England, as was also their son William. The chosen occupation of Mr. Hunt was that of a blacksmith and wagon-builder. After living and working in Torrington for about thirteen years

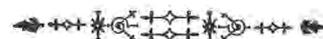
and building up a large trade, he emigrated to Canada in the fall of 1846 with his family, and settled at London, Middlesex County, Ontario. He was twice married; by his first wife he became the parent of five children, and by the second, eleven. These bear the following names: Grace, Thomas, William, Ann, Samuel, Elizabeth, Robert, Sarah, Henry, Fannie and Mary Jane.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 5th of April, 1836. He lived at Torrington with his parents, where his father had a farm which he ran in connection with his other business. Long before he was nine years of age he had learned to work a span of horses on the farm. He was but ten years of age when he came to Canada with his parents. His father was not rich and was compelled to slight the education of his son, needing so much his help, so that in this part his life preparation was neglected.

The first three years of life in Canada were spent in the employ of Dr. Moore, of London, by whom he was engaged to take charge of his office. After that he worked at home with his father on the farm until he was twenty-one, when he began life for himself, and continued to work at home on and off until he was thirty-two years of age, when he was married, in 1869. The lady with whom he linked his life was Miss Dorothea Young, who was born in Middlesex County, Canada, and is the daughter of Warner and Christina (Mustetto) Young, who were natives of Canada.

Mrs. Hunt was born on the 7th of May, 1843, at Dorchester, Middlesex County, and made her home with her parents until her marriage. They came to Nebraska shortly after their marriage, and settled in Palmyra Precinct, of this county, in 1871, and filed upon a homestead for eighty acres, which is part of the present home farm. The remaining eighty acres he purchased in 1882. He has always been a man active, diligent and enterprising, ready to make any improvements that are at all practical, and has given much attention to his orchards and groves, as well as to the more regular agricultural duties. He carefully studied the institutions of this country, and just as speedily as the National Constitution would permit became a citizen, and from that time has been even more anxious than before

to meet every responsibility of citizenship. During the years 1865 to 1868 he worked in the lumber trade in Sand Lake County, Mich., and became a thorough expert in the use of the ax. The religious associations of Mr. Hunt and his family are in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is a Democrat. There is no family more esteemed, and rightly so, in the district than our subject, who is an honor to the community, which is rightfully proud of so good a citizen.



**W**ILLIAM J. ARMSTRONG became a pioneer of Nebraska during the early years of its settlement, when it was under Territorial government, and was sparsely inhabited, the most of the land then belonging to the United States, and before much was known of its marvelous agricultural resources. He has thus witnessed its growth from an insignificant Territory to a powerful State, and he may well be proud to be classed among the men who made this possible by their labors and sacrifices in the days gone by. His farm adjoining Nebraska City is one of the most valuable in Otoe County, being unrivaled for location, fertility of soil, state of cultivation, fine and commodious buildings, and the various other things that go to make up a model farm.

Mr. Armstrong was born in Union Township, Warren Co., Ohio, July 26, 1819, and is a son of James Armstrong, a native of Delaware. When his father was a young man he went to Ohio and located in Warren County. He served in the Indian war under Gen. Wayne, and later, in the War of 1812 under Gen. Harrison. He was a farmer by occupation, and cleared a farm from the wilderness in Union Township, and resided there until his death in 1826. He was ever a loyal citizen, both in time of war and in time of peace, and his energy, prudence and wisdom made him respected of all men. His wife, whose maiden name was Isabella Liggett, was a native of Maryland, and her parents were pioneers of Warren County, Ohio. She died on the homestead in Union Township in 1860.

The subject of this sketch was reared in his native county, and he remembers well the incidents

of pioneer life there. His mother had no stove, and for many years did all her cooking before the open fireplace. His father kept sheep and raised flax, and his mother spun both wool and flax and made all the clothes used in the family, and used to make her own thread. He was one of nine children, six of whom grew to maturity, namely: John L., Rebecca, James, Rachel, William and Alexander. John L. and our subject are the only ones now living. The latter was but seven years old when his father died, but he continued to live on the old homestead with his mother and assisted in the farm work until he had grown to manhood. He was a resident of Warren County until 1856, when he came to this part of the country to seek a suitable location, having determined to try farming under the sunny skies of Nebraska, where were millions of acres of land owned by the Government, and since sold at \$1.25 an acre. He journeyed on the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to Burlington, Iowa, and thence across the wild prairies of that State to Nebraska City. After buying his land he retraced his steps to Warren County, Ohio, and in the following spring started on his return to his future home on the prairies of Nebraska, accompanied by his family. They came as far as Hannibal, Mo., on a boat, from there by rail to St. Joseph, and thence to Nebraska City on a boat. At that time in the Territory of Nebraska there were no villages in the interior, the settlements being confined to the river. Mr. Armstrong resided in the city until 1864, when he settled on the farm that he still owns and occupies. At that time his land was unimproved except that a few acres were broken, and he bought a building in the city and moved it to his farm, remodeled it, and added to it from time to time, and made it his home until 1882. In that year he erected his present residence, a large and handsome brick house, of a modern style of architecture, conveniently arranged and well furnished.

Mr. Armstrong has been twice married, first in 1842, to Miss Mary Hall, a native of Deerfield Township, Warren Co., Ohio. She was a most excellent woman, and none knew her but to respect and esteem her, and her death in 1858 was a sad blow to her family and friends. There were five chil-

dren born of that marriage: Isabella, wife of D. F. Benham, lives in Clarksville, Tex.; Peter lives in Syracuse, Otoe County; Melville lives in Nebraska City; Albert lives at home with his parents; Mollie is the wife of N. A. Duff, and lives in Syracuse.

Mr. Armstrong's second marriage, which took place Aug. 22, 1867, was to Miss Ann E. Stitt, a native of Deerfield, Warren Co., Ohio. She is a woman of much capability and decision of character, and of an amiable disposition, and to her sympathy, encouragement, and active co-operation in his work, her husband gratefully acknowledges his indebtedness for the comforts and pleasures of a cozy, happy home. Mrs. Armstrong's father, Isaac Stitt, was, it is thought, born in Deerfield, Warren Co., Ohio, of which his father, likewise named Isaac, a native of Pennsylvania, was an early pioneer. He cleared a farm there and spent the remainder of his life there. Mrs. Armstrong's father was reared and married in his native county, and farmed there until his death in his sixty-ninth year. The maiden name of his wife was Sarah Eynon, and Cincinnati, Ohio, was her birthplace. Her father, Mrs. Armstrong's grandfather, Zebulon Eynon, was of Welsh ancestry, and was a pioneer of Hamilton County, Ohio.

Mr. Armstrong has nearly reached the seventieth milestone of life's journey, and he can look back with satisfaction upon long years well spent, wherein he has ever been true to his responsibilities both as a man and as a citizen. Since his residence here he has identified himself with the best interests of the community, and has liberally seconded every effort to promote the advancement of the city or of the county. In his political sympathies he is a stanch Democrat, and cast his first vote for Van Buren.

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**R**OBERT H. BELL takes his place among the enterprising, popular citizens of Delaware Precinct, and is the owner of a fine and well-cultivated farm of 160 acres, which he utilizes in the line of general farming and stock-raising. It is situated on section 23 of the above precinct. The subject of our sketch was born in

Muskegon County, Ohio, on the 24th of March, 1849, and is the son of E. D. S. and Elenor Bell. Mr. Bell, Sr., removed to Marshall County, Ill., in the year 1855. Our subject remained a resident of Illinois for about twenty-five years. He received his education in the common schools. He was reared upon a farm, and from his youth has been fully conversant with agricultural employments, so that he is a practical farmer in every department of such occupation.

Upon beginning life on his own account the subject of our sketch went to Kansas and followed farming, and came to this county in the spring of 1881, settling upon the property he now owns. It was then but slightly improved, if indeed it could be called improved at all. He has, however, made it one of the most productive in the district, and is rising very rapidly in the scale of prosperity.

In order to make his life the more livable, and that his home life might be the more complete, Mr. Bell was united in wedlock with Ida M. Davidson, the estimable daughter of William F. and Harriet (Dungan) Davidson, upon the 21st of April, 1875. The parents of Mrs. Bell had in their family circle eleven children, of whom seven only survive. Their names are as follows: Earl, James F., Thomas D., Stephen, Hattie, William and Maggie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Davidson are now deceased.

Next to his home and farm our subject takes a chief interest in religious affairs. He and his wife are consistent and devoted members of the United Presbyterian Church, and both there and in the Sunday-school they are found among the able workers. They are much esteemed in this and in every other circle in which they move, and are worthy and valued members of the community.

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**W**ILLIAM D. ASHLEY. This gentleman is a member of a family that is of English extraction, but has been identified with the United States since the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and has filled very important positions in history in other years. The first settlement was effected in Massachusetts. This is also true of the maternal ancestry in every particular. The father

of our subject was an agriculturist, as had been his father and grandfather before him. He was very successful in life, and accumulated a fortune of over \$250,000.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 15th of May, 1834, at Springfield, Mass., to William and Eliza (Champion) Ashley. He is the third of nine children born to them, of whom but three are now living, viz: Eliza J., now Mrs. Nichols; our subject; and an elder brother Homer, who is Superintendent of the American Express Company at Boston. Mr. Ashley continued to reside with his parents until he was nineteen years of age, during which time he had been occupied in obtaining an education and becoming a practical farmer, but at that age he left home, and went to Chicopee to learn the trade of a machinist. There he remained working for seven years. At the end of that period he went to Boston for one year, then on to New York City, Bridgeport and Hartford, where he was in charge of a boiler and gasfitting works. At Meriden he had charge of making 50,000 guns for the Government, working for the Henry Rifle Company. He also worked in the Smith Rifle shops at the time when the shops were burned during the riot to resist the draft. He continued to follow his trade until 1866.

When the subject of our sketch was about thirty-two years of age his father very much desired that he should take charge of his estate. This our subject did not see his way to do, and accordingly refused, and was at once disinherited; but as he had about \$1,500 in money he brought the same to Nebraska, and went to work on the homestead he now owns, and began to make varied improvements necessary. His success both here and in the cultivation of the soil has been more than could have been anticipated or hoped for. He is now possessed of a valuable farm on section 31 of Syracuse Precinct, that is operated in the line of general and stock farming.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated at Springfield, Mass., April 13, 1863. Then he became the husband of Addie B. Carpenter, who is the daughter of Samuel and Sarah Carpenter, of Brattleboro, Vt. She was born April 22, 1835, was carefully nurtured and brought up by her parents,

educated in the common schools of her native place, and finished her education in the Brattleboro Seminary, making her home with her parents until the happy day above mentioned. Of this union there have been born three children, viz: Dexter D., Luvern F. and Elsie Maud.

As a general rule ever since he has held the power to vote Mr. Ashley has supported the Republican party, but has never done so excepting when he has been convinced that the candidate put forward by that body was a capable and worthy man; otherwise he has acted independently, and in fact has so governed all his political connections. He is a man who holds a prominent place in the community, and is thoroughly trusted and respected by all.



**P**ETER BERLET. In the present writing is presented an epitome of the history of the gentleman who holds the responsible and honorable position of President of the Bank of Talmage, which is a State institution established by James Sweet & Co. in 1883, and Mr. Berlet succeeded two years later to the business. From that time it has been run on a stock basis of \$20,000, with a surplus capital of \$4,000.

Mr. Berlet and his cashier, Mr. Ferrick, have both been active in the endeavor to make the bank an institution worthy of the county, and have seen no little success attend their efforts. Our subject has also an interest in cattle raising, and is the owner of 1,120 acres, which is in one ranch, and is situated in Keya Paha County, this State. The ranch is thoroughly stocked, and that only with cattle of the best breeds and of high grade. This enterprise was commenced in the year 1882, and has since been managed by Charles F., the son of our subject, who makes his home at that place.

Yet another place is owned by Mr. Berlet, and that is situated in Nemaha County, and comprises 840 acres. It was here that he settled in the spring of 1865, when the whole State was in a somewhat primitive condition, and contained few settlers. So little was that district known that it was generally believed, even at so late a date as that, that little if any rain fell west of the Nemaha River. But our

subject was not the man to be scared at reports and vague rumors. He pushed out, determined to ascertain for himself, and was rewarded in his effort. His farm is one of the best in the county, which is saying a great deal. He has a fine residence and good buildings. He has never had a failure in the small grains, and only two slight and partial failures in corn throughout the twenty-three years of his occupancy. It is not, therefore, surprising that he is enthusiastically proud of his adopted State.

The subject of our sketch came to this place from Hancock County, Ill., where he had resided for the ten years previously, during that time being engaged successfully in agriculture. He was born in Franche-Comte, in the east of France, on the 15th of September, 1841, to Francis and Catherine (Senoir) Berlet. He was but a lad when his parents brought him to this country in the early part of 1857, and his experiences at that time were the reasons for his being willing to send one of his sons, the third, for service in the late war. Accordingly Charles and Frederick offered themselves. Charles was drowned in the Mississippi River while on his way to the front, and was never attached to any regiment; Frederick became a member of the 32d Illinois Infantry, and served until 1865, when he died at Orangeburg, S. C., during the progress of Gen. Sherman in his world-famed march. He had seen much active service, and had the record of being a good soldier.

After the family removed to this State the father made his home with his sons until his death, which occurred in 1886. He was then eighty-seven years of age. After coming to this country he espoused the principles of the Republican party, and so continued until his death. The mother of our subject, who is still living, is seventy-eight years of age. She lives with her son, Emile Berlet, in Nemaha County. Like her husband, she has been from youth a member of the Lutheran Church.

The subject of our sketch is the third child of a family of five, of whom our subject and his brother Emile are the only surviving members. He was first married in Jersey County, Ill., to Pauline W. Prevot, who was born in Switzerland, and was brought to this country by her parents in childhood. She died at the Nemaha County homestead

of our subject in 1876, leaving two children: Charles F., who now manages the Keya Paha ranch; and Lucille, who is the assistant cashier and book-keeper at the bank. She is a well-educated, intelligent and accomplished young lady, and fills her position in a most admirable and complimentary manner.

The present wife of our subject gave him her hand at Neuchatel, Kan., Oct. 13, 1879. Her maiden name was Laura Jeanuret. She was born in Neufchatel, Switzerland. She came to this country alone when sixteen years of age. This marriage also has been blessed by the birth of two children, viz: Minnie and Emma, both of whom are at home.

Before the war Mr. Berlet was numbered among the staunch Abolitionists, but since the rise of the Republican party he has been one of the staunchest members of that party. He has taken a lively interest in political affairs, and has no little influence in the community, having the esteem and regard of all who know him. He has not been a central figure in political and official circles, although frequently called upon for that purpose. He has been a member of the Town Board, and while in that position labored faithfully for the interests of the people.



**W**ILLIAM W. ADAMS. The career of this honored pioneer of Otoe County is one of more than ordinary interest. He came to the Territory of Nebraska in the fall of 1857, and secured first a tract of land in the central part of the county, upon which he effected a little improvement, but soon sold out and took up his residence in what was then the hamlet of Nebraska City, where he established a boarding-house and carried on farming combined upon land adjacent. In 1865, turning his attention more closely to the pursuit of agriculture, he selected a tract of land in Wyoming Precinct, where he took up his residence, and where he has since lived. His homestead is pleasantly located on section 10, and embraces 200 acres of land, which has been brought to a high state of cultivation.

Mr. Adams, feeling that he had contributed his share to the development of Otoe County, has

retired from active labor. He is the occupant of a most comfortable and attractive home, and is surrounded by the good things of life, to which he is amply entitled by a long life of labor and sacrifice. His buildings are substantial and kept in good order, and adjacent is a large apple orchard, containing nearly a thousand bearing trees, while the smaller fruit trees yield in abundance for the use of the family. A goodly proportion finds its way to market. Mr. Adams, like the majority of the men around him, has been a hard worker, and no man has watched with warmer interest the growth and development of his adopted State.

William W. Adams was born in Rockport, Southern Indiana, Jan. 1, 1820, and is the son of Joseph and Mary (Flemming) Adams, who were natives of Kentucky, and the father a farmer by occupation. The parents were reared and married in the Blue Grass regions, whence they migrated to Indiana, and taking up a tract of land lived in true pioneer style, enduring the privations and hardships of life in a new settlement. After the birth of seven children, Joseph Adams was gathered to his fathers about 1822. The mother with her children then returned to Kentucky, where she resided for a period of eight or ten years. She finally decided that there would be a better opportunity for her boys upon the soil of the Prairie State, and accordingly moved to Morgan County, Ill., afterward moving to Hancock County, Ill., where they all lived upon a farm a number of years. William W. was a child eighteen months old at the time of his father's death, and was about three years old when he moved with his mother to Illinois. The mother died in Hancock County in August, 1845, after attaining her threescore years. Mrs. Mary (Flemming) Adams was a lady of more than ordinary capabilities, very intelligent, a kind and tender mother, a devoted wife and a hospitable neighbor. After the death of her husband she devoted herself to the training of her children, who in remembrance of her affectionate care hold her name in the tenderest regard. Of these two are living. Her children all became well-to-do citizens and useful members of their community.

Our subject was the sixth child of his parents, and was reared to manhood in Hancock County,

Ill., where he followed farming from his youth up, and when ready to establish a home of his own was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Sparks. This lady was born in Kentucky, in 1830, and removed with her parents when a child to Hancock County, Ill. She was given a common-school education and subjected to careful parental training, remaining under the home roof until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there were born two children, one of whom died in infancy. The mother passed away at her home in Wyoming Precinct, in May, 1881.

Nancy M., the younger daughter of our subject, grew to womanhood, was married, and became the mother of four children, two of whom, Snowden and Belle, died when young. The mother soon followed her children, her death taking place in October, 1881, in Wyoming Precinct. Her two living children, Della and Lucy, now live with their grandfather, and are bright and interesting young ladies.

Mr. Adams in early life, politically, was a Democrat, but about 1859 identified himself with the Republicans. He, however, votes independently, believing it right to support the men best qualified for office, irrespective of party. He united with the Methodist Episcopal Church near Augusta, Hancock Co., Ill., in 1835, over fifty years ago, and for this long period has adorned his profession by his Christian walk and conversation. He is a man held in high regard by his entire community, a peaceful and law-abiding citizen who has built up for himself a good record.



**HENRY WATHEN.** Among the honored pioneers of this county the subject of this sketch is entitled to a prominent place, being one of the very first settlers of South Branch Precinct, where he homesteaded a tract of land in the spring of 1866, before Nebraska had been transformed from a Territory into a State. Then there were no neighbors within sight of the place where he erected his first rude dwelling, and the country around bore no evidence of having been trodden by

the foot of a white man. A period of twenty-two years has worked vast changes, both upon his own property and that of his neighbors.

Mr. Wathen has now a well-cultivated farm, with good buildings, groves of maple, cottonwood and boxwood trees, an orchard of 200 bearing apple trees with the smaller fruits, and a comfortable dwelling, with the barns and other outhouses necessary for his convenience. He was fortunate in his selection of land, the soil being well watered by running streams, and under his wise management has become highly productive. Mr. Wathen has signalized himself as an honest, hard-working man, of good business capacities, prompt to meet his obligations, and one entirely worthy of the esteem and confidence in which he is held. In his journey of life he has been accompanied by one of the most estimable and intelligent of ladies, who has been brave in the performance of her duties as the wife of the early pioneer, and borne her full share of the heat and burden of the day. Her father was one of the first settlers of Southern Nebraska, and she, with her husband, has watched the growth and development of this now important State with the interest which can only be felt by those who looked upon it during primitive days, ere the hand of the husbandman, holding the plowshare, had begun to turn its undisturbed soil to the sun.

Our subject is the son of an old Kentuckian, George W. Wathen, who left the Blue Grass regions when a young man, and settled in Gallatin County, Ill. He was married in Gallatin to Miss Rebecca Pantier, who was born in Ohio. The paternal grandfather, Thomas Wathen, was a soldier of two wars, assisting the Colonists in their struggle for independence, and later fought during the troubles of 1812. He was a native of England, of robust frame and splendid constitution, and lived to the unusual age of one hundred and four years, spending his last days in Dubuque, Iowa.

The parents of our subject were married in Gallatin County, Ill., where the father followed his trade of cooper, and also carried on farming. His sister had married unfortunately, having a husband who abused her, and in interfering in behalf of his sister Mr. Wathen was shot by his brother-in-law, with fatal results, in 1852. The mother had died

two years previously, in 1850. Four children were thus orphaned, namely: Joseph, Henry, Rebecca and Annie. Joseph, during the late Civil War, enlisted in the 114th Illinois Infantry, and was in the midst of many a fight during his army service. At the charges of Vicksburg and Ft. Jackson he was shot four times, but recovered, resumed his place in the ranks, and was mustered out at the close, in Springfield, Ill., in 1865. The sisters of our subject are Rebecca Nelson and Anna Sikes.

Henry Wathen was born in Gallatin County, Ill., Feb. 14, 1841, and was a lad of eleven years at the time of his father's death. He was then thrown upon his own resources, and worked for farmers in his native county until reaching manhood. He was a man twenty-five years of age upon coming to Nebraska, and the year after his arrival was united in marriage, Aug. 4, 1867, with Miss Angelina, daughter of Stephen and Belle (Mapps) Powell. The wife of our subject was born Dec. 1, 1848, in Ohio. Her parents were natives of Ohio, where they were reared and married. Mr. Powell died in Nebraska about 1864. The mother is a resident of Johnson County, this State, being now seventy years of age. They were the parents of nine children, who are now mostly in Nebraska. To Mr. and Mrs. Wathen there have been born ten children, only four of whom survive, namely: Hattie, Jefferson, Thomas and Charles. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest one, and all except one make their home with their parents. Mr. Wathen is an uncompromising Democrat, politically, but has never sought the responsibilities of office. Aside from serving as a member of the School Board one term, he has given his undivided attention to his farm and his family.



**J**OHN W. McCORMICK, whose farm and residence are upon section 7 of Syracuse Precinct, holds a high place among his fellow-citizens, and since his locating, in March, 1882, has been prominently identified with such projects and enterprises as have been for the advancement and progress of the district. He is of Scotch-Irish descent, and manifests the character-

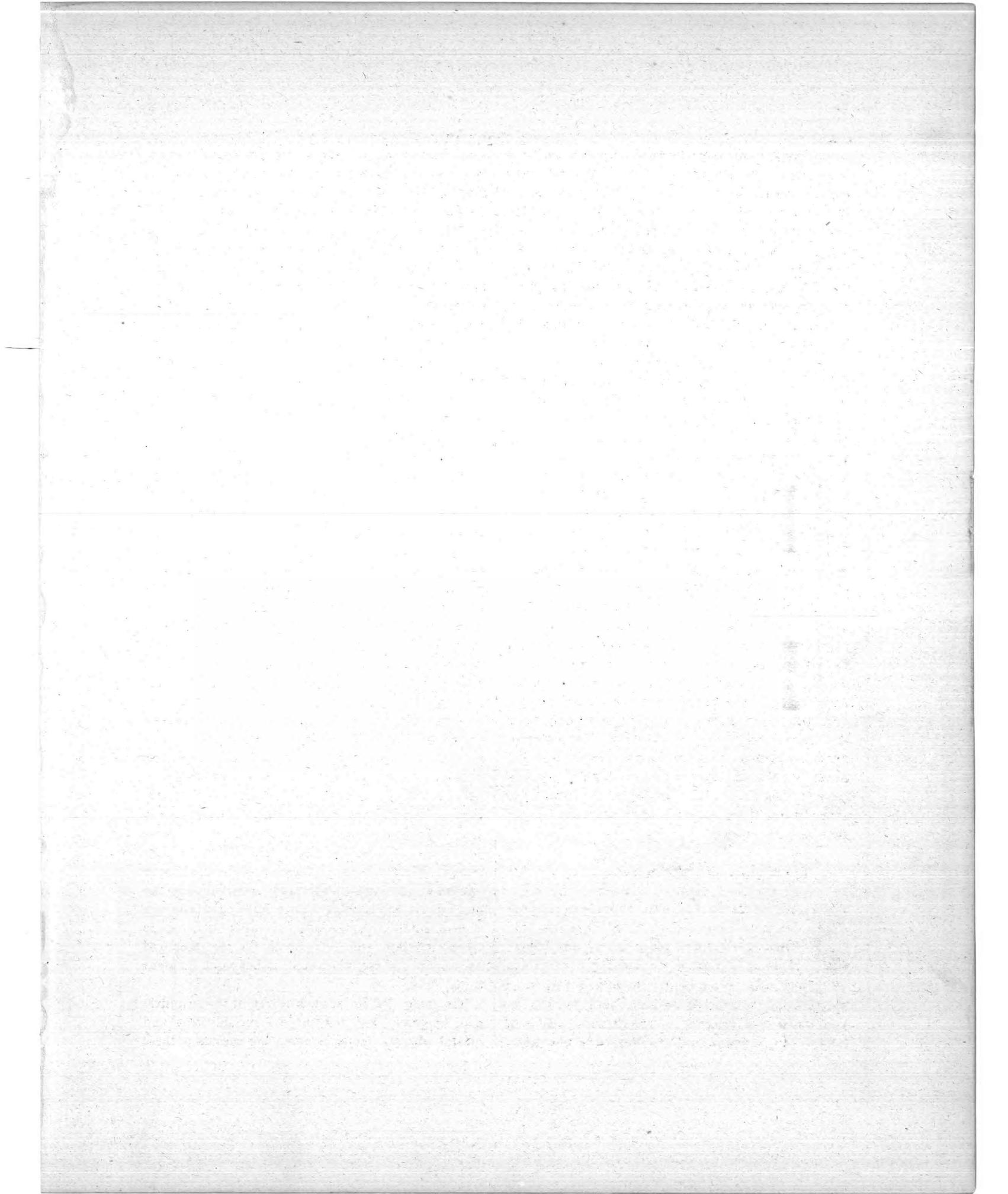
istic traits of those races. The grandfather of our subject, John McCormick, was a native of North Ireland, but while a young man he came with his parents to this country, settled in Pennsylvania, and made husbandry his chosen life occupation.

The father of our subject, who was born and brought up in the Keystone State, also followed agriculture, in which he was quite successful. The companion of his life was Elizabeth Anderson, a native of the same State and county. They first settled in Pennsylvania, but later migrated to Ohio, locating in Hancock in 1854. Four years later they removed to Peoria County, Ill., and in 1866 to Montgomery County, Iowa. There they spent the remainder of life. The family circle included five children, viz: James, now a resident of Hitchcock County; Thomas J., of Montgomery County, Iowa; Benjamin F., of Page County, Iowa, and John W. There is one adopted daughter, Lavina Bradley, now living in West Virginia.

The subject of our sketch was born in Beaver County, Pa., on the 17th of March, 1844; when his parents removed West he accompanied them. His education was obtained in the schools of Pennsylvania and Ohio. His marriage occurred in 1873, when he received the hand of Mary Ewalt, the estimable and accomplished daughter of Clem and Margaret Ewalt. This lady was born in Peoria County, Ill., in May, 1842. Her parents were natives of Ohio, who had migrated to Peoria County and taken land. Their daughter Mary was brought up and educated in her native place, and continued at home with her parents until the above event.

Upon their marriage the young couple made their home in Montgomery County, Iowa, until the year 1882, when that property was sold to good advantage, and the present home and farm purchased. This includes 120 acres of land, all well improved and highly cultivated, operated along the line of mixed farming. The buildings, although perhaps not so fine in appearance as those of more recent erection, are comfortable for the stock and convenient for the miscellaneous purposes incident to the farm.

The home of our subject is one of the brightest and happiest, and our subject and his true and faithful wife are happy in being the parents of three





*Andreas Jassen*



*Mrs. Margaret Jassen*

children, who bear the names Earl, Wayne and Lynn. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick are highly esteemed in the community and enjoy the confidence of all. Politically, our subject is affiliated with the Democratic party. He is a true citizen, loyal and patriotic, bearing whatever responsibilities may come to him as a citizen in a manly and most commendable spirit.



**M**RS. MARGARET JESSEN, widow of the late well-known Andreas Jessen, of Nebraska City Precinct, who was a pioneer of Otoe County, and was for several years one of its successful agriculturists, is a fine representative of the noble women of refinement and culture who came to Nebraska in the early days of its settlement with their fathers, husbands or brothers, and by their presence, encouragement and assistance did much not only to elevate the social and moral status of the then wild, sparsely settled Territory, but have been important factors in bringing about its present proud position as a rich and prosperous State. Mrs. Jessen may well be considered the pioneer educator of Nebraska, as in March, 1855, she commenced to teach for a term of six months in a small frame building, the first school ever taught in this part of the country south of the Platte River, and probably the first in the whole Territory.

Mrs. Jessen is a native of Indiana, her birthplace being five miles from Madison, the county seat of Jefferson County. Her parents, Solomon and Jennie (Thompson) Martin, were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Her paternal grandfather was a native and lifelong resident of Pennsylvania. Her father was reared in that State, and when a young man went to Virginia and there married, and in 1826 removed to Indiana. The removal was made on the waters of the Ohio on a raft, constructed for the purpose of the lumber destined to build their new home. He bought a tract of heavily timbered land in Jefferson County, five miles from Madison, the nearest market, and he at once commenced to clear a farm from the dense,

primeval forest. He succeeded in his undertaking, and lived in that place until 1852, when he sold out and started West by the way of the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and after a voyage of two weeks landed at El Paso, Mo. He resided in Rockport until 1854, and in December of that year, on the 27th day of the month, sought "greener fields and pastures new" in the Territory of Nebraska. He located in Nebraska City, and from that time until his death was a resident of Otoe County, dying Jan. 23, 1873, at a ripe old age. His memory is held in deserved respect as an early pioneer of Nebraska, and also for those traits of character which won him the confidence and respect of his fellowmen. He was a soldier of the War of 1812, and had an honorable discharge from the Government. His death occurred at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Jessen, at the age of eighty-six years, and his remains were buried in the cemetery at Nebraska City. His estimable wife had preceded him to the better land many years before, dying June 25, 1849, on the old homestead in Indiana. There were nine children born to them, three of whom are living: Catherine, widow of Henry Cole; Mary, widow of Charles Cole; and our subject.

Mrs. Jessen was reared in her native county, receiving a careful training in all that was then deemed necessary to make a thrifty housewife, and she thus early became an adept in spinning, weaving and knitting. Nor was her higher education neglected, as she was a fine scholar and was given all the advantages afforded by the schools in her native county, so that she became well qualified for the profession of teacher, which she adopted at the age of twenty-two. In 1854 she taught six months in Fremont County, Iowa. It was on the 3d of July of that year that she for the first time set foot in Nebraska City, coming with others to celebrate our National holiday, the first celebration of the kind ever held by the white citizens of Nebraska. The small hamlet that she then saw by the waters of the Missouri bore no resemblance to the busy and populous city that has since sprung up on the same site. There were but four white families living here then, and but two houses besides the Government buildings, and Indians were camped all over the village. She visited her brother-in-law

Charles Cole, and on the 6th of July returned to Iowa to complete the term of school. In December of that year she returned with Judge Bradford and family, crossing the river a part of the way on ice, a part of the way on the driftwood, and the rest of the way in a skiff. In March, 1855, she commenced to teach here the first school ever taught in the Territory south of the Platte River, as we have before stated.

November 20, 1855, our subject left the educational profession to take upon herself the solemn duties of a wife, as on that date she was united in marriage to Andreas Jessen. He was born in Sleswick-Holstein, Germany, Nov. 7, 1827. He was reared in his native land, and there learned the trade of shoemaker. He was a man of liberal education, speaking fluently five languages—French, Swiss, German, English and Danish. In the year 1851 he came to America and took up his residence in Davenport, Iowa. On the 3d of July, 1854, he crossed the Missouri River to locate in the Territory of Nebraska, and in the fall of that year made a claim to a tract of land on the banks of Walnut Creek. He soon sold that, however, and bought the claim on which his family now lives, and when the land came into the market entered it at the land-office, paying \$1.25 an acre for it. He was from that time until his death, March 20, 1867, actively engaged in farming, and by his industry, sound judgment and able management, improved one of the finest estates in the county, comprising 320 acres of land, mostly under cultivation, with substantial frame buildings, and many other valuable improvements. In his death the community suffered a severe loss, as he was a good citizen, and in all the relations in which he was placed he was faithful and trustworthy. He was a sincere, manly Christian, always true to the tenets of the Lutheran Church, in which he was reared. His union with our subject was blessed by the birth of six children, namely: Solomon, Otto, Anna, Jennie, Paul, and Maggie, who died at the age of ten years. The three youngest are teachers in the public schools.

Mrs. Jessen is dowered with all the attributes that go to make a womanly woman. As a wife, she did all that she could to lighten her husband's burdens, and he was often guided by her counsel to

successful issues. As a mother, she is wise and tender, devoting herself to the interests of her children. She is a cheerful worker in the cause of religion. She joined the Presbyterian Church in Indiana in 1848, and she assisted in the organization of the Presbyterian Church in Nebraska City, of which she is still a communicant. She seeks the good of others, and her strong religious faith has carried her serenely through the bitter trials of life.

Portraits of Mrs. Jessen and her deceased husband are shown in connection with this sketch, and that of the latter will be especially valued by his numerous friends in this county.



**D**ANIEL T. HILL, D. D. S. This gentleman enjoys the reputation of being one of the most scientific, practical and able dentists in the State of Nebraska, and, as a natural result, his clientage is very large, and his practice quite lucrative. He located in Syracuse in 1883, and before many months had passed was well and favorably known, and his business firmly established. He is a native of Carmel, N. Y., the day of his nativity the 19th of July, 1857, whereon the home of Daniel T. and Sarah J. (Meritt) Hill was gladdened by his advent.

The parents of our subject were likewise natives of the Empire State; his father was a well-known clergyman of the Baptist denomination, who had held charges in New York and New Jersey. He was pastor of the church at Plainfield in the latter State for twenty-two years, and was accounted one of the most successful pastors and able preachers of the State. He occupied the pulpit for many years, being ordained at the age of nineteen, and continuing until he had passed his eightieth birthday, wielding an influence for good, right and the truth that will go on affecting countless homes and lives, and has been the instrument of turning thousands in the pathway leading to life. The mother of our subject died in New York in 1884, and was buried in Somers. Her husband subsequently came to Syracuse, where he died in March, 1887. They were the parents of five children, viz: Isaac N., Greek and Latin Professor in Bucknell University,

Lewisburg, Pa.; David J., formerly President of the above university, now President of the university at Rochester, N. Y.; this gentleman is the author of the well-known text-book, "Hill's Rhetoric." Elizabeth, now the wife of Samuel T. Merritt, a grain merchant of Hudson, Wis.; Lydia, wife of William L. Brown, who is cashier of the bank at Williamston, Mich.; and our subject, who is the youngest of the family.

Dr. Hill was educated at Chappaqua, N. Y., although owing to ill-health he was compelled to leave school before being graduated. Upon recovering his health he determined to study dentistry, and accordingly entered the New York College of Dentistry in that city, being graduated from that institution at the age of nineteen years. For the next five years he practiced in Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y. Next to the deep interest in his profession our subject was more attracted to the American trotting horse than anything. This has been almost a passion with him from childhood, and when he came to Nebraska he gave not a little attention to the breeding of such stock. This occupied all his time the first year he was in Nebraska, and for that purpose he purchased a stock farm of 320 acres, which was situated about three miles south of the city, and is known as the Hillsdale Stock Farm.

Life upon the farm to one who, like our subject, had always lived in cities, was very lonely and dull, in spite of the fine stock with which he had surrounded himself. This resulted in the sale of the property and the removal to Syracuse, where he purchased twenty-five acres, upon which he made such arrangements of barns, stabling, etc., as he deemed necessary for indulgence in his favorite hobby. He is the owner of twenty-five standard bred trotters. He is also the owner of the trotting horse "Young Sentinel," which he brought with him from New York, and who has a record of 2:26. He has also other horses of some note and good record, which it is impossible in the space of this sketch to mention in detail. He is one of the organizers of the Nebraska State Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, of which he holds the position of Secretary. The Doctor is not careless of his profession, and keeps fully abreast of the times in all matters connected therewith. He has a

very complete and beautiful library, and in his instrument case may be found almost every appliance and instrument known or used in his profession. These the Doctor does not keep for show, but understands their use, and perfects himself in the same.

In 1877 the subject of our sketch was married to Tella H. Capron, the amiable daughter of Joseph and Hester E. Capron. She was born in Westchester County, N. Y., and made her home with her parents until her marriage, and brought to her husband all the cheering, brightening influences and inspirations that were designed by the Originator of the sacred relationship. They are the parents of three children, who bear the names here subjoined, viz: Pearl, Myrtle and Claire.

Dr. Hill and his family occupy a high position in society, moving in its most select circles, and he enjoys the high esteem of all who know him. As a citizen, the Doctor is always happy to respond promptly to every duty that is his in that relation, and usually votes the Republican ticket. As a professional man, as has been already remarked, he is among the first of his fellows. As a man and as a friend, he is honorable, courteous and affable, and one of the much valued citizens of Syracuse.



**A**LBERT THEIS. The subject of this biography occupies a snug homestead of eighty acres lying on section 31 in Nebraska City Precinct, where he settled in the spring of 1867, about the time Nebraska was transformed from a Territory into a State. For a period of twenty-one years he has labored industriously in its cultivation and improvement, and has been amply repaid for his labors, the land now yielding him handsome returns. It is hardly necessary to state that his management has been wise in the extreme, and his enterprise a little beyond the ordinary.

Our subject was born in Rhenish Prussia, on the 26th of January, 1835, where he lived until a man of twenty-eight years. His parents were Philip and Agnes Theis, natives of the same Province as their son, the father a cabinet-maker by trade, which he followed the greater part of his life. Both parents

spent their entire lives upon their native soil, the mother passing away at the age of forty-nine years and the father when seventy-six.

Mr. Theis when a lad of thirteen years began the trade of cabinet-maker under the instructions of his excellent father, and five years later, after a thorough apprenticeship, began working as a "jour," and was thus occupied until emigrating to the United States. He worked thereafter four years in New York City, then decided to seek his fortune in the West. After locating in Nebraska City he still followed cabinet-making for a period of nine years, then concluded to invest his capital in a farm. Since that time he has given his attention closely to agricultural pursuits, and has no reason to regret his change of occupation.

Our subject found his future wife in America, being married in Nebraska City, Aug. 7, 1859, to Miss Lona Scharp. Mrs. Theis is also of German birth and parentage, being a native of Sleswick-Holstein, where she was born Dec. 29, 1838. Her parents, James and Mattie (Hauschildt) Scharp, were natives of the same Grand Duchy as their daughter, where the father carried on farming until the spring of 1857. Then, accompanied by his family, he sailed for America, and after landing proceeded directly westward to this county. He purchased land in Wyoming Precinct and built up a comfortable homestead, which provided him a shelter until his days on earth were numbered. His death was occasioned by the running away of a team he was driving, he being thrown from the vehicle and instantly killed. The wife and mother is still living at the homestead, and is now seventy-four years old.

Mrs. Theis was a maiden of eighteen years when her parents came to the United States, and she lived with them until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, five of whom died at an early age, namely: Agnes, Mattie, Mary, Amelia and Anna. Of the surviving the record is as follows: Alvina is the wife of Henry Korff, a well-to-do farmer of Wyoming Precinct. Emma married Herman Brugmann, who is occupied in general merchandising in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Nellie, John and Lona are at home with their parents. Mr. Theis, as one of the pioneers of Nebraska, endured many hardships and privations

during the first years of his struggle for existence in the West, and now, in the enjoyment of a comfortable home, and the prospect of plenty for his old age, is reaping the reward of his toil and sacrifice. He came to this county poor in purse, but with an indomitable energy that admitted no such word as fail. Not only has he accumulated property but has built up the record of an honest man and a good citizen, occupying a worthy position in the community and enjoying the respect and confidence of his neighbors.



**J**AMES B. NORTHCUTT, who is prominently identified with the mercantile interests of Nebraska City, is proprietor and manager of one of the oldest retail grocery houses in the State of Nebraska. He is a Kentuckian by birth, born in Millersburg, Bourbon County, Jan. 11, 1832. His father, Benjamin F. Northcutt, was born in Scotland. His parents were natives of England, who for several years lived in Scotland. They subsequently came from there to America and settled in Kentucky, and later they moved to Boone County, Mo., and spent their last years there.

The father of our subject learned the trades of carpenter and millwright when he was young. In the spring of 1836 he moved to Missouri and located in Boone County, being one of the first settlers of that section of country. There were no railways then, and he and his family made the journey to their new home with teams. That part of the country was then heavily timbered, and Mr. Northcutt bought a tract of land and erected one of the first saw and grist mills in that section. He operated the mills until 1842, when a freshet swept them away. He then moved to Nashville, on the Missouri River, but after working at his trade as a carpenter a short time, went to Buchanan County, Mo., and there built a steam saw and grist mill, which he managed very successfully until 1863, when, on account of the war, he suspended business. He is now an esteemed resident of Blue Springs, Kan., and at the age of eighty-six years still retains much of his early vigor. The maiden name of his

wife was Angeline McGuffin, and she was born in Scotland and came to America with her parents. She died in 1869.

The subject of this sketch was four years old when his parents moved to Missouri, where he was reared to manhood. There being no free schools, he obtained his education in a school taught on the subscription plan. As soon as he was large enough he commenced to work to earn his own living, his first employment being to saw wood at twenty-five cents a cord. When he was in his eleventh year he commenced to work in a brickyard at St. Joseph, Mo., receiving \$4 a month for the first two years and \$6 a month the next two years, as compensation for his services, working hard from sunrise until sunset. When he was fifteen years old he had his first experience of the mercantile life as a clerk in a general store in St. Joseph, Mo., receiving a suit of clothes in payment for his work. He attended Lexington College during the winter season, and thus completed an excellent business education. When his parents first settled in Buchanan County it was in a very wild condition and was sparsely settled. St. Joseph was a hamlet of but a few log cabins, and the only hotel in the city was a log house. Indians were more plentiful than white people, and one time when our subject was about nine years old he stole away from home and joined the Indians on one of their hunting expeditions and was gone thirty days.

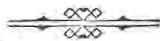
Mr. Northcutt continued to clerk for the same firm until 1862, when he started, in the month of October, from Kansas City with a train of ox-teams loaded with freight bound for Ft. Union, N. M., 900 miles distant. He made the round trip, and arrived in Kansas City Feb. 3, 1863. He had not slept in a house during all the long journey. In May, 1863, he bought a pair of mules and a wagon, and set out from St. Joseph for the gold fields of Idaho. He crossed the Missouri River at Peru in the month of May, and from Nebraska City proceeded across the plains, via Salt Lake to Idaho City, which he reached on the 3d of July. On the same day he engaged as a miner, at \$7 a day. He continued there until October, 1864, and then, after spending a few days in Walla Walla City, went down the Columbia River to Portland, Ore., and

from there to Victoria, British America, and thence to San Francisco. After staying there a month, he proceeded to his old home in Missouri by way of the Isthmus of Panama and New York City, and finally arrived in St. Joseph in January, 1865. He there engaged with J. E. Barrow & Co., and went with a train to Salt Lake City, crossing the Missouri River April 1, and arriving at Salt Lake September 25. There was a train of ninety-eighty wagons, all heavily laden, and on the 2d and 3d of August the teamsters had a battle with the Indians, who were then on the warpath, but they escaped without the loss of a man. He acted as a clerk for Barrow & Co. in Salt Lake City until the following December, when he started on his return with a mule train for Atchison City, and thence proceeded to St. Joseph. At one time during the war Mr. Northcutt started from Kansas City to go to Independence to buy cattle for his employers. He had not gone far before he was advised to return, as Quantrell's guerrillas were infesting the country, and were more numerous than he had expected. He did not heed the warning, however, as he was a man of steady nerve and cool courage, but kept on until he met a party of soldiers who had been attacked by the rebel marauders, and were fleeing for their lives. He then concluded that "discretion would indeed be the better part of valor," and wisely returned to Kansas City. He soon after went to Lawrence, Kan., for the same purpose, and in that State he found trading rather unpleasant, as the people were at that time quite suspicious of any one coming from the Southwestern States. He, however, satisfied all queries, and finally reached Lawrence all right, and then returned, after buying \$8,000 worth of cattle.

Mr. Northcutt came to Nebraska City in the spring of 1866, arriving on the 15th of April, and at once established himself in the grocery business, which he has conducted continuously since with marked success. He is now one of the leading grocers here, and is numbered among the men of wealth in the city.

Mr. Northcutt was married, in March, 1865, to Miss Katie Toole, a native of Weston, Mo., and a daughter of W. C. Toole. They have five children living, namely: Ebbie, Harry, Jesse, Wilbur and

James. Our subject is a man of wide experience, is prompt and wide-awake in business, and by his strictly honorable dealings has gained the confidence of his fellow-citizens. The advice and support of such a man are greatly valued in the administration of the civic affairs of a prosperous and growing municipality like Nebraska City, as is evinced by the fact that Mr. Northcutt has served as a member of the City Council for eight years; and his wisdom is also sought in the guidance of the affairs of the Christian Church, of which he and his wife are devoted members, and he has been its Secretary and Treasurer. Socially, he is identified with the A. F. & A. M., belonging to Nebraska City Lodge No. 12.



**H**ON. WILLIAM B. HAIL, deceased. Otoe County is greatly indebted for its wonderful growth and present prosperity to the men of intelligence, enterprise and action who were its pioneers, and who have watched with intense interest its entire development. The subject of this sketch was identified with those early settlers, and took a very active part in the public life of the county, and also of the Territory, as he was for several years a prominent member of the Territorial Legislature, and it gives us much pleasure to be able to transcribe to these pages a brief account of his life and work.

Mr. Hail was born in Grayson County, Va., Aug. 4, 1811, and his father, Stephen Hail, was born on the same farm. Lewis Hail, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Franklin County, Va., and was one of the early settlers of Grayson County. He took up a large tract of timber land there, and made his home in that county until his death. He had six sons and two daughters, and he gave each of them a farm close by his homestead, and all but one of them spent their entire lives there. The father of our subject inherited the old homestead where he was born, and there, after a well-spent life as a farmer and stock-raiser, he closed his eyes to the scenes of earth in the month of February, 1854. He was a valiant soldier in the War of 1812, and his record in public and in private life was that of an honest, upright,

sagacious man. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Bourne, and she was also a native of Grayson County, Va. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom grew to maturity.

William B. Hail, of whom we write, was reared in the home of his birth, and received an excellent training in agricultural pursuits. He was married in his native county, Jan. 31, 1833, to Miss Matilda Jones, who was also born in Grayson County, Aug. 13, 1811, being the date of her birth, and she is a daughter of Maj. Abner and Hannah (Forbes) Jones, natives of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Hail have eight children living, of whom the following is the record: C. Currin lives in Omaha; Silas Friel lives on the homestead with his parents; Laura J. is the wife of L. F. Cornutt, of Nebraska City; Celia is the wife of James S. Miller, of Nebraska City; Alverda lives at home; Scott, Taylor and Stephen A. are residents of Nebraska City.

While our subject remained a resident of his Virginia birthplace he was engaged in farming, and even as a young man he became identified with the public interests of Grayson County, being elected Surveyor of the county in 1838, and served in that capacity continuously for sixteen years, until he resigned to come West. He also served four or five years as Magistrate. In the last of August, 1854, Mr. Hail severed his connection with his pleasant Southern home, and, accompanied by his wife and nine children, started for the wilds of the far-off Territory of Nebraska, making the entire journey with a carriage, two wagons and eight horses, arriving in Nebraska City sixty days after they set forth. The sight presented to the eyes of those weary travelers as they entered this promised land was far different from what one sees to-day. The rolling prairies stretched away to the West a wild sea of grass, with no signs of human habitation, as the settlements were then confined to the river. Deer and antelopes were plentiful, and away off toward the western boundary of the Territory buffaloes roamed at will. The land was held by the Government and had not been surveyed, and the Indians still lingered about their old hunting-grounds. Where Nebraska City now stands they found about half a dozen rudely constructed houses and but one store, which was kept in a small frame building, lo-

cated on the north side of Main street near the corner of Sixth street. There was no railway west of the Mississippi, and all travel and transportation was either by team or by boat, and one may readily judge that the facilities for communicating with their friends in the East were not of the best. In this connection Mr. Hail related that Charles Pierce was the first Postmaster, and that the mail, which was received but once or twice each week, was brought on horseback from Sidney, Iowa, and when Mr. Hail went for his share Mrs. Pierce would take a box from under the bed and select his from the rest.

Mr. Hail made a claim to a tract of land now included in the city, and known as Hail & Co.'s Addition. A few days after coming here he and his nephew bought a sawmill in Iowa, and he drew it here with his horses and operated it by horsepower for a year, settlers coming in so rapidly that they could sell their lumber as fast as they could manufacture it. Mr. Hail had been a resident here but three weeks when the first election was held, at which delegates were elected to the first Territorial Legislature, and he was chosen to represent Otoe County. He proved to be a wise and able statesman, and he was influential in obtaining the passage of many of the most important measures devised for the advancement of Territorial interests, and for the preservation of law and order. So well pleased were his constituents by his course, that he was sent to represent them in the halls of legislation five terms in succession. Mr. Hail also held the office of Justice of the Peace for some years after coming here. He was always a Democrat in politics, and cast his first vote for Gen. Jackson. Mr. Hail met his death by being run over by a railroad train near his home, on the 1st day of October, 1888.



**C**HARLES W. STAHLHUT, who is said to be one of the finest looking men in Nebraska City, is no less a stirring member of the business community, and is engaged in general merchandising on Central avenue, where he occupies a fine new brick block, which was erected by him in the spring of 1888. This building at once attracts

the attention of the stranger passing through the city, it being not only an ornament to the town, but occupied by some of its leading enterprises. Mr. Stahlhut commenced in life dependent upon his own resources, and has climbed up step by step to an enviable position socially and financially.

A native of Westphalen, Germany, our subject was born Nov. 26, 1841, and is consequently in the prime of life and the midst of his usefulness. His parents, Frederick and Ernestine (Senne) Stahlhut, were also of German birth and ancestry, and the father also followed merchandising, spending with his excellent wife his entire life upon his native soil. He died about 1873, aged sixty-five years, and the mother in 1878, when sixty-nine years old. Their five children were named respectively: Frederick, Charles W., Frederick William G., Ernestine and Lena. They are all living, our subject and his brother being the only ones in the United States.

In common with the youth of his native land, our subject was placed in school at an early age, where he received a practical education, and later learned the carpenter's trade. In the spring of 1868 he decided to emigrate to America, and settling in DuPage County, Ill., employed himself as a farm laborer for a few months. Not quite satisfied, however, with the outlook in the Prairie State, he came to Nebraska City with a capital of \$20 in his pocket, and resumed his trade of carpenter. Later we find him clerking in a grocery store, which also combined general merchandise. He was similarly occupied until 1875, and in the meantime exercising the economy which is a well-known characteristic of his nationality, he saved up a snug sum of money, which, with his unlimited credit, enabled him to establish in business, Oct. 13, 1875, in company with a partner, under the firm name of Straub & Stahlhut. He operated with Mr. Straub for a period of three years, and then substituted his brother for Mr. Straub, and the two latter have carried on business two years successfully with a prosperous outlook for the future.

Mr. Stahlhut, in 1873, purchased the lots whereon his building now stands, which was erected during the summer of 1888, and is called the Stahlhut Block; it covers an area of 48x80 feet, is two stories in height, built of brick, and equipped with all mod-

ern conveniences. The business of C. W. Stahlhut occupies half of this building, while the other half is rented to other parties.

Our subject, in November, 1876, was united in marriage with Miss Anna Wille, who was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., in January, 1856, and came to Nebraska City with her parents in 1870. The latter, August and Emily Wille, were natives of Germany; the father is now deceased, and the mother resides in Nebraska City. Mr. and Mrs. S. are the parents of five children, namely: Emily, Clara, Elsie, Hilda and Carl. Our subject, politically, is a lively Republican, and, with his estimable wife, is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church.



**H**ERBERT H. REED. Among the agriculturists of Delaware Precinct there are few more enterprising or successful than the gentleman whose biography is here briefly presented. There are many his senior in age, and of larger experience, but he possesses in no small measure the vim and Western push that count for so much in the development of a comparatively new region. His property is situated on section 31, and is well worthy of a more extended notice than can be conveniently given in this volume.

Our subject was born on the 15th of January, 1860, to Cyrus and Anna (Lowe) Reed, at their home in Pickaway County, Ohio, which was the native place also of his father, who is now deceased. The latter was a farmer, and stood in the front rank of successful men similarly engaged. With his family he removed to this county in 1865 and settled in McWilliams Precinct, where he purchased over 1,600 acres of land, which, with the exception of fifteen acres that were broken, and a diminutive shanty, was in its virgin state. After a long sickness, caused by Bright's disease, he departed this life in 1872.

Mr. Reed was reared under the care of his father on the farm, and from his boyhood was given such tasks as his strength would permit, until he was in every way competent to take full management of a farm. Attending the common schools, he received instructions in the ordinary branches of an English

education, and by careful training his mental powers were developed so that he was in due time prepared to take his place in the more serious engagements of life.

The marriage of Mr. Reed with Catherine Damme was celebrated on the 23d of November, 1884, at Delta. Mrs. Reed was born in Perry County, Mo., and is the daughter of Frederick Damme, of Missouri. Their union has been consummated by the birth of one daughter, who bears the name of Carrie E.

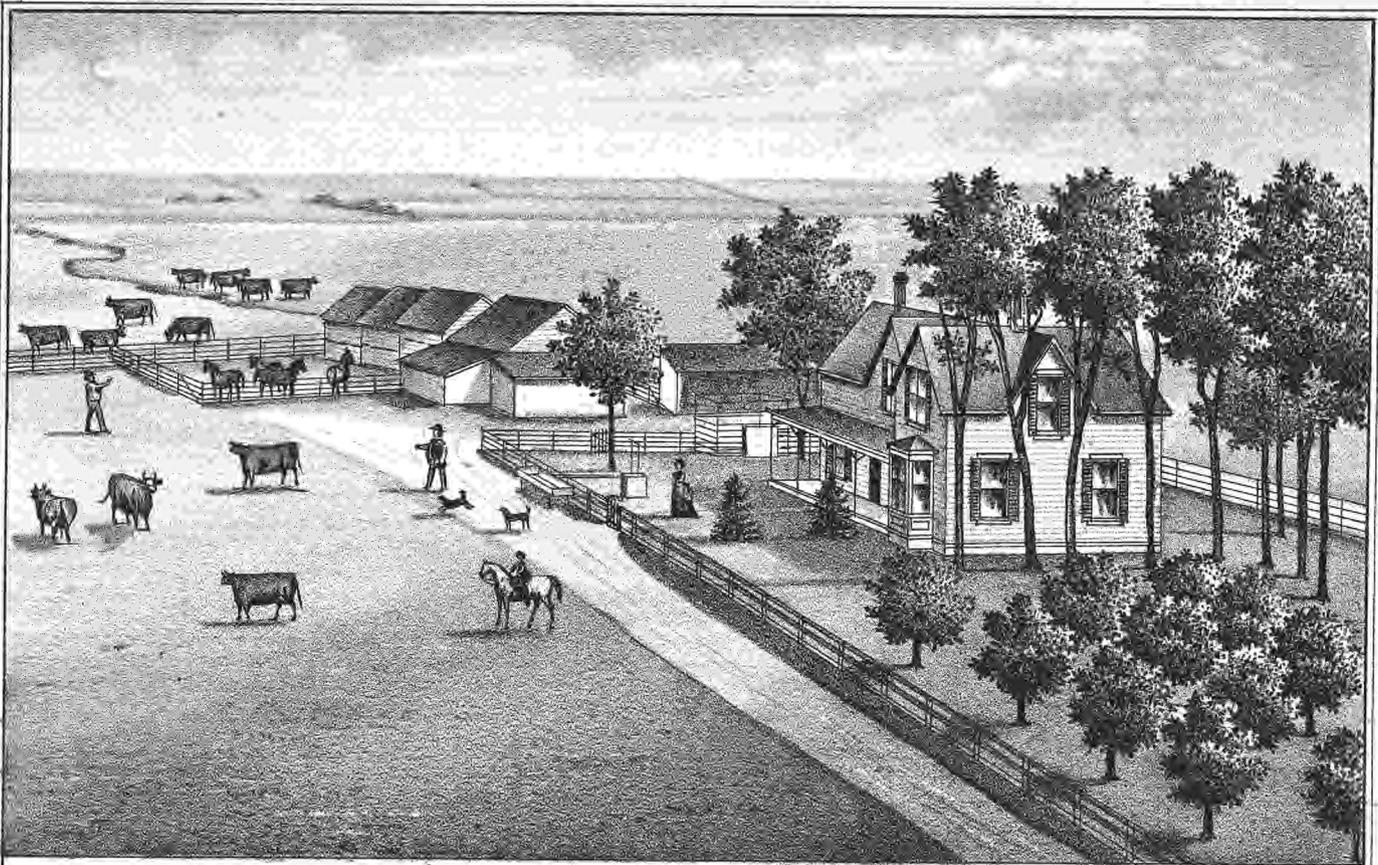
The homestead of our subject is 320 acres in extent, and although some attention is given to grain farming, he makes a specialty of raising graded stock of fine breed. He has erected a complete set of the needed buildings, stables and cattle pens, and these are above the average in point of stability and arrangement, convenience and finish. He is a man who takes an interest in the various enterprises that promise to advance the interest of the community or town. Politically, he is a staunch Republican, and an earnest worker in a modest way.

A view of the home of Mr. Reed is given on another page, in which it will be seen that both industry and taste have been employed to make it both valuable and attractive. It forms no unimportant item in the great whole which distinguishes Otoe County as a section of country peculiarly fortunate in the men who have directed its destinies.

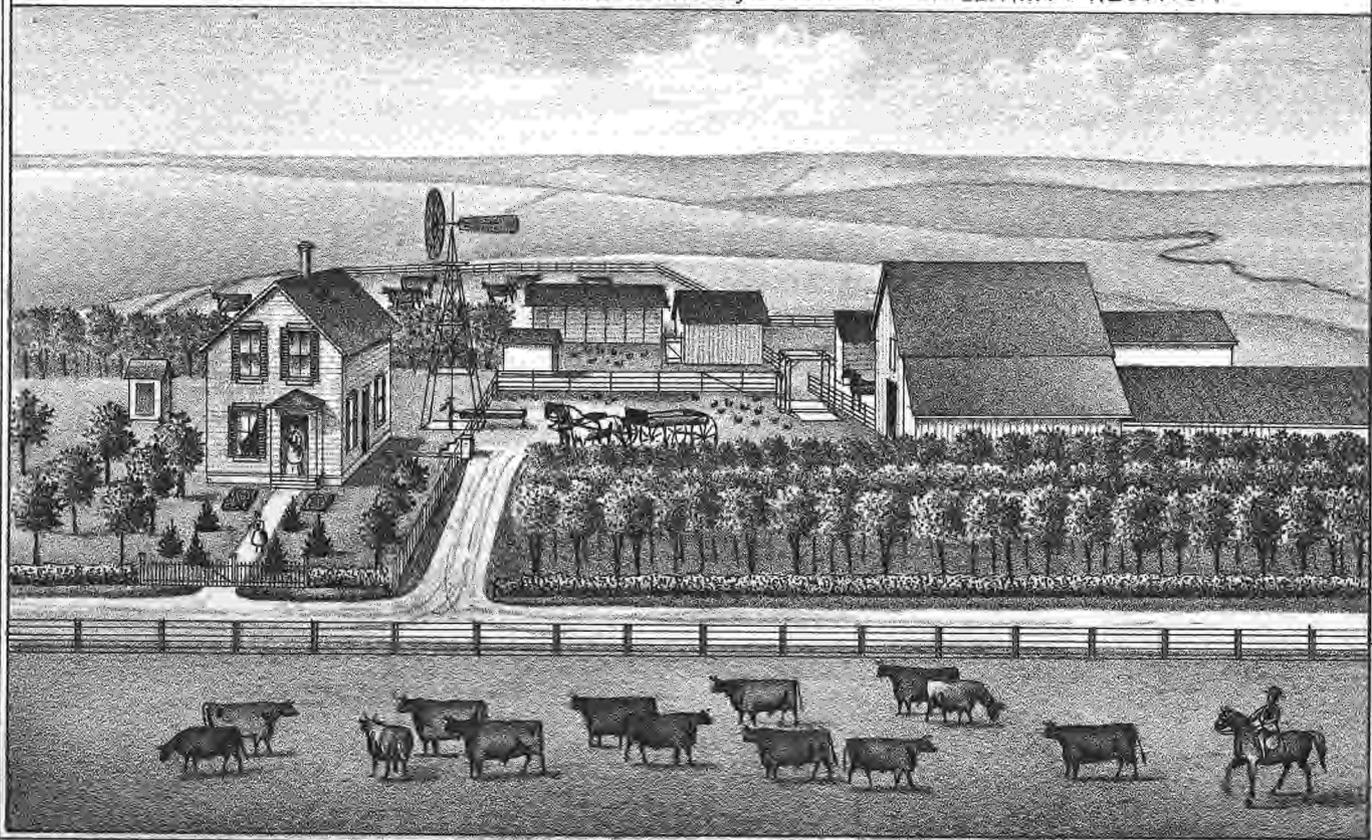


**C**HARLES DANN, a native of Lincolnshire, England, emigrated to the United States in 1852, when a young man seventeen years of age, and is now numbered among the well-to-do farmers of McWilliams Precinct. He was born Aug. 8, 1835, and after his boyhood days were over, was employed at farming near the place of his birth until reaching manhood. His mother died when he was about eighteen years of age. James Dann, our subject's father, came to this country the following spring, and at Clinton, Iowa, he spent the remainder of his days, passing away when ripe in years.

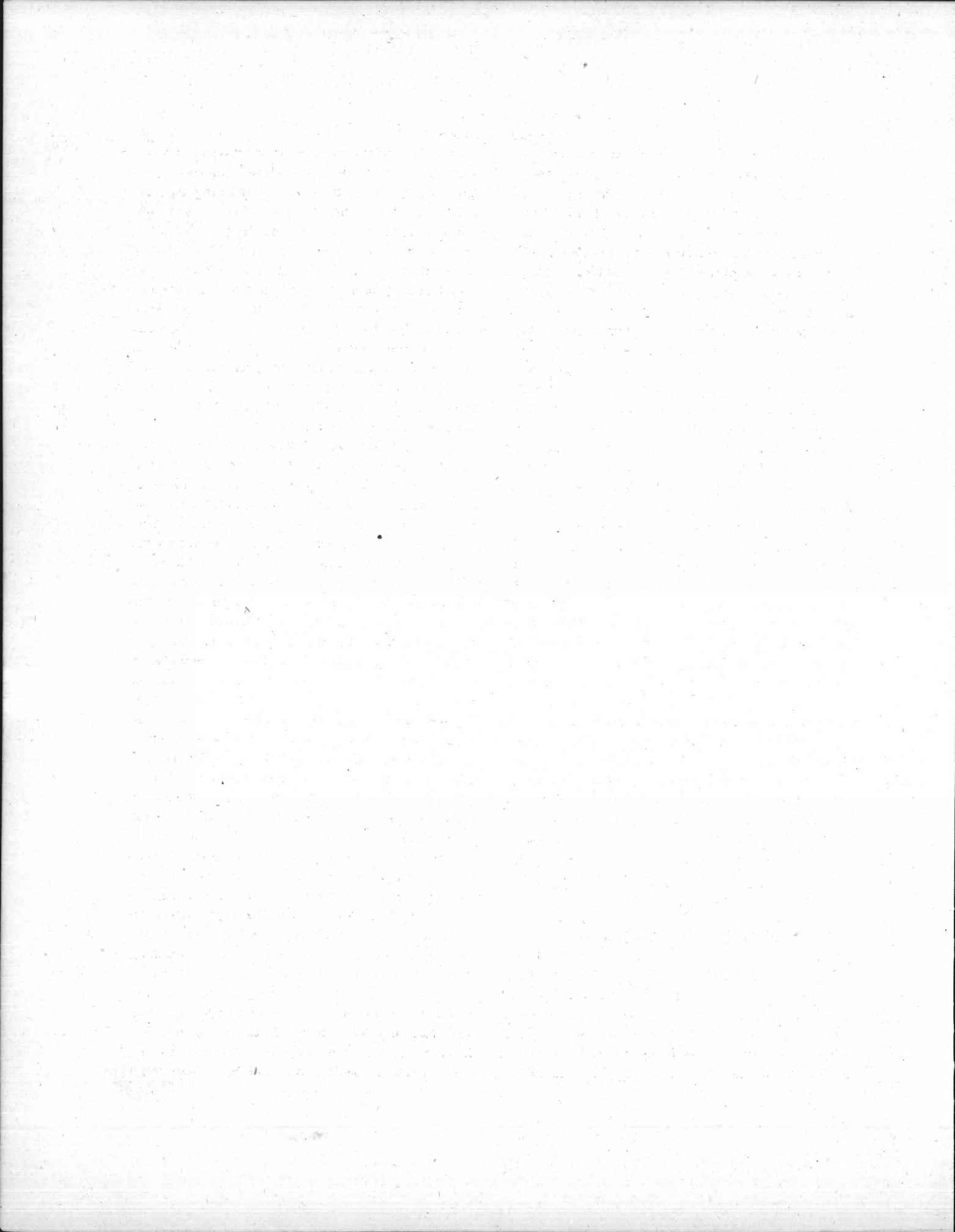
The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Mary Ketler. The parental household included eight sons and two daughters, five of whom are now



RESIDENCE OF CHARLES DANN, SEC. 7. Mc WILLIAMS PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF H. H. REED, SEC. 31. DELAWARE PRECINCT.



living. Charles, our subject, was a resident of Scott County, Iowa, a period of four years, from 1852 until 1856, when he came to Nebraska, settling at first in the city of Omaha. For some years afterward he was engaged as a teamster across the plains, being the pioneer of this business, making his first journey in the fall of 1859. For two years he lived in Colorado, and had ample experience with frontier life, and some experience with Indians. Upon coming to this county he purchased, in 1868, 331 acres of land which comprises the fine homestead in his possession to-day. He has himself effected all the improvements upon it, laying off the land into convenient fields with neat fences, putting up a residence, barns and out-buildings, gathering together the farm stock and machinery, and has now one of the most desirable estates in the county. Among the numerous views presented in this volume may be found that of the residence and surroundings belonging to this gentleman. Our subject, in 1873, was united in marriage with Miss Jane Williams, the wedding taking place at the home of the bridegroom in McWilliams Precinct. Mrs. Dann was born in Toronto, Canada, and came to the States with her uncle in 1867; her parents were John and Henrietta (Fitzgerald) Williams. Her father was a carpenter by occupation, and a native of Clossbyshire, England. He crossed the Atlantic in 1850, and spent his last years in Palmyra Precinct, on the western line of this county, where his death took place about 1833. Mrs. Dann lived for several years before her marriage with her uncle in Nebraska. Of her union with our subject there has been born one child, a daughter, Ettia M., who continues at home with her parents. Mr. Dann has become thoroughly Americanized, meddles very little with politics, and signifies his sentiments of freedom and equality by voting independently.



**H**ENRY BRINKMANN occupies an uncontroverted position among the substantial farmers of Otoe County, and is located on section 14 of Syracuse Precinct. He is a native of Hanover, Germany, where he was born on the 9th of January, 1827. In early life he was

bound as an apprentice, and learned the trade of a tailor, but did not follow it after attaining his majority. At that time he was united in marriage with Louisa Tagmeyer, who was born in Prussia in the year 1829.

Our subject and his young wife settled in the village of Neauberg, and their residence being quite large they derived quite an income from the rental of rooms by them unneeded for other purposes. Mr. Brinkmann gave his attention to agricultural pursuits, and being a thorough, practical man, and fully conversant with farming, was enabled to support his family in comfort and comparative affluence, and also accumulated a surplus.

The first misfortune that befell Mr. Brinkmann came to him in the year 1858, when his wife was removed from his side by the imperious and never to be denied destroyer, Death, leaving him with two little ones who had been born to them. One of these is now deceased; the other, Lena, now the wife of August Bartling, of Beatrice, this State.

Some time after the above bereavement our subject became the husband of Christina Bierman. He continued to make his home in Germany until the year 1869, then with his family he took passage at Bremen on the steamship "Baltimore," and after a stormy passage of eighteen days' duration landed in the harbor of the city of the same name. This trip was anything but pleasant, and will always be remembered. Mrs. Brinkmann was sick throughout the passage, and the task of caring for her and their little family devolved upon him.

Landing at Baltimore Mr. Brinkmann was unable either to speak or understand one word of the English tongue, and unfortunately he fell into the hands of men whose despicable employment it was to fleece him and others similarly situated of their little hard-earned store, rather than lend a hand to smooth the difficulties from his path and assist him on his way. He purchased, as he supposed, a railroad ticket for Nebraska City, but upon reaching Chicago was called upon for \$30 more in order to carry him to Council Bluffs, where another \$15 was demanded to take him to Nebraska City. The railroad company left him at Eastford, opposite Nebraska City, where he was met by a Mr. Stroup, who, instead of telling him that his tickets were

good to the city, took him in and kept him overnight at his hotel, if such a place as he used for that purpose could by any stretch of the imagination be deemed fit for such designation, even though a word of such vast latitude as that of "hotel" be used. In the morning he was called upon for \$11 hotel bill, and a man was hired to bring him to where he now lives, and for this was charged an additional \$10. Looking back over this experience he cannot but contrast it with the fact that he has many times since taken a full load of potatoes to Nebraska City, and only realized one-half that amount.

The troubles of our subject were not over, although he had reached Nebraska City. He had come thus far to a half-brother who had been in the country several years, and owned a piece of land in the neighborhood. In all kindness of heart this gentleman sold to our subject forty acres of land at \$19 per acre, and when subsequently he learned that he could have obtained just as good or better for \$5, or which would have been even of greater advantage to him, have entered a homestead, he did not appreciate his relative's goodness as he had done at first. Upon his arrival he had \$1,346 left, but at the end of one year he was in debt. The land was almost wholly unimproved, his house was but a shanty, and having no team he was compelled to exchange work with his neighbors, in order to effect anything at all.

The first true friend our subject met upon American soil was a gentleman who still occupies a prominent position in Nebraska City, and whose life story will be found presented in compendious form in this volume. This was Carl Korff, who, appreciating the situation, gave him kindly and valuable counsel, trusted him with goods and other things that were needed, and extended to him a helping hand. Our subject worked on the construction of the railroad at Belmont, and the family managed as best they could in very straitened circumstances for over two years, living chiefly upon corn bread, bearing their hardships and trials in a bright and cheerful spirit, although many a tear was shed when the situation in all its forcefulness presented itself before them. But this has long since passed away. With the help of the good Samari-

tan friend, slowly but surely he has progressed, and to-day, if he needed it, could raise an almost unlimited amount in a very few hours. He is one of the largest land-owners of the county, having 600 acres of pasture land, which is occupied by a large herd of cattle, and which he has leased.

The second wife of our subject died on the 22d of March, 1871. She was the mother of seven children, three of whom are now living, viz: Minnie, Charley and Freda. The other children died in Germany. On the 30th of June, 1871, he was united in marriage with Sophia Steba. This lady was born in Mecklenburg, Germany, in 1842, and is the daughter of John and Mary Steba. Her father died in his native country, and after that bereavement her mother came to the United States, and now resides in this county. She has three sisters also living in this State, who bear the names Mary, Minnie and Frederika. She has presented her husband with five children, four of whom now survive, viz: Henry, who was born on the 26th of April, 1872; Anna, on the 10th of February, 1875; Mary, Feb. 25, 1877; Sophia, on the 22d of January, 1885.

The subject of our sketch is one of the substantial and earnest members of the Lutheran Church, as is also his wife. He is a staunch adherent of the Democratic party, and has so been since he has been able to understand and appreciate the institutions and political relations of his adopted country. He is very highly esteemed throughout the community, and has a character that will bear the closest investigation. As a result he holds an unrivalled position in the community as a man of honor and integrity.

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**G**EORGE K. BOTTCHEK is successful as a general farmer, and operates 260 acres on section 17, McWilliams Precinct; the farm usually produces good crops, even when others fail, for the reason that it is watered by the Nemaha River, which is a most valuable acquisition. This farm he has owned since 1883, but his connection with the State dates from one year earlier. Previously he had lived in Gasconade County, Mo.,

where he had made his home for twenty-two years, having been brought up and educated there. He was born on the 15th of March, 1857, in Germany, and came to the United States with his parents when he was two years of age.

The subject of our sketch is the son of Henry and Ellen (Dricker) Bottcher, who were natives of Germany. Upon coming to America they located in Missouri, and there made their home and became identified with the agricultural interests of the State. There the father died in September, 1885, having reached the age of seventy years. He was for a number of years a member of the Methodist Church. He took a great interest in the politics of his country, and usually voted the Republican ticket. His wife is yet living with her oldest son, and has reached the age of sixty-six years.

The subject of our sketch was the ninth of twelve children born to his parents, the family circle comprising five sons and seven daughters. Seven members of the family are still living, and are all now married. Mr. Bottcher was united in wedlock with Anna Renkin, who was born in Germany, on the 21st of May, 1857. She came when eight years of age to this country with her father, Henry Renkin, who located in Rock Creek Precinct, where he still resides and has become a large land-owner, and is numbered also among the successful farmers. The wife of our subject has presented him with three children, viz: Henry G., John F. and William F. She has also one child by a previous marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Bottcher are regular attendants of the Lutheran Church, with which they have been connected for many years. Our subject is not prominent in political circles, but is a staunch Republican, and usually votes that ticket.



**J**OSEPH B. BALLARMAN. In the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, on the 14th of September, 1830, was born a boy baby who is now numbered among the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Rock Creek Precinct. He is a man who has inherited from his substantial German ancestry those qualities of perseverance and resolution which have upheld him through many

difficulties, and which are the secret of his present success. For the last twenty-one years he has operated successfully a farm of 160 acres on section 4, which he eliminated from a tract of raw prairie land into one of the most desirable homesteads, and he also has 100 acres on section 33, Belmont Precinct, Otoe County. He keeps a good assortment of live stock, has a comfortable residence, a good barn and all the other necessary buildings, and is surrounding himself and his family with everything needful for their comfort and enjoyment.

Our subject is the son of Joseph and Mary Ballarman, whose family consisted of three children, and of whom Joseph is the only survivor. The father, a farmer by occupation, spent his entire life upon his native soil, and died at the age of sixty-six years. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land many years before, dying in the prime of life, when her son Joseph was a little lad three years of age. He was reared by his father, and lived with him until attaining his majority. Not long afterward he set sail for the New World, making his way first to Hamilton County, Ohio, whence he migrated three years later to White County, Ind., thence he crossed the Mississippi into Monroe County, Iowa, employing himself there as a farm laborer two years.

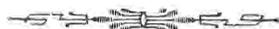
After the outbreak of the Rebellion our subject enlisted as a soldier in the Union Army in Company D, 22d Iowa Infantry, the company under command of Capt. Wilson, and the regiment under command of Col. Stone. The latter formed a portion of the 13th Army Corps, and our subject with his comrades subsequently met the rebels in many of the most important battles of the war, namely: at Gibson, Miss., May 1, 1863; Champion Hills, May 16; Black River Bridge, May 17; and the siege of Vicksburg, ending on the 4th of July, 1864. After forty days of almost continual fighting they moved to Jackson, Miss., meeting the enemy there July 17, 1863, and afterward our subject was at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864; at Fisher's Hill, September 22, and at Cedar Creek October 13 to 19 following.

Mr. Ballarman, although frequently in the thickest of the fight, escaped unhurt from the dangers of shot and shell, although the hardships and priva-

tions of army life had their natural effect upon his health. He reported for daily duty without fail, and at the close of the war received his honorable discharge at Savannah, Ga., July 25, 1865. Soon afterward he sought his old haunts in Monroe County, Iowa, where he was most properly welcomed as one of those who had done most patriotic service in behalf of their adopted country.

Leaving Iowa in the fall of 1865, our subject came to this county a single man. It was not very long, however, before he met the lady who became his wife, Miss Anna Sardnery, to whom he was married in Otoe County, Aug. 19, 1867. Mrs. Ballarman was born in the Empire of Austria July 2, 1840, and emigrated alone to America when a young lady of twenty-five years. She at once made her way westward to this county, and two years later became the wife of our subject. She is now the mother of seven children, two of whom, Anna and Theresa, died when very young. The survivors, Lizzie, Joseph G., Katie, Mary and John, are all at home with their parents.

It is hardly necessary to state that Mr. Ballarman is a fervent supporter of Republican principles. Both he and his excellent wife attend the Catholic Church at Rock Creek.



**G**EORGE S. BOTSFORD. The picture of the complete home is amply illustrated in the surroundings of the subject of this biography who, with his estimable wife, which comprises his family, is spending his declining years surrounded by all that makes life desirable. His has been a career eminently praiseworthy, filled in with industry and good deeds, during which he has built up for himself the record of an honest man and a good citizen. Providence has greatly blessed him in his labors, giving him strength of body and mind, enabling him not only to provide handsomely for his own necessities, but assist those less fortunate.

The modest dwelling of Mr. Botsford is attractive within and conveniently arranged, while without are orchards, groves, the smaller fruit trees and shrubbery, barns, cattle sheds, and all the other

buildings necessary for his own convenience, for the domestic animals and for the storage of grain. These are the results of the industry of the proprietor, who settled up his present homestead when the land had undergone very little cultivation. Of late years he has given much attention to stock-raising, and it has been remarked by those who have seen them that his swine are as fine as any to be seen in the State of Nebraska.

Next to a man's own personal record is that of those from whom he drew his origin. The parents of our subject, Elnathan and Zilpha (Terry) Botsford, were natives of Livingston County, N. Y.; the father was born near Livonia and the mother near Lima. Elnathan Botsford was a painter by trade, but died when a young man thirty-two years of age, in 1837, in his native town. The family included two sons only, our subject and his elder brother William. The latter, when a little lad six years of age, removed with an uncle to Seneca County, Ohio, and was joined there by the mother and George S. the year following, when the latter was five years old. The mother had been left in limited circumstances, and two years later contracted a second marriage, the issue of which was three more children. Two only of these are now living, and in this State.

George S. Botsford was born May 27, 1835, near Livonia, Livingston Co., N. Y., and after the second marriage of his mother was placed in charge of a guardian, Oliver Crockett, who proved a very kind man, and finding the boy not properly cared for, took him into his own home, where he remained until a youth of seventeen years. Mr. Crockett then gave him his choice of remaining with him or going into a store at Green Springs. He chose the latter, but on account of impaired health returned to Mr. Crockett and assisted him as well as he could in the tannery. Later, through the influence of his guardian, he secured a position as purchasing agent of an Eastern manufacturing company, which handled black walnut lumber. His duties then lay in Southern Michigan, to which he repaired, and was a resident of that section for one and one-half years.

In the spring of 1854 Mr. Botsford, then a man of nineteen years, crossed the Mississippi River and purchased 160 acres of land in Fayette County,

Iowa. He, however, did not settle upon this, but engaged as a stage driver from Dubuque to St. Paul, Minn., and driving four and six horses. Later, for a period of fifteen months, he drove a stage from West Union to Decorah, Iowa. This contract ended, he began hauling goods for a merchant at West Union to and from McGregor, Iowa, and was thus occupied until after the outbreak of the Civil War.

Mr. Botsford now sold out his teams and enlisted in the State Militia, expecting to join the first 75,000 men called for by President Lincoln. On the 8th of June, 1861, his regiment was sworn into the National service at Keokuk, Iowa. Mr. B. was a member of Company F, 3d Iowa Infantry, and after drilling awhile at Keokuk, Iowa, they departed first to Hannibal, Mo., and during the summer of 1861 his regiment was stationed as guards along the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railroad in Northern Missouri.

Our subject first saw the smoke of battle at Palmyra, Mo., in June, 1861; was at Ft. Henry, and was later at Ft. Donelson. At the latter place he first looked upon Gen. Grant, and declares that, notwithstanding reports, "the General was not drunk." Mr. Botsford subsequently fought at Pittsburg Landing, the siege of Corinth, and later was stationed with his regiment as a guard along the Charleston & Memphis Railroad.

The spring of 1863 saw the Army of the West moving toward Vicksburg, in the siege of which our subject participated. The winter of 1863-64 was passed in the vicinity of Natchez, Miss. The term of enlistment of Mr. B. having expired he veteranized, and was commissioned Orderly Sergeant. Subsequently he was appointed Sergeant Major. In March, 1864, he was given a furlough, and returning to Iowa settled up various business matters there, and upon rejoining his regiment marched with the army of Gen. Sherman to the sea. On the way there he fought at Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Dalton, Rome and Atlanta. For valiant service he was made Captain of Company B, and after the death of Lieut. Col. Jacob Abernathy, was placed in regimental command.

On the 21st and 22d of July, 1864, the regiment

of our subject lost heavily at the battle of Atlanta, and on account of their reduced numbers were made a part of the 2d Iowa, and Mr. Botsford was given a Captain's commission under Gov. Stone, with which rank he was mustered out at the close of the war. The 17th of January, 1865, found them returning North through the Carolinas, during which they marched through Goldsboro, and experienced the terrors of the dismal swamp, where the soldiers underwent great sufferings, being exposed to nightly frosts of great severity, and often making their way through mire and water knee deep. This naturally resulted in much sickness and death among the soldiers, and while at Goldsboro they received the news of Lee's surrender. This buoyed up the sinking spirits of the troops and gave them courage to push on to their destination. On account of his bravery and fidelity to duty Capt. Botsford was the recipient of the commission of Lieutenant Colonel, the papers reaching him although he was never sworn in.

Our subject looks upon this period of his life as an experience with which he would not willingly part, although it was one fraught with many hardships. Although he was remarkably fortunate in escaping wounds, sickness and death, the sufferings of those around him were such as to leave an ineffaceable impression upon his mind for all time to come. He became intimately acquainted with the brave Gen. McPherson during his boyhood, but with his characteristic modesty he never made his presence known to the General, and it was only by accident that the latter learned in the third year of his service that his old boyhood acquaintance was in the same division. Capt. Botsford marched with his comrades to Washington, and had the pleasure of being present at the grand review, and of marching with his company through the streets of Davenport, Iowa, where they were honorably discharged on the 19th of July, 1865.

Our subject now returning to Fayette County, went from there in August following to Sandusky County, Ohio, where he occupied himself at farming until March, 1869. At this place he met his future wife, Miss Agnes Scattergood, to whom he was married at Waterloo, Ind., March 24, 1869. Mrs. Botsford was born Aug. 4, 1848, at Elyria,

Ohio, where she attended the common schools; she was deprived by death of her affectionate mother when a young girl of fifteen years. She then kept house for her father until his second marriage, when she was permitted to resume her studies in the High School at Clyde.

Mrs. Botsford now also commenced teaching, although at the same time pursuing her studies, and thus taught and attended school for five years before her marriage. Our subject and his wife afterward took up their residence at Waterloo, Ind., where they lived until coming to this State. In the spring of 1873 they settled in a little log house on eighty acres of land which is now included in their present farm. Here they commenced to live in true pioneer style, laboring early and late in the building up of their homestead and the cultivation of the land. The first dwelling in 1874 was replaced by the present tasteful residence, and there gradually grew up around it the buildings adjacent, and fruit and shade trees which add so much to the attractions and the value of the property.

Mrs. Botsford is the daughter of Charles W. and Lucinda (Reynolds) Scattergood, the former a native of Sheffield, England, and the latter of Essex County, N. Y. Mr. Scattergood crossed the Atlantic when a lad twelve years of age with his parents, who settled in Ohio. He was married to Miss Reynolds at Elyria, Ohio. They left the Buckeye State about 1868 and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Waterloo, Ind., where he now resides, being seventy-one years of age. The six children of the parental family were named respectively: Irwin, Agnes, Viola, Eva, George and Harrison. Of these four are living, and three reside at Waterloo, Ind. Mr. and Mrs. Botsford have no children, but their home is the frequent resort of the many friends whom they have gathered around them during their long and pleasant lives.

**G**EORGE HARTMAN, who has been identified with Syracuse Precinct since February, 1880, resides on section 17, within about a half-mile of the town of Syracuse, and is one of the enterprising, intelligent and prosperous farmers and

stock-raisers of the district. He was born in Sussex County, N. J., within forty miles of the city of Philadelphia, on the 1st of November, 1811. The Hartman family is of German extraction, although for many years its members on this side of the Atlantic have been numbered among the substantial and valued citizens of the United States.

The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, came from Germany and settled in New Jersey more than 150 years ago, and was the first representative of the family to cross the Atlantic with the view of making his home here. His son, John Hartman, the grandfather of our subject, was born in New Jersey, of which State he was a citizen until his death, which occurred in the year 1818. He followed successfully throughout his long life the trade of a blacksmith, and had a large business connection. The home circle was quite large, and all the children attained to from sixty to ninety years of age.

The father of our subject, Peter Hartman, was born upon the old homestead in Sussex County, and was there brought up, learning the trade of his father and also farming. He became the husband of Betsey Pickle, also of German ancestry, and a true and faithful helpmate. In 1816 this family removed to Lycoming County, Pa., and there settled upon a farm in the vicinity of three of his brothers, who were each operating farms there. At that home Peter Hartman passed the remainder of his life, dying at the very advanced age of ninety-four years, his wife having died a few years previously. She had attained the good old age of eighty-four years.

The mother of our subject gave birth to eighteen children, two of whom died while quite small, and six sons and four daughters are still living. Our subject is the second eldest child. The first-born was John, who is still living, in Lycoming County, Pa., and was born in the year 1809. With the exception of our subject all are living in the same county. The family record gives the other members of the family as follows: Katie, Julia A., Deborah (deceased), Hettie, Peter, Polly (deceased), Barbara, Rosella, Mathia, William, Elizabeth and Amia (both deceased) and Mathias.

The subject of our sketch grew to manhood in

Lycoming County, and received what schooling was obtainable in the same district. When sixteen years of age he helped to build a school-house, which was the first in the neighborhood, and upon its completion seized this the first opportunity of attending school. When twenty-two years of age he entered the married state, and became the husband of Sarah Follmer, who was also born and brought up in the same place as Mr. Hartman. She was the daughter of William and Katie (Scwartz) Follmer.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Hartman has been consummated by the birth of fourteen children, all of whom grew up to mature years. Their names are recorded as follows: Henry; Sarah J., who married L. Hayes, and after his death was united with H. Lake, but is now deceased; John F., who died in Nebraska in 1880, leaving nine children; Catherine A., now the wife of Robert Forsman; William, who died during the late war; Margaret A., who died in September, 1888; George, who served during the war, and after spending six months in prison died almost immediately at the close of hostilities; Peter, now deceased; Mary E., wife of Hiram Wise; Thomas L.; Emma R. and Clara L., both deceased; Ephraim P., and Hattie W., Mrs. S. E. Brown, of Syracuse.

Mr. Hartman's mother was the daughter of Peter and Mary (Kester) Swartz, who was brought from Germany and sold as a slave to pay his passage. Subsequently, however, he became one of the substantial members of the community, and owner of a large distillery and gristmill, and had a very fine home in Lycoming County. The Follmer family also came from Germany.

Life in the present decade is more changed from that of the beginning of the century than we can even imagine, and the change can hardly be said to have been gradual. Mr. and Mrs. Hartman were in the age and among the people who were not reached by any such conveniences as are presented by the modern dry-goods factories and stores. Whatever material was required for the person or home was woven by the good wife, and it became a matter of worthy ambition and laudable pride to have the reputation among neighbors and friends of being the best spinner and weaver, a reputation that justly came and belonged to Mrs. Hartman.

Our subject helped to clear the forest from the

surface of the land in order that it might become suitable for farming purposes, and all the hardships and toil, incident to what, looking back, seems to be comparatively a primitive order of things, were endured, undergone, and triumphed over by the hardy pioneers of that day. There were pleasures, however, that are to us unknown, as, for instance, that of the long winter evenings spent by the old open fireplace, with its huge blazing log, the father repairing or fixing some broken or injured implement, or perchance cleaning his gun ready for the morrow; children variously employed in childish frolic or the discharge of some light duty, and the mother with affectionate, watchful care, busy at the wheel.

The great-grandfather of Mrs. Hartman, Frederick Follmer, came from Germany about the year 1776. He was accompanied by a brother. One hundred years later a family reunion was arranged, and the descendants numbered about 800. The grandfather of Mrs. Hartman, Adam Follmer, was born in Pennsylvania, as was also his son William.

Fourteen years after the marriage of our subject he purchased a farm in Lycoming County, Pa. Until that time he had rented a farm in that county. In 1880, leaving the home that had become endeared to him by family reminiscences and ineffaceable memories, our subject turned his face to the Far West, came to this State, and took land in this county, where he now resides. After a long season of frontier life and pioneer work, which was in many ways a repetition of previous experiences, the land was cleared and improved, and the regular farm life commenced, but so different in every way as to be almost inconceivable in the greatness of the contrast of farming in a new country and farming in an old, staid and established community.

The first railroad ties for the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, at Williamsport, were cut on the farm of our subject. He is the owner of 320 acres, which was their first purchase; 120 was sold to one of the sons. The farm is in every way well provided for, carefully tended, and splendidly cultivated and highly fertile. All the improvements made, including the excellent farm buildings, extensive orchard, and really fine dwelling, are the work of Mr. Hartman, and he has

given to the place the appearance of property that has been under the domination of a master-hand for at least a score of years, instead of the brief space of time that has really passed since possession was taken.

Mrs. Hartman deserves all the generous expressions of appreciation freely pronounced in her favor as a friend, neighbor and true woman. If her husband has accomplished much upon the farm, she has done even more than her full part in the home and in filling the obligations that came to her in the domestic relation. Few members of her sex, perhaps, have done more real hard work than she. Her home has always been her first care, and it has been her pleasure to make it and keep it in the best possible manner. Not only has she taken the raw material and worked it from one stage to another until it was ready for use as wearing apparel, or for the various requirements of the home, but after it has served these offices she has wrought a transformation that has made it useful as a carpet, and has cut and prepared sufficient material, and from it woven over 500 yards of that both useful and ornamental article, the rag carpet.

This interesting family occupy a place in the community and county that is worthy of more extended remark, and in religious and social circles its members are well known and received, and enjoy a most desirable reputation and character.



**R**EUBEN WHITTAKER is one of the extensive and prosperous agriculturists of Belmont Precinct. He was born in Caroline County, Va., on the 29th of December, 1831. His father, Reuben Whittaker, was also a Virginian, although of English descent, as was also his wife, whose maiden name was Priscilla Saunders. The occupation of the father was a farmer, and our subject was reared upon the home farm.

Such education as our subject could obtain as a boy was received in one of the primitive school-houses, where the chief building materials employed were the logs from the neighboring clearing and mud cement from the stream. The internal arrangements were equally rough, but then they served

their purpose, and there went from these houses men who have made their mark in every part of the world's great field of battle.

Mr. Whittaker went to Licking County, Ohio, in the year 1846, and settled at Etna, which is situated upon the National Park. Subsequently he went to Franklin County, in the same State, and worked upon a farm for three years. Then he went South to Louisiana and other Southern States, and also for a time worked on a flatboat on the river. He went to Illinois in 1852, and for two years lived in Winnebago County, near the town of Rockford. From there he went to his uncle in Northeastern Iowa, and in 1856 came to this county and settled on the southeast quarter of section 36, in Delaware Precinct.

In the fall of 1857 our subject took the place he now farms, built a residence and settled there. It was wild land at that time, and he was compelled to hunt for the line and the corners of his property by the help of a pocket compass, and then stepping the distance. Indians were not at all unusual visitors, but beyond causing his wife an occasional fright in his absence, gave very little trouble. From that time until the present he has patiently gone on with the good work of improving his property, and building up and solidifying his interests. He now owns 400 acres, and uses the same for general farming and stock-raising, giving the chief importance to the latter. His stock are chiefly high-grade Short-horn cattle and Poland-China hogs.

On the 29th of December, 1857, Mr. Whittaker was married to Jane, daughter of Thomas and Jane (Dunbar) Wilson. They came here from Canada in 1856, and she was the eldest of eleven children born to her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker became the parents of eleven children, six living—Thomas R., Priscilla, Nancy E., Merinda, Silas A. and Ada M. One daughter, Rebecca, was married to John St. Clair, and died leaving two children, one of whom, Walter, is still living; the other members of the family were John, Ida, William H. and Elizabeth. The eldest son, Thomas, married Fannie Cooper, and now lives at Delta, in this county, and has two children, Roy and Eugene; Priscilla is the wife of Samuel Lowery, of McWilliams Precinct, and the mother of three children—May, Myrtle and Ida;





*Carrie Davenport*

Nancy is now Mrs. John Buckridge, of Rock Creek Precinct; Merinda married Mr. Edward J. Cooper, of Delta, and has one child, to whom is given the name Kate.

Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker are members of the Baptist Church, and attend at Delta. They have been connected with the Baptist communion for twenty years. Our subject has never taken any prominent part in political affairs, although he is a true and loyal citizen, and always votes the Republican ticket.



**M**RS. CARRIE DAVENPORT. This lady occupies a comfortable and tasteful home adjacent to the village of Syracuse, and is noted for her superior business qualifications, and as a person of more than ordinary intelligence. She is the only living representative of her family, her three brothers having died early in life. She was born in Wayne County, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1838, and is the daughter of Joshua and Adelia (Wilson) Bonney, who were natives of Connecticut, where the father spent his last years. The mother still survives, and lives in Cornwall, that State. When she was a child of eighteen months the parents of Mrs. Davenport returned to Connecticut, where the father closed his eyes upon the soil of the State which gave him birth.

The Bonney family were people who stood high in their community, and Miss Carrie was given a good education, and continued a member of her father's household until her first marriage, with Lewis Jessup, who was an eminent and popular minister of the Congregational Church, presiding over a parish at Millbury, Mass. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jessup, one of whom, a son Charles, died when five years old; the other, Mary I., is now the wife of C. W. Beach, of Auburn, this State.

The subject of this sketch at an early age gave evidence of superior mental endowments, and was at different times proffered lucrative and responsible positions, three times with leading insurance companies with a liberal salary, but there being no necessity for thus leaving home and friends, she

declined. Subsequently, upon the urgent solicitation of the publisher of Kitts' History of the Bible, she consented to a month's trial, and after a vigorous canvass sold nearly 300 books in territory where a gentleman had met with total failure.

In the summer of 1871 Mrs. Davenport repaired to New York City, and during a period of ten months cleared \$2,200 at the business of preserving funeral flowers. Later she invented and secured the patent on a compartment kettle for cooking purposes, which she handled with success, both in selling territory and in organizing stock companies for the purpose of its manufacture. In 1878 she came to Nebraska as general agent for an oil stove, and soon sold even more than its commission houses in Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco combined.

During her first visit to Nebraska Mrs. Davenport purchased 200 acres of land, of which she retained possession until 1880, then sold it and purchased the farm which she now owns and occupies, and which is devoted to stock-raising, the stock consisting of road horses and Jersey-Red swine. Besides the 225 acres which she owns, Mrs. Davenport leases 320 acres additional, the whole of which she manages in a remarkably successful manner. Indeed she has been successful at whatever she has undertaken.

In the spring of 1881 the subject of this sketch returned to Connecticut, and was united in marriage with Joseph Davenport, a gentleman who for many years was variously engaged and amassed a fortune. He was born in Franklin County, Mass., Sept. 25, 1806, and is the son of Edward and Betsey (Adams) Davenport, natives of New England. The father was a minister of the Baptist Church, and a descendant of the celebrated Adams family, who at an early day were prominent among the aristocracy of Massachusetts and Connecticut. In the boyhood days of Mr. Davenport cloth for the family use was manufactured in the household, while the tailor and the shoemaker called from house to house, and taking this material made it up for the family. Joseph at an early period in his life saw the necessity of money as a medium of exchange, and set about earning the same as soon as he was able. He learned the art of grafting fruit trees,

and in pursuance of this business traveled over considerable territory in the East, and at the same time visited many manufacturing establishments, where he obtained all the information he possibly could concerning machinery and its workings. He also at the same time realized the importance of a home market, and proposed to a moneyed friend that if the latter would build a cotton factory he would furnish the land and water power, and add to the enterprise a foundry. The proposal was accepted, the machinery speedily put in operation, and from this humble beginning the town of Colerain, Mass., sprang into existence. Mr. Davenport having accomplished his object, sold the foundry later for about what it cost him, and in 1837, disposing of other interests in the Bay State, removed to Hartford, Conn., and establishing a nursery, began the propagation of a vast number of mulberry trees, the natural food of the silk worm, and which industry he believed might be profitable. He sold a quantity of trees throughout the country, and invested a portion of the proceeds in valuable property in Connecticut, and land in some of the Western States.

In 1870 Mr. Davenport found himself a millionaire. He was also numbered among the leading citizens of Hartford, whose endorsement on paper made it acceptable at all the banks to any amount. He subsequently met with reverses, and in 1888 retired from active business. While a resident of Syracuse he devoted 180 acres to the raising of cucumber seeds, which brought him the snug sum of \$4,700. Like his wife, he is a man of large intellectual endowments, and in earlier years there was scarcely a subject upon which he could not converse intelligently. Self-educated and well informed, he was alike at home in the field of science, politics and religion, and could hold his end of the argument with the most learned professor. He was in the earlier days a member of the old Whig party, but later endorses Republican doctrines. He is now a strong Protectionist, and amply able to give reasons for being so.

Mr. Davenport was for many years a leading member of the Baptist Church at Hartford. In addition to his other capacities he has given to the world many useful inventions, possessing this ge-

nium in a ratio equal to that of his gifted wife. Mr. and Mrs. Davenport are a remarkable pair, and in this respect one has been largely the assistant of the other. We take pleasure in presenting the sketch of Mrs. Davenport, as that of one of the first ladies of Eastern Nebraska.



**H**ON. JOSEPH W. TALBOT is the proprietor of the elegant boot and shoe emporium of Syracuse. He is a native of Lockport, N. Y., and was born March 4, 1829. His parents, Joseph and Hannah (Wilson) Talbot, were natives of Vermont, but of English ancestry, their parents having come from that country and made their home in the Empire State. The father of our subject was by occupation a farmer, and continued therein until he had passed the prime of life, and then engaged in the hotel business. He died in Batavia, N. Y., in the year 1833. Subsequent to her bereavement the mother of our subject emigrated with her children to Barry County, Mich., and settled upon a farm, where she eventually died, leaving ten children, all of whom grew to the estate of man and womanhood, and their names are recorded as follows: David, Mary, Lucy, Joseph, Hannah, Sarah, Wealthy, George, Zilphia and John B. The last four are deceased.

Our subject was but four years of age when his father died and thirteen when the removal was made to Michigan, where he grew to manhood. He received a good, practical, English education in the common schools, and was considered capable of exchanging the scholar's desk for the teacher's, and in this occupation he evinced considerable aptitude and talent. In 1860 he removed to this State, and two years later settled upon section 2, Syracuse Precinct, where he owns 160 acres of excellent, arable land. He was again occupied as a teacher, devoting his attention to his farm when not thus engaged. Thus he continued until 1882; by that time the children whom he had instructed had grown up and had qualified themselves for teaching, and he retired from the profession. In 1885 Mr. Talbot established the store which he has since continued with a largely increasing patronage. The

success that had been his in previous occupations did not leave him when he took up this engagement, and he is more than ever appreciated by those who have made acquaintance with him therein. He, however, still continues to operate his farm, of which mention was made above.

The subject of our sketch was married in the year 1859; the lady of his choice was Evelyn Reeves, who is the daughter of James and Alvira Reeves, natives of New York. She was born in Ohio, and was still an infant when the family removed to LaPorte County, Ind., and subsequently to Pulaski County. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Talbot has been rendered more felicitous, and their happiness more complete by the birth of their three children, Selma G., Earl R. and Guy D., who have manifested dispositions and personal traits that are at once the pleasure and hope of their parents. Our subject has given his children an excellent education; the eldest is a graduate of the State University of Lincoln, and is engaged in teaching in the Seward High School; Earl has attended the university, but his education is not yet completed. He is preparing to enter the legal profession.

The subject of our sketch was selected by the people of his district in 1869 to represent them in the Legislature, and he served in the session of 1869-70 in a manner most complimentary to himself and gratifying to his constituents. In former years he was an affiliate of the Republican party, but being impressed by the position of the Prohibition party and the issues at stake, he has become a member of the same. He is a man of no small influence in the community, where his high personal character, unimpeachable business honor and courteous affability have won for him the highest esteem and regard.



**J**EROME LATHROP. The farming community of Belmont Precinct acknowledges in this gentleman one of its most esteemed members and prosperous agriculturists. He is comfortably located on section 13, where he has 160 acres of land, and to which he came in the spring of 1861. The offspring of a good family, he was born in LeRoy, Genesee Co., N. Y., June 20,

1826, and is the son of Abiel and Ordella (Beckley) Lathrop, the former a native of Vermont, and a millwright and miller by trade.

The father of our subject put up a large number of mills in the Empire State, including buildings at LeRoy, Warsaw and Cattaraugus Falls. He changed his residence in 1836 to LaPorte County, Ind., and also at the same time changed his occupation, taking up farming. The country was wild and new at that time, and he experienced all the hardships and difficulties of the early pioneer. After the lapse of twelve months his health became seriously impaired, and he was unfitted for active labor, although he lived several years, and until the advanced age of seventy-six, dying in 1874. The mother passed away at the old homestead in 1888. Of their children, six in number, five are now living.

The subject of this sketch completed his education in the schools of Kingsbury, LaPorte Co., Ind., where he also became intimately acquainted with the employments incident to farm life; with these he has also been since occupied. He came to this county in the fall of 1860, and settled on his present farm the following year. The first winter west of the Mississippi he spent in the embryo town of Osceola, Clarke Co., Iowa, when the settlements of white men were few and far between. The country around was wild and new in Iowa as well as Nebraska.

Upon coming to this county our subject sheltered himself and his family in a small brick house, around which was broken about forty acres of land. Indians were numerous and often called at their door upon various pretenses, but otherwise than begging for something to eat or some article of clothing which they fancied, gave them very little trouble or apprehension. Mr. Lathrop and his wife endeavored to treat them kindly and they were susceptible to this.

Our subject, while a resident of Indiana, had been married, April 2, 1850, to Miss Mary Angeline Pratt, who was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., in 1825. She was the daughter of Lyman and Sallie Pratt, who were natives of New York, and are now dead.

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop there were born six children, two only of whom are living—

Ellen J. and Ida M. The former married John W. Gilmore, a farmer of Thomas County, Kan., and has three daughters—Nettie, Carrie and Elizabeth. Ida is the wife of Frank Forber, of Beatrice, Neb., and the mother of two daughters and a son—Fanny, Mamie and Jerome. Mrs. Mary Angeline Lathrop departed this life at her home in Belmont Precinct, on the 5th of August, 1864.

Our subject contracted a second marriage, Sept. 12, 1865, with Miss Ann Eliza Warren, who was born in 1842, in New York State, and is the daughter of Nathaniel and Etza A. (Willson) Warren, who were natives of New York; the father is living, but the mother is dead. The wedding took place at the home of the bride in Newark, Rock Co., Wis. Of this union there have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, namely: Warren, Jay W., Agnes E., Orrin J., Mark N., George M. and Carl W. Mr. Lathrop is a member in good standing of the Baptist Church, together with his excellent wife, as also was his first partner. He takes a warm interest in the success of the temperance movement, and gives his political support to the Prohibition party. He has served as Assessor three terms in his precinct, and this is the extent of his office-holding, as he has refused all further responsibility in this direction.

Mr. Lathrop, in 1870, erected one of the finest brick farm residences in Otoe County. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and its surroundings are in keeping with the taste and means of the proprietor. Mrs. Lathrop, in her own right, is the owner of 160 acres in Thomas County, Kan., and a fine timber claim also belongs to the estate.

**B**ENJAMIN S. MOTHERSEAD, proprietor of the Talmage Hotel in the town of that name, and one of the highly respected citizens, has resided in the district since the town was platted. He has been one of the active citizens in promoting the interests of the county, and was one of the first members to sit on the Village Board, and was there at the time it received the charter. He came to the county in 1864, and located upon a farm which he operated for a num-

ber of years, afterward renting the place, and in 1865 purchased property in Four Mile Precinct. He lived on it for about seventeen years, effected considerable improvement, and was financially successful.

The subject of our sketch was born in Kentucky, near Frankfort, on the 15th of March, 1835. His father, Nathaniel Mothersead, was born in England, and came to this country when but a lad, and was brought up in Virginia. There, also, later he was married to Miss Mary S. Seward, who was born and brought up in Virginia but of English descent. The husband and wife started out in life together making their home in Kentucky, and the father of our subject took land and began to operate it. There were born and brought up eight children, three of whom were sons. Of this family our subject was the youngest child.

The parents of our subject, with their children, subsequently removed to Missouri, locating in Gentry County, and there made the home that was theirs for the remainder of life. Both were consistent members of the Baptist Church for many years, and were active in its support. The father was a sound Democrat, and represented his county in the State Legislature in 1856, and also in 1858. He was elected to the State Senate in 1858, and represented the district embracing the counties of Buchanan, DeKalb, Harrison, Gentry and Worth. In 1860 he was appointed County Enroller of the Census for Gentry, but died during that year. He was also prominent in the Masonic fraternity, and highly respected among the members of the order, as he was in every other relation.

The subject of our sketch grew up at home until the year 1852, when he, in company with several others, set out from St. Joseph, and went across the plains to California, and after six months' travel landed in Sacramento. Before long our subject went to Virginia City, Nev., and for four years was in the mining district there. He then returned to California and traveled considerably in that State, and afterward went back by the water route. In 1858 he made a second trip to California, returning the following year, making his home in Missouri for about twelve months. He then went to Montana, remaining until 1864, when he returned over-

land. He was a true pioneer, and his life is filled with thrilling experiences and amusing incidents. He has been in several rich mines, the richest being owned by a company of which he was a member, and which would "pan out" \$30 per day to a single "drifter."

Mr. Mothersead was united in marriage while a resident in Gentry County, the lady being Hannah Jones, who was born in that district in the year 1842. Her family was of Eastern origin, her father, Jacob Jones, having been a resident of New York State, but for many years has lived in Missouri, where he still resides, and has reached the age of ninety-two years. His daughter Hannah was educated and brought up in Gentry County; her mother, also a native of New York, is also living, and is in her seventy-fourth year.

To our subject and wife there have come seven children: Andrew J., who is married to Miss Mary Staid, of Missouri, but now living in Lincoln County; Fanny E.; Ida, the wife of George Davis, of Talmage; Lizzie, now Mrs. Fred Scammell, of Atchison; Charles D., who resides at home and is engaged in the study of pharmacy; Mary, a successful teacher in Osage Precinct, and Frank, who is clerking in a general store at Cook.

Mr. and Mrs. Mothersead are members in good standing of the Christian Church; he is one of the active local politicians, espousing the principles of the Democratic party, and during the past four years has served as a member of the School Board.



**W**ILLIAM H. MOORE, a pioneer of Otoe County, came with his mother and stepfather early in the spring of the year 1854. His stepfather had previously viewed the ground in 1853. At that period the place was known as Ft. Kearney, Maj. Downs being the Commandant. Mr. Moore has been associated with the varied interests of the rising State of Nebraska for many years, and was residing in it in the early days of pioneerdom. He was born in Richmond, Ind., on the 18th of May, 1847. His father, Zimri Moore, was also born in the Hoosier State, his father, Samuel Moore, grandfather of our subject, having set-

tled in Wayne County when the State was first opened for settlement. He cleared himself a farm from the dense forests and undergrowth, and continued to reside there until his death.

It was on the above-mentioned farm that the father of our subject was reared and married, and settled in the vicinity. His home was there until his death, which occurred in 1850. His wife, whose maiden name was Ruth McPherson, died in Nebraska when her son William H. was eleven years old. After the death of her first husband she married Daniel Walker, and with him came to Nebraska. By her last husband she had three children. Her father, Joseph McPherson, was one of the pioneers of Wayne County, and of Scottish parentage. The mother of our subject and his stepfather came to the Territory of Nebraska in 1854, and located near what is now known as Minersville. The place was then overrun by Indians, and it was necessary to keep on friendly terms. The better to effect this he made them a present of three hogs from his little drove that he had brought along from Fremont County, Iowa.

Mr. Walker cleared a considerable tract of land, and erected his house on the northeast part of what is now Otoe Precinct. He made a business of making clapboards, which he sold to the settlers and in Nebraska City to shingle their buildings. They sold for \$1 per hundred, and he could make several hundred per day, so that it was quite profitable. He continued to reside in that place a little more than a year, then removed to Camp Creek, where he settled on section 27 of Otoe Precinct, where the mother of our subject died in 1857, after which event Mr. Walker sold the claim, and took a claim on the river bottom. Later he enlisted in the 1st Nebraska Regiment and went South, and there died in the service.

At the time the Western migration was made our subject was in his sixth year, and his home was with his mother until her death. In Nebraska there were no settlers at the time, and it was still chiefly occupied by the Indians. After the death of his mother he went to live with Mr. Absalom Tipton in Wyoming Precinct, working during the summer upon the farm, and attending school during the winter months. He continued to make his

home there until 1861, and then engaged with Maj. Russell and Waddell, the Government freighters, to drive teams across the plains for them, and continued thus for two years, making four round trips across the plains to Ft. Laramie and Denver and Bitter Cottonwood.

In 1863 Mr. Moore engaged in mining in Colorado, but in 1864 returned to his teaming, which he continued until 1867, when the Union Pacific Railroad was completed as far as Cheyenne, and freighting of course ceased. He then returned to mining, and worked at Georgetown, Col., continuing there for seven years, and has continued to hold interests there ever since, but the high altitude affecting his health he was obliged to return East. His mining interests have proved very profitable.

June 6, 1874, the subject of our sketch became the husband of Emma C. Cowles, who was born to Charles H. and Mary (Martin) Cowles (see sketch) at Lindell, Mo., on the 29th of July, 1852. Their union has been consummated by the birth of three children, viz: Jessie, Mark and James. Mrs. Moore is an attractive and educated lady of happy disposition, and faithful to the responsibilities devolving upon her in the domestic relation.

For several years the subject of our sketch owned a fine, well-cultivated farm in Wyoming Precinct, which he recently sold to his brother-in-law, C. C. Cowles. He is the owner of about 400 acres in the bottoms in Wyoming Precinct. Politically, he is a staunch Republican.



**J**AMES E. BROWN. Upon section 14, Wyoming Precinct, lies the highly productive and well-cultivated farm of the subject of our sketch. It comprises eighty acres. He owns also a similar number of acres on section 22, which also is thoroughly improved. Our subject was born in Huntingdon County, Pa., on the 21st of March, 1838. He was eight years of age when his parents migrated to Allegheny City, Pa.

Our subject is the fifth child of James and Silvinia (Van Vliett) Brown, both of whom were natives of Huntingdon County. Upon the father's side the family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and upon

that of the mother of Holland Dutch. Mr. Brown, Sr., was a shoemaker by trade. This he followed with a fair measure of success, and continued to work at it until, in 1881, having become totally blind, he was compelled to give it up, and then went to live with our subject. He departed this life on the 12th of September, 1887, being then eighty-six years of age. In the War of the Rebellion he served bravely and well, in the 139th Pennsylvania Infantry. He was a life member of the Presbyterian Church, and very strict and conscientious in his everyday life. Politically, he was first a Whig and then a Republican. The mother of our subject is living in Allegheny with her children, and is eighty years of age. Like her husband, she has been a devout member of the Presbyterian Church from her youth.

The first seventeen years of the life of our subject were spent at home, but at that time he was anxious to move westward. Accordingly he started upon his journey in the month of May, 1855, crossed the Missouri River to Plattsmouth, and then located at Nebraska City. He soon found employment, but later joined the first Government surveying party sent out to this State. While in their company he had abundant opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Indians, their mode of living, etc., not omitting their dislike of and treachery to the "pale face," and has some experience of both. He was a volunteer under O. P. Mason to suppress the Indian raiders. Upon leaving the surveying party he pre-empted a tract of land, and farmed until the wave of excitement concerning Pike's Peak swept over the country. He then spent two years in Colorado in the gold mines; afterward he was some time in Idaho. Returning in 1865 to this county, he located upon his farm in Wyoming Precinct.

In Wyoming Precinct, May 24, 1864, Mr. Brown was united in wedlock with Julia E. Bishop, who was born in Portage County, Ohio, Nov. 3, 1838, to the Rev. James and Julia (Allen) Bishop, natives respectively of Connecticut and Vermont. Her mother was a direct descendant of the old Ethan Allen of Revolutionary fame. Her parents were married in Ohio, and began life in agricultural and dairy pursuits; later her father devoted part of

his time to the ministry of the Methodist Church. In 1839 they moved to DeKalb County, Ill., and for some years resided there, then went to LaFayette County, Wis. They resided in that State until 1856, when they came to Nebraska, and settled near Tecumseh in what is now Johnson County, and were the first actual settlers of the county. Some time afterward they came to Wyoming Precinct in this county, where the mother, after a life of sixty-one years, went to her last rest in the year 1863. The father subsequently went to Nemaha County, where he died in January, 1883, being eighty-one years of age.

Mrs. Brown it will be seen by the above has spent her early years in different places as indicated by the removals of her parents. By the time she was seventeen years of age she had prepared herself for teaching, and this profession she followed until her marriage. She has presented her husband with five children. Their first-born, Fannie, died when nine years of age; the following are the surviving children: William T. is attending the University at Lincoln, and is a very promising student and is fitting himself for the ministry of the Episcopal Church, to which he belongs; the other three children, Charles S., Florence M. and Jonathan E., are still at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown are regular attendants of the Episcopal Church, and are also interested in the Prohibition movement, and our subject is in political affairs a third party man. He has filled with satisfaction to all the position of Assessor of the precinct. He is a man largely respected for his high character and also by reason of his social position.

there grew up to manhood. After his marriage with Miss Ann McNulty, likewise a native of Ireland, he came to America and settled in New Jersey. He there worked at the trade of blacksmith, and about the year 1836 moved to the Territory of Wisconsin, and located in LaFayette County. The country round about was at that time but sparsely settled; mining was the principal industry, and but little attention had been paid to agriculture. Mr. Duff was prosperously engaged there at his trade until his death in 1852. He was an honorable, intelligent, hard-working man, and highly esteemed by his neighbors and friends. His wife now makes her home with her children, who surround her with every comfort that thoughtful love can devise to make her declining years pleasant and peaceful.

The subject of this brief life record was only ten years old when he had the misfortune to lose his father, and he lived with his mother until he was fifteen years old. He was a lad of more than ordinary ambition and enterprise, was gifted with a fine mental capacity, and at that age started out in life for himself. He went to Elkader, Clayton Co., Iowa, and obtained employment as a clerk in a general store, and was thus engaged until he was twenty years old. At that youthful age he was already influential in public affairs, and in recognition of his financial and business ability, he was appointed to the office of Deputy Treasurer and Recorder of Clayton County, whose duties he discharged with gratifying success for four years, or until ill-health compelled him to seek the beneficial air of California for healing. He spent a year and a half in the Golden State, and then returned to the State of Iowa, and was made Deputy Clerk of Clayton County. He held that office until the office of County Auditor was created, when he was appointed to that position, and later was re-elected to the same office, which he held continuously for three years, acquitting himself in that responsible public charge with distinction. After that he was engaged with Russell & Co., of Massillon, Ohio, as general collector in the Northwestern States. He traveled in the interests of that company for two or three years, and then took charge of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul right of way affairs in

**M**E. DUFF is a member of the firm of Duff, Bartling & Co., prominent grain dealers of Nebraska City. He is a man of wide experience, of much practical sagacity, is a sound financier, and, although he has been a resident of this place but a little over two years, he has already gained an assured position in its business circles. He was born in LaFayette County, Wis., of which his father, Christopher Duff, was an early settler. The latter was a native of Ireland, and

Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota. For five years he was thus employed, and subsequently superintended the sale of their lands in Minnesota, closing them out to a syndicate in a few months. After that he was in an insurance office in Chicago for two years, and in 1886 he came from that city to this, and formed his present partnership with his brother, N. A. Duff, and H. H. Bartling, and has since been actively engaged in buying and shipping grain from this point.

Mr. Duff has established an attractive, cozy home here, and his wife, to whom he was united in marriage here in August, 1872, cordially unites with him in extending its pleasant hospitality to the friend or stranger who crosses its threshold. Mrs. Duff was formerly Miss Mary F. Odell, and she is a native of Indiana. Of this union two children have been born—Edwin A. and Reba. Mrs. Duff is a valued member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, Mr. Duff is identified with the Republican party, as he firmly believes its policy to be the true one for the safe guidance of National affairs.



**D**AVID BRADDOCK is one of the esteemed citizens, prosperous men, and able Justices of the Peace of South Branch Precinct. His home is upon section 24, and stands upon a farm of 160 acres. His father, Marton Braddock, was born in Knox County, Ohio, in the year 1823, and was there an extensive land-owner and successful farmer. His wife, Delilah (Lepley) Braddock, was born near the same place in 1828.

The great-grandfather of our subject came from England, and settled in Virginia in Colonial days, and served under Gen. Washington in the Revolutionary War, being one of the first to enter, and continuing until the end of the chapter. His son William, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Virginia, and continued there throughout his life.

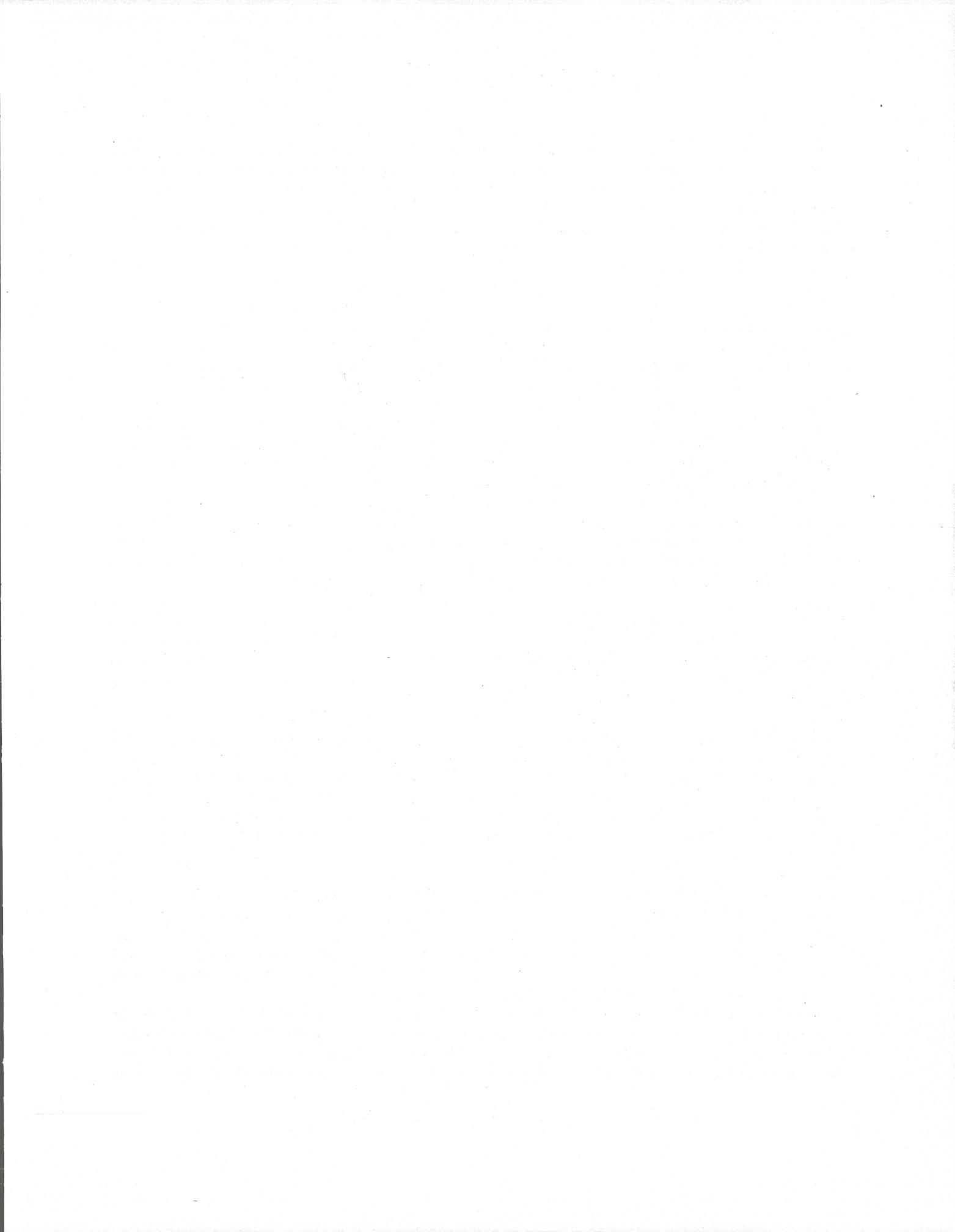
The father of our subject moved with his family from Ohio to Mahaska, Iowa, in the year 1850, and staid for eighteen months, and was one of the pioneers. At the end of that period he removed to Marshall County in the same State, and in the spring

of 1852 entered 160 acres of land, and is a wealthy citizen, now owning 400 acres of well-stocked and finely improved land. His dwelling cost him \$8,000, and all the other buildings in proportion. He is a well-informed citizen, and sustains a reputation for liberality. His family circle includes eleven children, whose names are as follows: David, John, Mary, Martha, William, Anginora, Lizzie, James F., Harvey T., Anna and Edward.

The subject of our sketch was born in Knox County, Ohio, on the 3d of June, 1850. With his father he went to Iowa upon his removal to that State, and continued to live with his parents until he attained his majority. He attended the classes of his school of the district, and also took a course of instruction at Albion Seminary in 1871 and 1872. In 1874 he took a trip across the plains, through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Colorado and Iowa, and then began farming near his old home, continuing the same until 1879. Then he came to this county, and located upon the farm he now occupies. The ground was entirely unimproved, and in a thoroughly native condition. His residence and farm buildings are worthy of mention, the groves of shade and forest trees cover seven acres, the orchard comprising about 230 excellent bearing trees, besides numerous other works and improvements.

While a resident of Marietta, Iowa, Mr. Braddock was joined in matrimony with Dora M. Ritenour on the 27th of February, 1879. This lady is the daughter of William and Daphna M. Taft, who were natives of Vermont and Ohio respectively, and were married in the latter State. Her father was by occupation a farmer, and at the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted from Ohio, and died at Murfreesboro, Tenn. Her mother is now living in Lincoln County, Neb. She is the mother of four children—Vestina, Willis, George and Dora. The latter was born on the 28th of April, 1863, in Knox County, Ohio. There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Braddock four children—Jennessie, William H., John and Odessa.

Mrs. Braddock is a member of the Christian Church, but usually attends that of the Presbyterian persuasion, as being more convenient to her home. Mr. and Mrs. B. are everywhere much esteemed as





Yours Very Truly  
A. Zimmerman

worthy members of society. Our subject is a member of the K. of P., and usually attends the lodge at Syracuse. He is a Democrat staunch and true, heartily supporting the principles and ticket of the party. For eight years he was a member of the School Board, and since January last has filled the chair of Justice of the Peace.



**H**ON. ANTON ZIMMERER, a well-known and prominent citizen and business man of Nebraska City, proprietor of the Crystal Palace Jewelry, China and Crockery Store, was one of the early pioneers of this State, and has done his share in developing its varied resources and in promoting its commercial interests. His portrait is given in this volume, appearing on the opposite page. He was born Sept. 15, 1832, in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, Germany. His father, Joseph Zimmerer, was born in the same locality, as were also his parents, Alois and Theresa Zimmerer, and they spent their entire lives there. The father of our subject was a farmer, owning a farm of thirty acres, and he followed agricultural pursuits in his native land until his death, in 1871. He was a man whose honest, straightforward dealings with his fellows gained him the respect and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. The maiden name of his worthy wife was Maria Mauch, and she was likewise a lifelong resident of the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, dying there at the home of her husband, in 1849. She was a daughter of Anton and Theresa (Geiger) Mauch. To her and her husband were born eleven children, seven of whom grew up: Alois, Anton, Elizabeth, Kunigunda, Genevieve, Carl and John. Alois lives in France; Elizabeth lives on the old homestead; Kunigunda came to America, married William Bischof, and died in Nebraska City; Carl and John live in Nebraska, the former in York and the latter in Seward.

Anton Zimmerer was reared in his native land, and received the advantages of its excellent school system until he was fourteen years of age, being at that time prepared to enter college. But his father's limited means obliged our subject to forego his am-

bitious desire for a university education, and at the age of sixteen he commenced to learn the tailor's trade, serving an apprenticeship of three years. He subsequently traveled in Switzerland, and worked as a tailor in the larger cities there for a time. When he was twenty-one he returned to his birthplace, and at about that time occurred the customary drawing of lots to decide which of the young men of the village should go to serve in the German Army. Fortunately he drew a lucky number, although he came within one of drawing one that would have indicated that he must become a soldier, and being thus freed from military duty, he was granted leave to come to America, and on the 15th of September, 1853, he set sail from Rotterdam, bound for this land of promise. While still sailing on the North Sea cholera broke out on board the vessel, and it was quarantined for a time in the Marine Hospital of the Netherlands, and did not land in New York until the 24th of the following December. Our subject proceeded directly to Madison, Ind., where he arrived not only with empty pockets, but had to begin his new life \$75 in debt. Nothing daunted by this discouraging fact, he courageously sought work, and was soon employed at his trade. At the end of nine months he left Madison and proceeded to Cincinnati, Ohio, and from there to Springboro, where he worked at tailoring until 1856. In the fall of that year he went to Des Moines, Iowa, then a place of about 5,000 inhabitants. In the spring of 1857 he started on a pedestrian tour for this city, there being no railway at that time, and coming by the way of Council Bluffs, arrived here on the 22d of April, having walked a distance of 300 miles. He found Nebraska City a small town, with but a few hundred inhabitants; the old block house, built by the Government, was still standing, and that part of the town on the east side of the creek, known as Kearney, was the business portion of the city. The whole section of country west was wild prairie owned by the Government, and not yet in the market, and later was sold at \$1.25 an acre. Deer, antelopes and wild turkeys were plentiful at that time, and there were no railways west of Eastern Iowa or Missouri, all transportation being done by steamers on the river or by teams overland. Nebraska City be-

came the headquarters for the freighters across the plains, and after the surrounding country began to be settled it was the market and depot for supplies for the settlements for some time.

Mr. Zimmerer easily found employment at his trade, but he soon concluded that he would turn his attention to agriculture on this rich and fertile soil, and he went to Pawnee County and took up a tract of Government land. In the following year (1858) he hired some breaking done, built a log house, and in 1859 took up his residence on his land. He remained there engaged in farming, with Nebraska City, fifty miles distant, his nearest market, for three years, making an undoubted success of his agricultural venture. He then sold his farm, returned to Nebraska City, and with the proceeds of the sale established himself as a merchant tailor, opening a custom shop, and continuing in that business until 1868. He then formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, Mr. Bischof, and opened a hardware store, which they managed together until 1883, when our subject disposed of his interest in the establishment to his partner. He then bought 1,000 acres of land in Gage County, intending to engage extensively in farming and stock-raising, but he changed his mind, and in 1886 bought his present store, and is doing a large business.

Our subject was married, Aug. 30, 1868, to Emma Zepf, and to them nine children have been born, as follows: Carl, Tony, John, Maurice, Alpha, Nettie, Frank, Eddie and Fred. Mr. Zimmerer has two children by a former marriage—Emma and Lizzie. Emma is the wife of F. Daniel Kees, a prominent hardware merchant, of Beatrice; Lizzie is the wife of George Street, a prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, of Oberlin, Kan. Mrs. Zimmerer is a member of the Baptist Church, and, with her husband, occupies a high social position in this community. Mrs. Zimmerer was born Jan. 22, 1844, in Frittlingen, Wurtemberg, and reared in the same village. She came to this country with her parents when but seven years old. Her father, Mr. Nicolaus Zepf, resided on a farm near Pontiac, Ill., where he died in 1872. The mother, Mrs. Francis Zepf, *nee* Zimmerer, is still living at the old homestead in Livingston County, Ill.

Mr. Zimmerer is pre-eminently a self-made man,

owing all that he is and has to his own indomitable energy, excellent business talent and persistency, so that he is now numbered among the men of influence and wealth who reside in this city. During the time that he has been in business here his residence has been outside of the city limits, so that he has not taken an active part in municipal affairs, but he has been a prominent office-holder of Otoe County, being one of the leading councillors of the Republican party. He was a candidate at one time for the county treasuryship, but was defeated by a very small majority, his opponent being an old and tried incumbent of the office. In 1868 he served with distinction as Representative to the State Legislature, which then for the first time met at Lincoln, and was on several important committees, the most important of which was, perhaps, the Committee on Emigration. Mr. Zimmerer is prominently identified with the I. O. O. F., which he first joined in Ohio, and is at present a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3; he has served as Grand Master of the State, in 1875-76. He is also a member of Ridgley Encampment No. 1, I. O. O. F., and he has twice been a delegate to the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows of the United States.



**J**OHAN W. HOAGLAND, a well-to-do farmer of Belmont Precinct, owns a good property on section 17, upon which he has made great improvements since it came into his possession. A native of Morgan County, Ill.; he was born Nov. 16, 1836, and is the son of George W. and Catherine (West) Hoagland, the former of whom was a native of Morristown, N. J., and the latter born near the city of Frankfort, Franklin Co., Ky. They are now residing at Springfield, Ill.

The parental household consisted of six children, named as follows: Mary L., Mrs. Ruyan; Jane, Mrs. Easley; Emma, Mrs. Holmes; John W., James and George. John W. Hoagland received a common-school education, and was reared a farmer's boy. He came to this county alone, in the spring of 1870, and the year following settled upon the land included in his present farm. He is now the owner of 480 acres, and makes a specialty of stock-

raising, his animals including Short-horn cattle, Percheron horses and Poland-China swine. From these he realizes a handsome income.

Mr. Hoagland has fulfilled in an admirable manner all the duties of an honest man and a good citizen, with one exception, and that is that he has never been married. He is, however, one of the jolliest old bachelors of Otoe County, and in the enjoyment of his single blessedness is surrounded by hosts of friends. His married sister, Mrs. Easley, presides over his domestic concerns, and her two sons, Frederick and George, live with them and serve to make the home circle bright and cheerful. They are smart and intelligent lads and attend the district school. The farm, with its well-fed animals and all the comforts of the modern rural home, presents a very attractive picture.



**J**OHN WOLF. There are few homesteads in Otoe County more attractive or valuable than that of the subject of this sketch, a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. He came to Nebraska in 1867, comparatively without means, and from first principles has built up a fine property. Settling upon a tract of wild prairie land, he began the cultivation of the soil and the improvement of his property, and is now enjoying the rich reward of his labors, being surrounded with all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries. To his sensible and intelligent wife much credit is also due for the manner in which she has performed her part toward the building up of the homestead, the training of their children, and her studious care in watching over the welfare of their family. In their surroundings we have a picture of the modern home, blessed by comfort and plenty, and those endearing ties which make of the fireside the most sacred place on earth.

The property of Mr. Wolf embraces 320 acres of highly cultivated land on sections 14 and 23, Berlin Precinct. To commence at the beginning of a most interesting career we learn that he is of German birth and parentage, a native of Mecklenburg, where he first opened his eyes to the light July 17, 1843. This

Province was also the native place of his parents, Charles and Charlotte (Streu) Wolf, and of his grandfathers. Jacob Wolf and John Streu. The latter fought in the wars against Napoleon. Grandfather Wolf followed farming all his life, and to this pursuit reared his son Charles, and both, with the mother of our subject, spent their entire lives in their native Germany. The parents of Mr. Wolf died each at the age of forty-eight years, the mother in 1852, and the father in 1862. Their six children were named respectively: Maria, who continues in her native Germany; Sophia, who died when twenty-four years old; Lena, residing in Michigan; John, our subject; George, deceased, and Christian.

Mr. Wolf was given a thorough education in his native tongue, pursuing his studies from the early age of six years until a lad of fourteen. When leaving the school he began "padding his own canoe," working at farming mostly until 1867. He then made up his mind to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Bidding adieu to the friends of his childhood, he made his way to the city of Hamburg and engaged passage on the ocean steamer "Almania," which landed him, seventeen days later, in the city of New York. Thence he came directly to the new State of Nebraska, locating first in Cass County for a brief time, and later worked on a railroad in Iowa and Missouri, spending the winter in Nebraska. He was thereafter employed alternately, on a farm and on a railroad, and finally settled upon a tract of rented land in Berlin Precinct, which he operated two years. He purchased his present place of eighty acres in the spring of 1870. It was a tract of raw prairie, and in its transformation to the present beautiful farm there have been employed years of labor and thousands of dollars. Mr. Wolf has erected a good set of frame buildings, having to haul his material from Nebraska City. He has set out groves and an orchard of 200 apple trees, besides the finer shade and smaller fruit trees. His land is finely located, and amply watered by Sand Creek. In 1875 he purchased 168 acres adjoining the first, and two years later another eighty acres. It has all been brought to a productive condition, and of late years is mostly devoted to live stock,

Mr. Wolf feeding large numbers of cattle and swine, shipping annually of each a carload. He also has some fine horses, keeping usually about eight head. The homestead proper lies on section 14, and his other land is on section 23.

The marriage of John Wolf and Miss Minnie Tesnow was celebrated at the home of the bride in Berlin Precinct, Sept. 16, 1868. Mrs. Wolf is a native of the same Province in Germany as her husband, and was born March 22, 1844. She came to America with her parents in 1867, and to Nebraska in the same year as her husband. Of their union there have been born six children, only three of whom are living, namely: Louis, Adolph and Emma. Their eldest-born, Frederick, was killed by lightning in the field in 1880, when twelve years old; John and Emma died when infants.

Mr. Wolf, after becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, of which he is a firm adherent, and is frequently sent as a delegate to the County Conventions. He is an active member of the Lutheran Church, and gives liberally of his means for the support of the church and in the erection of its buildings. No man takes a warmer interest in furthering the public enterprises which shall tend to the moral and religious welfare of his community. The home of Mr. Wolf and his family is a remarkably pleasant resort, where friend and stranger alike are met with that courtesy indicative of good breeding and genuine hospitality.

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**C**HARLES F. HUNTER. In the career of this gentleman we have that of one who has traveled extensively in the Great West, and seen much of life on the frontier. He is now the owner of a snug farm on section 8 in Delaware Precinct, and takes special interest in the raising of stock, cattle and swine. In this branch of agriculture he is very successful, having the good judgment required in the selection of stock and their care and treatment.

Our subject was born in Delaware County, Pa., Jan. 3, 1828, and is the son of William and Jennie (Davis) Hunter, the former of whom was a native

of the same county as his son, and served as a soldier in the War of 1812. He was a farmer by occupation, and departed this life at his home in Pennsylvania in 1855. The mother died about 1839. The parental household included ten children, five of whom are deceased.

William Hunter, Sr., the paternal grandfather of our subject, was the son of another William Hunter, who was of Scotch ancestry but born in England, and emigrated to the United States, settling in Pennsylvania probably during the Colonial days. On the mother's side the grandfather of our subject was Mordecai Davis, of Welsh ancestry. He spent his last years in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hunter acquired the rudiments of his education in his native county, and in the spring of 1851, when a young man of twenty-three years, leaving the Keystone State, made his way to Zanesville, Ohio. In the fall of that year, 1851, he returned home where he remained five years, but in the spring of 1856 turned his face once more toward the farther West. This time he crossed the Father of Waters, and settling in the embryo town of Burlington, Iowa, established a candle factory, which he operated a year, then changed his residence to Iowa City.

In the fall of 1858 Mr. Hunter came to the Territory of Nebraska, and occupied himself at freighting to Utah until the spring of 1860. He then started out for the Territory of Utah with a team of six yoke of oxen, his destination being Ft. Crittenden. For a year thereafter he was in the employ of the Government, and afterward followed teaming over the Western States and Territories in the interests of a stage company. He went through to Ft. Hall in Washington Territory, then returning to Salt Lake City accepted the position of messenger for a stage company at a salary of \$75 per month.

The fall of 1864 found our subject in Nebraska City, where he employed himself until December, 1866. Thence he went to Davenport, Iowa, where he concluded to settle and engage in the employ of the Government. With this in view he returned to Pennsylvania the winter following, and in the spring of 1867 took his family to Davenport. They lived there until the spring of 1873, and then

Mr. Hunter changed his residence to Tama County, Iowa, where he occupied himself in farming and raising stock until April, 1879.

Mr. Hunter now returned to Nebraska City, and concluded to make this county his future home. He purchased eighty acres of land, and began the development of the farm which is now the object of admiration by the passing traveler. He has neat and substantial buildings, and superintends his agricultural operations with that good judgment which has met with its legitimate reward in the building up of a most valuable and attractive homestead. He keeps about ten head of cattle, and a herd of forty swine, and from the proceeds of these enjoys a handsome income annually.

The marriage of Charles F. Hunter and Miss Elizabeth P. Nuzum was celebrated at the home of the bride in Delaware County, Pa., Feb. 21, 1867. Mrs. Hunter is the daughter of William and Sarah (Epright) Nuzum, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and are now deceased. She was born in October, 1829. Of her union with our subject there is one child, a son, William N., who was born Nov. 22, 1867, and is a young man gifted by nature with more than ordinary capabilities. He has received a good education, and possesses in a marked degree the business talents of his father, whom he assists in the carrying on of the farm and in his stock operations. The family is widely and favorably known throughout this region, where they enjoy the society of hosts of friends. Mr. Hunter votes the straight Democratic ticket, but has no desire for the responsibilities of office.



**F**REDERICK H. BRAUER, Coronor of Otoe County, and also engaged as an undertaker in Nebraska City, is one of its most enterprising young business men, and one who at once attracts attention on account of the superior qualities of his mind and character. He is more than ordinarily intelligent, is well educated, refined and intellectual, and, surrounded by hosts of friends, evidently has before him a bright and promising career. United with these qualities is sound common sense,

by which he is enabled to take a practical view of life, and adapt himself to its more serious business. He has been an industrious student and an extensive reader, and there are few men of his age who possess a finer fund of general information.

Mr. Brauer came to Nebraska City in April of 1870, when a lad twelve years of age, directly from his native Germany. He was born near the town of Jeber, on the borders of the North Sea in the Duchy of Oldenburg, and is the son of Frederick H., Sr., and Anna Brauer, the former of whom died when a young man, leaving one child, Frederick H. The father was a stone-cutter by trade, and left his little family with moderate means. Our subject was then a little lad five or six years old. The mother continued at her old home a few years after the death of her husband, but in the spring of 1870 set sail for America, and, after landing in the city of Baltimore, proceeded directly to Nebraska, arriving in this county on the 3d of April. Two years later she contracted a second marriage, with Mr. Henry Burmeister, by whom she became the mother of one child, a daughter, Mary, who is now at home. The mother is still living in this city.

Mr. Brauer applied himself closely to his books in the schools of Nebraska City, improving every opportunity to acquire useful information, and when leaving school by no means abandoned his education, this being carried on by the perusal of instructive books and the leading periodicals of the day. At the same time it was necessary that he should engage in some useful employment, and he began learning the business of undertaker and cabinet-maker with Mr. August Krieger, with whom he remained a period of three years. Subsequently he entered the employ of S. J. Faries, now a resident of the city of Omaha, with whom he continued seven years, and then formed a partnership with J. W. Butt, at Nebraska City. They, under the firm name of Butt & Brauer, were established on Central avenue the first year, then purchased the business of Mr. Faries, and operated together another year, when Mr. Brauer sold his interest to his partner, and established in business alone, in August of 1885. About this time he was elected County Coronor, the duties of which office he has since discharged with credit to himself and satisfaction to

all concerned, and which he has held by re-election since that time.

Our subject identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1884, being a member of Western Star Lodge No. 2, and Alpha Consistory No. 50. He is also a Knight of Pythias, in which he is Past Chancellor, and belongs to the A. O. U. W. He is also connected with the Building and Loan Association of Nebraska City, and keeps himself well posted in regard to business matters, and those enterprises generally tending to the advancement of the city's interests. He cast his first Presidential vote for Garfield, and is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. Still unmarried, he makes his home with his mother.



**B**ERMAN H. BARTLING. It goes without saying that the population of the United States is being recruited, and has been from the beginning by settlers from homes beyond the seas. That there are some more desirable citizens than others is an equally patent fact, and yet another equally incontrovertible truth is, that of all from any country, district or province, those from the Fatherland, taken as a class, are more to be commended because of their unostentatious, painstaking, practical and praiseworthy industry and unceasing loyalty. There are, perhaps, not to be found throughout the length and breadth of the German Empire a more noble people than those of Westphalia, a Province where sobriety, morality, diligent toil, mutual confidence and regard seem to mark the citizen and peasant alike; whether among its hills or traversing its plains, or walking its cities, one is assured of meeting with courtesy, affability and kindness.

Nebraska City has several representatives of the people mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, and of these by no means the least worthy is the gentleman a sketch of whose life is herein presented in brief form. He was born in Halle, Westphalia, Sept. 16, 1848. His father, C. H. Bartling, was a native of the same place, and followed agriculture as his chosen occupation in life. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Eliza-

beth Poetting. She became the mother of seven children, all of whom grew to mature years, but only three of them are in America. They are: the subject of the present sketch, Clamer F. A. and William H.

Our subject attended the school steadily until he was about fourteen years of age, and when not thus engaged, and after reaching that age, he assisted his father upon the farm, and in such work became quite proficient, and was thus employed with his father until the year 1865. In November of that year he set sail from Bremen, landed at New York the following month, and almost immediately pushed on to St. Louis, where he spent one week, and then went to Washington County. There he speedily found employment upon a farm, for which he was remunerated at the rate of \$200 per annum, and remained there for about three and a half years. At the end of that period he came to Nebraska City, and was employed as clerk in the general store of F. M. Rottman until the fall of 1871. Upon leaving Mr. Rottman our subject formed a partnership with H. Homeyer, and opened a general store. Four years later he bought this gentleman's interest in the business, and since that time has conducted it alone. The handsome and commodious building, his present headquarters, was erected in 1876, and in its design special thought and care were given to especially adapt it for his business. It stands upon the corner of Main and Eleventh streets, and occupies a ground measurement site of 24x120 feet, is constructed of the best Nebraska City brick, and presents an unusually fine appearance, occupying as it does a very commanding position.

On the 21st of July, 1874, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Fredericka W. Gaede. This lady is the daughter of Dietrich Gaede, who, with his wife, was a native of Saxony, Germany, and is the fourth of five children born to them. This union has proved most auspicious and happy in its outcome, and not the least element in this happiness is the presence in the home of the six children who have been given to them, whose names are as follows: Nellie, Henry, Willie, Eddie, Frank and Arthur.

In addition to his extensive business interests

connected with his store, our subject is a large stockholder in the Merchants' National Bank, of which he is one of the Directors; a member of the Board of Trade; also a stockholder in the canning factory and Nebraska City Manufacturing Company, and member of the firm of Duff, Bartling & Co., grain buyers, whose connection is perhaps the most extensive in the district. He is President of the Nebraska City Street Railway Company, of which he is also a Director. Mr. Bartling has been called upon to serve as a member of the Council of the city. Both our subject and his wife are members of the German Evangelical Church, and are regarded therein as among its most worthy members. They take their place in the best circles of society of the city, and are held in the highest possible esteem by the community. It will have been noticed that in beginning life Mr. Bartling was almost at the lowest round of the ladder, but by energy, untiring industry, intelligence and good judgment, he has struggled, labored and toiled year after year, and, humanly speaking, whatever he is, whatever he has, and whatever influence or power he may possess in the community or business world, it is due to his own efforts, supplemented since his marriage by those of his gifted and accomplished wife and faithful companion.



**J**ACOB J. HOCHSTETLER, one of the leading citizens of Nebraska City, is a fine representative of the pioneers of Nebraska who, through years of toil and self-sacrifice, have aided in building up the wild, sparsely settled prairie country that they found on first coming here into a great and glorious State, whose inexhaustible resources and uncounted wealth give it a high standing among its sister States in the West. He is extensively engaged in business here as an insurance, real-estate and loan agent.

Mr. Hochstetler is a native of Holmes County, Ohio, coming of an old Pennsylvania family, his father and his grandfather both being natives of the Keystone State. The latter, who was a farmer, moved to Ohio, and spent his last days in Holmes

County. Jacob Hochstetler, Sr., the father of our subject, was reared in Pennsylvania, and when a young man still unmarried he started out from the old home afoot to seek his fortune in the West, and in Ohio he found work at twenty-five cents a day. He was careful and prudent, and in time saved money enough to buy fifty-six acres of heavily timbered land in Holmes County. Then the pioneer task of felling the tall old trees of the primeval forest that covered his farm, uprooting stumps and breaking the soil began. In doing this he burned large logs that would now be valuable, and soon he had space enough cleared on which to build a log cabin, the same in which our subject was afterward born. He improved a good farm from the surrounding wilderness, and continued to dwell thereon until 1856, when he made another move, having sold his place, and Owen County, Ind., became his home for the rest of his days. He bought an improved farm, and until his death in 1861 was prosperously engaged in farming. He was a man whose steady habits and indubitable integrity won the respect and confidence of all who knew him. The maiden name of his wife was Frances Miller. She was a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of David Miller, who, with his wife, was also a native of Pennsylvania. The latter's maiden name was Michler. Mrs. Hochstetler died on the home farm in Owen County, Ind., leaving behind her the record of a life well spent. Six children were born to that worthy couple, as follows: Eli, who gave up his life for his country while serving in an Indiana regiment in the late Civil War; John J., who died in February, 1887, at Coles City, Ind.; Jacob J.; Elizabeth, who married Lewis Kerch, and lives in Coles City; Josiah J., who lives in Leadville, Col.; and Sarah, who died when ten years of age.

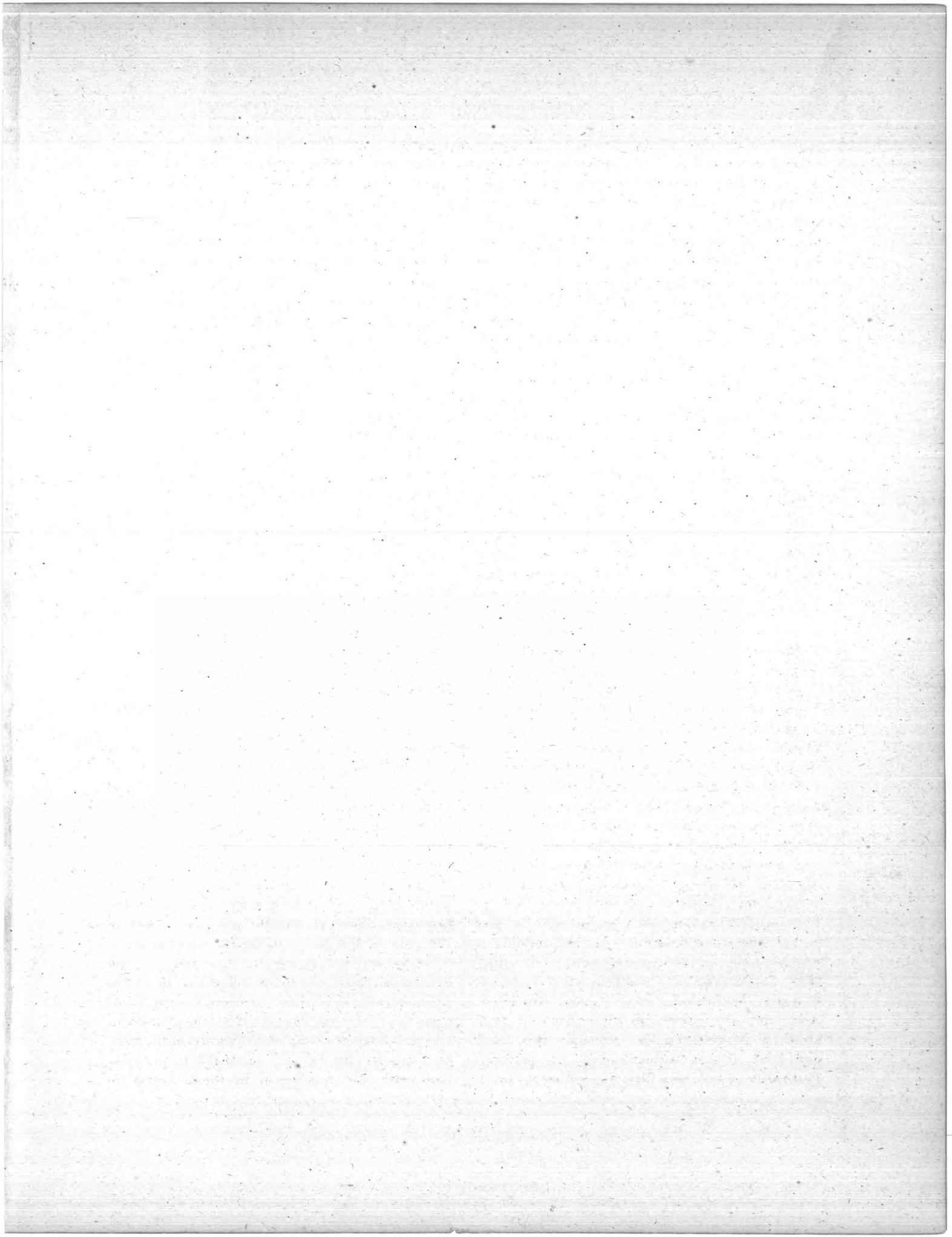
Jacob Hochstetler was reared in the place of his birth, and gained his education in the district school. As soon as large enough he commenced to assist his father on the farm, and continued to be a member of the parental household until his twentieth year, when he commenced to learn the trade of carpenter and builder. He worked at that a year and a half, and then entered the mercantile business as a clerk in a general store in Bedford, Ohio, and later worked in the same capacity in Louisville, re-

ceiving \$5 a month the first year, and the following year \$144 for his year's work. In 1851 Mr. Hochstetler formed a partnership with G. H. Burgert, and they opened a general store in Bedford, Ohio. In 1852 they sold out, and after settling up his business our subject went to Indiana, and in 1853 opened a general store in Worthington, conducting it for one year, with a branch store in Stockton, Ind. In 1854 he moved to Stockton, and made his home there until 1856, when he sold out, settled up his affairs, and in the spring of 1857 was ready to begin life anew in another part of the country. He selected the Territory of Nebraska as his objective point, and going by private conveyance to Terre Haute, Ind., took the cars for St. Louis, and in that city embarked on a Missouri River steamer for Nebraska City, where he arrived on the 17th of April. It was snowing at the time, and the next day there was good sleighing, a rare thing at that season, but the preceding winter had been one of terrible severity, long to be remembered by the early settlers. The country was very sparsely settled at that period, there being only about 1,500 people here at the time, and the small towns were confined mostly to the streams. But a few miles west deer and other wild animals still roamed, and Indians were frequent visitors. On his arrival here Mr. Hochstetler assisted Mr. Burnham to open a stock of goods, and in June started out in search of a suitable location. Twenty-three miles west of the city he made a claim, engaged a man for the sum of \$100 to build him a cabin, 12x15 feet, and hired another man, for a like sum of money, to break ten acres of his land. After residing on his claim a few months he returned to the city, and bought a claim one and one-half miles from the city in a southerly direction. He erected a hewed log house, in which he lived until December, and then moved back to Nebraska City, and opened a general store in that part of it known as Kearney. At the expiration of a year he sold out that business, built a dwelling-house in Nebraska City, and opened a boot and shoe store on Central avenue. Later Mr. Hochstetler formed a partnership with his old partner, Mr. G. H. Burgert, and they managed two stores until 1861. In that year our subject was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City, and selling his inter-

est in the business, he assumed his duties as Postmaster in May of that year, and for ten years, until July 1, 1871, was the incumbent of that office, and during that long term his efficiency and fidelity made his services invaluable in that responsible position, and he possessed the full confidence of the citizens of Nebraska City. After giving up the office of Postmaster he engaged in the real-estate business and the sale of farm implements, with J. E. McCoy as partner. In 1874 he bought an interest with J. W. Patrick in the agricultural implement manufacturing, and paid his attention to that solely for two years. At the expiration of that time the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Hochstetler assuming the indebtedness, and taking all the outstanding assets. During the next year he was engaged in settling that business, and was also engaged in selling produce and manufactured vinegar for two years. In 1878 Mr. Hochstetler turned his attention to an entirely different industry, that of raising stock in Western Nebraska and Eastern Colorado, grazing the cattle on the wild plains. While he found this quite profitable, he yet preferred a business life in the city, and in 1882 he disposed of his stock interests in order to take charge of the extensive insurance business of N. S. Harding, and is still conducting that in Nebraska City very successfully in connection with real-estate dealings and loans. He is a bright, capable business man, systematic in his methods, prompt in his habits, and always keeps up with the times.

Mr. Hochstetler was married, in 1853, to Miss Lucinda Burgert, a native of Ohio, and a daughter of David and Ellen (Huet) Burgert. Of this marriage four children have been born, namely: Charles E., Frank B., Clarence, and Elsie (deceased). Mr. and Mrs. Hochstetler are leading members of society in this city, and are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which he joined in 1861, and he is a worker in the Sunday-school.

In politics Mr. Hochstetler is a leader in the Republican party, and he is influential in public affairs, and has served two years as County Commissioner. Mr. Hochstetler is a true gentleman, always courteous, kindly and dignified in his manners, and ever helpful and considerate in his relations with his fellowmen, in whose hearts he





T. S. Jones

occupies a warm place. He early formed good business habits, and in his long and useful career, in all his wide and extensive dealings, he has borne an unsullied reputation, and no man is more deserving of trust than he.

**J**UDGE T. S. JONES. In the hands of this gentleman the balance of justice is held most firmly and adjusted under all circumstances with extreme nicety—always having regard for truth and equity. He has long been identified with the citizens of this county, and has risen to the heights of his profession, and is receiving on every hand most complete regard as a citizen, lawyer and judge.

The subject of our sketch was born Nov. 6, 1837, at St. Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio, and for the first six years of his life that was his home. He then accompanied his parents when they removed to Virginia, remaining with them until he attained his majority. He is the son of Dr. William N. and Jemima (Smith) Jones. His father was an army surgeon, and a graduate of the Jefferson Medical College. He died in West Virginia on the old homestead, after having practiced medicine for over forty-five years.

The great-grandfather of our subject, Thomas Jones, emigrated to this country from Wales, where the family was in good circumstances for that country, and held a good position in society. His son Thomas was born in the District of Columbia, within sight of the National Capitol. Grandmother Jones was of Scotch birth, and upon the maternal side Grandfather Smith was English and Grandmother Smith Irish.

The mother of our subject was born at Cambridge, Ohio, in the year 1819. She is still living, and makes her home at Hebron, W. Va. The family circle included seventeen children, thirteen of whom are still living. Subjoined are the names borne by them; Mary E., now of Kansas; Thomas S., our subject; Samuel, now deceased; Eliza died in infancy; Eliza J. died when twenty years of age; Dr. William N. died when thirty years old; Virginia, Zachariah, Dr. A. P., Dr. Lewis H., Kate,

Emma; Priscilla was married, and died when about twenty-eight years of age, leaving three children; Celesta, Sarah, Rachael and Lelia.

The subject of our sketch upon arriving at a proper age attended school in the usual institution, receiving instruction in both Virginia and Ohio. When sixteen years of age he entered Waynesboro College, in the State of Pennsylvania. His mother was a Quaker, and she was brought up after the usual precise methods inculcated by that body, surrounded by the associations and devotional atmosphere common to that people. To him an education meant something, and, having no means to depend upon excepting his own effort, and such as he might attain through it, he went to work steadily, and despite many difficulties that would have daunted a less persevering spirit, he worked his way through college, as have done many others, of whom an illustrious instance is our beloved martyred President, James A. Garfield. To this end he engaged in school teaching under the State system, and was busily employed, while others, apparently more fortunate and better circumstanced, indulged in all manner of recreation and amusement.

Some time after leaving college our subject went to Matamoras, Washington Co., Ohio, and there engaged in teaching school, retaining always, however, his studious habits, and ever keeping before him the remembrance that there was something yet to be learned. Later he went to White County, Ind., and continued his work there, but found that in some regards it was very different, owing to the difference in his scholars. In Indiana there was far more wielding of the rod, but there was that also which atoned for anything of unpleasantness arising from this circumstance, for it was while a resident there that he made the acquaintance of the lady who has through the long years since that time been to him ever the most loving and faithful companion of his life.

On the 21st of February, 1858, the subject of our sketch was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Jewett, who was born in Erie, Pa., and went to Indiana with her father when about ten or twelve years of age. She grew to early womanhood in White County, of that State, where she continued until her marriage. There have been born to Mr.

and Mrs. Jones seven children, namely: Letitia, who died when three years of age; Minnie; Willie, who died when a year old; Ernest A., Emma J., Thomas O. M. and Fred. Minnie is now the wife of H. Schanahan, of Nebraska City, and is the mother of three children, who bear the following names: Mamie, Frank and Nellie.

After his marriage our subject turned his attention to farming, teaching the school only during the winter months, continuing the same until the year 1860. During that year and the following he engaged as bookkeeper and salesman in Reynolds, Ind., for his brother-in-law, serving at the same time as Postmaster. When the war broke out he deputed to his brother-in-law his duties as Postmaster, and enlisted in the 63d Indiana Infantry for a term of three years. After drilling for six months in the city of Indianapolis, he was ready for the front. Shortly after he was promoted to Orderly Sergeant. The regiment did garrison duty in various places in Kentucky, and until January, 1864, when it was ordered to join Sherman at Cleveland, Tenn., and took part in the engagements of the Atlanta campaign.

The first fight in which our subject took part was the skirmish of Rocky Face, Ga. His first battle was that at Resaca, where 112 men of the regiment fell in so many seconds. Here the regiment won its first real laurels, and established its name as one of the most valiant, intrepid and soldierly of the army. Resaca will be remembered by our subject for another reason, because by reason of his gallantry he was promoted to the Lieutenancy, and at Atlanta he did duty as such, and received his commission of First Lieutenant. After Atlanta they went back to "Check" Hood. At Nashville they succeeded in capturing the bulk of the Confederate army at that place, routing Hood, and causing him to flee the district. In January, 1865, they were transferred by steamer, the ice being broken for them by tugs, via Bellaire and Washington City to Alexandria, where they took transports to Ft. Fisher. Despite innumerable vicissitudes of fortune and hardships, they were at last successful in joining Sherman's army at Goldsboro, and soon after participated in the capture of Fts. Andrews and Wilmington, gaining possession of

both places within a few days. The regiment continued with Sherman until the close of the war, and were on the march to Raleigh when they heard of Gen. Lee's surrender, and on the 19th of April received the news of Lincoln's assassination. At the time of Johnston's surrender they were at Durham Station.

The army career of our subject was quite brilliant. He fought valiantly and long, never shrinking from duty for any cause, and the fear of danger was unknown to him. He was not home to see his wife and child during the entire term of his service in the South. The last thirteen months he marched more than 3,000 miles. Several offices of trust were given him, and he was honored by promotion. After Johnston's surrender his division was left to take charge of the artillery and ammunition captured from the rebels. His company was always on the skirmish line of battle, and in spite of this, and the fact that he fought in eighteen of the most desperate conflicts of the war and was under fire over fifty-two times, he came out unscathed and unwounded. Upon one occasion his canteen was demolished by bullets, and at another the rim of his hat was pierced, and yet again, seven bullet holes in his coat told how near he had been to death. He was honorably discharged at Greensboro, N. C., on the 26th of June, 1865.

After the war the subject of our sketch returned home, and engaged in mercantile transactions at Reynolds, White Co., Ind., where he remained until 1869. In that year he removed to State Line, Ill., and continued his business there until March, 1871, when he came to Nebraska City to fill the position of freight and ticket agent on the Midland Pacific Railroad, which he continued to hold until 1875, when he embarked in business again, selling windmills, pumps, etc. In 1881 he purchased a farm two and a half miles southwest of the city, upon which he made his home for about three years, there meeting with no little success until 1884, when he sold his farm, and moved back to the city.

In 1875 Mr. Jones was elected City Assessor, and served until 1881. In 1884 he was elected to the office of Justice of the Peace, and his discharge of the duties arising in that connection was such

as to mark him for other honors. He was admitted to the bar as a lawyer in 1888, and to the District Court of Nebraska in the same year. Success in life has come to him not as a result of chance or some mysterious, unknown cause, but because of his determination and perseverance in whatever he undertook, frequently wresting success from the hand that would have given him only failure. He has built and occupies an excellent, substantially built residence on Fourth avenue, between Eighth and Ninth streets.

Judge Jones stands in the front rank of active citizens, and holds a prominent position in the various circles of Nebraska City life. He is an honored member of the Masonic fraternity, and is affiliated with Western Star Lodge No. 2, and with Keystone Chapter of Royal Arch Masons No. 2. He is a member of the A. O. U. W., and also of Ramplin Lodge No. 331, of the Society of Modern Woodmen, meeting in Nebraska City. Religiously, our subject and wife find their home within the communion of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Politically, he is one of the leaders of the Republican party locally. From 1875 to 1876 he served on the City Council, giving to all excellent and entire satisfaction as a councillor. His connection with the War of the Rebellion was the result of his thorough loyalty and patriotism, and this also makes him an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R. He is allied with the William Baumer Post No. 24, and holds the position of Commander.

The portrait of Judge Jones is given in connection with this brief sketch of his life.



**J**OHN GAHRKA, a prominent and well-to-do German farmer of Russell Precinct, has labored with more than ordinary success in developing one of the best tracts of land within its borders. He is a self-made man in the truest sense of the word, having been thrown upon his own resources early in life, and forced to make his own way in the world without other assistance than that which his strong hands and resolute will afforded. He was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, May 2, 1843, and is

the son of John and Anna Gahrka, who were of pure German ancestry.

The father of our subject, who was a laborer by occupation, died in Germany in 1851, when his son John was a lad eight years of age. The mother two years later came with her children to America, and settled in Wisconsin, where she spent the remainder of her days, her death occurring in 1884, when she was seventy-five years old. To the parents there were born three sons and three daughters, the latter of whom all died young. Henry and Richard, the elder and younger brothers of our subject, continue to live in Wisconsin.

Mr. Gahrka was a lad of ten years when he came to America with his mother, and still remembers many of the incidents of preparation and the long voyage across the ocean. They set sail from the port of Bremen, and landed in New York City, whence they proceeded to Minnesota, and spent the first winter in that State. From there they moved to LaFayette County, Wis., and the mother, with the assistance of her sons, farmed on rented land until 1870. John then purchased forty acres near by, of which he retained possession until the fall of 1882, when he sold out to come to Nebraska.

Upon his arrival in this county Mr. Gahrka settled upon 160 acres of land in Russell Precinct, which he had previously purchased. This he has transformed from an uncultivated prairie into one of the most desirable homesteads in this region, adding to its extent in 1884 eighty acres adjoining on section 12. He has groves of willow and cottonwood, an orchard of fifty bearing apple trees, and a spring of running water. Of late years he has been engaged mostly in buying and feeding cattle. He is known all over his precinct as a man prompt to meet his obligations, industrious and enterprising, a model farmer and a thoroughly reliable citizen. His career has been one abundantly worthy of imitation.

In LaFayette County, Wis., our subject met the lady, Miss Dora Windils, who became his wife on the 9th of October, 1875. Mrs. Gahrka is a native of the same Province as her husband, and is his junior by ten years to the very day, her birth occurring May 2, 1853. Henry and Mary (Rinkins) Windils, the parents of Mrs. Gahrka, were also born

in Hanover, where they were reared and married. They also died there in middle life, the father in 1855, and the mother in 1858. Their eldest child, a son, Henry, died when about thirty-five years old; Dora, Mrs. Gahrka, was the second born. Her younger brother, August, is a resident of Nebraska. The three children completed the household circle.

Mrs. Gahrka in her journey across the Atlantic in 1872 was accompanied by her brother, and after landing in New York proceeded to LaFayette County, Wis., where she lived until her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. G. have no children of their own, but are performing the duties of kind parents to an adopted son, John Wendeits. Mr. G. uniformly votes with the Democratic party, and in religious matters both he and his excellent wife are members of the German Lutheran Church at North Branch. He is a citizen of whom Otoe County has reason to be proud.



**A**BRAM D. VANTINE. The spring of 1857 found the subject of this sketch on his way from Illinois to Nebraska Territory, at which time he secured the land which he now owns and occupies. He, however, did not settle upon it until the spring of 1872, he having in the meantime traveled over various portions of different States. At the time last mentioned he returned to this county and began the improvement and cultivation of his purchase, which is now numbered among the most valuable estates of Wyoming Precinct, and which is pleasantly located on section 5.

Mr. Vantine makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in the spring of 1888 commenced a neat farm residence which, with its adjacent buildings, forms a very pleasant and attractive home. He has made for himself a good record, and is numbered among the representative men of the county. A native of Westmoreland County, Pa., he was born July 18, 1830, and is a son of Hezekiah Vantine, a native of Holland, and of substantial Dutch ancestry. It is supposed that he emigrated to the United States early in life, and it is known that he was married in Pennsylvania to the mother of our subject, who

in her girlhood was Miss Mary Phillips. She was born in Pennsylvania, and was of ancestry similar to that of her husband.

After marriage the parents of our subject settled on a farm in Allegheny Township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., where the father died in middle life, when his son Abraham D. was a little lad of seven years. Eleven children, seven sons and four daughters, were thus left fatherless. Of these five are yet living, and residents of Pennsylvania. Hezekiah Vantine at the time of his death, about 1837, was fifty-six years of age. The wife and mother survived until 1871, passing her last days at the home in Pennsylvania, and reaching the advanced age of fourscore years. Both parents were United Presbyterians from their youth, excellent and worthy people, who were highly esteemed by all who knew them.

The subject of this sketch was next to the youngest of his father's family, received a common-school education, and grew to manhood in his native county. He came to Nebraska a single man, and in March, 1859, was married, in Wyoming Precinct, to Miss Eliza J. Snell. This lady is a native of the same county as her husband, and born also in Allegheny Township, March 29, 1844. Her parents, Jacob and Eliza (Walters) Snell, were also natives of the Keystone State, of Dutch ancestry on the father's side and of Scotch on the mother's.

Mr. Snell was a stonemason by trade, and after the birth of six children in Pennsylvania, of whom Mrs. Vantine was the eldest, the Snell family moved to Illinois and located in Rock Island City, where Mr. Snell operated as a contractor for the jail that was then in process of construction, and which is yet standing. From Illinois, in 1857, the Snell family proceeded westward across the Mississippi into the Territory of Nebraska, where the father homesteaded 160 acres on section 4, in Wyoming Precinct. Here he occupied himself as a farmer until 1861, then moved to Denver, Col., where, after a residence of twenty years, the mother died April 25, 1880, at the age of fifty-four years. Mr. Snell has since made his home with his children, and is now seventy years of age.

Mrs. Vantine passed her eighteenth birthday in this county, but her education was completed in

Illinois. Of her union with our subject there have been born eight children, one of whom, a daughter, Elizabeth, died at the age of five years. John W., the eldest child living, assists his father in the management of the farm; Luella is the wife of John W. James, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume; Sara Littitia, James C., Frank H., Nettie and Harry E. are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Vantine have labored hand in hand in the building up of their homestead, and endured together toil and sacrifice, but are now in the enjoyment of a good home and a competency. Our subject, politically, is a staunch Republican, and as a man and a member of the community has conducted himself in that praiseworthy manner which has secured him the regard of all who know him.



**R**ICHARD A. WHITE is a prominent business man of Nebraska City, where he has been extensively engaged as real-estate and insurance agent. He is a native of Missouri, born about twelve miles from Marshall, the county seat of Saline County, Aug. 28, 1836. He is descended from Virginian ancestry. His father, John A. White, was born in Virginia, near the town of Abingdon, and was there reared and married, Elizabeth Atkins, also a native of the old Dominion, and a daughter of Joseph Atkins, becoming his wife. They moved from their native place to Missouri in 1834, and settled in Saline County, the removal being made with teams. Mr. White became a man of mark among the pioneers of that part of the country, as he was a man of great enterprise, possessing keen foresight, and was well gifted both mentally and physically. He bought 1,000 acres of wild land, the greater part of it prairie, and resided in Saline County until 1838, when he sold his property there and moved to Platte County, Mo., where he bought a tract of timber land one and one-half miles from Platte City. He engaged actively in farming, using slave labor, and tobacco and hemp were the chief products that he raised. In 1843 he disposed of his farm and made another move, Andrew County, Mo., becoming his place of residence. He purchased

about 1,500 acres of unimproved land, the greater part of it prairie, and devoted his energies to clearing a large farm, and to raising hemp, corn and other products. St. Louis was the nearest market, and there being no railway then, he used to ship his produce down the river to that city. In 1850, with his son, our subject, and three slaves, he journeyed overland to California, and there they all engaged in mining until the fall of 1851, when they returned home, by way of the Isthmus, New Orleans, Mississippi River, and from St. Louis on the stage to Andrew County. In the following year Mr. White sold his farm in Missouri, and again started for California, accompanied by his family and a colony of his friends and neighbors, with several teams and quite a lot of cattle. He was not destined, however, to reach the land of promise that held such alluring prospects to a man of his temperament and ambition, for when they had traveled over 300 miles from their old home, and were out on the wild, desolate plains, far from any habitation, he was attacked with cholera, and in a few hours the world, with its hopes, its joys and its sorrows, was naught to him, for he had passed from mortality to immortality. Kind and loving hands prepared a burial place for him where he died, and his bereaved family, parting from their friends, left the lone grave on the wild prairies, and, in accordance with the departed father's advice, retraced their way to Missouri, thence to Virginia, the home of their forefathers. They resided there about three years, and then returned to Missouri to settle in Andrew County, and the mother bought a home and lived in Fillmore Village a few years. In 1864 she came to Nebraska City to make her home with her children her remaining days, and died while visiting her daughter in Fairbury, Neb., in 1880. She had married a second time, Benjamin F. Dillon becoming her husband, and they had one child. She had eight children by her first marriage, four of whom grew to maturity.

Richard White, of whom we write, was reared in his native State until he was fourteen years old. It was at that age that his father took him to California, and to the wide-awake young lad who was naturally fond of change of scene and adventure, this was a great and never-to-be-forgotten event.

He still remembers every incident of the long journey by teams over the plains and mountains, from the time that they started, in the month of April, until their arrival in Hangtown, 100 days later. He can also give a vivid account of life in the rude mining camps of that period. After his return with his father to Missouri, he spent the intervening few months in his old home before they started again for California. After his father's death he returned with his mother and his brothers and sisters to Missouri and to Virginia, and continued to live with them for a time after they had again settled in Missouri. He was married in that State, in August, 1857, to Miss Margaret E. Burns, a native of Clay County, Mo., and a daughter of Jeremiah Burns. They have five children living, namely: John B., Effie, Charles, Lee and Elizabeth.

In 1863 Mr. White, following in the footsteps of his father, whose energetic and enterprising character he had inherited to a great degree, also became a pioneer. Pushing on to the very frontier of civilization, he located in Colorado, near the present site of Denver, and thus became one of the earliest settlers of that State, which was then a Territory with but very few inhabitants, there being no settlements in the intervening country between that and the Missouri River, excepting on the West Branch of that river, where a few people had located. Mr. White first engaged in stock-raising, and later in freighting across the plains. In 1864 he removed with his family to Nebraska City, making that his headquarters, whence he still continued freighting to the different military posts, and to the mining camps in the mountains until the completion of the Union Pacific Railway in 1867. He then turned his attention to the auction and loan business, continuing in that about eight years. He then opened an office for the purpose of engaging in his present business as an insurance and real-estate agent. In his busy career Mr. White has accumulated a comfortable property, and with the aid of his good wife, he has built up one of the coziest homes in this vicinity.

Mr. and Mrs. White are stanch members of the Christian Church, and none of their fellow-members are behind them in good works or in the kind-

ness of heart that prompts them to feel charitably toward others. Mr. White belongs to Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., and in his political affiliations he sympathizes with the Democrats, although he was in his earlier years a Whig.



**H**ERMAN M. FRERICHS. The agricultural and stock-raising interests of this county are worthily represented by the subject of this sketch, who owns and occupies 160 acres of good land on section 7, Rock Creek Precinct. During his five years' residence here he has effected many improvements, and distinguished himself as a farmer of modern ideas, not content with anything less than to excel.

Mr. Frerichs came to this county during his boyhood days, his father settling in Rock Creek Precinct in the spring of 1869. Herman M. received his education in the common schools, an education which was begun in his native Hanover, where his birth took place April 25, 1851. He was a little lad six years of age when he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, they first settling in Madison County, Ill. Thence they crossed the Mississippi into the young State of Nebraska.

The father, Abraham Frerichs, was of pure German birth and parentage, and married Miss Rachel Uben, they becoming the parents of six children. Further mention is made of him and his excellent wife in the sketch of John Frerichs, a brother of our subject, which will be found elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject continued a member of the parental household until reaching his majority, and then began on his own account. One of the most important steps at this time was his marriage with Miss Rena Bohlken, which took place at the home of the bride, in Nemaha County, Neb. Mrs. Frerichs was born not many miles from Springfield, the capital city of Illinois, Aug. 3, 1859. She came to Nebraska with her parents when two years old. She completed her studies in the schools of Nemaha County, this State, and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in those housewifely duties which have so much to do with the happiness and

comfort of a home. The three children of our subject and his estimable wife comprise two daughters and a son—Lizzie, Mary and Henry. They are all at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. F. were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, attending services now in Rock Creek Precinct. Mr. Frerichs, politically, is a solid Republican.



**L**EWIS F. CORNUTT. Nebraska City owes its importance among the cities of the new West, not so much to any natural advantages or special facilities for commerce or travel, as to the wide-awake, far-sightedness and wise continued enterprise and effort of certain of its citizens. Among these, and by no means the least of them, is the subject of our sketch, who was born in Grayson County, Va., on the 22d of May, 1833. His father, Alexander Cornutt, was born in the same county, as was his father before him. The family is of Scottish extraction, the great-grandparents of our subject having come to this country from Scotland.

The grandfather of our subject was by chosen occupation a farmer, and followed the same in Grayson County for many years. Later he operated in connection therewith a saw and grist mill. The maiden name of his wife was Elizabeth Sutherland. She also was of Scotch parentage. The father of our subject was reared upon a farm, all his early recollections were connected therewith, and eventually he made it his chosen calling. He died in August of 1886, having arrived at the advanced age of seventy-seven years. His wife, the mother of our subject, was Jemima Rhudy, who was a native of Virginia and of German ancestry. This lady now resides on the old homestead in Grayson County, Va., where the Cornutt family have for so many years made their home. There were born to them eleven children, all of whom it was their pleasure to see grow to years of maturity and enter honorable positions in life. As yet the family circle is unbroken by death, all of them are happily married, and have families of their own.

The subject of this writing is the second child,

and was reared in his native county. Recognizing the inestimable value of education, his parents provided for him the very best obtainable at that time. As soon as he was strong enough various tasks were assigned to him in connection with the farm, which were increased in proportion to his strength and enlarged intellectual grasp. When seventeen years of age he was engaged as clerk in a general store at Independence, the county seat of Grayson County, and continued thus employed for three years, when he returned home, and there he remained until September, 1854. At that time the vivid descriptions of the Far West, and the riches promised to those who went there, decided our subject to start thitherward. Accordingly he started with a colony of families similarly minded, who loaded their wagons with everything that might be needed by the way, and in beginning their new life, and by the aid of their teams, set forth upon their journey. The westward way lay through the States of Tennessee, Kentucky, and after crossing the Ohio River on through Illinois until they reached the Father of Waters opposite St. Louis, to which city they crossed. From there they proceeded through the State of Missouri to Nebraska Territory, reaching Nebraska City on the 6th of November, after two months of travel, which, beyond the incidents common to such experience, was devoid of the more exciting and often tragic scenes that came to some such travelers.

At that time there were but three families in Nebraska City, and the surrounding country was still unsurveyed and in the hands of the Government. The city was being surveyed at the time of their arrival. It is difficult looking at the Nebraska City of to-day, with its houses of commercial importance, its elegant residences, railroads, broad streets, filled with the usual busy crowd, all intent upon the various purposes of life, to imagine or picture the city as it was when our subject first saw it. There was but one store, which was kept in a diminutive frame building, and carried a stock, all included, perhaps, not of greater value than \$300. There was nothing to indicate the future city. After staying a little while here Mr. Cornutt returned to Atchison City, Mo., and there engaged until 1860, engaging in mercantile pursuits. Then he returned to Ne-

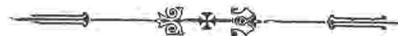
braska City, and with others formed a company to develop the mines of Colorado. The company bought a saw and quartz mill, and with them our subject went to Colorado and located at Quartz Valley, near Central City. At that place he operated the sawmill for six months, and then sold his interest and returned to Nebraska City, by way of the overland stage.

By that time Nebraska City had grown to be quite a town, although west of it no cities had been established, and in the interior buffaloes were still to be found in large numbers. Upon his return our subject engaged in clerking in a general store until 1862, when he went once more to Central City, Col., with his family. There he engaged in mercantile pursuits for some time. There were no railroads west of the Missouri River at that time, and all goods were of necessity transferred by teams, coming generally by way of Nebraska City. Freight was very high, usually about ten to twelve and a half cents per pound. This of course had the effect of making the retail price high in proportion. After two and a half years, a period upon the whole prosperous, and financially satisfactory, our subject returned to Nebraska City and engaged in freighting from that point west to Central City and other points. He continued thus engaged until 1866, and then embarked in the coal, wood and lumber trade, which he has since been exclusively engaged in.

On the 8th of January, 1856, the subject of this epitome was united in marriage with Laura J. Hail, who has presented her husband with eight children, William A. and Wiley S. the only two living, both of whom are residents of Culbertson, Neb. The wife of our subject was born in Grayson County, Va., and is the daughter of William B. and Mathilda Hail, of whom a sketch is presented elsewhere in this volume, and emigrated to the West in company with the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Cornutt are devout members of the First Presbyterian Church, our subject filling the office of Elder in the church, and is also Superintendent of the Sunday-school.

Mr. Cornutt has always been deeply interested in all matters connected with the advancement of the interests of the young, and evinced the same

by the manner in which he performed every duty that came to him while serving as a member of the School Board. The citizens expressed their high esteem and confidence by electing him City Treasurer. His position in regard to affairs of political import is with the Democratic party, of which he is a firm adherent and hearty supporter. The reader of this biography will have noticed that the early opportunities of our subject were circumscribed and limited. The opportunities for advancement were not extensive, but he has made the most of each presented, and by careful thrift, intelligent planning, and indefatigable perseverance and effort, made his way to the front rank of prominent and honored citizenship. In all business circles he is regarded as a man of unimpeachable honor and business integrity. His reputation is untarnished, and his character much to be admired. In the community at large both he and his family are held in high regard by all.



**C**H. BROKING, who is a leading farmer of Rock Creek Precinct, is the owner of 240 acres of land, having his homestead on section 11, which comprises eighty acres, and 160 acres on section 8. He settled where he now lives in the spring of 1878, having moved from Madison County, Ill., of which he had been a resident for a period of ten years.

The birthplace of our subject was in Hanover, Germany, where he first opened his eyes to the light on the 5th of June, 1848, during the reign of King William. His father, Henry Broking, Sr., was a carpenter by trade, which Henry, Jr., also learned, and which he followed from the time he was a youth of eighteen years until reaching his majority. Then, not being satisfied with the outlook for the future in his native Germany, he crossed the Atlantic in advance of some of his family, joining his two brothers, and located in Madison County, Ill., where he occupied himself at farming. In the spring of 1874 he was joined by his parents and the other children, the latter locating in the vicinity of Alton, Ill., where they lived until the death of the father about thirteen years later, when he was sixty-





Yours Truly  
A. L. Ferguson

two years old. The mother, Mrs. Sophia (Weidmann) Broking, is still living, making her home with her children at Pleasant Ridge, Ill., and is now about sixty-four years of age.

Our subject was the second in a family of nine children born to his parents, and was the third to land on American soil. He employed himself on a farm for two years thereafter, then crossed the Mississippi into this county, and remained a single man for a period of ten years thereafter. He finally met his fate in the person of Miss Ida Weillsandt, a native of his own Province in Germany, and who was born Jan. 10, 1858. She came when a child of six years with her parents to America, they proceeding directly westward and settling in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, where they now live and where they have built up a good homestead.

To Mr. and Mrs. Broking there have been born six children, one of whom, a son, John, died in infancy. The survivors are Sophia, Emma, Ida, Mary, and a babe named Harry. Mr. Broking is an uncompromising Democrat, and, with his excellent wife, is a member in good standing of the Lutheran Church. He is regarded among his neighbors as one of the most useful members of their community, a man prompt to meet his obligations and straightforward in his business transactions.

**C**OL. HENRY CLAY FERGUSON, who served with distinction in the Union Army, making a most commendable war record, and being a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Otoe County, it is fitting that his portrait should appear in this volume. He sought the new State of Nebraska March 25, 1876, and has since been a resident of this county. He is widely and favorably known as a gentleman of more than ordinary capabilities, a useful and enterprising citizen, and one enjoying the esteem and confidence of his community.

The native place of our subject was about twelve miles north of Louisville, Ky., in Clark County, Ind., where his birth took place Nov. 10, 1833. His father, Benjamin Ferguson, had settled there about 1816, and was not only one of the earliest

pioneers of that region, but one of the leading men of Clark County. He represented the county in the Indiana Legislature four terms, and was otherwise prominently identified with local and political matters. He married Miss Sarah Hay, a native of that county, and a daughter of one of the leading families. She was born in 1801, and was a lineal descendant of the Wood family, which held such an important position during the early history of Clark County. She was left a widow by the death of the father in 1839, when he was but forty-nine years of age, and when their son Henry C. was a little lad of six years. The mother survived her husband fourteen years, her death taking place at the old homestead in Clark County, in 1852, when she was fifty-one years old.

The nine children of the parental family are recorded as follows: Samuel H. and John D. died at the ages of forty-three and thirty-eight respectively; Charles P., a man of fine abilities, is now Judge of the Fourth Judicial District of Indiana, and a resident of Jeffersonville, Ind.; Sarah died when fifty years old; Margaret and Benjamin are also residents of Indiana; Henry C., our subject, was the seventh in order of birth; William F. died at the age of thirty-nine years, at Indianapolis, and Adeline is the wife of Thomas Reynolds, and resides in Illinois.

The first recollections of our subject are of a time when he was a boy strolling along the banks of the Ohio River. He acquired his early education in the common schools, and was deprived by death of his mother before reaching his majority. Soon after reaching his twenty-first year he engaged in the drug trade in partnership with his brother William, combining also with this general merchandise, and was thus occupied until the outbreak of the Civil War.

Under the call for 75,000 three-months men, young Ferguson in April, 1861, organized a company, and on the 25th of that month reported with them for orders to Gov. Morton. The quota under this call having already been completed, and his company not needed for this department of the service, he and his men enlisted for three years in the regular army, being among the first to enter the ranks for this length of time. Our subject was

given a Captain's commission, and he assumed the position as commander of Company I, which was made a part of the 23d Indiana Infantry. They were sent to the front at Paducah, Ky., arriving there on the 15th of August, and were among the first troops to take possession of that place. They remained there under drill until the opening of the campaign of 1862, when the regiment was assigned to the command of Gen. Lew Wallace at Ft. Henry, and our subject engaged in regular battle on the second day of the fight at Shiloh. Later he fought in the engagement at Iuka, and in the winter following they retired to Memphis.

On account of meritorious conduct Capt. Ferguson on the 19th of February following was unanimously elected by the officers of his regiment a Major, and thereafter distinguished himself in the siege of Vicksburg, his regiment belonging to the 17th Army Corps under the gallant Gen. McPherson. In the division of Gen. Logan on the 22d of May, Maj. Ferguson led the grand charge at Ft. Hill, which was attended by heavy loss, and during which he was slightly wounded in the left hand. From that time on he was in every engagement of the 17th Army Corps, and was wounded twice afterward, the second time in the engagement with the rebels at Ft. Hill. In 1864 he accompanied the Army of the Tennessee under command of Gen. Sherman from Vicksburg to Meridian, which constituted the Mississippi campaign. He also bore an honorable part in the Atlanta campaign. He was at Atlanta in August, 1864, the day before the surrender.

Maj. Ferguson was tendered the rank of Colonel of the regiment at that time, but thinking that he could be of more service in another direction he declined, and returning home assisted in the reconstruction of the 144th Indiana Infantry, of which he was elected Lieutenant Colonel, and which was subsequently known as the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, Army of the Shenandoah. They operated mostly around Winchester and Harper's Ferry, and at the close of the war were mustered out on the 15th of August, 1865, at Indianapolis. Our subject had thus given four years to the service of his country, and had made for himself a record which he may look upon with pardonable pride. He was imbued with that true spirit of patriotism which was willing to

face danger and even death for the results to be obtained.

We append the following letter, which attests the bravery and courage of Col. Ferguson:

"REAR OF VICKSBURG, MISS. }  
"May 31, 1863. }

"MAJ. HENRY C. FERGUSON, 23d Indiana Volunteers: *Sir*—I have been delegated to present to you a sword, the gift of the members of Company I, 23d Indiana Volunteers, of which you were formerly Captain. It was with feelings of regret that they parted with you as their company commander, only compensated by the fact that you had received promotion to a higher position, which you so deservedly merited. This gift, then, is not only made to you by them as a mark of that respect and esteem which they hold for you as their former commander, and which they still entertain for you in your present position, but as a testimonial to that patriotism and love of country which you have shown by a faithful performance of your duties as an officer, and to the coolness, courage and bravery which you have evinced by so boldly facing danger on the battle-fields of Shiloh, Port Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hills and Vicksburg.

"In their behalf, then, I tender you this gift of their love, respect and esteem, feeling confident that no act of yours will ever allow it to be tarnished, coming as it does from those with whom you were so long and intimately associated.

"Very respectfully yours,

"B. F. WALTER."

At the close of the war Col. Ferguson returned to the quiet pursuits of agriculture in Clark County. While home on a veteran furlough he had been married, April 21, 1864, to Miss Margaret McAfee, who was born near Rockford, Ind., Dec. 22, 1837. Mrs. Ferguson is a highly accomplished lady, and a daughter of the late Dr. Clark McAfee, who was a prominent member of the medical profession of Kentucky, and a member of the noted family of that name in the Blue Grass regions. The mother was in her girlhood Miss Margaret Huckleberry. Dr. McAfee died in 1838. His widow is now living with her daughter, the wife of Col. Ferguson. Their family consisted of one daughter only, Mrs. Ferguson.

Mrs. Ferguson was carefully trained and educated, completing her studies in the Presbyterian Female Seminary at Jacksonville, Ill. The Colonel and his wife after their marriage continued residents of Indiana until the year 1869, when they moved across the Mississippi into LaFayette County, Mo., settling upon a tract of land where our subject engaged in farming seven years. He then came to this county, of which he has since been a resident. He and his little family are surrounded by all the comforts of life. He is loyal as ever to the stars and stripes, a devoted husband and father, and holds his two children, Edwin and Ora, as the apple of his eye. The son is one of the enterprising young farmers of Otoe Precinct. He was born Sept. 17, 1866, received a good education, and is a young man of great promise. The daughter is a student of the Nebraska State Normal School, at Peru, Neb., taking the classical course.

The Colonel as an ex-soldier is a member in good standing of the G. A. R., belonging to William Baumer Post No. 24, of Nebraska City. He was the first candidate for State Senator on the Prohibition ticket, being nominated in the year 1886. Both he and his estimable wife are active in the temperance work, and Mrs. Ferguson is a charter member of the W. C. T. U., of Paul, and its President. The Colonel in 1882 was a delegate to the Republican County Convention, and at that time took issue on the temperance question. In religious matters he is a Congregationalist.

The Ferguson family was prominent in the early history of Southern Indiana, and closely identified with its growth and development. During his army career our subject became intimately acquainted with Gen. Logan, and their intercourse thereafter was particularly close and friendly. He also enjoyed a pleasant acquaintance with Gens. McPherson, Thayer, Gresham, John E. Smith, Force and Leggett, all of whom were fully susceptible to the merits of a brave and patriotic soldier.

**E**DWARD A. BROWN is a member of the firm Brown & Wood, proprietors of the Nebraska City *Press*, one of the best conducted newspapers in the State. Our subject was born in

Sterling, Ill., on the 26th of December, 1858. He comes of good old New England stock, his parents, William A. and Mary (Greene) Brown, being natives respectively of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. His father grew to be a capable and enterprising young man among the granite hills of his native State, and he then turned his steps toward Newark, the great manufacturing city of New Jersey, where he learned the trade of jeweler. About 1850 he left that city for Illinois, and located in the town of Rockford at first, but afterward went thence to Sterling. Early in the fifties he journeyed overland to California, and there engaged in mining for a few years. He then retraced his way to Sterling, Ill., and after staying there a short time, he returned to the Golden State. During the war Mr. Brown returned east as far as Omaha, and opened a livery stable there, and at the same time was engaged in the sale of general merchandise. He resided in that city and in Council Bluffs until 1867, and then came to Nebraska City for the purpose of opening a clothing and dry-goods store. A few years later he sold out his stock in that line, and then engaged in the boot and shoe trade until 1872. He then entered the editorial arena, purchasing the Nebraska City *Chronicle*, a daily and weekly publication, and two years later consolidated it with the Nebraska City *Press*, continuing to manage his paper until 1881, when he sold it to his sons, and returned to Omaha to engage in the collection business. In 1885 he turned his attention to stock-raising, taking up a claim under the provisions of the Homestead Act in Hitchcock County. In 1887 he left his son in charge of his farm, and went to the Territory of Wyoming, and now resides there in the town of Manville, having through his forethought and enterprise gathered together a comfortable property. In 1866 the devoted wife who shared his early labors passed away. To them had been born four children, three of whom grew up. His second wife, stepmother of our subject, was Rilla Selden, a native of Michigan. One child has been born to them.

The subject of this sketch was nine years old when he came to Nebraska City, and from that time his education was obtained in the city schools. He proved to be a bright, apt pupil, and stood well

in his classes. At the age of fourteen his father employed him to carry newspapers, and at the age of sixteen he entered his father's office as printer's devil, to learn the art preservative in detail. He continued with his father until 1881, and then formed a partnership with his brother Lot, and bought the office, the paper, and the good-will of his father on the 1st day of April. In September his brother sold his interest in the paper to L. Fairbrother, who, in turn, on the 1st of July, 1885, sold his interest to Mr. Wood, the present partner of our subject. The paper is issued both daily and weekly. It is Republican in politics, though not offensively partisan. It is pure and elevated in its tone, and is an influence for good in this city and county.

Mr. Brown is a young man of excellent repute, and of considerable talent, and has a fair prospect before him of achieving renown as a journalist. He is possessed of much geniality and true tact, and is prominent in social circles in this city. At the age of seventeen he joined a local amateur minstrel troupe in Nebraska City, which gave excellent performances in different towns in the vicinity. He was connected with the troupe for three years.

**J**OHN HENRY ARENDS, the leading merchant of Syracuse, was one of the pioneer settlers of this county, arriving upon the soil of Nebraska during its Territorial days, in the spring of 1859. A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, he was born April 15, 1843, and is the son of Rieke and T. M. (Teten) Arends, who were also of German birth and parentage. The father of our subject was a linen manufacturer by trade, which business he followed in his native land after serving several years in the German army.

Our subject was a lad of eleven years when he emigrated with his parents to the United States, and they settled on a farm in Madison County, Ill. Thence, in 1859, the family came to Nebraska, and located on a tract of land near the present site of Talmage in Rock Creek Precinct, on the southern line of this county. The elder Arends became owner of a large tract of land, on which he made

valuable improvements, and at his death, which occurred in 1874, he left an estate valued at nearly \$40,000. He met a tragic death, having gone in September of that year to Nebraska City for a load of lumber designed for a church he was about to assist in building. He was accidentally thrown under the loaded wagon, and instantly killed. The Lutheran Church Society in his death lost one of its most active members, and he was sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. He had come to Nebraska a poor man, but by the exercise of close economy and incessant industry he accumulated a fortune.

The mother of our subject is still living, residing on the old homestead. The parental family included six children, namely: Anna, the wife of J. H. Behrends; John H., our subject; Maggie, Mrs. Rottmann; Mary, Mrs. C. H. Korff; Herman J. and Tena. They are all residents of this county, and in good circumstances financially.

Our subject attended the common schools in Illinois, and received instructions from a private tutor after coming to Nebraska, thus securing a good practical education. Upon starting out for himself, about 1860, he began freighting between the Missouri River and Pike's Peak. Later, when about twenty years old, he became clerk of a hotel at Nebraska City, remaining thus occupied until reaching his majority. His regular business career commenced as clerk in a store of general merchandise in the same city, and later he became associated with C. H. Korff, and engaged in merchandising. They carried on an extensive business until 1877, when Mr. Arends withdrew from the firm, and established himself at Syracuse.

Mr. Arends in 1883 erected his present store building, a two-story brick structure with basement, and which he now has wholly filled with his stock of goods. It covers an area of 331½x90 feet; within it is a full line of about everything in the way of merchandise with the exception of hardware. The family residence, a fine and commodious structure, is located on Sixth street, and with its surroundings forms one of the most attractive homes in the city. Mr. Arends also owns a general store at Elmwood, and is a member of the firm of Mohrman & Arends, carrying on general merchan-

dising at Geneva. He was one of the organizers of the Bank of Syracuse, and continues a member of the Board of Directors. In addition to the property mentioned he also owns 480 acres of choice land on sections 25 and 26 in Russell Precinct, town 9, range 10. He is a member of the Lutheran Church, and has officiated as Trustee for many years.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Georgia M. Mohrman, and their marriage took place Jan. 29, 1873, in Nebraska City. Mrs. Arends is the daughter of J. H. and Lucy G. (Kuenning) Mohrman, of Syracuse, and of this union there have been born six children, namely: Richard, Harvey, Gertrude, Henry, Walter and Lucy. The eldest is fourteen years of age, the youngest, one; they are all at home with their parents. Mr. A. uniformly votes the Republican ticket, and has been quite prominent in local politics.



**H**ON. WILLIAM CAMPBELL, a member of the Board of County Commissioners, and a prominent citizen of Nebraska City, is an important factor in sustaining and advancing the immense stock-raising and agricultural interests of Otoe County. He is a native of County Down, Ireland, born April 16, 1841, of a renowned Scotch ancestry, who had left the Kingdom of Scotland to assist in the colonization of the Irish domain during the reign of Cromwell. His father and his grandfather, both named John, were natives of the same county, and there the latter, who was a rigid Presbyterian in his religious beliefs, of the John Knox type, spent his days devoting his life to farming.

The father of our subject was an only son, and he was reared in the home of his birth, and there married to Catherine McKee, also a native of County Down, and like her husband, of Scotch antecedents. In 1849 Mr. Campbell emigrated to America, accompanied by his wife and nine of their ten children. He located in the city of Rock Island, Ill., where his death occurred the following year. His family was thus deprived of the kindest of husbands and the best of fathers, for he was

in every sense a good, wise and true man. His wife survived him only seven years, dying in Rock Island in 1857. She was a kind, patient, devoted mother, and her children cherish her memory with reverence. They were ten in number, namely: Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, Hugh, James, John, Jane, William, Samuel and Alexander. They all came to America, and six of them are now living. Hugh, Samuel and Alexander bravely served their adopted country in the late war. The latter was but a boy of fourteen and a half years when he enlisted in the 11th Iowa Infantry, and for four years he was as faithful and patriotic a soldier as any in the ranks. He was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and took part in many hard-fought battles. He now lives in Rock Island County, Ill. Hugh did good service in an Illinois regiment for three years, and is now an honored resident of Keithsburg, Ill. Samuel was a youth of sixteen when he enlisted in the 11th Iowa, and three years later he fell while bravely fighting before Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 19, 1864.

William Campbell, the subject of this biographical sketch, was nine years old when his father died, and he continued to live with his mother until her death when he was sixteen. He attended the public schools of Camden, Rock Island Co., Ill., which was their home, and as soon as he was large enough commenced to work on the farm. At the age of fifteen he began to learn the harness-maker's trade in Camden, and worked at that for two years. In 1858, with his brother John, he started West on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Kansas City, then a place of about 2,500 inhabitants. There were no railways beyond the Mississippi at that time, and all transportation was done with team or boats. Our subject at once found employment with the firm of Russell, Majors & Wardell, Government freighters, to drive a team across the plains to New Mexico. This was an exciting period in the life of our subject, as the route that he was obliged to travel lay through a wild, unsettled country, where the buffaloes, deer, antelopes, prairie wolves and other wild animals abounded, and the region was infested by hostile Indians, so that eternal vigilance was the price of life, and none but brave men with strong nerves cared to face the dangers of the route.



anapolis about the year 1834, and in that city the father of our subject was engaged in mercantile pursuits until the year 1857. At that time he made up his mind to go West, and started for Nebraska. He first located on the Nemaha River, near the present town of Talmage, which at first was called Worrallton. The first bridge across the river was built at his place, and largely at his expense. The last few years of his life were spent in Nebraska City, but his death occurred in Pennsylvania, in the year 1867, while he was on a visit to his old home.

The mother of our subject is still living, and makes her home in Syracuse. There are but two children who call her mother, her son Joseph and a daughter, Louisa, now the wife of Jerome Dauchy. Quite early in life our subject began to work in the office of the *Nebraska City News*, and rose step by step from the humblest position, gradually becoming more and more intimate with the various intricacies of the trade, until he was fitted for his present position. In 1872 he went to Tecumseh and purchased an interest in the *Nebraska Gazette*, which was the first paper published at that place. He soon sold out, returned to Nebraska City, and established the *Hebron Journal*, in the town of that name. Here his practical knowledge, fertile brain and ready pen soon brought him into prominence, and established his paper upon a firm and paying basis.

Until the year 1885 Mr. Worrall continued his connection with the above paper, residing in Nebraska City, but early in that year he came to Syracuse and founded the *Herald*. Although of so recent establishment, his long experience has enabled him to make his paper a perfect success from the very start. It always appears with an air of freshness prevailing it. Its editorial work is bright, clear, logical, and always courteous in manner, while in regard to the matter of workmanship and style it is second to none. It is just such a paper as is always welcomed by the busy man in the full whirl and rush of commercial life, a welcome friend to the advertiser, and always bearing something interesting for those who have more leisure to devote to its pages. Like its owner and editor, the *Herald* is a staunch friend and doughty defender of the Democratic party and principles.

Our subject is a member of the Central Democratic Committee, and is not without considerable influence among his fellows, who recognize in him a man of careful, intellectual thought, unquestioned loyalty and manly character. In the Masonic fraternity, of which our subject is a member, he is regarded as a true and faithful frater. Both in the lodge room and in society generally he is highly esteemed as a much valued citizen.



**HENRY EIBEN.** The subject of this biography is numbered among the prominent farmers of Rock Creek Precinct, and owns a good property on section 7, comprising 160 acres of thoroughly cultivated land, which is well stocked with cattle and swine, and supplied with good buildings. He settled here in the fall of 1880, although having lived in the precinct and county since October, 1868.

Our subject is of German birth and parentage, having been born in Hanover, March 20, 1836, and left the Fatherland in the fall of 1868. He had been given the education common to the youth of Germany, and his father being a farmer. Henry was early in life made acquainted with agricultural pursuits. His parents, Eiben and Anna (Magretha) Eiben, also natives of Hanover, spent their entire lives in their own country, the father living to the advanced age of eighty years. The mother preceded her husband to the silent land, she too having attained a ripe old age. They were most worthy and excellent people, greatly respected by their neighbors, and members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church.

The home circle included six children, five sons and one daughter, of whom our subject was the fourth in order of birth. He was the only one of his family coming to the United States. He was married in his native Hanover, in 1866, to Miss Etta M. Kruse, whose childhood home was not far from that of her husband, and who, like him, received a thorough education in her native tongue. She proved a true wife and helpmate to him, sharing all his toils and sacrifices, until he was called to mourn

her death, Nov. 17, 1887. To our subject and his estimable wife there was born one child only, a son, Herman, who is now at home. Both Mr. and Mrs. E. early in life identified themselves with the German Lutheran Church. After becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States Mr. Eiben allied himself with the Republican party, of which he is a warm supporter. For a period of eleven years he was a regular soldier in the German Army.



**T**HOMAS E. THOMPSON. The founder of the Thompson family in America was John Thompson, a native of the North of Wales. He came to America with his parents in the third embarkation from England, landing at Plymouth early in May, 1622. He was a carpenter by trade, and built the first frame church in Plymouth. As a compensation for this the town deeded him a piece of land on what is now called Spring Hill. In 1667 he built a frame house in Plymouth, which stood until the year 1838. His demise occurred June 16, 1696, he being at that time at the advanced age of eighty years.

The subject of our sketch was born in Rumford, Oxford Co., Me., April 1, 1833. His father, John Thompson, was born in Middleboro, Plymouth Co., Mass., on the 26th of March, 1775, where was also born Isaac Thompson, the grandfather of our subject. John Thompson grew to manhood in his native county, and as a young man with two brothers went to New York State, but not liking it so well as the old home he went to Massachusetts, and afterward went to the State of Maine, where he settled in the town of Rumford, near which he subsequently held a farm, where he resided until his death. His wife, the mother of our subject, Jane (Richardson) Thompson, was born in Scotland, and came to America with her parents when she was about five years of age. She died at the homestead in the year 1843. She was the mother of six children.

The education of our subject was obtained in the district schools of his native county, and afterward he gave his attention to farming, being instructed

therein by his father, with whom he remained until he was eighteen years of age, when, starting in life for himself, he went to Goshen, Elkhart Co., Ind., where he clerked in a general store, continuing until 1854, when he came West. His intention was to go to St. Paul, but he met a companion in travel, and by him was induced to go to Council Bluffs, which he did. He arrived in Nebraska City on the 16th of April, 1854. There was then but one family, that of H. P. Downs, living in the district. He staid with this gentleman for part of one day looking over the country, and then proceeded on his way to Council Bluffs, but not liking it returned almost at once to Nebraska City. With the exception of a few who were holding claims there were no settlers for a large distance around. The Indians had possession, and were inclined to dispute the coming of any but their own people. In order to secure their good-will and protection he gave them \$10, which perfected the arrangement.

Our subject had been but a few days in his new location when he was taken sick, and for two years was unable to do a day's work. During that time settlers had been coming in rapidly, and quite a village had been started. In company with several others he started the town of Cleveland, in Cass County, which turned out to be a most unhappy venture, for he lost all his money that had taken so long to accumulate.

In 1859 our subject recommenced working at the carpenter trade in Nebraska City, continuing for two seasons; then he went into the real-estate business, in which he continued until 1877. Then he sold out his interest and went East, spending a few months farming in Delaware Precinct, continuing until 1882. In 1884 he sold his farm, which he had left two years previously, in order to make his home in the city to engage in the real-estate and insurance business. He represents the Royal Insurance Company, of Liverpool, England, the 'Traders', of Chicago, Ill., and others.

At Nebraska City, in 1861, was celebrated the union of our subject with Ladasca Francena Dimmick. This lady was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Samuel and Mary Dimmick. They have become the parents of nine children, whose names are recorded as follows: Har-

riet M., the wife of Taylor Hail, of Nebraska City; Edwin D., Mary, Ester, Grace, Florence and Ruth; and two, Maude and Charles, deceased.

Mrs. Thompson is a devout member of the Presbyterian Church, and attends the First Presbyterian Church. The political position of our subject leads him to affiliate with the Democratic party. He is also a member of the Masonic fraternity, and attached to the Western Star Lodge No. 2, in this city. Our subject and his family fully sustain the family prestige, and are much esteemed by all who know them.

**M**ARSHALL SILLIMAN CAMPBELL, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, was a veteran of the Mexican War and was one of the earliest pioneers of Nebraska City, where he now resides. His first appearance here was on the 13th day of October, in the year 1855, the town at that time being nothing but a small hamlet, and the land on which it now stands was owned by the Government, and not then surveyed, and the settlements were confined to the river. Maj. Downs' claim two miles west of the town was the farthest western habitation in this region. All the surrounding country was in an exceedingly wild and uncultivated condition; deer, antelopes and elks were plentiful, and at the Blue River buffaloes were to be found; Indians abounded, and were always ready to beg and steal, to say nothing of the risk of losing one's scalp when they were on the war path. Our subject was then employed by the Government as a surveyor, and in that capacity he gained a thorough knowledge of the topography of the country, and he has been a witness of the wonderful development of those wild prairies that once constituted the Territory of Nebraska into a powerful and wealthy State, and it may well be his pride that he has assisted in its growth.

Mr. Campbell was born in Cornish, N. H., July 27, 1820, being of Scottish descent, his grandfather, Dan Campbell, being a native of Scotland, where he was reared. That gentleman learned the trade of edge tool maker in Inverness, and afterward became a soldier in the British service. He came to this coun-

try with a Highland regiment during the Revolutionary War, and with the greater part of his regiment he deserted, and joining the Colonists, fought with them until the close of the war. After peace was declared he sent for his wife and child, and located in Litchfield, Conn., whence he afterward removed to Sussex County, N. J. He lived there a few years, and then returned to Litchfield, Conn., where he rounded out a useful life, always proving a loyal and devoted citizen to his adopted country.

It is not positively known whether the father of our subject, Peter Proctor Campbell, was born in Scotland or Connecticut, but it is thought that he first drew the breath of life in the New England State mentioned. When quite young he was bound out to Deacon Richardson, of Cornish, N. H., and lived with him until he was twenty-one, receiving a good education in the New Hampshire schools. After leaving the home of the good old Deacon he went to New York and taught school for two years. At the expiration of that time he returned to Cornish, to claim as his bride Miss Nancy Jackson, a native of that town, and a daughter of Eleazer Jackson, a native of Connecticut, and a pioneer of Cornish. After marriage Mr. Campbell went to LaFayette, Sussex Co., N. J., accompanied by his bride, and lived there a short time. He subsequently bought the Serepta works, including the foundry, machine-shop, distillery, flouring and sawmill, and operated them all very successfully until about 1843. He sold out his business in that year and moved to Belvidere, where he bought a foundry and machine-shop, and managed them until his death in 1858, when a valuable citizen was lost to that community, as he was a man of sterling common sense, of much ability, and one who was in every respect worthy of the trust and respect of his fellowmen. His estimable wife survived him but a few years, dying in the same town in 1863. They were the parents of six children, all of whom grew to maturity, as follows: Harrison, Eleazer J., Marshall S., Lydia A. (wife of John Randolph), Mary Emmeline and Edward L. They are all living with the exception of Harrison, who died in the spring of 1888, aged seventy-two years.

The subject of our sketch was an infant when his parents removed to New Jersey. He attended the

public schools in that State, and as soon as large enough commenced to learn the machinist's trade in his father's shop. When he was eighteen years old he was seized with the desire to be a sailor, and embarking on a whaling-vessel, was absent on a long voyage that lasted three years and three months. On his return he desired to finish his education, and after attending school at Meriden, N. H., he entered a military academy at Norwich. He was a student in that institution at the breaking out of the Mexican War, and eagerly and enthusiastically dropped his studies of the science of war to gain a practical knowledge of its grim realities on the bloody battle-fields of Mexico, he with many of his comrades volunteering, and entering the service under Gen. Scott. They fought bravely in the battle of Vera Cruz, and in every other battle from there to the City of Mexico. At the capture of the latter city, our subject was detailed as bodyguard to accompany the remains of the gallant Col. Ransom, who was killed at the battle of Tehuantepec, to his home. Peace having been shortly afterward declared, Mr. Campbell was never called upon to enter service again, but was mustered out at Ft. Phillip, La., in the fall of 1847. He returned home, engaged as a civil engineer, and was employed in the survey of different railways in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey until 1855. In that year he went to the Territory of Kansas, and from there to Nebraska in the fall, coming here to assist in the survey of the land, and immediately commenced upon his work. In 1856 he returned to Leavenworth, Kan., and assisted in the survey of the Sac and Fox reservations. In the fall of that year he returned to Nebraska City, passing by the present site of Lincoln, where a house was not then standing. On the first day of December was the big snowstorm, which will ever be held in remembrance by the early pioneers of Nebraska. It continued so long, and was of such unprecedented violence, that our subject and his party spent nine days in the timber unable to get out and make their way to this city. In the spring Mr. Campbell returned to Lincoln to complete the survey begun the year before, and he was employed in surveying for the Government at times until 1859. He then took up his residence in town and did odd jobs of

surveying for individuals, and looked up claims until 1861. He then moved to a farm nine miles west of the city, and was engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1871. He was then elected to the office of County Surveyor for Otoe County, and moved back to Nebraska City, where he has resided continuously ever since.

In 1850 Mr. Campbell took unto himself a wife in the person of Miss Eliza Bond, and she has since been to him a devoted helpmate. To them five children have been born, namely: Fennimore C., Mervy N., George, Mary E. and Edward L.

Our subject has always been a true Democrat in his politics, and he has taken an active part in public affairs. He has served seven years as Justice of the Peace since coming to this city, and held that office for five years while a resident of Delaware Precinct. He was Deputy Clerk of the District Court for three years, and was elected to the position of Clerk in the fall of 1887 for a term of four years, and is serving with much honor and credit to himself. Socially, he is a member of Eureka Lodge No. 7, K. of P.



**N**ERI P. DAKAN, a prominent farmer and stock-dealer of Hendricks Precinct, has a fine tract of land on section 2, where he located in the spring of 1884. He is the offspring of a good family, being the son of William and Jane (Ross) Dakan, the father a native of New York State, and the mother of Pennsylvania. The parents were married in the latter State, whence they removed to Ohio, where the father, who had learned the miller's trade, carried on milling and farming, and accumulated a fine property. In 1853 he left Ohio, moving to DeKalb County, Mo., where he retired from active labor a few years later, and departed this life in 1865, at the age of seventy-four years. The mother also died at the homestead in Missouri in 1853, at the age of fifty-two. The paternal grandfather of our subject, also William Dakan by name, did good service as a soldier, first in the Revolutionary War under Washington, and later in the War of 1812.

To the parents of our subject there were born

nine children, six of whom are still living, namely: Melinda, Suzella, Lucinda, Highram, Neri P. (our subject) and Caroline. The deceased are John, Elizabeth and Catherine. Neri P. was born in Belmont County, Ohio, Dec. 11, 1829, and spent his early life in the Buckeye State near the city of Columbus. He acquired a practical education in the common school, and remained with his parents until after attaining his majority. In 1854 he began farming on his own account in DeKalb County, Mo., operating on 200 acres of land a period of three years. Later he engaged in general merchandising in DeKalb County six years. Thence he went to Somerset, Ill., where he carried on merchandising very successfully, and continued for a period of three years.

During the summer of 1867 our subject came with his family overland to Nemaha County, this State, and there spent the winter. The spring of 1860 found him looking around for a location in this county, and he first settled on a tract of land about three miles south of the present site of Nebraska City. He there purchased seventy acres of land, upon which he lived and labored until 1883. He built up a good farm from the uncultivated soil, and gave considerable attention to stock-raising, in which he met with success.

In the spring of 1883 Mr. Dakan changed his residence from the eastern to the western part of this county, having purchased his present farm of 320 acres on section 2. Here he has very fine improvements, comprising a fine dwelling with a good barn and the other necessary out-buildings, an orchard of five acres, and a grove of cottonwood, maple, ash and elm trees. There is also a fine tract of natural timber, and a never-failing stream of water running through the farm. He has fully twenty acres in timber.

The marriage of our subject took place in DeKalb County, Mo., Jan. 21, 1858, his bride being Miss Lydia, daughter of F. B. and Mary (Farrer) Titcomb. Mr. Titcomb was born in Portland, Me., and his wife, Mary, near the city of Cleveland, Ohio. They were married in the latter State. The father was an educated man, and a professor in the city schools of Cleveland, Ohio. The family moved to Cook County, Ill., where the father abandoned

teaching for the pursuits of agriculture, and from there went to Clinton County, Iowa. In 1854 they moved across the Mississippi into DeKalb County, Mo., where Mr. Titcomb departed this life in the spring of 1872, at the age of fifty-five years. The mother is still living, at the age of eighty-two years, on the old homestead in Missouri. Their children were Edward, Elvina, Lydia (Mrs. Dakan), Stephania and Amria. Mrs. Dakan was born in Lake County, Ill., Jan. 26, 1840. Of her union with our subject there are five children—Thomas J., Alice, Edwin, Lulu and Archie. They are all at home with their parents.

Mr. D. was the nominee at last election for County Commissioner on the Democratic ticket, which fact sufficiently indicates his politics. He has served as Moderator in his school district, and is the encourager of those enterprises calculated to advance the people in morality and intelligence. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Baptist Church at Nebraska City. Mrs. Dakan is a lady of great intelligence and refinement, amply fitted to be the companion of such a man as her husband. The stock operations of Mr. Dakan are quite extensive, as he feeds sometimes as many as 500 head of cattle in one year. He became identified with the I. O. O. F. while a resident of Missouri.

**H**ENRY BORD, Postmaster at Talmage, was early on the ground at the time of the organization of this village, being its pioneer druggist, and his wife at the same time establishing a millinery store. To their energy and enterprise is due in a great measure the encouragement which resulted in the building up of the town and the bringing within its borders a thrifty and business-like class of people. Mr. and Mrs. Bord prevailed against the many discouragements which naturally beset the pioneer in whatever enterprise he engages, and may be pardoned if they look upon the result of their labors to-day with pride.

Mr. Bord was given the office of Postmaster in March, 1885, from which fact his politics may be clearly indicated. He is especially adapted to deal

with the public, being sociable and genial in disposition, a fluent conversationalist, and a man with whom anyone can pass an hour both pleasurably and profitably. He migrated to this point from Crawford County, Kan., where he had been engaged in farming successfully for a number of years.

To the State of Kansas Mr. Bord had migrated from Illinois in the fall of 1866, at a time when Crawford County where he settled was an unbroken tract of prairie land. He located with his little family upon a portion of this when there was not a neighbor within seven miles. Later, however, the tracks of the Indian gave place to those of the white man, and in due time the settlers began to gather around him. About 1868 Mr. Bord was called upon to assist in the organization of the first school district in his part of the county. This, as may be imagined, was a great event for the pioneers, one to which they look back even at the present time with a high degree of satisfaction.

Mr. and Mrs. Bord have a full knowledge of the difficulties and dangers of life on the frontier, although their experience was not unmingled with pleasure. Wild game was plentiful, and whatever else the household larder may have lacked, it was generously supplied with choice wild meats. Mr. Bord secured a farm from Uncle Sam, where he constructed a good homestead, and which he sold in 1882 at a sum sufficient to repay him for his toil and sacrifices.

The childhood home of our subject was on the other side of the Atlantic, in Somersetshire, England, where his birth took place near the city of Bruton, Nov. 17, 1822. His parents were of pure English ancestry, his father, William Bord, having been born in Bruton, and his mother in the well-known city of Bath. The latter in her girlhood was Miss Mary Penols. The parents were married in Somersetshire, where the father operated a brewery until emigrating to the United States in 1830. They tarried for a time in New York City, and later sojourned in Troy, where the death of the father took place at the advanced age of eighty-seven years.

The mother survived her husband several years, and died at the home of her daughter, in 1886, at the age of eighty-five. Both were members of

the Church of England, honest and conscientious people, strict and careful in their methods of family government, aiming to make of their offspring good and worthy citizens, who should hand down their name in honor to posterity.

The subject of this sketch was the second son and child in a family of twelve, six sons and six daughters. He attained his majority in the city of Troy, N. Y., where he learned the business of druggist and its various branches, and was thus occupied for a number of years. In Troy, also, occurred the important event of his marriage with Miss Sarah E. Ives, which took place at her home Sept 30, 1859.

Mrs. Bord was born in the romantic region of country along the Mohawk River, and at the point known as Rockwell Falls, on the 1st of December, 1831. There she remained and began her early education, completing her studies, however, in the city of Troy, to which her parents removed during her childhood. These latter were Abraham and Lucinda (Smith) Ives, who were natives of New York, and came to the West several years ago. They are now sojourning for their health in Kansas.

Mrs. Bord is a very intelligent and capable lady, and has been a most worthy and efficient helpmate to her husband during his struggle with the elements of pioneer life, standing by his side, and encouraging him not only by her councils, but being of substantial assistance in business matters. They are the parents of one child, a son, Lawrence A., now a promising boy fourteen years of age, who is serving an apprenticeship as printer in the office of the *Talmage Tribune*.

Mr. Bord left his native State and migrated to DeKalb County, Ill., in the fall of 1849. Thence he removed to Bureau County, of which he was a resident until 1865, and from there across the Mississippi, soon after which began his pioneer experience on the Kansas frontier. He cast his first Presidential vote for Martin Van Buren, and is a pronounced Jacksonian Democrat, defending his principles with all the fearlessness and strength of his character. He has served as Justice of the Peace at Talmage a number of years, and is also a Notary Public. His name is a household word among the people of his own town, where both he

and his excellent wife are favorites in the social circles, and welcome under their hospitable roof scores of friends who have learned to esteem them for their sterling worth, and as valuable members of the community.



**M**ICHAEL D. CAMPBELL, owner of one of the most valuable farms in Syracuse Precinct, and which lies just without the limits of the thriving and pleasantly located village, has of late years devoted his attention mainly to stock-raising, an industry which has netted him a generous income. Although settling here as late as 1883, he has during the brief period of his residence among the people of this region surrounded himself with many warm friends. He was at once recognized as a valued addition to the community, is a gentleman of taste and culture, prompt in his business transactions, and in all respects a model citizen.

A native of Indiana, our subject was born in Jefferson Township, Boone County, March 25, 1835. He claims descent from a liberty loving ancestry, who were always ready to shoulder arms in defense of home and country. Allen Campbell, his paternal grandfather, was born in Virginia, and when a lad of fifteen years migrated to the unsettled territory now comprised in the State of Kentucky. There he became the friend and compeer of Daniel Boone, and participated with that illustrious old hero in many of his conflicts with the savage foe. Enlisting in the regular service he was given the commission of First Lieutenant under Gen. Wayne, and was present at the battle of Maumee, where he commanded his company, and is recorded in history as Capt. Campbell. He did not see his father from the time he left home until he was a man of thirty years, being absent a period of fifteen years.

Grandfather Campbell married a Kentucky lady, and from the Blue Grass regions they emigrated to Jennings County, Ind., locating among its early settlers. There they reared a family of sons and daughters, and passed the remainder of their days. Michael D., Sr., was born in Kentucky, and like his father before him, left his native State when a lad

of fifteen years, going with the family to Jennings County, Ind., where he grew to manhood and chose his life companion.

The parents of our subject soon after their marriage settled in Jefferson Township, Boone Co., Ind., where the father erected the second log cabin built in the township, and there passed the remaining fifty-three years of his life. He departed hence in July, 1883, at the advanced age of seventy-nine years. His aged and excellent partner survived him only four weeks, her death taking place in August following, and her years being seventy-six. The household circle of this excellent pair included eleven children, of whom the following are living: Joseph A., John F., Michael D. (our subject), Nottly S., David W., and R. Angeline, the wife of Alex A. Young, of Montgomery County, Ind.

Michael D. Campbell pursued his early studies in the primitive log school-house of Jefferson Township, Ind., and later added to his knowledge by an extended course of reading. This, however, sufficed to make him a well-informed man, and one of more than ordinary intelligence. He, in common with his brothers, during his boyhood and youth, assisted in the development of the new farm in Indiana, and they together cleared up a tract of land 600 acres in extent. On the 21st of March, 1860, occurred one of the most interesting and important events in the life of our subject, his marriage, after which he settled near his parents, and followed agricultural pursuits in the Hoosier State until the winter of 1882.

Mr. Campbell now began to cast longing eyes toward the farther West, and coming to this State, was for a year a resident of Nebraska City. At the expiration of this time he settled on the farm which he now owns and occupies, and which is such a credit to his good management. Like his father before and like his brothers, he is an ardent supporter of Democratic principles. While in Indiana he was for a period of twelve years Director of the Agricultural Society of Boone, Clinton and Montgomery Counties. He has carefully refrained from political office, preferring to leave such spoils to those whose time could not be better employed.

The wife of our subject was in her girlhood Miss Martha A. Harris, and was born in Boone County,

Ind., Jan. 12, 1841. Her parents, Matthew F. and Martha (Ferguson) Harris, were natives of Tennessee and Indiana respectively. The father has long since passed to his rest; the mother is still living in Boone County, Ind. Her paternal grandfather, William Harris, served as a soldier under Gen. Andrew Jackson, in the war with the Crete Indians. Her parents, like those of our subject, were pioneer settlers of Indiana. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, namely: Rossie, the wife of Dr. Charles Sutton, of Syracuse; Allen T., who married Miss Myrtle Young; and lives in Hildreth, Neb.; Alonzo D., Olney L., Charles F., Mintie R. and Orval Ray.

The mother of Mr. Campbell was a daughter of Joseph Betts, an early settler of Scott County, Ky., and a participant in the Indian wars of 1803, 1805 and 1812, being under the command of Gen. Wayne at Maumee, with the title of Sergeant. He was in the same company with Allen Campbell, and later carried a musket in the War of 1812, under the command of Gen. Harrison, and was at the battle of Tippecanoe when Tecumseh was killed.



**P**OLK HILL. In the present sketch are presented to the reader the more salient features of the life of the popular Postmaster of Palmyra. His parents, William H. and Sarah A. (Tutt) Hill, were born respectively in Madison and Culpeper Counties, Va., and his family has its representatives among the very early colonists of Virginia. Col. Robert Hill, the grandfather of our subject, was in command of militia in the War of 1812, and is reputed to have been one of the most intrepid and gallant of his compeers.

The parents of our subject settled in Virginia, and his father followed the usual rural occupations. In 1836 he removed with his family to Missouri, where they lived for about ten years, but, owing to the prevalence of ague and his continued susceptibility to its influence, and his consequently debilitated health, he was compelled to return to his native State, but in 1868 he came to the State of Nebraska, and for three years lived south of Nebraska City. In the spring of 1871 they removed to Palmyra.

They were the parents of eleven children, four of whom were boys. The mother was the first of the parents to depart this life; her death occurred in 1879, when she was seventy-one years of age. The father died in 1880, aged seventy-seven years.

Of the above-mentioned family the subject of our sketch was the ninth born. This interesting event occurred upon the 19th of January, 1845, in Callaway County, Mo., and when his parents removed to Virginia he was eighteen months old. There he grew up upon the farm, and made early acquaintance with farm life, responsibility and work. He received a fair education, his parents giving him every possible advantage. At the time of the secession he was of course too young to vote or have any personal influence, but at an early age gave promise of the powers that have since been developed. As soon as he became old enough to bear arms he enlisted in Company C, 4th Virginia Cavalry. He was in the battles of Gettysburg, Williamsport, Shepherdstown, and through the campaign of the Wilderness, in 1864, but he received his "baptism of fire" at Boonesville, where he also was slightly wounded in the side, and was only saved by his pocket Bible, which received the force of the otherwise fatal blow. He was wounded a second time at Nance's Shop, Va.; here a rifle ball struck his left arm, shattering the bone and rendering amputation imperative; this was performed on the 24th of June, 1864. The bullet that did this destructive work is in the possession of our subject until this day. After this event he went back home, being incapacitated for further service, and having fully proved the intense loyalty and patriotism that were within his breast. Coming to Nebraska in 1868, he was for one year a teacher in this county.

His parents were directly dependent upon our subject for support, at that time having lost their property, and being old and infirm. Their infirmities were the result of age, their poverty, war. It was the ambition of Mr. Hill to become a man of letters, but, recognizing the position of his parents, he without further debate gave up the project and went to work in other directions, making the first duty of his life his devotion to his parents.

The subject of our sketch first began by renting a farm, and continued prosperously engaged thereon

until 1873, when, in the month of December, he returned to Virginia in order that he might claim his bride, Mary Ella Jeffries, who now becomes the companion of his maturer days. Their home has been brightened by the birth of five children, to whom they gave the names appended: William H., Thomas Temple; Edgar T., who died when about one year old; Mary E. and Dudley J.

Mrs. Hill was born in Culpeper County, Va., on the 7th of March, 1850. The birthdays of her mother, herself and daughter May, are all on the same day of the month. Her parents were quite well-to-do, her father being a planter and at the same time a slave-holder. He operated a steam sawmill, and was largely interested in the lumber trade. She was one of eleven children born to her parents, and with the exception of herself and two sisters they were all boys. She is a lady of education and culture, and was graduated from the Culpeper Female Institute in the year 1870.

Mr. Hill intended to return to Nebraska immediately after his marriage, but was detained in Virginia, and finally went into business with his brother-in-law, Mr. J. E. Jeffries. Business prospered exceedingly until 1876, when the high water broke the mill dam, greatly damaged the property, and a heavy loss was sustained. They repaired the injury, however, and all went well for a time. In 1879 he returned to Nebraska, bringing with him his wife and three children; he then settled in Palmyra Precinct, purchasing fifteen and a half acres, upon which he erected a thoroughly substantial and commodious dwelling, which represents in its arrangement, furnishing, etc., the very harmony of homelike restfulness and domestic comfort. Such is the spirit that seems to pervade and render the more material things capable of leaving the impression that it is indeed a home, which is undoubtedly due to his most excellent wife.

For one year Mr. Hill served in the office of Constable, resigning the position in 1882. Upon the occasion of T. W. Foster severing his official connection with the Postal Department, Mr. Hill was appointed and accepted the position, and has given every satisfaction to the people ever since that time, rendering the most efficient service in each and every department. Politically, he is a member

of the Democratic party, and is actively engaged in its interests. Both he and Mrs. Hill are members in good standing of the Baptist Church, and are respected very highly in that direction, and in the community at large there are few families that are more thoroughly esteemed.



**G**EORGE W. WELLS, a native of England, and a farmer in good circumstances, proprietor of 160 acres of land on section 18, in Russell Precinct, fulfills the idea of the well-bred English gentleman. Over his domestic affairs presides a lady in every way his equal, refined and well educated, and their hospitable doors are ever open both to friends and strangers, who, if of ordinary intelligence, are not slow in discerning that they are under the roof of those who have made politeness a study, and who were born and reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement. Their home, pleasant within and without, forms an attractive picture of rural life, where peace and contentment abide.

Thomas Wells, the father of our subject, was a native of Buckinghamshire, England, and a shoemaker by trade. In early manhood he married Miss Anna Green, and those of her family who survive are residents of England. The father departed this life in 1856, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother passed away after the decease of her husband, about 1865.

The subject of this sketch was born March 27, 1837, in Buckinghamshire, and learned the shoe-making trade under the instruction of his excellent father. He received the education common to the boys of his time and neighborhood, and was trained in those principles of honesty and sentiments of honor which have left their indelible impress upon his subsequent life. In July, 1866, having become dissatisfied with his condition and his prospects, he determined to seek his fortune on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, bidding adieu to the friends of his childhood and youth, he set sail on the steamer "Hibernian," and ten days afterward landed in the city of Quebec, Canada. Later he

proceeded to Toronto, and worked at his trade until the spring of 1869. Coming over into the "States" in the month of April, he made his way westward across the Mississippi, and upon reaching this county homesteaded eighty acres of land, which tract is included in his present farm.

Our subject had not only come to a new section of country with limited means, but was beset by the difficulties attendant upon imperfect transportation and distant markets. He was obliged to haul lumber from Nebraska City before he could put up his house, and the labor required in the transformation of the raw prairie to a cultivated farm may be better imagined than described. He set out groves, hedges and an orchard, and in the course of years began to realize the result of his labors. Of late he has given considerable attention to stock-raising, feeding numbers of cattle and hogs each year, from the proceeds of which he realizes a handsome income. He votes the straight Republican ticket, and has been a member of the School Board in his district for a period of nine years. He has been a useful man in his community.

Mr. Wells was married in his native shire June 1, 1864, to Miss Mary G., daughter of James and Anna (Gregory) Bird, whose birthplace was not far from that of her husband. Her father was a baker by occupation, and died in the spring of 1883, at the age of seventy-four years. The mother is still living in England, being in the year 1888 of the same age as her husband when he died. Of the eleven children born to them seven are living and mostly residents of England. Mrs. Wells was born Nov. 27, 1839, and of her union with our subject there are two children only, both daughters, Edith A. and Clara J. B. The former is twenty years of age and the latter thirteen, and both are at home with their parents.

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**D**R. ALEXANDER M. COWDEN, physician and surgeon at Dunbar, although only a resident of this place since May of the past year (1888) is already building up a large practice. His prompt attention to the calls of duty, and his conscientious methods of practice, are meeting with their legitimate reward, and he

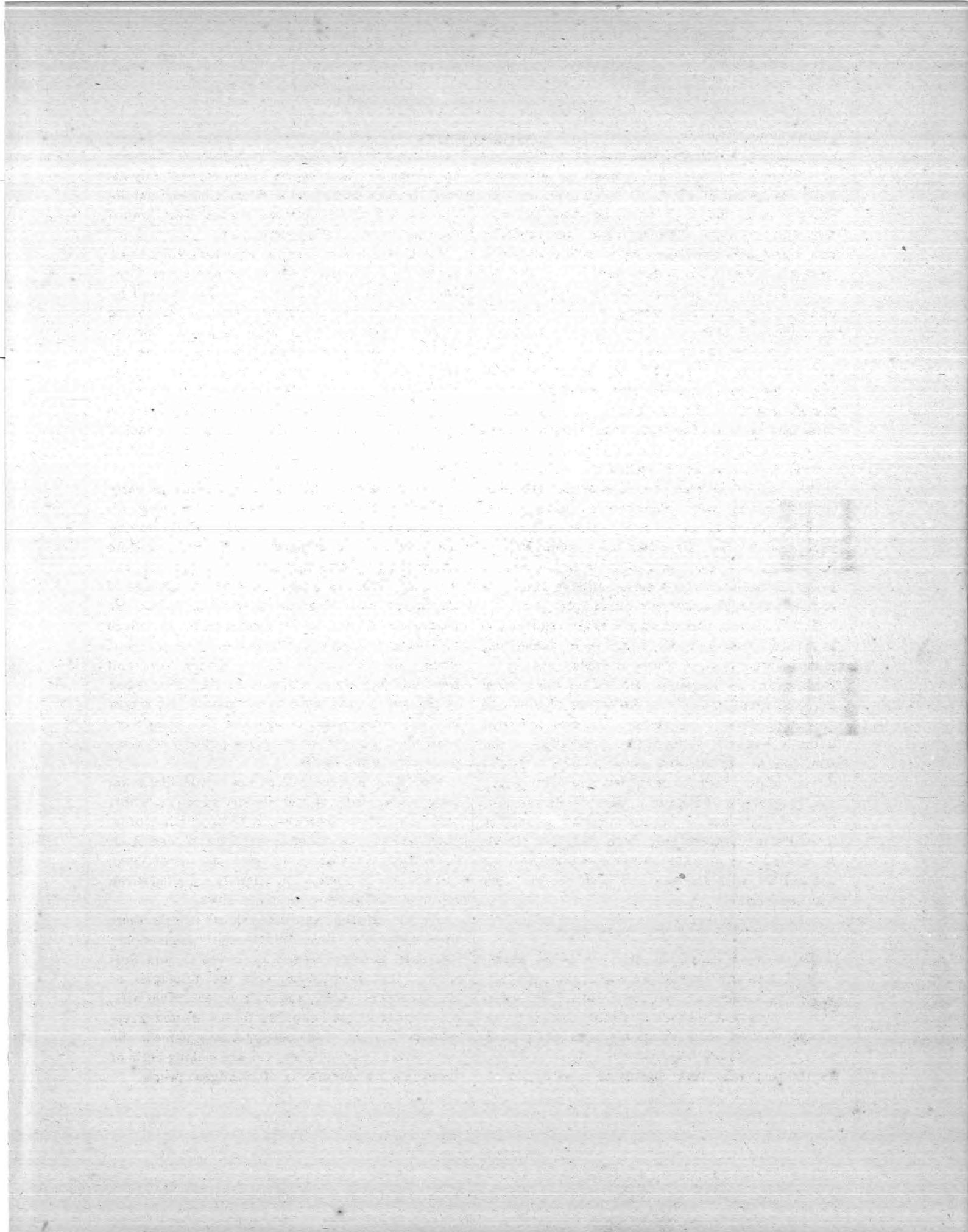
has about all the business he can conveniently attend to. As a citizen, he is enterprising and public-spirited, willing to contribute his full share toward the best interests of his community.

Dr. Cowden was born in Crawfordsville, Iowa, March 31, 1855, and is the son of Alexander Cowden, who was born in Mercer County, Pa., and removed from the Keystone State to Mahoning County, Ohio, and from there to Mercer County, Ill., in the year 1840, or about that date. He departed this life at his home in Washington County, Iowa, April 30, 1855. The mother, Mrs. Margaret M. Cowden, is a native of Pennsylvania, and is now in Crawfordsville, Iowa. The parental family consisted of five children, who are now mostly in Iowa.

The subject of this sketch pursued his early studies in the common school, and during his younger years lived upon a farm. Upon leaving the home roof he engaged as clerk in a drug-store two years, then took up the study of medicine, and later, in 1880, was graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa. He began the practice of his profession in the village of Ellison, Warren Co., Ill., in the winter of 1881, whence he removed, in 1883, to Elvira, Iowa, and followed his profession there until May, 1888, when he changed his residence to this county. He is now but thirty-four years of age, and has already entered upon a career which gives promise of great prosperity in the future.

Miss Mary A. Crawford, of Crawfordsville, Iowa, became the wife of our subject Sept. 21, 1881. Mrs. Cowden was born Dec. 2, 1862, in Crawfordsville, and is the daughter of John W. and A. J. (Crawford) Crawford, who were natives of Ohio, and are now in Iowa. Their family included seven children, who are now mostly in Iowa.

To the Doctor and his estimable wife there have been born three children, one daughter and two sons, namely: Maggie L., Bruce C. and Russell G. Dr. Cowden supports the principles of the Republican party, and, with his estimable wife, is a member in good standing of the United Presbyterian Church. They occupy a snug home in the northwestern part of town, and are making hosts of friends amid a community of intelligent people.





*Robert Curry.*

**R**OBERT CURRY, A. M., Ph. D., second son of Robert and Kezia Curry, was born near Murrysville, Westmoreland Co., Pa., on the 8th of June, 1821. In his ninth year his parents removed to Washington County of the same State, where he was raised, and trained to habits of industry.

His opportunities for obtaining an early school education were very meager, as his parents, although honest, industrious and intelligent, were in limited circumstances. This want of opportunity, however, was offset to a certain extent by his early home education, as under the guidance of his parents, who were Presbyterians of Scotch extraction, he had learned to read and write, and treasured up in memory the Westminster Assembly's shorter catechism, and many psalms and hymns, and other choice selections of prose and poetry, further back than at his majority he could remember. His instructions in the Sunday-school, and from the pulpit also, formed an important part of his early education, and doubtless had much to do in shaping his character and forming his purposes for life.

He early manifested an ardent desire to obtain a liberal education, and in the meantime, by his own unaided home efforts, supplemented by a few months' instruction in the public schools of his neighborhood, gained such a knowledge of the common branches of an English education as enabled him to pass a satisfactory examination before an intelligent school committee, from which he received such certificates and recommendations as justified him in applying for a position as teacher in the public schools, and henceforward relied entirely on his own efforts for support and success in securing an education.

After teaching a few terms in the public schools, he became a student in the academy at Frankfort Springs, Beaver Co., Pa., where he made considerable progress in the study of mathematics and the classics. Subsequently he attended an academy in Cross Creek Village, Washington Co., Pa., devoting his time while there exclusively to the study of the Latin and Greek languages. In the summer of 1845 he entered the Freshman class of Jefferson College, where he graduated in 1848, having taught more or less in the meantime.

After graduation he taught one year in the Hays & McNary school, and on Dec. 26, 1849, he and Miss Mary McCloy, youngest daughter of Dr. Alexander McCloy, of Cannonsburg, Pa., were united in marriage.

He subsequently held successively the principalship of the West Newton Academy, the Cannonsburg graded schools, and that of a private seminary in West Manchester. In the spring of 1855 he organized, at Mansfield, Pa., the first Normal School west of the Alleghany Mountains. In the fall of the same year he became Principal of the New Brighton Female Seminary, in which position he remained until his wife died, in the fall of 1859, when he, with his little daughter, an only child, returned to Pittsburgh, where for a time he edited and published an educational journal, known as the *National Educator*.

In 1860 he founded the celebrated Curry Institute, of Pittsburgh, Pa., an institution which still bears his name, and which, while comprising three courses—Normal, Classical and Commercial—was nevertheless designed for the special education and training of teachers. It was a private enterprise, which, while demanding high prices for tuition, had to compete with the Pittsburgh Central High School, which comprised a Normal Department free to all its pupils. Curry Institute opened with only four students, but grew so rapidly that by the end of the first year it numbered over 200 students. Its popularity increased from year to year, until before long there was a constant demand for all its graduates as teachers, and indeed all its other students who could obtain certificates of any grade. During his thirteen years' connection with the institution as Principal, its average annual attendance was over 317 students, while toward the last of that period, some of its catalogues show an annual enrollment of over 500 students.

In the spring of 1873 he was appointed Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, and as his thirteen years of unceasing labor in building up and carrying on his school had somewhat impaired his health, and as in the meantime his little daughter had died, thus leaving him alone, he disposed of his interest in the school, accepted the proffered office, and entered upon its du-

ties on the 1st of June, 1873. His estimated fitness for the position, the nature of his work, and the ability with which he discharged the duties of his office, are aptly and briefly expressed in the following abstracts taken from leading educational journals and elsewhere. Thus, Dr. J. P. Wickersham, in the *Pennsylvania School Journal* for June, 1873, in speaking of the suitability of his appointment, says: "Prof. Robert Curry has all his life been engaged in the work of education. In 1855 he established the first Normal School west of the mountains, and since that time has been constantly engaged in the work of training teachers. His appointment was asked for by an immense number of superintendents, teachers, school directors, public men and leading private citizens. He seems to come into office by the universal good-will of his section of the State, and the cause of education is expected to profit much by his appointment." The following resolution, which is taken from the published minutes of the Teachers' Association, held in the city of Pittsburgh April 5, 1873, and which was unanimously adopted by that body, is a type of the numerous requests above alluded to, and, at the same time, indicates the estimation in which he was held at home.

"Resolved, That this convention nominate Prof. Robert Curry, and earnestly urge his appointment to the position of Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, believing that his natural ability, educational qualifications, extensive experience as an educator, popularity as an institute lecturer and instructor, and his high moral character, are such as to eminently fit him for this important position." The *Warren Institute Gem* for September, 1873, says: "Prof Robert Curry entered upon the duties of his office last June. The degree of Ph. D. was conferred upon him by Washington and Jefferson College last July. He is now in the prime of life, and endowed with ripe scholarship and rich experience, and his services as State Instructor cannot fail to be of incalculable value to the cause of education throughout the State." The *National Journal of Education* for June, 1880, speaking of Dr. Curry's official work in Pennsylvania, says: "As Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he spent nearly four years as State Instructor

in the city and county institutes of the commonwealth, attending the city and county superintendents' conventions, and in visiting the State Normal Schools and examining their graduating classes. His public addresses were very highly and widely appreciated, having been quoted largely by the National Bureau of Education in its annual reports, the French Centennial Commission, in its report on the state of education in this country, and by the press in Canada, Germany, and other foreign countries, as well as at home."

During the summer of 1876 he made his headquarters in Philadelphia, where, having charge of Pennsylvania's Centennial Educational exhibit, he had rare opportunities for becoming acquainted with the leading educators and educational systems of the world. In the meantime, he and Miss Jennie B. Boggs, of Allegheny City, were married, and began housekeeping in Philadelphia, expecting to make that place their future home. In December of that year, however, he was unanimously elected Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School, and although it was not to his pecuniary interest to make the change, he had a desire to see the West, and as the work was congenial, and would allow him to enjoy more of home life, he at once resigned his office and repaired to Nebraska. In acknowledging the receipt of Dr. Curry's resignation, Dr. Wickersham, in the *Pennsylvania School Journal*, says: "In parting with Prof. Curry in Pennsylvania, it is only just to say that the cause of public education loses a warm friend, and the Department of Public Instruction an able and faithful officer."

In January, 1877, he entered upon the duties of his new position as Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School. Under his management the history of the institution was one of uninterrupted prosperity. The thoroughness and efficiency of its work during his administration is fully attested by Hon. S. R. Thompson, for several years State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Nebraska, who, in his annual report for 1880, says: "Nebraska is fortunate in having one of the best Normal Schools in the United States. This statement is made deliberately, and after a careful study of the schools of other States. The firm, consistent management,

the liberal course of study, extending through five years, the zeal and ability of the teachers, and the industry and enthusiasm of the pupils, render our Normal School an institution of which every intelligent friend of education in the State may well feel proud."

Dr. Curry has delivered many lectures, and done much institute work in the State. He was President of the State Teachers' Association in 1880. He has always been an earnest student, and is a deep thinker and able worker.

He is the author of the following pamphlets, viz: "Education—What It is not, and What It is;" "Special Education," "Prerequisites to Success," "The Formation of Human Character," "The Relative Importance of the Teacher's Vocation," "The Philosophy of Revelation," "Geometry—Its Nature, Elements, Use, and How to Teach It," "The Earth as a Model School," "The Earth as a Cosmical System," "Man and His Environments," and various other addresses and reports. Several years ago he had partially prepared a series of arithmetics, which, while in manuscript form, were destroyed by fire. He now has several other works in a state of partial preparation.

In 1883 Dr. Curry resigned his position as Principal of the Nebraska State Normal School, and removed to Palmyra, Neb., where he has since devoted most of his time to philosophy, literature and writing, and his leisure hours to the management of his large landed estate in that vicinity.

Although an educator by profession, Dr. Curry has never restricted his reading and study to any single line of investigation, but has rather endeavored to widen and enrich his views on all subjects, by widening his course of reading and study. After leaving college he read full courses in law, medicine and theology, respectively; not with a view to practicing any of them as a profession, but rather for his own improvement in thus extending his range of thought, and rounding out his own education, believing that an educator should keep abreast of the times in all departments of human progress. And no doubt his great success as an educator, as well as his achievements in other fields of labor, is largely due to his high culture, rich experience, and liberal views thus acquired.

We have already seen that his experience as an educator has been much and varied, having served as Principal of all grades of schools, from the public, district, primary and graded schools, up through the academy, the female seminary, and the private and State Normal schools, and that he has filled all these positions with marked ability and success. But his experience outside of his profession, and for the most part simultaneous with the performance of its duties, has been scarcely less extensive. He was for many years an active worker in the Sunday-school, part of the time as Superintendent, and all the time as teacher of Bible classes. He was for a time editor and proprietor of the *National Educator*. While carrying on his professional work in Pittsburgh, he also served a term as Bank Director, and was subsequently Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, all of which positions he filled with credit to himself, and fidelity to the interests of all concerned. His integrity and business tact have been clearly shown in his prudent management of the pecuniary interests of all the institutions, both private and public, committed to his care, as well as by his judicious investments made on his own account.

This brief sketch affords an apt illustration of what can be accomplished in this country by talent, pluck and high purpose. The subject of this biography was born and raised in the country, where, without money, books or influential friends, he began his public career during his minority, and by his own unaided efforts rose step by step, until he reached the highest plane of scholarship, and now stands in the very front rank of educators.

Dr. Curry has all his life taken an active part in everything relating to the public good, and the amelioration of mankind. His sympathies have always been with the downtrodden and the poor, both at home and abroad. He has often lent a helping hand to worthy students seeking to better their condition by means of a good education, by furnishing them free instruction, and, in some cases, while conducting his own private schools, free boarding. Without being a bigot in religion, a partisan in politics, or an ultra sensationalist on reforms, he is a Presbyterian in church polity, a Republican in politics, and a teetotaler as regards the use of tobacco and intoxicating drinks.

MRS. JENNIE B. CURRY, daughter of James and Lucinda Boggs, was born in Allegheny City, Pa., Oct. 26, 1845. Her parents being Covenanters, she was not only trained to habits of industry and economy, but thoroughly instructed in all the doctrines, catechisms and customs of the Covenanter Church, of which she early became an active member. Her systematic, conscientious home training during her infancy and childhood, conditioned on her part such discipline and habits of promptness and self-denial as rendered her performance of duty ever after comparatively easy.

Miss Boggs received her early school education in the Third Ward public schools of Allegheny City, and her professional education and training in Curry Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., where she graduated in the Normal course of that institution in the fall of 1864.

After completing the Normal course, she was, on account of her superior qualifications and high character, chosen an assistant teacher in the institution, where, with marked ability and success, she taught nine consecutive years, during which time she, in addition to her duties as teacher, completed a full college course of study in the academic department of that institution. In the meantime she received, on examination by the proper authorities, all the different kinds of legal certificates and diplomas granted to teachers in the State of Pennsylvania, including the Provisional, the Professional, and the Permanent State Certificates and the State Normal School Diploma.

When Curry Institute passed from under the management of its founder, Miss Boggs took a rest of one year, during which time she was elected Assistant Principal of the Morehead Public Schools of Pittsburgh, Pa., and took charge as teacher of the High School of that institution. After holding this position two years, she resigned at the close of the school year, in June, 1876.

On July 19, 1876, she was married to Dr. Robert Curry, then Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania, and spent the remainder of the summer with him in Philadelphia, where at the great Centennial, with its immense educational exhibits, she made many acquaintances, and greatly

extended her observations on school appliances, school workers and school systems.

In December, 1876, she removed with her husband to Nebraska. In the summer of 1877 she was elected to the Chair of Language and Methods, in the Nebraska State Normal School, which position she filled two years, at the expiration of which time she was transferred to the Chair of Methods and Training, which position she continued to fill until the summer of 1883, when, with her husband, she resigned, and removed to Palmyra, Neb., where she now resides. When she was chosen a member of the State Normal School faculty she was also given charge of the State Normal School Library, which was under her special care and direction during her six years' connection with the institution.

Mrs. Curry was a member of the Allegheny County Teachers' Association from 1863 until she left the State, in 1876. She was Vice President of the Pennsylvania State Teachers' Association in 1868. She has prepared and read papers before a number of Teachers' Associations, and done much Institute work in both Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

She united with the Covenanter Church in her childhood, but has been a member of the Presbyterian Church for nearly twenty years. She was an active and successful worker in the Sunday-school from the time she was fifteen years of age until she came to Nebraska.

Mrs. Curry has for many years been a great reader, not only of the current literature furnished by the leading magazines and reviews, but also of the most prominent books published in the interest of literature, science and religion. Since removing to Palmyra she has made philosophy a special study, and in the meantime has read, with her husband, the "History of Philosophy," as given by Cousin, Schwegler and Ueberweg, respectively; and made a critical study of Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," and the Philosophies of Schelling, Fichte and Hegel.

But her accomplishments and efficiency as a scholar and educator are not her only qualifications, nor, perhaps, her most important ones. She is equally at home in the domestic circle. Having been brought up to habits of industry and neatness, she in childhood learned how to do all kinds of



Jennie B. Curry.



housework and needlework in the most approved manner, and now well knows how to make her happy home attractive and pleasant.



**S**PENCER L. GANT, M. D., has for several years, when the state of his health permitted, practiced medicine in Nebraska City, and his learning, ability and skill justly entitle him to a high place among his professional brethren in the West. He is a native of North Carolina, his birthplace being in Orange County, twelve miles south of Hillsboro, and three miles southeast of Chapel Hill, and the date of his birth was April 17, 1817. His father, James H. Gant, was born in the same county, but his grandfather, William Gant, was a native of Scotland. He came to America during the Revolution, with three brothers and the famous McDonald. After peace was declared he settled in Orange County, where he engaged in farming and made his residence until death.

The father of our subject was reared on his father's homestead, and until 1838 engaged in farming in Orange County. He served in the War of 1812, and was Captain of his company under Gen. Jackson at the battle of New Orleans. He married in his native State Mary Stewart, likewise a native of North Carolina, born in Wake County, and of English ancestry. In 1838 Mr. Gant moved with his family to Missouri, going with teams across Tennessee and Kentucky, and cooking and camping by the way. They started in August, and arrived in Richmond, Ray Co., Mo., October 10. Mr. Gant invested his money in a tract of 600 acres of unimproved land, ten miles north of Richmond, and was one of the early settlers of the county. He built a hewed log house to shelter his family, and then commenced to improve a farm. He became a prominent factor in promoting the educational and religious interests of the country. He built of hewed logs on his land the first school-house ever erected in that section, and he assisted in the organization of a church, the meetings being held in the school-house. The mother of our subject, who was a very capable housewife, had no stove, and did all her cooking by the open fireplace, and she used to

spin, weave and make all the clothing of the family. The father of our subject improved a farm, upon which he resided some years, and he then sold it and bought a home in Liberty, where the remaining years of his life were passed, he dying in 1868, at the advanced age of eighty-six. The mother of our subject died in the same year, at the age of seventy-six. She and her husband were well endowed mentally and physically, and their length of life was productive of much good to others, so that they have left behind them a blessed memory that will be fondly cherished by those who knew and loved them. They were the parents of twelve children, eight sons and four daughters.

The subject of this sketch was the second child born to his parents, and he was reared in his native State. He accompanied the family to Missouri, and having made the best of his opportunities to get an education, at the age of nineteen he commenced to teach school in Saline County, Mo. He was thus engaged for some years, and in 1843 commenced the study of medicine. In 1847 he was graduated from the St. Louis Medical College, and immediately entered upon the practice of his profession in Clay County, Mo. In 1852 he went from there to Savannah, in Andrew County, and was the leading physician there until 1863, when he crossed the plains to Denver, and resided there until the close of the war. He then came to Nebraska City, and at once opened an office here, and has been in active practice ever since, when his health would permit. He has won a fine reputation, and stands second to none in the city as regards a sound, practical knowledge of his profession, and as the possessor of all the requisites that go to make up a good physician.

Dr. Gant was married, in April, 1848, to Frances A. Yancey. Her father, Col. John F. Yancey, was a native of Virginia, and a cousin of William L. Yancey, of Virginia. He was a Colonel in the War of 1812, and moved from Virginia to Missouri, where he bought a large tract of land in Saline County, and was a respected resident there until his death. The pleasant married life of our subject and his amiable wife has been blessed to them by the birth of three children, as follows: John Yancey, the eldest, is a prosperous farmer in LaFayette

County, Mo.; Eugenia K. is the wife of W. F. N. Houser, cashier of the Farmers' Bank, Nebraska City; Thomas S. is a successful physician of Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb.

Our subject is a man of true nobility of character, earnest, dignified, and simple in his bearing, and his professional and private life is irreproachable. His influence for good is strongly felt in the social and religious circles of this community, as he is one of the leading members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and is prominently identified with the State Medical Society.



**CYRUS BASSETT.** Nebraska remained a Territory for a period of nine years after the subject of this sketch settled upon the land which he now owns and occupies in South Branch Precinct. He was thus one of the earliest pioneers of this county, and, considering the record which he has made for himself, has proved one of its most enterprising and useful men. Upon crossing the Mississippi it had been his intention to visit Pike's Peak, which was then the object of great excitement, and to which hundreds were hastening in the hopes of accumulating a fortune without the necessity of labor.

Our subject, in pursuance of this idea, started out from Lockport, Ill., overland with a team and accompanied by A. J. Reynolds. When one week's drive west of the Missouri River his brother-in-law was taken quite ill, and they were obliged to turn about in order to obtain medical aid from Nebraska City. In the meantime Mr. Bassett, becoming further discouraged over his expedition to Pike's Peak, decided to locate nearer the bounds of civilization, and accordingly laid claim to 160 acres of land in this county, upon a warrant which his father had received for services in the War of 1812. He considers that this was a most fortunate move for him, when he looks around upon his comfortable homestead, his well-tilled acres, the modern improvements and all the appliances of rural life, with plenty for the present and a prospect of a competency for his old age. He took up his residence here in the spring of 1859, and during his thirty

years' residence in Southern Nebraska has witnessed many more changes than can be mentioned in the course of a brief biography.

The important events in the life of our subject are mainly as follows: He was born in Allegany County, N. Y., Feb. 5, 1832, and is the son of David and Lucinda (Cogswell) Bassett, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Connecticut. In early life they became residents of New York State, where their marriage took place. Of the paternal grandfather little is known beyond the fact that he was a native of England, and emigrated to the United States, settling in Massachusetts. He died when his son David was but a boy, and the latter was thrown among strangers. Probably about the time of reaching his majority he left New England for the Empire State, and located among the early pioneers of Livingston County. Here he engaged in farming very successfully, but finally lost his property. His death took place in Portage, on the Genesee River, when he was sixty-seven years of age.

After the death of her husband the mother of our subject moved to Illinois with her children, and died in Will County in 1861, at the age of fifty-eight years. David Bassett had served as a private in the War of 1812. The parental household included the following children: Sabina, the wife of Lodelia Speer, of Michigan; Elvira R., Mrs. Reeve; Joseph W.; Helena M., Mrs. Reynolds, and Cyrus of our sketch. All of these are yet living. Cyrus, in common with his brothers and sisters, received a common-school education, and was taught those habits of industry which have been the basis of his success in life. He was fifteen years of age at the time of his father's death, and remained with his mother until twenty-four, working on the home farm. Then starting out for himself he farmed on rented land one year, and at the expiration of this time left the Empire State and took up his residence in Will County, Ill. Two and one-half years later we find him journeying toward Pike's Peak.

When Mr. Bassett came to Nebraska, it is hardly necessary to say Nebraska City was a hamlet of but a few houses. He worked his land until the outbreak of the Civil War, and then in the summer of



County, where the father took up a tract of land, upon which he lived and labored until about 1866. The mother died there at the age of sixty years. The household circle included nine children, five of whom grew to mature years, and four of whom are still living. Of these, John P., our subject, is the eldest; Eliza J., Mrs. Cleveland, resides in the vicinity of Rock Island, Ill.; of George W. a sketch will be found elsewhere in this volume; Mary, Mrs. Smith, is a resident of Dorchester County, Md.

Our subject was the eldest child of his parents, and at a very early age developed a peculiar disposition, being remarkably self-reliant and ambitious of acquiring information of all kinds, and at the early age of eight years started out for himself. As soon as old enough to think, he began to wonder if all the world was like the scenes and surroundings amid which he was born, and where he spent the first years of his life. He had an intense longing to look beyond the mountains which shut in his early home, and determined to go thither and see for himself. His grandfather, John Phillips, held a Government position in the city of Washington, and needing a messenger boy, John P. at once availed himself of this opportunity, and repairing to the capital, assumed the position, while at the same time he attended the common schools, and lost no opportunity to inform himself in regard to the various strange things he met with in and around the seat of Government, and thus spent the years until a youth of seventeen. It was then necessary for him to take up something practicable, and he began an apprenticeship at the carpenter's trade, serving four years. At the same time his spirit of adventure never deserted him, and he started down along the Atlantic Coast, visiting Charleston, N. C., and Richmond, Va., and keeping himself supplied with pocket money by working at his trade. While on his journey he was stricken down with malarial fever, but was able to get to his old home in Pennsylvania, where he was disabled for weeks, and at the end of which time there seemed to be no abatement of the disease.

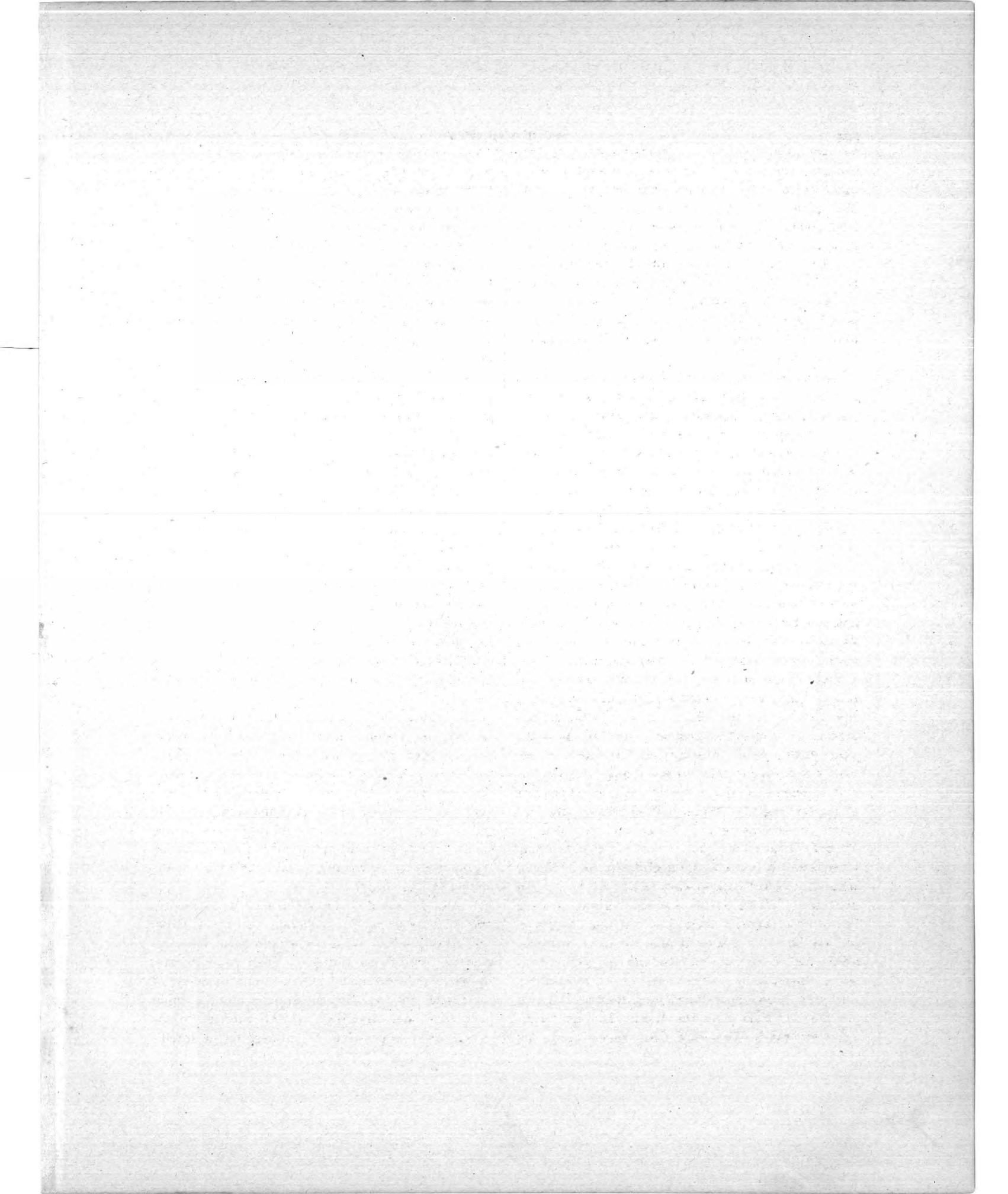
Young Brown now determined upon a change of climate, and started for the West. He put up for a few months in Wellsville, Ohio, thence made his

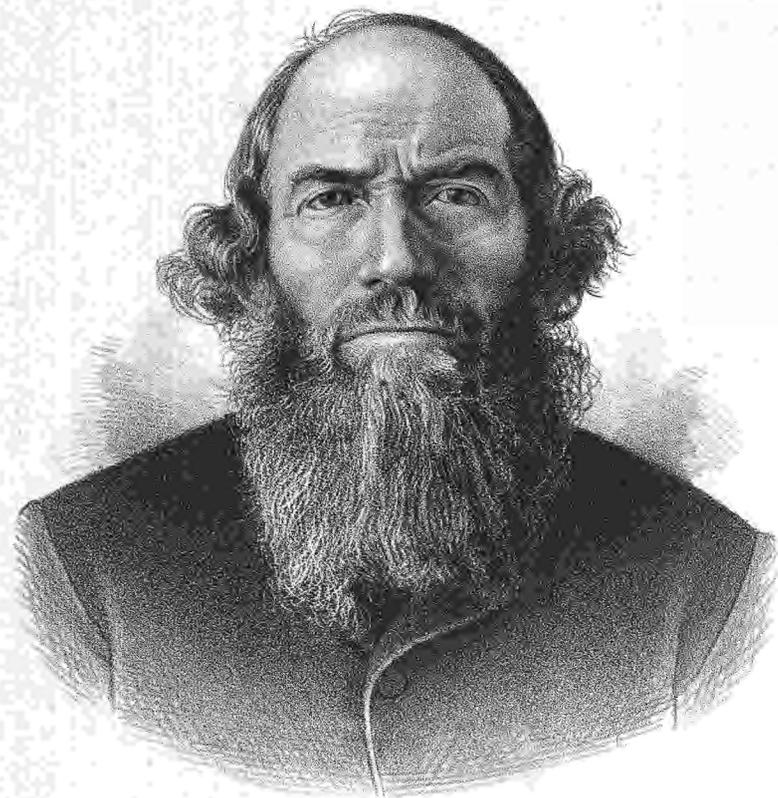
way to Chicago, Ill., and from there by the new Rock Island Railroad to the Mississippi River. This he crossed, and landing in Davenport, Iowa, took up his residence there, and remained two or three years, during which time his health became greatly improved.

Our subject from the city of Washington had been accompanied by his young wife, to whom he had been married in the capital, in September, 1851. This lady, Miss Mary McVain, was then but seventeen years old, an orphan, and supporting herself by dressmaking. She was very intelligent, of a most lovable disposition, and her tastes were greatly similar to those of Mr. Brown. Under these circumstances it was very natural that there should spring up between them the attachment which resulted in their early marriage. Their first child was born in Washington City, and upon coming to Nebraska Mr. Brown, in looking about for a home for his little family, decided to take up a tract of land in Nemaha County. The Indians were prevalent in that section of the country, but Mr. Brown, instead of sharing the popular prejudice against the red man, made friends of them, and was always well treated by them. He lived with his family seven years on the Nemaha County farm, during which time they endured many hardships and privations in common with the pioneers around them.

In August, 1868, our subject decided to abandon farming and resume carpentering, and for this purpose changed his residence from Nemaha County to Nebraska City. The move proved a fortunate one, and many of the older buildings in the city stand as monuments of his skill and industry. He put up many store buildings and residences during the early years of building up the city, and was ever found a man prompt and reliable, making friends among its best people.

In the spring of 1877 Mr. Brown made an extensive tour around and among the Black Hills, and among other sights came across an encampment of 7,000 Sioux Indians. Their tents, horses, wives and children, and all the appurtenances of their wild, nomadic life, presented a picture which has often been described by the traveler to the West, and ever possesses an interest to the intelli-





*Martin Parent*



*Mary Ann Parent*

gent mind. Mr. Brown spent eighteen months on this tour, which practically wound up his wanderings. He is now quite well advanced in years, but is bright and active as ever, and a man with whom it is very pleasurable and profitable to converse.

To Mr. and Mrs. Brown there have been born eight children, only four of whom are living. Thomas died in Nebraska City, Oct. 20, 1885, aged thirty years; Otis, Ida, Harvey and Arlington are married. Ida is the wife of Frank McCartney, County Clerk of Otoe County; Harvey is working as a carpenter, and makes his home with his parents; Arlington married Miss Atwood, of Nebraska City, where he lives. Mr. Brown is a member of the Republican party, although meddling very little with politics. He has probably taken a greater interest in the success and extension of the I. O. O. F., with which he has been connected for the past thirty-five years, and of which he is Past Grand.



**M**ARTIN PARENT, one of the largest land-owners of Rock Creek Precinct, is proprietor of 320 acres on sections 24 and 26, where he has made his home since April, 1868. He came to this county in 1856, and pre-empted land in Otoe Precinct the year following. He had made his way across the Mississippi from Douglas County, Ill., of which he had been a resident eight years. He is a native of Parke County, Ind., and was born Aug. 26, 1833.

William Parent, the father of our subject, was born in Tennessee and reared in Kentucky; in the latter State he married Miss Priscilla Martin, who was born there, in Hardin County. They continued residents of the Blue Grass regions until after the birth of five children, then emigrated to Parke County, Ind., where five more little ones were added to the household circle. They were among the pioneers of that county, and endured in common with the people about them the vicissitudes of life in a new settlement. The country around them abounded in wild animals, and it is hardly necessary to say their neighbors were few and far between. The labors of the father as a tiller of the soil met with their legitimate reward, and he built

up a comfortable home, where he spent the remainder of his days, his death taking place about 1843, when he was sixty-five years old. The mother after the death of her husband went to live with her son Martin, in Coles County, Ill., where she passed away when about fifty-four years of age.

Our subject was educated in the schools of Indiana and Illinois, his home being in that part of Coles which is now Douglas County. He was married during his early manhood to Miss Mary Ann Moore, who was born there Jan. 7, 1837. She became the mother of three children, and accompanied her family to this county. Her death took place at the homestead in Rock Creek Precinct, Nov. 12, 1880, and her remains were laid to rest four days later in the cemetery on a part of the land owned by her husband. Mrs. Parent was a lady of many estimable qualities, greatly beloved by her husband and friends, and her death was mourned by a large circle of acquaintances. Two of the children of this marriage, William and Joseph, died young. The surviving child, a daughter, Mary R., still remains at home with her father, whom she cares for with filial affection, anticipating his wants and striving as far as possible to supply the place of the wife and mother, who was for so many years his solace and comfort.

Mrs. Mary Ann Parent was the daughter of Joseph and Amelia (Whitaker) Moore, who were old residents of Coles County, Ill. Mr. Moore entered a claim and improved a farm, where he and his excellent wife spent the remainder of their days. Both Mr. and Mrs. Parent identified themselves with the Methodist Church many years ago. When the new school-house was built in District No. 2, Mr. Parent, being a great admirer of the martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, insisted that the property should be named Lincoln Grove, which name it now bears. He believed that it would be a fitting and proper reminder to the children in future years of the career of the great Emancipator, one of the noblest of his kind, who was closely connected with the pioneer history of Illinois, and later arose to the highest position in the gift of the American people.

Mr. Parent is a quiet and unobtrusive citizen, meddling very little with public affairs, but keeps

himself well posted upon current events, and uniformly gives his support to Republican principles. He was one of the moving spirits in securing the passage of the Nebraska Herd Law, for which he received the thanks of the right-thinking people of the State. In the fall of 1869, he, with others, went down into Kansas on a buffalo hunt. Several of these animals were killed by the party, and Mr. Parent himself laid low one of the monsters of the plains.

Martin Parent has been abundantly prospered in his labors as an agriculturist, and has a competency for declining years. He has brought his farm to a good state of cultivation and keeps about enough stock to consume his corn. With the exception of the land immediately about the home place, he rents his farm, receiving therefor a living income. We take pleasure in presenting to our numerous readers the portrait of this honored pioneer, together with that of his deceased wife.

**C**ALVIN CHAPMAN is one of the most active and enterprising citizens of Nebraska City, with whose business interests he is identified as a prominent stock dealer, and also as a dealer in coal, wood and hay. He is one of the self-made men of whom this country is so justly proud, as he came to Nebraska without a dollar, and by a quiet but persistent determination to succeed, through resolution and unceasing industry, has acquired a handsome competence and a large amount of valuable property.

Mr. Chapman was born in Winchester, Madison Co., Ohio, May 16, 1843. His father, Thomas Chapman, was born in Virginia, and was reared and married in his native State. He then moved from there to Ohio, the removal being made with wagons, as it was before the time of railways. Mr. Chapman bought a tract of timber land in Madison County, built a log house, the one in which our subject was born, and resided there until 1845, when he again started westward, removing his family and household goods with teams to Iowa, and there became one of the early settlers of Louisa County. He took up a tract of Government land,

one and one-half miles northeast of Wapello, the county seat. There were no railroads west of Chicago at that time, and Muscatine, twenty-five miles distant, was the nearest market and trading point. Indians were plentiful, and deer, wild turkeys, wolves and wildcats were abundant. Mr. Chapman improved the land that he had entered from the Government, and resided on it about twenty years. He then bought another tract of land, a part of which is now occupied by the village of Harrison, and he has resided there continuously ever since. Mr. Chapman has lived to see that part of Iowa developed from the wild prairie to a well-settled, wealthy country, and by his enterprise and industry has done his share in bringing about this prosperous condition. He has reached the advanced age of eighty-six years, but still retains his mental faculties to a great degree, and enjoys remarkably good health. In political events Mr. Chapman takes a marked interest, and is a firm believer in the principles expounded by the Republican party. Before the formation of that party he was a Whig. He has been twice married; his first wife, the mother of our subject, was Mary Binizer, a native of Virginia, and she died in 1845. His second marriage was to Grace Greenwood, a native of England, and she still lives to comfort him in his old age.

The subject of this sketch was two and a half years old when his father with his family crossed the prairies of the Central Western States to make his home in Iowa, and he has a vivid remembrance of the incidents of the pioneer life, amid whose scenes he was reared to manhood. He attended the early schools of that State, assisted on the farm, and lived with his father until he was sixteen years old, when he started out to seek his own fortune further west, and consequently came to Nebraska, landing in Nebraska City in September, 1860. Here he commenced to learn the cooper's trade, receiving twenty-five cents a day and board for his work. He was industrious, of good habits, attended steadily to his work, and even from that meager pay he contrived to save money, as he was very ambitious to make something of himself, to become, perhaps, a rich and influential man of business.

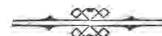
Our subject worked as a cooper for two years,

when his enterprising and adventurous spirit made him seize joyfully a chance to cross the plains with teams, as assistant wagonmaster for Maj. Russell and Wardell, Government freighters. He returned the same season, and, although a youth of but nineteen years, patriotically offered his services to the country, to help suppress the Civil War that was then raging, enlisting in October, 1862, in Company F, 2d Nebraska Cavalry, and being commissioned as Second Lieutenant, gallantly served for one year, and was then honorably discharged on account of the expiration of his term of enlistment. He found that his services were required nearer home, and a few days later re-enlisted as a member of Company A, Independent Scouts, organized for the purpose of suppressing Indian warfare that had sprung up in Nebraska and adjoining Territories. Company A was composed of men who had explored that section of the country and were perfectly familiar with its topography, and it was joined to Gen. Sully's force, and acted as guides to him in the Northwest. Our subject did efficient service for nine months, and then his regiment was discharged and he returned to Nebraska City.

Our subject, with the money that he had saved up, formed a drug company, and was also engaged in teaming, and finally was enabled to buy a livery stable and busline. He continued to carry on that and the drug business very successfully until 1880, when he sold out and engaged in the sale of coal, wood and hay, and has built up an extensive and profitable business, besides making considerable money in dealing in horses, cattle and mules, which he has always dealt in more or less. Mr. Chapman occupies an important place in the business circles of Nebraska City, and is a stockholder and Director in the Farmers' Bank. He owns the place that he now occupies on First Corso street, besides five lots on First Corso street, between Fourth and Fifth streets; a lot on the corner of Seventh and First Corso streets, one lot, with two buildings, on the corner of Third and Corso streets; one house and lot on Fifth street; three lots in Anderson's Addition, and 320 acres of farm land near Nebraska City.

Mr. Chapman was married, in 1863, to Miss Harriet Shallenbarger, a native of Pennsylvania, and

three children have been born of their happy married life—Edna, Harriet and Bota. Mrs. Chapman is a superior woman in many ways, and is greatly esteemed far beyond her home circle, as she has endeared herself to many by numerous acts of kindness and friendship. To her devotion to his interests, and to her steady encouragement and cheerful help, her husband gratefully acknowledges himself to be greatly indebted for his present prosperity. Mr. Chapman is a frank, generous-hearted man, pushing and energetic in his character, and possessing a decided talent for business. Politically, he is a Republican, and socially, is a member of Council of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F. Mr. and Mrs. Chapman are valued members of the Baptist Church.



**A**LLEXANDER REEVES. The subject of this notice deserves more than passing mention, having been the first man to homestead land in Otoe County, if not in the State of Nebraska, settling then in South Branch Precinct. His career has been one reflecting very great credit upon his industry and enterprise, and one in which he has experienced many hardships and difficulties, but fortunately was enabled to surmount them, and transform a portion of the wild prairie into a fertile tract, yielding in abundance the rich crops of Southern Nebraska. He has now retired from active labor, having deeded the greater portion of his land to his children, reserving eighty acres with its comfortable buildings, occupying one of the prettiest locations on the Nemaha River. He and his estimable wife, both well advanced in years, are spending the evening of their lives quietly and peacefully, comfortable in the reflection that they have done what they could as citizens, neighbors and parents. Many are the friends they have gathered around them during their long sojourn in this county, and many are the scenes which they have witnessed while Nebraska was being transformed from a Territory into a wealthy and prosperous State.

Mr. Reeves as a Justice of the Peace conducted the first lawsuit in his precinct, which was a case of assault and battery—James Knox *vs.* Augustus

Greenwood, in which the latter was fined. He was early appointed a member of the district School Board, which office he held for years, was Postmaster a period of nine years, Assessor one term, and Road Supervisor three terms. He was appointed by Gov. Butler Register of Elections, but resigned the office. He has been foremost in those enterprises having for their object the moral and social welfare of the people, was one of the early members of the Baptist Church, and since its organization has been an earnest adherent of the Republican party. In his native State of New York he served as Postmaster in the town of Brooks Grove, in Livingston County.

Our subject was born Aug. 25, 1818, in Wayne County, N. Y., and lived there with his parents until a lad twelve years of age. He then went with his father to Warren County, Pa., and six years later occurred the death of his father, when the family was broken up, and Alexander, returning to his native State, worked by the month in Chautauqua County. In 1843 he returned to Livingston County, where he was variously employed until the fall of 1856. Then resolving to seek his fortune in the West, he migrated to Will County, Ill., where he was employed at various jobs until 1862.

Our subject now crossed the Mississippi and homesteaded the first land in this county, while Nebraska was a Territory, and before the organization of South Branch Precinct. He laid claim to it about sunrise on the 1st of January, 1863, when it was designated as claim No. 2. The party taking No. 1 never proved up, so Mr. Reeves was the first bona fide settler. The right to the first settlement is disputed by Mr. Freeman, of Beatrice, who claims he took his immediately after 12 o'clock, January 1.

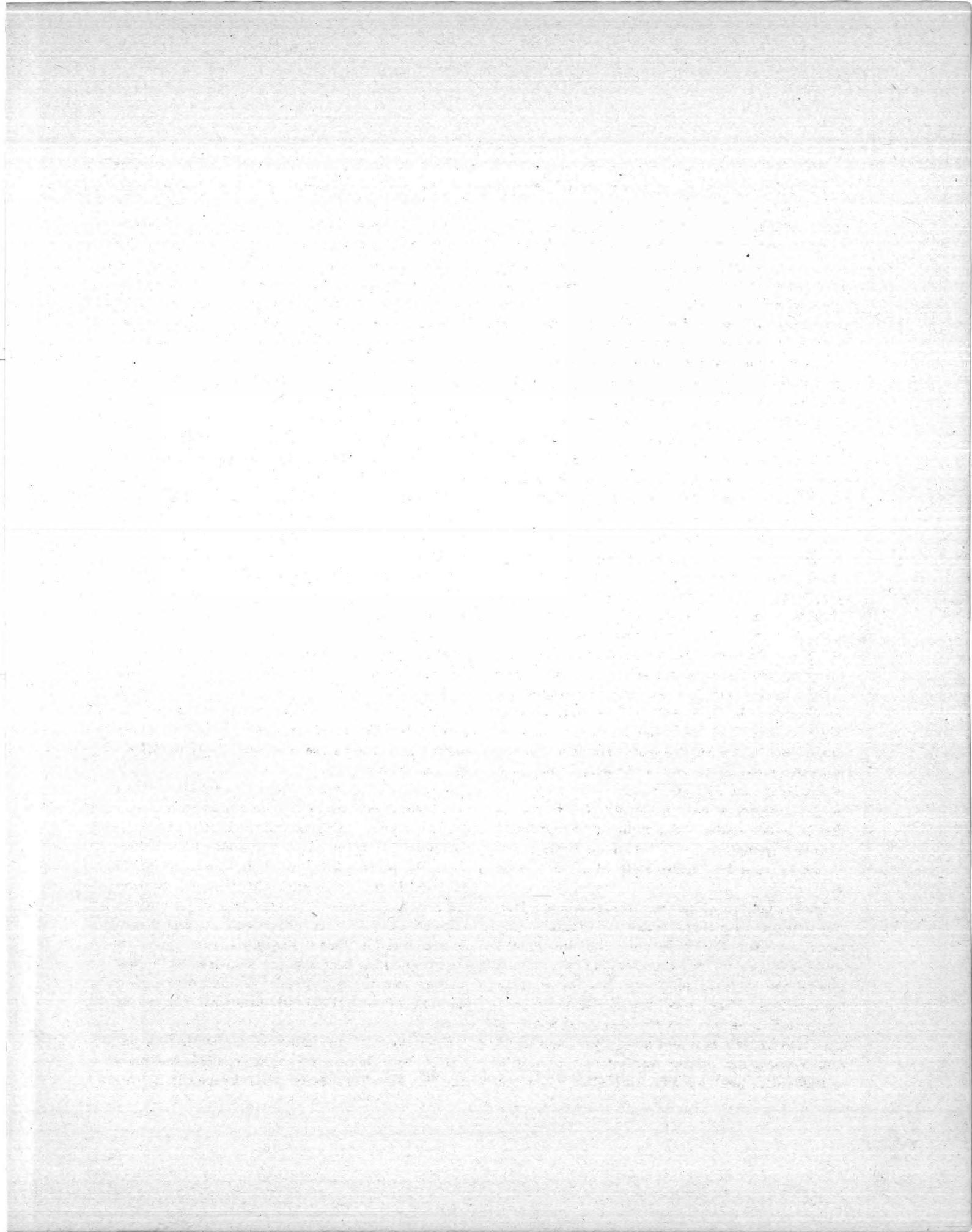
The manner in which Mr. Reeves labored from this time on can perhaps better be imagined than described. His first rude plow was drawn by a team of horses in breaking sod, and the pioneer himself and his little family were first sheltered in a log dwelling. There was little of elegance or convenience in those days, but Mr. Reeves had abundant faith that his labors would meet with their legitimate reward, and battled manfully with the difficulties which beset his way, until after a few sea-

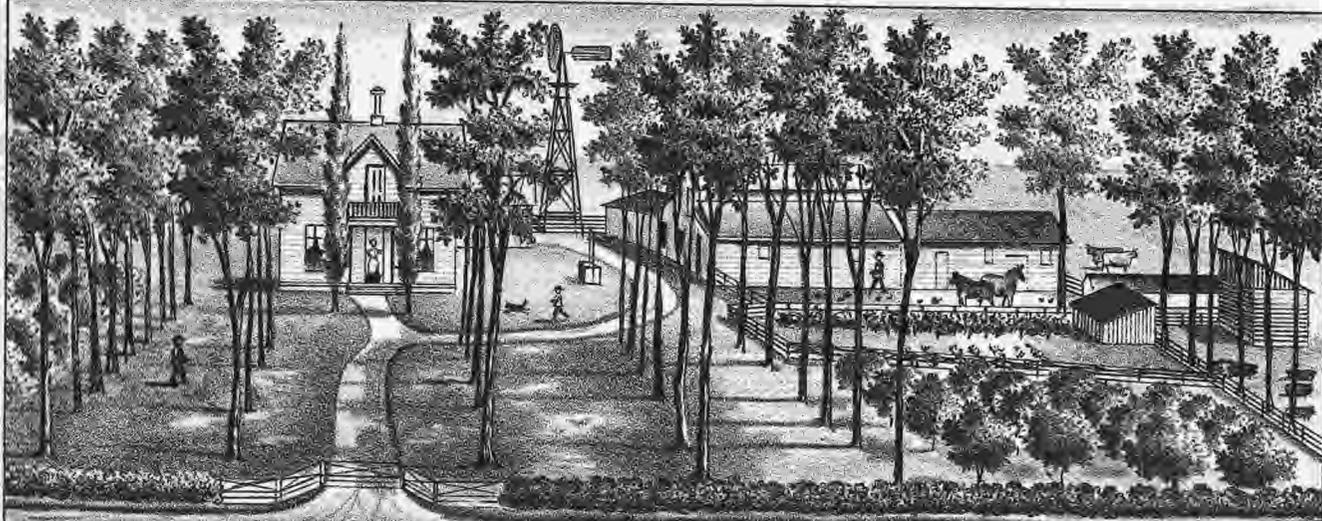
sons had passed he found himself on the road to prosperity. He enclosed his fields with neat and substantial fences, planted groves and an orchard, in due time put up a stone dwelling (the first in this part of the county) and a barn, and added the conveniences and improvements which have so much to do with the comforts of a home. He was particularly fortunate in his choice of a location, his land being well watered and easily brought to a productive condition.

To the lady who has stood by the side of our subject while he bore the heat and burden of the day, and who in her girlhood was Miss Alvira R. Bassett, he was married in Livingston County, N. Y., Oct. 27, 1846. Mrs. Reeves was born in Allegany County, that State, Feb. 13, 1828, and is the daughter of David and Lucinda (Cogswell) Bassett. David Bassett was born in Massachusetts in 1779, and his wife, Lucinda, in Otsego County, N. Y., in 1796. They were married in the Empire State, and resided there until the death of the father, which occurred in 1848. He was a farmer by occupation, and during his early manhood served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother after the death of her husband went to the home of her children in Will County, Ill., where her death took place in 1859. Six children of the parental family are living, namely: Sabrina, Lavina L., Joseph W., Elvira, Helena and Cyrus N. Those besides Mrs. Reeves are residents mostly of Michigan and Nebraska.

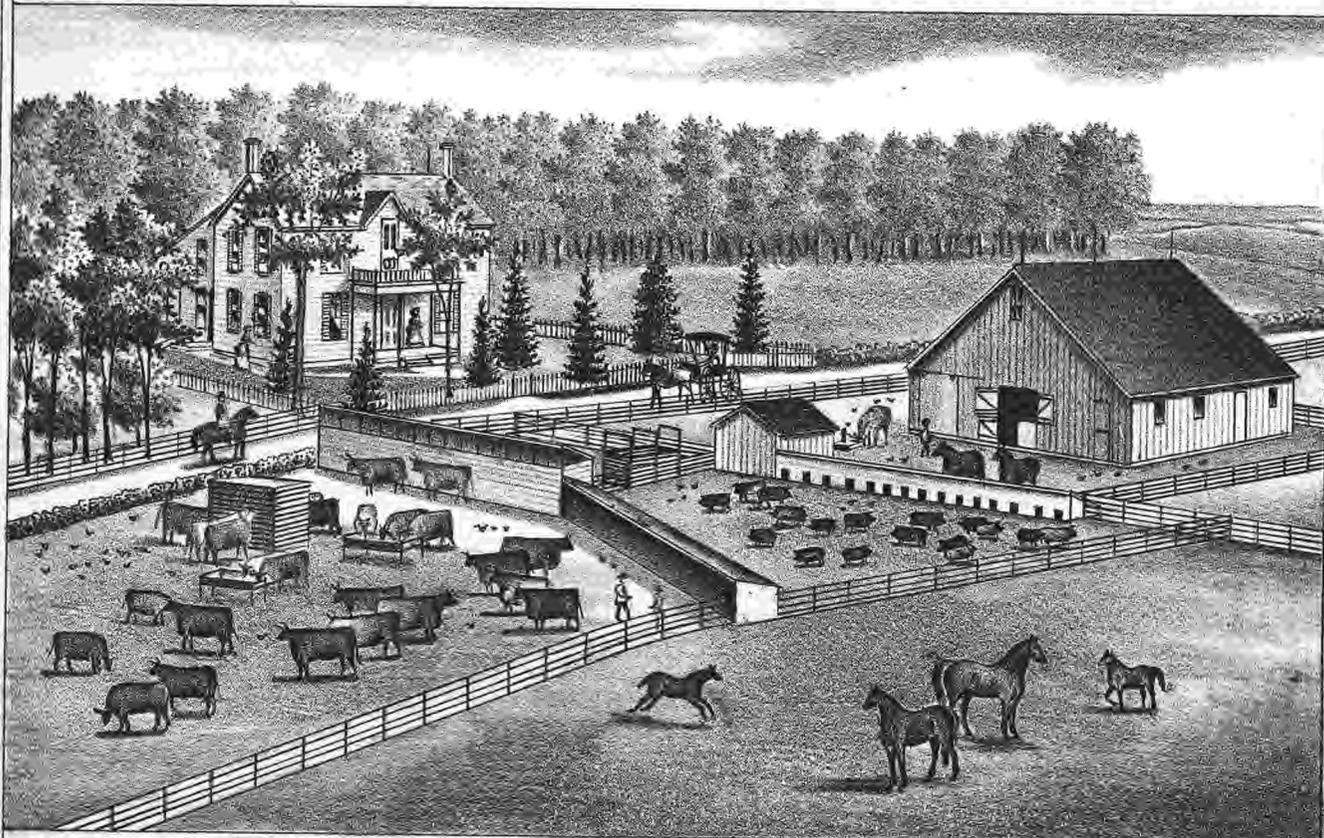
To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born two children, both sons, Eugene and Marion Cyrus. Eugene married Miss Eliza J. Chamberlain, and is farming in South Branch Precinct; he is the father of four children—Nellie M., Ina Elvira, Frederick and Vernon. Marion married Miss Sarah Whitaker, and is farming in Frontier County. Mr. Reeves cast his first Presidential vote for Martin Van Buren, and since its organization has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party. Mrs. Reeves is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford.

Stacy Reeves, the father of our subject, a native of New Jersey, was born in 1785, and married, in New York State, Miss Phebe Clark, who





RESIDENCE OF GEORGE ADAMS, SEC. 36. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. M. JARRETT, SEC. 32. BELMONT PRECINCT.

was born in 1801. He was a farmer by occupation, and carried a musket during the War of 1812. Grandfather Aaron Reeves was born in New Jersey, and served in the Revolutionary War as a private under the command of Washington. He spent his last days in Warren County, Pa. The paternal great-grandfather emigrated from Holland and settled in New Jersey, where it is supposed his decease occurred. Stacy Reeves left New York in 1832, and settled in Warren County, Pa., where he engaged in farming, but only lived six years thereafter. The mother shortly after the death of the father married James Sears, and became the mother of two children, both deceased. Shortly after the death of Mr. Sears she became the wife of Mr. Opdyke, who died, leaving her a widow. Quite late in life she came to Nebraska, and died at the home of her son, our subject, in 1883. There were only three children in the parental family, two sons and a daughter, of whom Alexander, our subject, was the eldest. Amos I. and Hannah are in Nebraska and California.



**G**EORGE ADAMS, of Rock Creek Precinct, is spoken of by his neighbors as one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers within its limits. Certain it is that he has one of its most attractive homes, the residence being a substantial frame building, tasteful and well furnished, situated in the midst of pleasant grounds with shade trees and shrubbery, and supplied with everything conducive to the comfort of its inmates. Upon the farm is a fine grove of walnut, cottonwood and elm trees, and an orchard which can scarcely be matched in the county, planted with 600 trees of the choicest fruit. The farm, 200 acres in extent, has been brought to a state of thorough cultivation. It was but a tract of raw prairie when Mr. Adams settled upon it in March, 1870, and its present condition is sufficiently indicative of the manner in which the proprietor has employed his time.

Orleans County, N. Y., was the childhood home of our subject, where his birth took place on the 22d of July, 1843. He is of an excellent New England ancestry, his father, Henry Adams, the son

of William and Rebecca (Hyde) Adams, having been a native of Connecticut and of genuine Yankee stock. Henry Adams was reared and educated in his native State, and when a lad of about fourteen years removed with his father, William Adams, to New York State, locating near the city of Rochester. He was twice married. To his first wife, Sophia Warren, he was wedded in Monroe County, and to them were born two children, only one of whom is living, Nathaniel, residing in Nebraska City, this county. Mrs. Adams died about 1838, in Orleans County, N. Y., where she and her husband had settled after their marriage.

About 1840 Henry Adams was married the second time, to Mrs. Mary (Smith) McCrillis, who had by her first husband two children, who are both living, the son a resident of Orleans County, N. Y., and the daughter of Boston, Mass. This lady was born in Peterboro, N. H., and it was there that her marriage with Mr. George McCrillis took place. Subsequently they removed to Orleans County, N. Y. She was of Scotch-Irish descent and the daughter of William Smith. The family was noted as possessing all the admirable qualities of that admixture of nationalities. The first representatives crossed the Atlantic, it is supposed, in the Colonial days, settling in New England. Of this union were born two children: George, our subject, and his sister Sophia, who is now the wife of William Kennicutt, of Otoe Precinct, this county. A sketch of Mr. K. is given elsewhere in this work.

After the death of his last wife Henry Adams, with his two children, started in October, 1858, for the farther West. Coming into the Territory of Nebraska, he purchased land in Otoe Precinct, this county, seven miles southeast of the present site of Nebraska City, where he spent the remainder of his days. These, however, were destined to be but brief, as he lived only about two years, his death taking place in October, 1860.

Our subject after the death of his father went to Hillsdale, Mich., where he completed his education by an attendance of three years in the college there. He then came back to Nebraska, and was united in marriage with Miss Emma Horrum, May 5, 1872, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Rock Creek Precinct. Mrs.

Emma Adams was the daughter of Sherburn and Eliza (Brunson) Horrum, and was born in Dearborn County, Ind., where she was reared and educated. She came to Nebraska with her parents when about eighteen years of age. Three years later she was married, and eight years later, Nov. 3, 1880, passed to her long home, leaving two sons, Nat and Edwin, who are now at home.

Mr. Adams, on the 11th of April, 1883, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Mary Horrum, a sister of his first wife, and also a native of Dearborn County, Ind., born Oct. 3, 1848. Of this marriage there are no children. Mr. Adams, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat. Both he and his excellent wife are greatly esteemed by their neighbors and fellow-citizens. Their home is a very pleasant resort, they extending that cordial and well-bred hospitality both to friends and strangers, which at once distinguishes them as people of culture and innate politeness.

In 1869 Mr. Adams identified himself with the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., of Nebraska City. He subsequently became a Royal Arch Mason, and now belongs to Keystone Chapter No. 2. In 1885 he assisted in the organization of the Masonic Lodge at Talmage, and for the last two years has officiated as Worshipful Master. He is also a charter member of Alpha Consistory No. 50, A. & A. S. R. The view of the Adams homestead, which will be observed on another page, illustrates more forcibly than words can do the hand of industry and the eye of taste which have contributed to its embellishment and its value. We gladly give it a place among the pictured homes of other men to whose labors Nebraska owes her present condition of wealth and prosperity.



**J**AMES M. JARRETT, whose farm is situated on section 32 of Belmont Township, may be justly proud of the success that has attended him as an agriculturist; he began without those opportunities and advantages that are usually provided by parental care. He was born in Monroe County, Va., on the 4th of December, 1838, and is a son of Andrew and Susan Jarrett,

natives of Virginia. His parents migrated in 1842 to Davis County, Mo., where our subject was reared upon the home farm, and in the schools of that county was educated.

Seeing that his life has been practically spent amid the surroundings of an agricultural district and in the midst of farm home life, Mr. Jarrett has had every opportunity of learning all the details of practical husbandry. He came to this county in 1865 and settled where he now lives, and at the time of his settlement there were eighty acres broken and a two-board fence around that portion, but this was destroyed by a prairie fire shortly afterward.

There are now 420 acres of good land property belonging to our subject. It is all well improved and yields him abundant harvests, while that portion which is devoted to his stock gives him a rich supply of food for their use. A view of the homestead is given in this connection.

Upon the 29th of January, 1863, Mr. Jarrett was united in wedlock with the lady of his choice, Miss Susan P. Meadows, the daughter of John and Nancy Meadows, natives of Virginia. Mrs. Jarrett was born in Davis County, Mo. There have come to our subject and wife six children, four of whom are living, who bear the following names: Holly M., Stewart G., William W. and Samuel W. Holly is in the State Normal School at Peru, in this State, and Stewart is attending the classes in Stanberry College, at Stanberry, Mo.

Mr. Jarrett, his wife and two younger children are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and both in religious circles and the community at large they are held in much esteem. The political opinions and sympathies of our subject are with the Democratic party, and he is an acknowledged friend of free trade.



**W**ILLIAM H. SNYDER. The farm owned and operated by the subject of this sketch lies on section 31 in Palmyra Precinct, and embraces 160 acres of land, with convenient buildings well adapted to the various purposes of country life. The chief characteristics of the proprietor

are sturdy industry and integrity, he being a man who, during his younger years, earned his bread by the sweat of his brow, and formed the habits which later in life have resulted in surrounding him with everything needful for his comfort and maintenance. These principles conscientiously carried out have also given him a good position among his fellow-citizens, whose confidence and esteem he enjoys in a large measure.

Mr. Snyder by his own industry has brought about the improvements upon his farm, these including a commodious and substantial dwelling, good barns, sheds and other outhouses, the machinery necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture, and all the other appliances required by the progressive farmer of to-day. His domestic affairs are presided over by a very intelligent and capable lady, who possesses all the womanly virtues, being domestic in her tastes, and esteeming her home the most attractive place in all the world, which has been rendered thus by her labors and refined tastes. Under this pleasant roof-tree are three children, who are being reared and educated in a manner corresponding to the means and station of their parents.

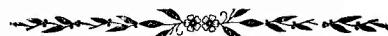
The subject of this sketch was born April 22, 1850, in Lancaster Township, Stephenson Co., Ill., and spent his boyhood and youth after the manner of most farmers' sons, receiving a district-school education, and becoming familiar with the various employments of country life. He was first married, Feb. 12, 1874, to Miss Emma E. Kenyon, a native of Canada, and they became the parents of two children: Harry Charles (deceased), and Perry B., who is attending school.

Mr. Snyder was a resident of his native county until 1874, in the spring of which year he moved across the Mississippi, and has since been a resident of Nebraska. His parents, Benjamin and Mary (Styres) Snyder, were natives of Pennsylvania, whence they emigrated after their marriage to Stephenson County, Ill., where the mother died in 1855, when only thirty years of age. Benjamin Snyder was subsequently married, and his household was completed by the birth of twelve children in all—three sons and four daughters by the first wife, and two sons and three daughters by the second. He accumulated a good property, and died in the

eightieth year of his age, at his home in Stephenson, in September, 1886.

The present wife of our subject, to whom he was married Sept. 27, 1881, was in her girlhood Miss Augusta Grossman. She was born in Germany, Jan. 20, 1863, and when a child two years of age was brought by her parents to America, they settling in Woodford County, Ill. Her parents are of pure German ancestry, and are now residents of Lancaster County, Neb. Their family consisted of eight children, who are now in Nebraska.

Mrs. Snyder speaks the English language perfectly, and is a very intelligent lady, well informed and thoroughly identified with the interests of her adopted country. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children, a daughter and a son, Laura B. and Frank E., who are six years and four years of age respectively. Mr. Snyder cast his first Presidential vote for U. S. Grant, and is the uniform supporter of Republican principles.



**B**ERMANN TETEN, of Rock Creek Precinct is the owner of 240 acres of finely improved land lying on section 19, and supplied with good buildings. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1859, during its Territorial days, accompanied by others of his countrymen, and first pre-empted eighty acres. After making a few improvements he returned east as far as Illinois, where he staid two years, then recrossed the Mississippi, and here has since been contented to remain. He possesses all the best characteristics of his nationality, being industrious and persevering, and a man who attends strictly to his own concerns.

A native of the then Kingdom of Hanover, our subject was born May 28, 1834, and is the youngest but one of a family of ten children. His parents, Henry and Heska (Tiland) Teten, were natives of the same Province, where they lived until well advanced in life, and until the death of the mother, which took place when she was sixty years of age.

After the death of his wife the father of our subject joined his children in the United States, and died at the home of one of his sons in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, in the fall of 1871, when

about seventy-four or seventy-five years old. Both parents were devoted Christian people, and members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church.

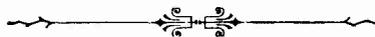
Our subject received a thorough education in his native tongue, and was a youth of nineteen years when he crossed the Atlantic. He attained his majority in Madison County, Ill., and was there married in the fall of 1861, to Miss Anna Frerichs, a native of the same Province as her husband in Germany, and born Sept. 20, 1844. Mrs. Teten was a most excellent Christian lady, greatly beloved by her family and friends, from whom she was taken by death in June of 1885, when but forty-four years of age. She had been the truest and wisest helpmate of her husband, encouraging him in all his worthy efforts, and standing by his side during the labors and difficulties incident to the building up of a home in a new country. They were possessed of but limited means when coming to Nebraska, and on account of this walked from Nebraska City to their present home, a distance of twenty miles. They were also obliged to carry their little child, and a few of the goods which they had found it necessary to bring with them. In addition to the weariness of travel they had scarcely anything to eat during the whole journey, and but a little milk and impure water to drink. They made this memorable journey in one day, and when arriving at their destination took shelter in a small shanty.

At this time the people around were as poor as Mr. Teten himself, and could render them but little assistance. They experienced very many hardships during the first year, and the second winter was unusually cold. On account of exposure Mr. Teten was taken ill, and suffered from the effects many years afterward. The first summer he worked all through the harvest time for fifty cents per day, and with the money thus earned purchased a cow, which was the first stock he ever owned. Time, however, which always brings changes in the journey of life, began to deal more gently with our subject, and after a series of years spent in reducing his land to a state of cultivation and putting up buildings as necessity called for, he found himself surrounded by many comforts, not-

withstanding he and his family have always suffered greatly from sickness. In 1882 he had a stroke of paralysis, and was for several months disabled both physically and mentally. From this, however, he has now recovered.

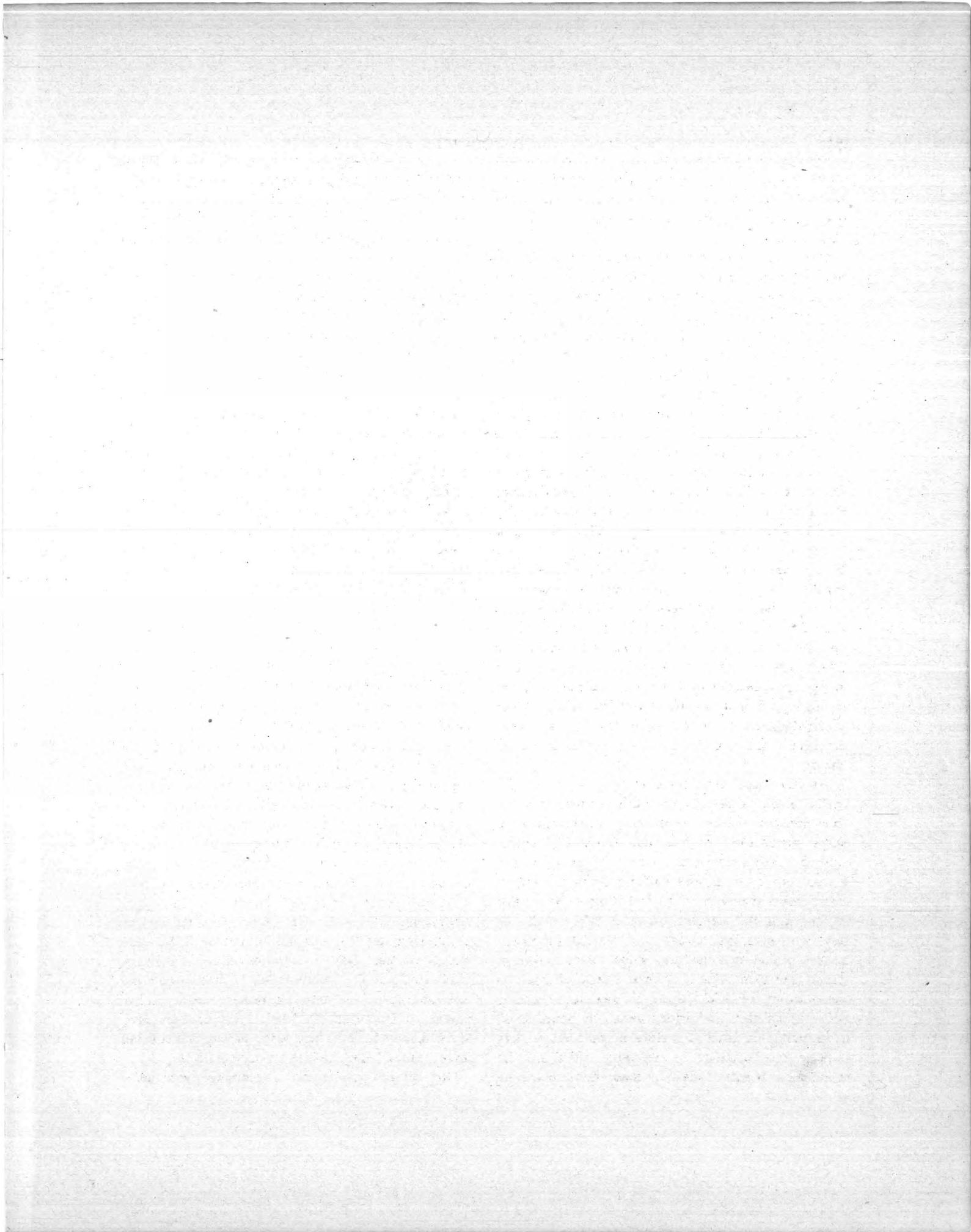
To Mr. and Mrs. Teten there were born ten children, one of whom, John H., died when a little lad nearly two years old. The survivors are Abraham George, who married Miss Anna Ekhoft, and lives on a farm in Rock Creek Precinct; John H., Jacob M., Mary R., Herman J., Maggie M., Frederick and Anna, at home, and Herman, deceased. They are all connected with the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Teten, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has held some of the minor offices of his precinct, and is considered one of its most worthy and reliable citizens.

Mr. Teten has a comfortable and substantial dwelling, good barns and outhouses, fruit and shade trees, a stream of running water through his land, and his home is withal very pleasant and desirable. A view of the place is shown on another page.



**J**AMES N. ANDERSON, well known throughout Wyoming Precinct and vicinity, occupies a quarter of section 23, where he has a well-developed farm with comfortable buildings. He settled here a pioneer, coming in the spring of 1856, and here has since lived. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in his general farming operations is meeting with fair success. Our subject first came to Nebraska with his father, D. M. Anderson, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. They made the journey from Orange County, N. Y., where were spent the boyhood and youth of our subject, and where he was born Aug. 26, 1839. His father is a farmer by occupation, and the parental homestead in the Empire State was located in Mamakating Township, Sullivan County. There James N. was reared and educated, and lived with his father until their removal to Nebraska in 1856. His mother, Mrs. Mary Anderson, had died when he was a little lad three years of age; he was an only child.

Our subject was united in marriage with Miss





*F. W. Rottmann*

Nancy L. Hale, who was born in Andrew County, Mo., Oct. 19, 1849, and is the daughter of William and Jane (Neiley) Hale. Her parents were natives of Kentucky, and the father a farmer by occupation. They moved to Missouri in its pioneer days, making the journey from Kentucky overland with teams. The father was successful in his labors of transforming a tract of wild land into a modern farm, and the parents, both living, still make their home in Missouri. Their family consisted of ten children, two sons and eight daughters, of whom Mrs. Anderson was the youngest born. Only three of the daughters of that large family are now living.

Mrs. Anderson was educated in her native county, and came with friends to Nebraska when a maiden of sixteen years. She has since that time been a resident of this county. Of her union with our subject there have been born nine children, two of whom, William N. and an infant unnamed, are deceased. The survivors, Mary A., Isabelle, Maria, George M., Katie M., Nellie C. and Hugh, are all at home with their parents, and comprise a remarkably intelligent and interesting group.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson began their wedded life on the land which they still occupy, and which our subject has improved from a wild and uncultivated tract into a highly productive farm. They endured in common with the people about them the trials and hardships incident to pioneer life, and live to rejoice in the prosperity of one of the most important commonwealths in the Union. Mr. Anderson has been a lifelong Democrat, and has held the minor offices of his precinct, while giving his aid and encouragement to the enterprises calculated to benefit the people around him. He is fully worthy of representation in a work of this kind.



**M**RS. MARGARETHA ROTTMANN. In Nebraska City, few names are better known in business and religious circles or more esteemed than the name Rottmann, which most excellent reputation has been built up and the respect challenged and won by the late husband of the lady whose name is placed at the head of this

sketch. Mr. Rottman, whose portrait graces the opposite page, was born in Westphalia, Germany, on the 13th of June, 1834. At the age of twenty-one, full of manly ambition, enterprise and energy, balanced and directed by no mean intellectual power, he determined to try his fortunes in the New World, and accordingly came to this county. Until that time his life had been spent almost entirely in the rural district in which stood the old home.

Entirely unendowed or favored by fortune, Mr. Rottmann found that quite a struggle lay before him. He made his way to St. Louis, but after a few months went to Nebraska City, working his way to that place on a boat, serving as cook. Almost immediately he found employment on a farm, and continued for several months. Then he engaged as clerk with Mr. Kalkiman, who was engaged in business as a general merchant, and speedily, by his unwearied application and earnest effort, forged his way to the front as a most efficient help.

During the four years he remained with Mr. Kalkiman Mr. Rottmann made the acquaintance of the lady who subsequently became his wife, and who now mourns the loss and bereavement of an ever faithful companion and affectionate husband. This lady, Miss Margaretha Arends, was born in Hanover, Germany, Oct. 2, 1844, and is the daughter of Richard and Mary (Teten) Arends, both of whom were natives of the Fatherland. With them she came to America when a little girl. Their home was made in the State of Illinois, and they lived there for five years. Then, migrating westward, they came to Nebraska, and a settlement was effected in this county.

Mr. and Mrs. Arends, in making anew their home, settled upon a farm, which the father of our subject conducted in the line of general agriculture, continuing the same until his death in the year 1874. His widow is still living, and makes her home with her son Herman in Rock Creek Precinct. She is the mother of six children; of these four were girls, and Mrs. Rottmann was the third child.

Our subject was eight years of age when with her parents she came to Illinois. Her education was received principally in Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Rottmann commenced housekeeping in Nebraska City, at the corner of Laramie and Twelfth streets,

and he engaged in business in the city, beginning almost at the lowest round of the ladder. Nothing daunted him, nothing rebuffed him; his business life from the first was marked with an inflexibility of purpose and unremitting, diligent perseverance. It is within the bounds of truth to say that there is probably no other man who has done so much for Nebraska City as he. He was by no means a selfish man, and always consulted the interests of those with whom he was associated equally with his own. He built all the business houses on the north side of Central avenue, from the Grand Pacific Hotel to Northrup's hardware establishment, and was subsequently President of the Nebraska City Canning Company. It is somewhat remarkable, but nevertheless a fact, that in the days when the future of Nebraska City looked most dark, and when those chiefly interested were well-nigh in despair on that account, he entertained the brightest hopes, and emphatically prophesied a turn in fortune's wheel, and that in the near future. Events have proved him correct in his judgment and fully justified therein. Religiously, he was associated with the German Lutheran Church, and was for many years a member of its diaconate. Politically, he was a Republican, but by all, however they might differ from him in these matters, wherever he was known it was but to be respected and esteemed as a man and citizen.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. Rottmann included six children, but one of whom only is now living, viz: Frederick William, who was born in Nebraska City, Dec. 3, 1872, and is now attending school, and lives with his mother. Lela died in 1887, when sixteen months old. The other children died when infants unnamed.

Mrs. Rottmann and her son are members of the Lutheran Church, and are accounted among the most consistent and devout in the community. They hold positions among the first circles of Nebraska society, and are everywhere received with true respect and esteem, although both from natural proclivity and by reason of her bereavement Mrs. R. lives a very quiet and retired life. Her husband departed this life on the 3d of February of the past year (1888), after a brief illness of brain fever. In his death not simply his family

but the community recognized that they had lost a true friend, and cherished the desire to emulate the virtues continually exemplified in his daily life.



**J**OHAN C. WALKER. The reader in this sketch is introduced to one of the old settlers of South Branch Precinct, a practical and prosperous farmer and stock-raiser, whose home is on section 19. This home is also worthy of special note because it is of recent erection so far as the building is concerned, and at the same time one of the best in structure, decoration and finish. It is furthermore the abode of true domesticity, comfort and hospitality.

Mr. Walker is the son of James and Almira (Carpenter) Walker. The family is of Southern extraction, the father having been born in Greenbrier County, Ky., in 1796, the mother in Smith County, Tenn., in 1808. They were married, however, in Chambersburg, Ill., where the husband and father followed blacksmithing, and by industry and skilled workmanship had an extensive trade and was prosperous. While in Kentucky he had served as Captain of the militia of that State, a position he held until his removal. He at one time was also Sheriff of Pike County, Ill., and was one who helped in the decision to locate the capital of that county. Politically, he was a Whig. He departed this life Sept. 4, 1859, in Scotland County, Mo. His wife died in 1871, in Hancock County, Ill. They were the parents of four children—Martha A., Ellen F., our subject, and Harriet S. (deceased). The founder of this family in America was the great-grandfather of our subject, who came from Scotland and settled in Jamestown, Va., one of the early colonists.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 26th of February, 1843, in Pike County, Ill. The years of his boyhood and youth passed swiftly, and were filled with the duties assigned him upon the farm and attendance at the graded school. When seven years of age he moved with his father to Missouri, where the latter died, shortly after which his mother with her children removed back to Chambersburg, Ill., and our subject began to work for himself. He obtained work at milling. In Keokuk, Iowa, he also

served at the undertaker's trade. In 1865 he came to this State, and for two summers was engaged in freighting on the plains. At the end of that period, in the year 1867, he entered a homestead claim to his present property, upon which he has bestowed much labor and wrought many valuable improvements.

At Palmyra, on the 30th of September, 1866, there occurred a very noteworthy event in the history of that place and of our subject, for then was celebrated his union with Miss Sarah E. Ellis, the estimable daughter of Franklin and Mary (Brown) Ellis. This was the first wedding in Palmyra Precinct. The ceremony was performed by John Roberts, Justice of the Peace. The parents of Mrs. Walker were born in Virginia and Missouri respectively, and were married in the latter State. Her mother died in 1868, aged forty years; her father is successfully operating a ranch in Oregon. He is the father of ten children, Mrs. Walker being the eldest. Their names are recorded as follows: Sarah, James B., George W., Emily E., Minerva, Owen, Frank F., Mary, Carrie E. and Archie L.

The wife of our subject was born in Davis County, Mo., on the 22d of September, 1850. When she was three years of age her parents removed to California, and settled at Petaluma, Sonoma County, where the father kept a dairy and was very prosperous. After about six years he returned to Scotland County, Mo., removing thence to this State in 1862, and settled on the Big Blue River, near Milford. Subsequently they went to Colorado and made their home near Denver; after they had been there about twelve months Indian hostilities commenced, when they returned to Palmyra. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had met in Missouri, and the friendship was renewed at Palmyra with the above-mentioned result. There have been born to them two children: John T., who was born on the 4th of December, 1869, and Oda V., on the 18th of November, 1879. Both are now attending the Peru Normal School, and doing good work.

Mr. Walker deals largely in farming lands, and is also a member of the School Board. He is a member of the Grange, and in that fraternity held the offices of Master and County Deputy. He was nominated to the position of Representative to the

Legislature on the Republican ticket, and received ninety-one of ninety-eight votes cast in the year 1884, but resigned. His popularity, sustained character and manly parts are testified to and respected in the community, as shown by the above demonstration in his favor. Although not a third party man he is a strong Prohibitionist. Mrs. Walker is a very active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and is one of its charter members. She was largely interested in its organization, and has been one of the inspiring spirits of its onward progress and present existence. She is a very competent lady, one eminently respected and esteemed. Although not a member with her in that society our subject is very liberal, and bore his full share in defraying the cost of the erecting and furnishing of the Methodist Church.



**J**AMES H. GREGG, deceased. Among the esteemed citizens of Wyoming Precinct, who played well their part while upon the stage of life, was the subject of this sketch, who has left a record behind him of character and ability that is every way worthy. His birth took place on the 20th of April, 1820, near Wheeling, W. Va. His parents were both natives of the same State. When nine years of age he was left fatherless, and his youthful training and care were left to the mother, who strove as well as she was able to fill the place of both father and mother to her children.

The first seventeen years of his life our subject spent in the old home, and then started for Iowa with the thought of beginning life for himself. There he joined his brother, who had been located about twelve miles from Burlington for many years. There he continued to make his home until he came of age, being engaged in farming, and making considerable headway in a financial regard.

June 10, 1856, six miles west of Burlington, Iowa, our subject was joined in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Bloss, who was born in Preble County, Ohio, on the 18th of November, 1830. Her father, Conrad Bloss, was a native of Virginia, as was also her mother, whose maiden name was Margaret Rinehart; both were of German extraction. Mr. and

Mrs. Bloss, shortly after their marriage settled in Preble County, Ohio, where were born to them eleven children, viz., three sons and eight daughters, all of whom are yet living except the youngest son. The father died in Fairfield, Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1878, being seventy-six years old, and the mother, who is now eighty-six years old, still resides in that county.

Mrs. Gregg was educated in the schools of Ohio, and removed to Iowa with her parents when a young woman, and came to Nebraska some two years later with her husband, with whom she came with the firm resolve to make for themselves a home in the inviting, promising, although still undeveloped West. There were born to them five children, viz: Charles W., William Y., Edwin S., Mary E. and Ida. Charles is the husband of Catherine Sale; their home is in St. Joseph, Mo., where he is in business as a grain dealer. William, whose home is in the same city, is traveling salesman for a dry-goods house there, and was married, in 1888, to Miss Emma Ord; Edwin is at home and manages the farm; Mary is the wife of E. A. McCartney, one of the prosperous farmers of Wyoming Precinct; Ida is at home.

The subject of our sketch crossed the Missouri River with his wife and children at Nebraska City in the spring of 1858, and located at what is now known as Greggspport, the northern part of Nebraska City, but then uncultivated prairie. The tract of land taken by him at that time he commenced to cultivate, but later he largely built up that section of the city, and he held the office for some time of Mayor of Greggspport, but since that time it has become incorporated with Nebraska City, although still retaining its original name. He started the first nursery in the district, and was very successful in its operation for several years. Finally, in October, 1868, he sold out his interest in Greggspport and the nursery, and removed to his pre-emption tract on section 10, being the same he had taken up in 1856, two years before he brought his family West. He began life on his new farm in 1868 without the slightest improvement thereon, but it was not long before he had thoroughly transformed it and made it one of the best farms in the county. The original claim cabin gave place to an

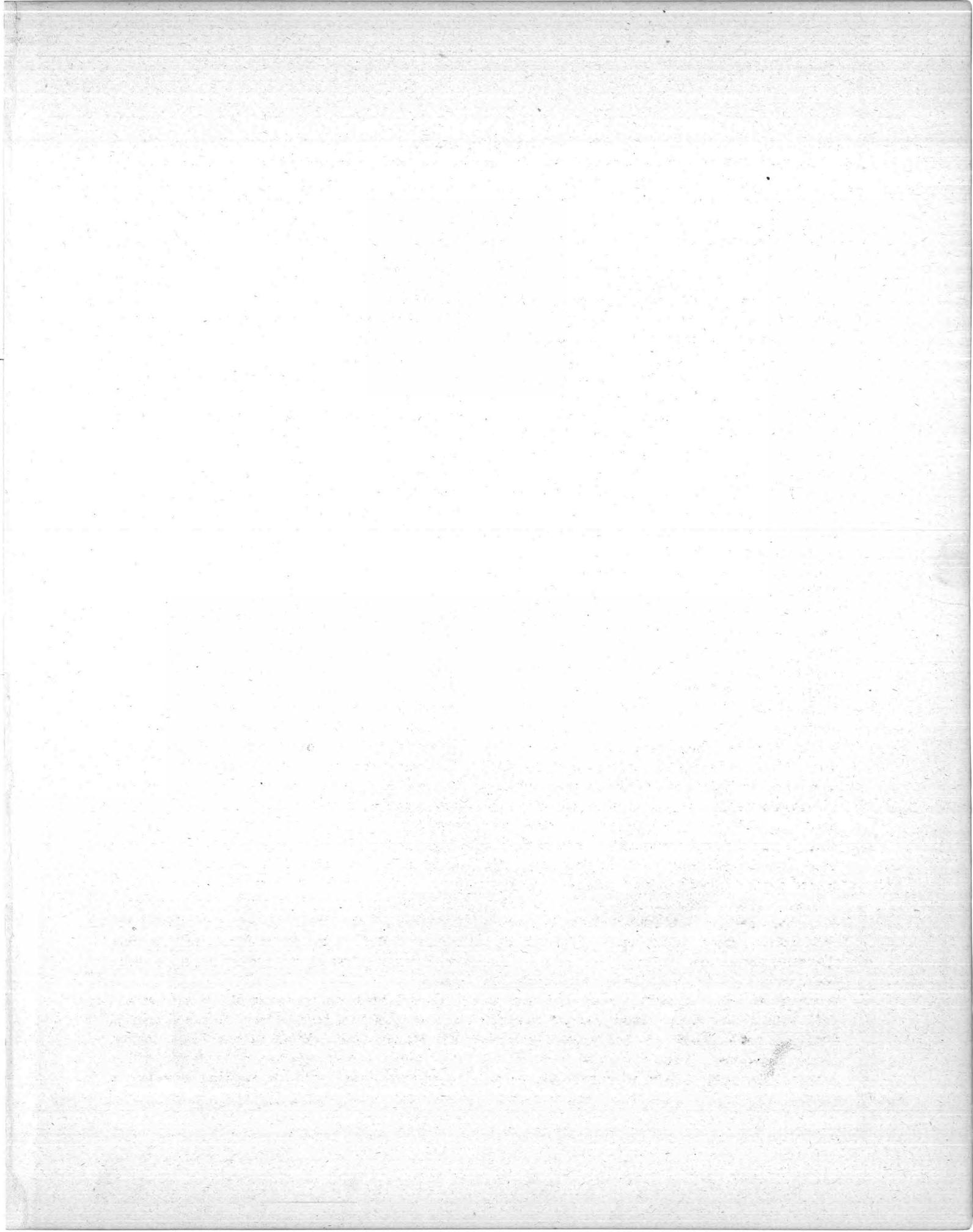
elegant farm dwelling, around which are clustered substantial buildings required for farm purposes. The house is finely located, and commands an extensive and pleasing view of the surrounding country. He produced largely of grain, many varieties of fruits and of fine graded stock, although his specialty was fruit-growing.

Mr. and Mrs. Gregg were devout and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and our subject was one of its honored officials for several years. His political sympathies were with the Republican party. He was reputed a most honorable man and worthy citizen, and was everywhere greatly respected. His death occurred at his home in Wyoming Precinct, on the 22d of October, 1888. His widow, who through all her trials has exhibited a most Christian spirit, has received the unfeigned sympathy and esteem of the community, which she will always retain.

**H**ERBERT E. STEDMAN, one of the most enterprising young men of Russell Precinct, during his younger years lived mostly upon the farm, and until lately has been operating eighty acres of land on section 32. He has, however, disposed of this property, and in partnership with his brother Charles R., has invested a part of his capital in a stock of groceries, locating at Unadilla, under the firm name of Stedman Bros. There is every reason to believe that from their known good standing in the community they will from the start command a good patronage.

Our subject was born in Whiteside County, Ill., Aug. 23, 1860, and spent his boyhood and youth sporting along the Rock River, and in attendance at the district school. When a lad of fourteen years his father left the Prairie State, and coming to this county located, on the 4th of March, 1875, in Russell Precinct, of which our subject has since been a resident.

Enos C. Stedman, the father of our subject, and now deceased, was born in New York, and married Miss Malvina Wall, who was born in Tioga County, that State. A further history of the family will be found in the sketch of C. R. Stedman elsewhere in





*Mrs Henry Pendleton*



*Henry Pendleton*

this volume. The father departed this life July 31, 1885. Herbert E. continued to reside with his mother one year, then removed to his little farm, upon which he built a house, barn and stables, planting hedge fence, and effecting various other improvements, so that he was enabled to dispose of it to good advantage.

Mr. Stedman was married, Nov. 26, 1885, to Miss Lucy E. Wells, at the home of the bride in South Branch. Mrs. Stedman is the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Kelley) Wells, further mention of whom is made in the sketch of M. G. Wells, to be found elsewhere in this volume. Her father is a prominent resident in this county, and a man of good standing.

Mrs. Stedman was born in Wisconsin, July 20, 1863, and received a good education, employing herself as a teacher before her marriage. The family occupy a very attractive home in Russell Precinct, within which is displayed the cultivated tastes of the presiding genius, Mrs. Stedman. They have one little daughter, Etta, who was born Oct. 15, 1886. Mr. Stedman votes independently, but meddles very little with political affairs, preferring to give his attention to his business and home interests.



**H**ENRY PENDLETON was among the earliest pioneers of Otoe County, and at the same time is one of the most wealthy citizens, although his life has been checkered with many difficulties and losses. He now owns 160 acres on section 32, 320 on section 4, and twenty on section 36, Otoe Precinct; also 600 acres in Hendricks Precinct. He is the son of Isaac and Bridget (Stanton) Pendleton, and is a descendant of the families of that name not unknown to readers of the early history of the Eastern States.

The grandfather of our subject was one of the heroes of the Revolution, and served throughout the war as Captain. The father of our subject was born near Pendleton Hill, Conn., was from his youth a seafaring man, and for many years commanded an ocean sailing-vessel. He retired from his profession when about forty-five years of age. His religious convictions were those of the Quaker

community, and he was more often known by the name of Friend or Uncle Isaac than any other. The mother of our subject died aged forty-five years, when Henry was but two years of age. The father died in the year 1843, after a life of sixty-three years. They were the parents of ten children, viz: Amelia, deceased, was the wife of Henry Hull; Lydia became the wife of Daniel Richmond; Rhoda was the wife of Ormand Richmond, and at his death married Benjamin Hewitt; they are now residents of Mystic Bridge, Conn. Nathan; Jane is the wife of Albert Ayer, and they are residents of New London County, Conn.; Sarah is the wife of Charles Breed, and they live in Chenango County, N. Y.; Stanton and Henry; two infants, Isaac and Mary, who died in infancy.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 27th of May, 1830, in Oxford, Chenango Co., N. Y. He was brought up on a farm, but was very weakly as a child, and even on through the earlier years of his boyhood. He had no schooling after he was fifteen, owing to an attack of St. Vitus' dance, which, however, he outgrew as he came to years of manhood. He was brought up under the care of his stepmother, who, after the father's death, married Judge Reynolds, of Cortland, N. Y. Until 1852 he remained working by the month near the old home, but at that time went to Pennsylvania, where he taught school and worked upon a farm. In beginning as a youth he received but \$3.50 per month; when he finished working by the month he received \$26. In 1855 he went to Chemung County, N. Y., and also to Corning, that State.

Mr. Pendleton left Corning on the 21st of March, 1856, and started West, but under more embarrassing circumstances than he had reckoned upon, for he had saved some \$3,000, but had loaned it to his employer in Tioga County, Pa. This gentleman becoming financially embarrassed, our subject lost all his savings, so that he had nothing but a clear head, good health, and ready hands to give him a fresh start. He passed on through the beautiful prairies of Illinois, and went by river from St. Louis to Omaha. From Omaha he went to Elkhorn City, a place much talked of as a very ElDorado, but which was practically non-existent. On arrival he found nothing but a single squatter cabin, and life

was of the roughest and hardest known to the pioneers. He and another person agreed to take adjoining claims, but the companion did not so much as make a settlement. The utter loneliness was too much for one of a social nature like our subject, and he therefore threw up his claim and returned to Omaha, where he found those who had known him preparing to organize a search party, believing him to have met with more or less serious trouble.

Recovering from the effects of his previous expedition, Mr. Pendleton started for the home of the "Otoes," who had been removed to the reservation in the spring of 1856. About the same time he took up the claim which has become the home farm. A squatter had plowed thirty-six acres the year before, but when the land was surveyed it was discovered that the line practically divided this thirty-six in two equal parts, so that really only eighteen acres of plowed land were on his claim, for which he paid the sum of \$225. He planted his first crop on the 27th of May, 1856, and put in potatoes, which yielded him ultimately a good return. His first cabin had a roof over but one-third of it, and, as he describes it, he had the "soft side of a cotton-wood plank" for a bed, and his boots for a pillow. His first crop of corn, although eaten off by cattle when about a foot high, yielded about forty bushels to the acre, and he realized enough to pay for his claim.

During the summer our subject never went from his claim, excepting when it was necessary to have his plow sharpened, and having developed into a stout-framed, vigorous, strong man, and being accustomed to handle wild cattle from his youth, he got along with his breaking in splendid style, and was the champion breaker both for style and speed for many miles around. But this was not to last always, for in 1859, while threshing, his right arm was caught in the machine, with the result that he lost that most necessary member. His brother Stanton, accompanied by his brother-in-law, Charles Breed, hearing of this accident came to see him, and he took the opportunity to return with them to the old home.

While making this visit our subject formed the acquaintance of Miss Helen M. Cary, who was born near Richfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., Jan. 24, 1831,

to Ezra and Freelove (Peck) Cary. Their union was celebrated on the 16th of January, 1860, and shortly after he started back to Nebraska accompanied by his bride. Taking the railroad to St. Joseph, he proceeded by stage, despite the cruel cold, and the depth of the snow of that winter. In crossing the Missouri River at Peru, it became evident that it would be dangerous to cross other than on foot; this they accomplished in safety, but by no means pleasantly, the water on the surface of the ice being more than ankle deep. They then proceeded on their way, and arrived without further accident or special incident at the little 12x14 bachelor shanty, which, however, did not from that time appear so gruesome and lonely as before.

In the years following, until 1863, everything seemed to go against them. Loss followed loss, until he was well-nigh in despair, and but for the companionship of Mrs. Pendleton, would doubtless have succumbed to the depressing effects; but in that year, aided by his faithful and devoted wife, he put in twenty-three acres of wheat, seven of oats, and thirty-five of corn, at a cost of only \$10.50 at harvest. The good prices of 1864 put him on his feet, and this was the turning point in his life financially. He began buying and raising stock, while his wife undertook her share by running the dairy and cheese department. Mr. Pendleton thought it nothing to ride long and hard in the buying of cattle, sometimes taking 100 miles in a single day, besides feeding sometimes as high as 500 head of cattle per annum, generally though about 100 to 250 head; he also raised quite a large number, and hogs in proportion. Thousands of dollars worth of stock he has shipped to Chicago with gratifying results.

About the year 1875 the wheel of fortune turning brought him heavy losses, but not such as to injure him, as it would have done in other years. He was in the midst of putting up his splendid brick house, at a cost of several thousand dollars, when the grasshoppers came, and with them a loss in material and labor of \$1,200. Not having sufficient feed for his cattle, he was compelled to sell at a sacrifice, and ship the remainder to Iowa, where he fed about 250 steers and 600 hogs. Then came the lessened market value in stock, and at the same

time the ravages of hog cholera, resulting in a loss of another \$2,000. However, he made a good profit on the cattle fed in Iowa.

The home circle of Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton included six children, whose names are recorded as follows: May; Freelove H., who died when two and a half years old; Grace, Fannie; Minnie E., who died when five and a half years old, and Carrie, who died when eighteen months old. May is now Mrs. J. T. McKinnon, of Franklin, Neb., and is the mother of two little ones, viz: Anna Clare and Alice Rowena; Grace is the wife of George Overton, of this precinct, and they have one child, Mabel A.; Fannie is still at home.

Mr. Pendleton was a delegate for the first Democratic County Convention of this county, and was introduced as a kind of black horse to harmonize three factions of the party, although really not Democratic. His subsequent action was such that it was his to be called by the appellation Black Republican, and to be the first to receive the same in any publication in the county. He was at one time a candidate for the Legislature, but was defeated by two votes. He has stood foremost wherever there has been any enterprise for the good of the county or State, and ever been most loyal thereto. He is a stanch Republican, and takes the deepest interest in political affairs. His religious principles he sums up in the following words: "Love the Lord thy God with all thy might and thy strength, and thy neighbor as thyself."

Among the numerous portraits presented in this ALBUM may be found those of Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton, which are given on an accompanying page.

**C**HARLES E. COTTON. Among the young men of Syracuse who have made their mark in the business world must be mentioned the subject of the present sketch, who holds the position of cashier in the First National Bank. Our subject was born in Columbia County, Wis., to Henry D. and Christina H. (Huyck) Cotton, on the 17th of February, 1858. His parents were natives of the Mohawk Valley, N. Y. By occupation Mr. Cotton, Sr., was a miller, and continued his resi-

dence in the East, where he was fairly successful in business, until 1851; then he moved to Wisconsin, and became the owner of mills in Wyocena and Fall River.

The grandfather of our subject, Owen Cotton, was a native of Vermont, but removed to New York State, where he passed the last years of his life, living for the greater part of the time in the city of Utica. He was married several times and reared a large family, and in the early days of settlement in Wisconsin sent some of his sons to that Territory. They erected mills near Milwaukee, and put up the first gristmill in the State. The father of our subject continued to follow his trade in Wisconsin until 1868, then went to Mitchell County, Iowa; in June of 1873 he removed to Vinton in the same State, where he died in January, 1876. His wife, the mother of our subject, still continues to reside at that place. She is the mother of seven children, our subject being the third born.

The subject of our sketch completed his education at the High School, and a select school at Vinton, and later turned his attention to teaching. In 1878 he came to Nebraska City, and in August of the same year became bookkeeper for Tomlin, Duff & Co. He remained with that firm until it was changed to that of Cotton, Duff & Co., his uncle, W. A. Cotton, becoming the senior partner. In August of 1882 he came to Syracuse, where the firm had just established the Farmers' Bank, and entered upon his duties as cashier. When, in November, 1883, the institution was reorganized, and became a National Bank, he still continued his responsible position, which he holds to-day. He has also become a stockholder in this, and also in the bank at Unadilla.

Upon the 2d of February, 1881, our subject was united in marriage with Miss Ella, daughter of John and Lucy C. Ballantine. This most estimable lady was born in Brunswick, Mo., and received her education at Lexington and Shelbyville, Ky. Of this marriage there have been born three children, who bear the names Earle, Charles E. and Lucy. The home of the Cottons is situated in the northwest part of the city, in one of the most pleasant districts, and internally bears indications of the education, refinement and esthetic tastes of the

family. Mr. Cotton is the owner of sixty-eight acres of land in the vicinity, and fifty acres more on the same section. All the property he has accumulated is the natural result of intelligently directed efforts and laudable ambition, in which he has always been uniformly encouraged by the lady whom it was his good fortune to make the companion of his life.

The bank with which our subject is connected is on a firm basis, its deposits ranging from \$60,000 to \$80,000, and transacting a large business in the city and surrounding country. Mr. Cotton is Secretary and Treasurer of the Otoe County Fair and Driving Park Association, and is otherwise interested therein. In politics he is a Democrat, but is not ambitious for prominence in political circles. He is loyal to every known duty as a citizen, and it is hardly necessary to remark is, with his pleasant and intelligent wife, held in very high regard. They move in the best circles, and are always sure of receiving a cordial welcome.

**R**ICHARD WEST. The farming community of Rock Creek Precinct numbers among its members no man who is held in higher respect than the subject of this notice. He owns and occupies eighty acres of the first pre-emption claim which was made in this precinct, having purchased it from its original possessor, William Knott. He has resided here for a period of twenty years, although only assuming the proprietorship of his present land in the fall of 1885, upon the death of Mr. Knott.

Our subject came to Nebraska in May, 1865, and has since been a resident of this county. Three years later he took up his abode upon the land which he now occupies, and where he has since lived. Prior to this, for a period of nine years, he had been a resident of Pike County, Ill., to which place he had emigrated from Yorkshire, England, where his birth took place on the 14th of May, 1845.

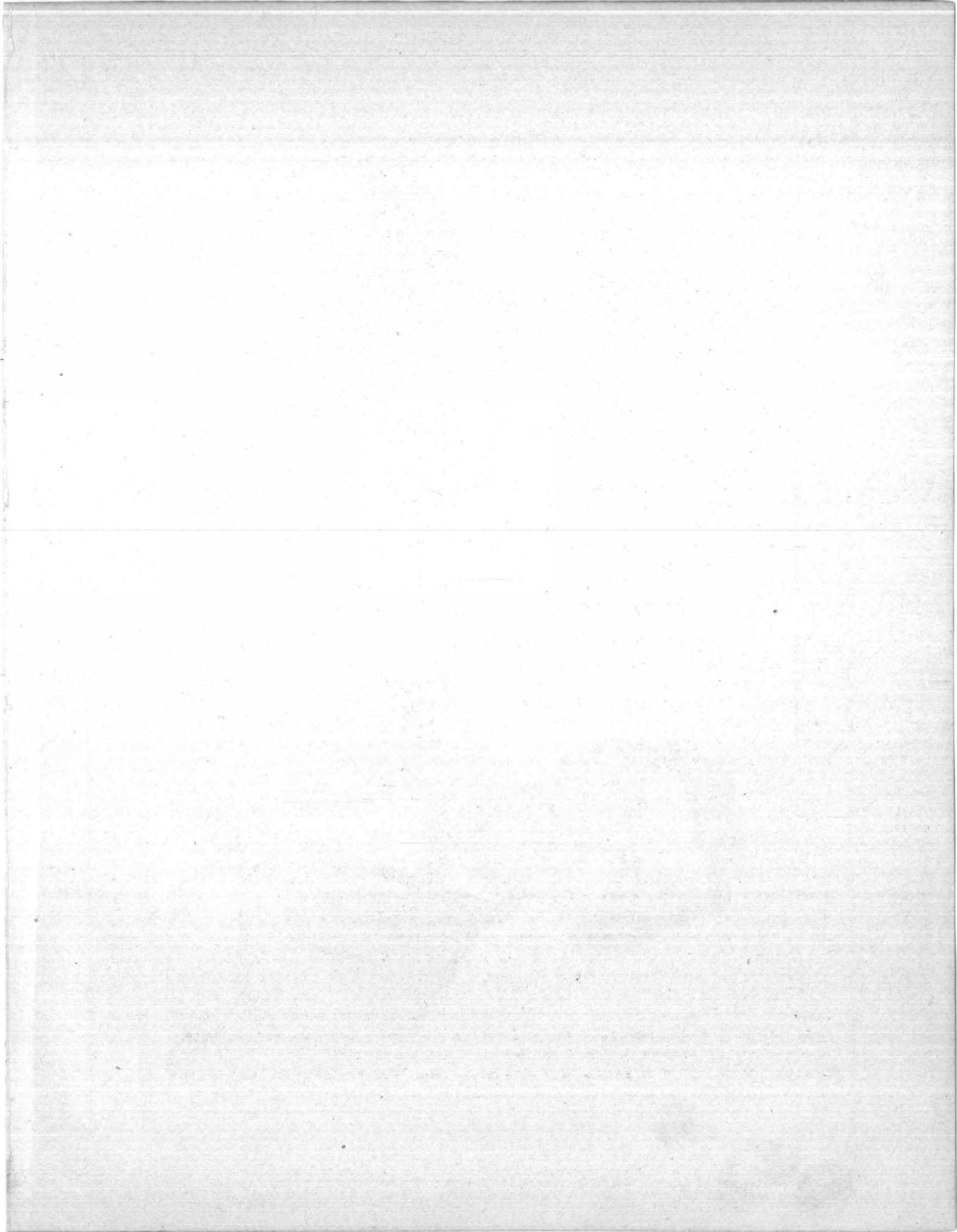
Our subject is one of a family of seven sons and five daughters, the offspring of Robert and Harriet (Coleman) West, who were natives of Yorkshire,

England, where they were reared and married. The father in early manhood learned the trade of a tailor, which he followed in his native England until after the birth of ten children. The family then, in 1855, set out for America, landing at Quebec, Canada, and shortly afterward proceeded to a point about seven miles south of Pittsfield, Pike Co., Ill., where the father purchased a tract of land and built up a homestead, upon which he and his excellent wife lived the remainder of their days. Robert West departed this life in October, 1879, aged about sixty years. The mother passed away after the decease of her husband, in January, 1883. They were most excellent and worthy people, widely and favorably known throughout their township, and members in good standing of the Methodist Church. Twelve of their children were reared to mature years, and seven are still living.

Our subject continued a member of the parental household until a youth of nineteen years, then, anxious to commence for himself, made his way across the Mississippi into this county. For two years thereafter he operated as a freighter between Nebraska City and Denver, Col. Many were the trips which he took over the plains, encountering all sorts of men, and becoming intimately acquainted with the vicissitudes and dangers of life on the frontier.

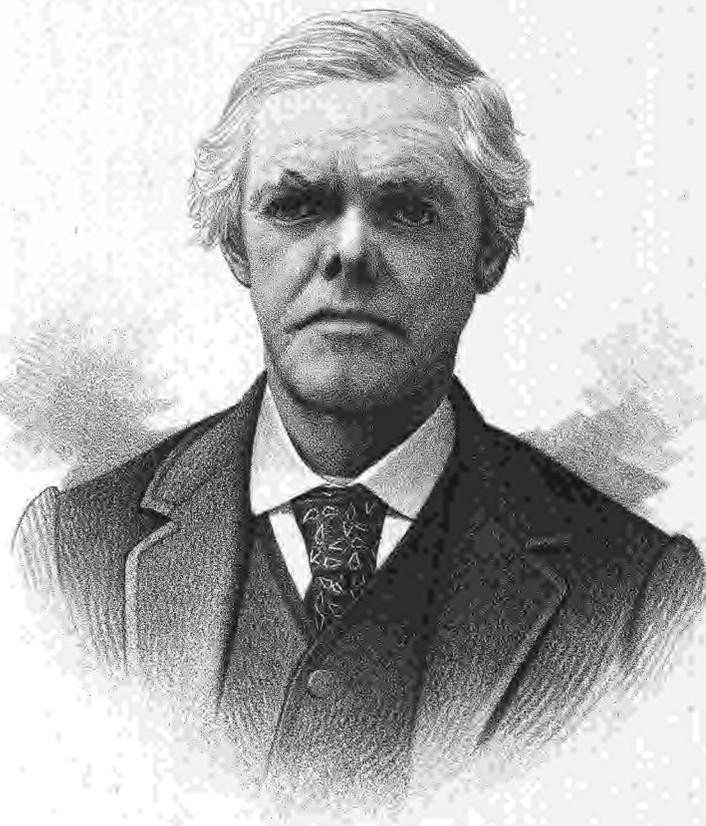
Mr. West made the acquaintance of Miss Elizabeth Knott in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, and they were married at the home of the bride, on the 29th of May, 1870. Mrs. West was born in Worcestershire, England, Oct. 1, 1847, and is the daughter of William and Ann (Gardner) Knott, natives of the same county as their daughter, whence they emigrated to the United States after the birth of a part of their family. About 1851 they settled in the vicinity of Green Bay, Wis., and six years later came to Nebraska, the father pre-empting a homestead on section 8, in Rock Creek Precinct. Here the parents lived and labored, enduring in common with the people around them the toils and vicissitudes of pioneer life, and here spent their last days, the mother dying about 1881, when a little past middle age, and the father in 1885, when ripe in years.

Mrs. West was the mainstay of her parents dur-





*John C. Roddy*



*Luzerne Wells*

ing their later years until her marriage, caring for them with filial affection. Her union with our subject resulted in the birth of four sons and one daughter, of whom Charles died when two years old. The survivors, Annie, William, John and Walter, are at home. Mr. West, politically, supports the principles of the Democratic party, and his estimable wife is a member of the Baptist Church, attending religious services at Delta.

**T**HOMAS P. MORGAN, of Palmyra, Otoe Co., Neb., was born in Usk, Monmouthshire, Wales, Nov. 1, 1832. In 1854 he became a citizen of the United States, in 1868 came to Nebraska. To the best of his knowledge he never did anything worthy of remembrance except the extraordinary folly of trying to run a newspaper, a weekly known as the *Palmyra Items*, founded in April, 1887, the only merit of which is that it is Republican.

**L**UZERNE WELLS has been a resident of Otoe County since the days of 1857, when he identified himself with its early pioneers. While doing his share toward developing its agricultural resources and promoting its material welfare, he has accumulated a comfortable property, and is now the owner of a valuable farm on the rich bottom lands of the Missouri River in Otoe Precinct, and he has a herd of well-graded Short-horn cattle that compare favorably with any others in the country. Mr. Wells was born in Hartford County, Conn., five miles from the State capital, May 4, 1823. His father, Rufus Wells, was born in the same county, and it is also supposed that his grandfather was a native of the same county, and there he spent his last years. The father of our subject was reared in his native county to the life of a farmer, and he has always lived there. The maiden name of his wife was Thirza Wheeler, and she was also a lifelong resident of Hartford County. She was the mother of eleven children, ten sons and one daughter, ten of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of our sketch was reared in the home of his birth in that New England town, and received his education in the district schools. He was trained to habits of industry, and inherited a fair share of the thrift and energy that characterized his ancestry. At the age of eighteen he commenced to work on the farm by the month, and was thus employed for four years by one man. Then becoming desirous to learn a trade, he engaged in a shop where planes and saw handles were made, and the succeeding eight years worked there. After that he resumed the calling to which he had been reared, that of a farmer, and bought a small farm in Litchfield County. But he was not contented with that, and thought that he would seek a home in the West, where land was cheap and he could afford more of it. Accordingly he started in 1857 for Nebraska, then a Territory, coming by rail to Jefferson City, Mo., then the western terminus of the railway, and from there on the Missouri to Otoe City, near Minersville. He started from there with a horse and buggy to seek a suitable location. He drove to Cass County with a Mr. Steele, and after traversing the wild prairies for several days returned, and bought a half-interest in a claim on section 13, Otoe Precinct, and the following year pre-empted the land now included in his present farm. He continued to live on section 13 until 1865, when he settled on this place. Besides the 125 acres of his land on the river bottom he has 160 acres on section 25, all improved and under fine cultivation. He is very successfully engaged in general farming, paying much attention to stock-raising, Short-horn cattle being his favorite breed.

Mr. Wells was married, Aug. 15, 1848, to Miss Sarah J. Strong. She is likewise of New England birth and antecedents, New Hartford, Litchfield Co., Conn., being the place of her birth, and her parents were Edward W. and Sally (Shepard) Strong. For history of the Strong family see sketch of G. F. Lee. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wells, as follows: Mary Eugenia, wife of James Rowan; Wallace and Edward H.

Mrs. Wells is a respected member of the Congregational Church, and she is zealous and helpful in all good works. Mr. Wells is a capable, practical farmer, possessing a good fund of sound common

sense, and many other qualifications that go to make a man a good and useful citizen. In his political views he is strongly Republican, and heartily supports the policy of his party at the polls.

The portrait of this pioneer is presented on an accompanying page.



**J**OHAN C. RODDY. One of the most beautiful homesteads on the Missouri River is the property of the subject of this sketch, and is familiarly known to the residents of this section as "Walnut Hill Farm." It is situated in what is now Nebraska City Precinct, and comprises 463 acres of finely cultivated land, with handsome modern buildings, and well stocked with good grades of cattle, horses and swine. The estate of our subject includes in all 780 acres, as he owns over 320 acres elsewhere. The dwelling is finely situated, commanding a view of the river and surrounding country for several miles along its banks.

Mr. Roddy has been a resident of this county since June, 1862, at which time he secured 133 acres of land included in his present homestead. He was then unmarried and poor in purse, and by his own unaided efforts has built up one of the finest estates in the county. Prior to taking up his residence in Nebraska he lived in Dane County, Wis., having settled in the vicinity of Blue Mound in 1856. He had removed to the Badger State from London, in the Province of Ontario, Canada, where he landed in 1851, after having made the voyage across the Atlantic from his native county of Westmeath, Ireland, where he was born in February, 1831, and where he lived until a young man of twenty years.

Our subject was the eldest of eight children, four sons and four daughters, the offspring of Michael and Ann (Cormac) Roddy, who were natives of the same county as their son. In the days of his ancestors, on account of religious persecution, the latter were forced to flee from their native soil and their property was confiscated. They, however, never lost their high character, nor the influence of their early training, and were recognized for gener-

ations as among the better classes of the Irish gentry. The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and the mother died two years after her son John C. came to America, when a little past middle life. Michael Roddy was a second time married, to Miss Ellen Coffee, a lady of Irish birth and parentage. To them were born five children, two sons and three daughters, and they came to the United States in May, 1864, making their way westward to Nebraska and settling in this county. The father secured 160 acres of land in Wyoming Precinct, from which he improved a good farm, and where he spent his last days in ease and comfort, passing away at the ripe age of seventy-four years, on the 3d of April, 1878. Mrs. Ellen Roddy is still living, having a snug homestead of forty acres in Wyoming Precinct, with her youngest daughter, Helen A., an interesting young lady of eighteen years. Mrs. Roddy is now fifty-three years old.

Our subject, four years after coming to Nebraska Territory, was married, Aug. 15, 1866, in Nebraska City, to Miss Rose O'Donnell, who was born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in the year 1840, and lived there with her parents until reaching womanhood. Then, accompanied by an elder brother, she emigrated to the United States, and from New York proceeded directly westward to Nebraska City in the year 1866, where she lived until her marriage. Her parents died in Ireland, her father, Abel O'Donnell, April 5, 1878, and the mother, Ann (Bohan) O'Donnell, in 1860. The O'Donnells were among the nobility in the early days in Ireland, as is well known by students of Irish history. Their family consisted of six children, five of whom are now living, three residents of Nebraska and two of Ireland. Three of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Roddy died in infancy. The eldest daughter, Anna, completed an excellent education in the convent at Nebraska City, together with her sister Mary. James C. and the younger children, John B., Rose and Michael A., are all at home with their parents.

Our subject and his estimable wife were reared in the doctrines of the Catholic Church, to which they still loyally adhere, and in which they are likewise training their children. Mr. Roddy, after

becoming a naturalized citizen, identified himself with the Republican party, and is one of its warmest supporters. From 1862 to 1865 he followed the river, being on the steamer "West Wind," which, in the fall of 1864, transported troops to Jefferson City. He fought the rebels along the river and at various places. Oct. 16, 1864, the boat was destroyed by the troops of the rebel Generals, Shelby and Clark. The prisoners, however, were not confined, and later were abandoned by their captors, who were attacked and dispersed by Union troops. Among the portraits given in this volume may be found that of Mr. Roddy.

**H**OWELL F. ST. JOHN. The man who has been content to labor year after year, perhaps at first with scarcely perceptible results, but still undiscouraged and at last successful, deserves more than a passing mention. These few words give some idea of the career of the subject of this biography, a farmer and skilled mechanic combined, who has now arrived at the point where he can rest upon his oars, and may be pardoned if he looks around him with pride and satisfaction. In looking thus he has before him one of the finest homesteads in Otoe County, an area of land 240 acres in extent, and a set of handsome and substantial farm buildings. The fat cattle and horses grazing in the rich pastures add to the attractions of the scene, while the grain fields yield abundantly the richest products of Southern Nebraska. Adjacent to the building is a fine orchard, with trees of the smaller fruits, and, in fact, our subject and his family are surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. St. John took possession of the land which he now occupies when it was in a wild and unbroken condition, and its present state is due entirely to his industry and perseverance. He is an Ohio man by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Westfield Township, Medina County, that State, Feb. 14, 1836. Myron and Philena (Alton) St. John, his worthy parents, were of old New England stock, and traced their ancestors back to the Pilgrims and the Colonial times. They re-

moved with their parents from New England to New York State, and were reared and married in Onondaga County, N. Y. After marriage the father secured a tract of land in that county, where he lived with his excellent wife until after the birth of a part of their family.

The father of our subject not making the headway he desired decided to push still further westward, and accordingly about 1830 moved from the Empire State, and took up his abode among the pioneers of Medina County, Ohio. The region thereabouts was then an unbroken wilderness, and the family established themselves in a little cabin in the woods, while the father proceeded to fell the timber around, and bring the soil to a state of cultivation. He thus labored until advancing years compelled him to be less industrious, and died at the age of seventy-six years. He was a kind and indulgent father, a good neighbor, and in religious matters a member of the Baptist Church. During his early manhood he was attached to the old Whig party, but upon its abandonment identified himself with the Republicans.

The mother of our subject survived her husband a number of years, and passed away at the ripe old age of eighty, in June of 1884, spending her last days in Ohio with her family. She was in all respects the suitable helpmate of her husband, and with him was a lifelong member of the Baptist Church. They were the parents of nine children, five sons and four daughters, all of whom lived to mature years and were married. All the daughters and four of the sons are still living, being residents mostly of Ohio and Nebraska.

Our subject was the sixth child of his parents, with whom he remained until reaching manhood, acquiring a common-school education, and becoming familiar with farming as carried on in the pioneer times. At quite an early age he developed unusual mechanical genius, and, although never serving at a regular trade, could fashion almost anything with a saw or a jack-knife. These qualities developed to his advantage later, and after coming to this county he became interested in hydraulic jetting well machinery.

Mr. St. John in about 1862 changed his residence from Medina to Sandusky County, Ohio, of which

he was a resident fourteen years, engaged mostly in farming. He was married in his native township to Miss Jane Munn, who was born in Wayne County, Ohio, Dec. 10, 1840, and is the daughter of Bethuel and Arvilla (Jones) Munn, who are both now deceased, and who spent their last years in Ohio. They were natives of New York and New Jersey, and the father was a farmer by occupation for a number of years, although having a good knowledge of millwrighting, which he followed considerably in connection with farming.

Mrs. St. John was reared and educated in her native township, completing her studies at Saville Academy. She has been a true helpmate to her husband, contributing her full share in the accumulation of the property, and exerting herself for the comfort of those dependent upon her. Of the five children born of this union, Arvilla, when thirteen months old, was taken from the household circle in 1863, and in February, 1888, a son, Mortimer, died at the age of twenty-seven years. Both were very promising, and their death was a sore affliction to the devoted parents. The son fell a victim of rheumatism of the heart and pneumonia, from which he suffered some time before his death, which took place at the home of his parents. The eldest living child, Clarence, chiefly assists his father on the farm, and the younger son, Charles, gives his attention to the machinery in which his father is interested. Genie D. is attending college at Nebraska City. Mr. St. John, politically, is a sound Republican, and a man whose opinions are generally respected.



**E**GBERT L. ELLIS, whose property and residence is on section 1 of Syracuse Precinct, where he settled in May of 1885, is one of the capable and much valued citizens of the district. He was born in Cayuga County, N. Y., on the 28th of February, 1834, and is the son of Harvey and Sarah (Woodworth) Ellis, who were natives of New York.

The educational advantages of our subject were those of the common school of his native place, which were supplemented by the initiation into the

practical duties of farming. He remained upon the home farm until he attained his majority, and then emigrated to Michigan, and located in Eaton County, in the neighborhood of Charlotte. There he associated with his brother Edgar, and they worked together as carpenters and joiners, contracting for and putting up many of the best buildings of Charlotte, and others of minor mention. In the same neighborhood also he purchased, cleared and cultivated about seventy acres of land, put upon it an excellent set of buildings and a farmhouse of considerable pretensions, admirably designed and constructed, and for some time after bringing it to this desirable condition he continued to follow agricultural pursuits.

Mr. Ellis sold the above property in 1885 and came to this State, taking up a farm of 129 acres, which he has well improved, and provided with a good house and buildings, giving much more care than he had done upon his previous property. He has since that time been very successful in the raising of cattle and hogs, and usually has about fifty head of each upon the farm at one time.

Our subject was united in marriage with Mary S. Conn., at Charlotte, Mich., Sept. 15, 1869. This lady is the daughter of Samuel and Orrisavilla (Fowler) Conn. She was born at North Cohocton, Steuben Co., N. Y., upon the 2d of February, 1838. Her father, who was one of the prosperous and enterprising merchants of that place, was born on the 10th of September, 1809, at Bath, N. Y. In 1843 he migrated from the Empire State to Michigan. The first five years in the West were spent at Saline, then he engaged in mercantile pursuits at Lockport, St. Joseph County, where, in February, 1851, he was bereaved by the death of his wife. Subsequently he returned to Saline, where he died on the 23d of July, 1869. In politics he was an old-line Whig, and later became a member of the Republican party. He was one of the leading citizens wherever he might make his home, and was frequently called upon to fill local offices.

The paternal grandmother of Mrs. Ellis was the daughter of Abijah Guile, who was born in West Winfield, N. Y., on the 17th of March, 1772. He built the first gristmill ever put up in North Cohocton, and was one of the prominent and public-

spirited citizens of that place in its early days. He was a lineal descendant of John Guile, who came from England in the year 1736, and settled in Dedham, Mass.

The subject of our sketch is a staunch adherent and firm supporter of the Republican party. While living in Michigan he was called upon to fill various offices, which he always did in a most admirable and thorough manner. Although a firm believer in the Christian religion, he is not attached to any denominational system, but is somewhat inclined to favor Congregationalism. He has been a resident of this State for but a short time, yet he has made many friends, and has secured the hearty respect of the people; this is also true of Mrs. Ellis and their two children, Henry C. and Cora M. It is not improbable that in future years our subject may have an important place to fill in the history of the county should he be spared, as there is apparently every reason to hope he may be.

**J**OHAN T. ELLIOT. Among the practical and prosperous general farmers of McWilliams Precinct the gentleman whose life story is here presented must certainly be named. His farm and home are on section 28, McWilliams Precinct, and his property is some eighty acres in extent, all of which is under the plow. He has only owned the farm for about four years. Before that he had for twelve years resided in Rock Creek, and came first to Nebraska in 1870. He has an extensive knowledge of the Western country, having spent two years traveling here, there and elsewhere in the Great West.

The subject of our sketch was born in Connecticut, near the city of Hartford, on the 6th of January, 1856. He was taken by his parents to Cass County, Ill., when about three years of age. There he was brought up and educated, and continued to make his home until he came to this State, where as a young man he has made a good reputation, both in regard to character and ability.

Robert Elliot, his father, was by trade a farmer and miller, and learned both occupations before leaving Scotland, his native country. He was born

and grew up in the vicinity of the city of Glasgow. There he married Jane Miller, a native of the Isle McGee. Shortly after the birth of their son James D., now a resident of Cass County, Ill., they came to this country and took up their abode in Connecticut, where the father applied himself to his trade, continuing until after the birth of their six children, of whom our subject was the youngest. Then, as mentioned above, a move was made to Cass County, where, in the year 1866, while yet in the prime of life, the wife and mother was removed by death.

Mr. Elliot, Sr., was married a second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Nancy Davidson, of Cass County, Ill. Soon after the birth of their first child, and in the year 1870, they removed to Nebraska, and here Mr. Elliot began farming, but about five years later sold out and went to Kansas, locating near Superior, in that State.

The subject of our sketch was educated in the schools of Illinois and this State, and from his youth has been more or less in daily contact with various farm employments. He was married in Tecumseh, Sept. 5, 1888, to Miss Jennie McClung, who was born in Fremont County, Iowa, in the year 1867. She is the daughter of Edward and Nellie (Young) McClung, who are now living at Talmage. Mrs. Elliot is a lady of education and careful home training, an ardent member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where she is much esteemed. Our subject, who is yet a young man, has not taken a prominent part in political matters, but will doubtless figure in future years. He is a member of the Democratic party, and takes considerable interest in questions of political import.

**C**HRISTIAN HUSTED, bookkeeper for J. H. Arends, in the city of Syracuse, and well known among the business men of his community, was born near the city of Veile, Denmark, on the 19th of July, 1844. His parents were Eric C. and Anna (Christensen) Husted, whose family consisted of two children only, our subject and his brother Hans, who still resides in his native country.

Young Husted was educated in the schools of

Copenhagen, and lived near the place of his birth until a man twenty-eight years of age, being mostly engaged in teaching. In the spring of 1872 he emigrated to the United States, and after landing upon American soil, proceeded directly westward to Polk County, Wis., where he engaged in farming. In the fall of 1873 he left the Badger State, and, changing his occupation somewhat, engaged in newspaper work, and was for a period of ten years thereafter editor of the *Danish Pioneer*, the largest Scandinavian journal in the United States. In 1883, coming to Syracuse, he assumed the duties of his present position, and has now become one of the indispensable features of the house.

Mr. Husted while a resident of Omaha was united in marriage with Miss Louise Jessen, the wedding taking place in the spring of 1877. Mrs. Husted is a native of the same country as her husband, and came to the United States with her parents, Dr. H. C. and Kirstine Jessen, when about sixteen years old. Her father is a well-educated man, a physician by profession, and is now practicing in Sacramento, Cal. To Mr. and Mrs. Husted there have been born three children—Anna, Harriet and Ella, who are all at home with their parents. Mr. Husted in religion is a Lutheran, and politically, votes the Democratic ticket.

**F**RANK J. CONKEL. There probably is in Rock Creek Precinct no farm under better cultivation than the land belonging to the subject of this sketch, and which is pleasantly located on section 25, embracing its southeastern quarter. The buildings are neat and substantial, there are shade and fruit trees, the land is well watered, and produces in abundance the rich crops of Southern Nebraska. The present proprietor came to Nebraska Territory in the fall of 1866, purchased his present land two years later, and in the same year put up his present dwelling. The premises wear that air of thrift and prosperity which it is delightful to contemplate.

Our subject is an Ohio man by birth, having first opened his eyes to the light in Crawford County, that State, Dec. 9, 1843. His parents, George and

Beulah A. (Vale) Conkel, were also natives of the Buckeye State, and the father all his life followed the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. The household circle included four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject was the eldest son and third child. Of his brothers and sisters five are living, mostly engaged in farming pursuits, and residents of Nebraska and Iowa. Our subject before reaching his majority removed with his parents from the Buckeye State to Logan County, Ill., about 1856, where he attained his majority. They finally left Illinois, and pushed farther westward to Fremont County, Iowa, where the father carried on farming successfully until his death, which occurred in the winter of 1879, when he was sixty-eight years old. He was a well-read man, of decided views, and a Democrat in politics. The mother is still living, and makes her home with her younger son, William, in Fremont County, Iowa.

Upon reaching his majority our subject started out on his own account, and soon thereafter occurred one of the most interesting and important events in his life, namely, his marriage, Aug. 11, 1866. His chosen bride, Miss Elizabeth Duncan, was born in Gibson, Ind., in 1841, and is the daughter of Lloyd and Rosina (Lucas) Duncan, the former of whom died in Logan County, Ill., in 1862. He was a well-to-do farmer during his later years, although spending his early life in mercantile pursuits. The mother after the death of her husband joined her daughter, Mrs. Conkel, in this county, and subsequently took up her abode with her son Thomas in Delaware Precinct, where her death took place about 1884. Both Mr. and Mrs. Duncan were members in good standing of the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Conkel was reared and educated chiefly in Southern Illinois, but before her marriage removed with her parents to Logan County. She is a lady of many estimable qualities, and has been the true helpmate of her husband in all his worthy efforts. Their union has been blessed by the birth of seven children, who yet form an unbroken family circle, all at home with their parents. They were named respectively: Rosa, Grayson, Edgar, Willard, Addie, Frederick and Ettie.

Mr. and Mrs. Conkel after their marriage took pos-

session of a modest dwelling in this township, and in all the relations of life have signalized themselves as useful and worthy members of the community. Mr. Coukel's interest in the temperance movement led him, in 1886, to ally himself with the Prohibitionists. He came to this county with limited capital, which he was fortunate in investing very judiciously, and has left no stone unturned to surround himself and his family with all the comforts of life, and build up a homestead which should compare favorably with that of the enterprising men around him.



**J**AMES LEWIS, who is one of the successful and enterprising agriculturists and stock-feeders of Palmyra Precinct, and operates 120 acres on section 26, was born in Wiltshire, England, near the town of Swindon, upon the Great Western Railway, on the 21st of July, 1848. He is the son of John and Sarah Lewis, and is the youngest of four children born to them, to whom were given the names subjoined, viz: John, Elizabeth, Joseph and James. His mother died when he was but a small child, and he has no recollection of her. He received his education in the parish schools, attending them until he was thirteen years of age, when he began to serve an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner.

When nineteen our subject made up his mind to come to the Western World, but being apprenticed until he was twenty-one years of age he had to pay his time from nineteen to twenty-one in order to be released from the articles of indenture. This arranged, he sailed from Liverpool on the 1st of April, 1868, on board the good ship "France," whose powerful engines carried him swiftly over the Atlantic rollers, landing him at New York on the 11th of the same month. He came straight through to this State to his uncle, Joseph Green. At first he engaged to work at his trade in Nebraska City. In the fall of 1868 he went to Lincoln and began work on the State House, and afterward on the Insane Asylum, and the residences of Gov. Butler and Secretary Kennedy. He remained working for two seasons in and around Lincoln. The summer of

1871 he went to Syracuse, where he remained until after the Chicago fire. That, however, offered an unusual chance for employment, and he repaired to that city, remaining there about two years. He then returned to Syracuse, and was there through the winter of 1873-74. He then began contracting building upon his own account, and saw no little prosperity.

At Palmyra, on the 9th of August, 1875, Mr. Lewis was united in marriage with Mary E. McAleer, the daughter of James and Catherine McAleer, who were both born in Ireland. Mr. McAleer was by trade a marble cutter, and was living in Rhode Island, where his marriage was celebrated, and had continued so to do for many years. His daughter Mary was the eldest of seven children, whose names are here recorded, viz.: Mary, James, Miles, John, Thomas F., Frances and Bernard. Mrs. Lewis was born on the 17th of June, 1854, and was eleven years of age when, with her parents, she came to Princeton, Ill., and was nineteen at the time the removal was made to this State. Her father settled on a farm in Russell Precinct in the fall of 1873. He died Sept. 16, 1888, at the advanced age of seventy-eight years. Her mother, who is sixty-three years old, still lives upon the farm.

For some years after his marriage our subject combined husbandry with carpentry, but since the year 1880 he has given his attention to stock farming. He is feeding from thirty to thirty-six cattle, and has on hand at least two carloads of hogs. In 1885 for one year he had an interest in a grocery business in Palmyra, and was successful while remaining in it, but his cattle business prevented his seeing his way so to do. There have come to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis four children, who bear the following names: Helen, James A., Mary M. and Eugene J.

As Mr. Lewis at an early date conceived the idea of coming to America, he also realized his duty and privilege of becoming an American citizen, and he took occasion shortly after his arrival to declare his intention to enter into that relation with the people of this Republic, and he is to-day one of the most loyal and patriotic. He made good use of his homestead right, and entered eighty acres,

but after improving this somewhat sold it and purchased his present property, which was but then very slightly improved. To-day it is one of the most valuable farms in Palmyra Precinct, and his beautiful residence, which occupies an elevated site, overlooks the country for some distance. His pastures and cattle sheds show that he is thorough, practical and prosperous. His property is supplied with all the modern necessities in the line of implements, machines and conveniences.

Mrs. Lewis is a lady of education and refinement, and is a graduate of the Princeton High School of Illinois. Her home reveals the fact that she is in every way a lady of refinement. With her husband she is a member of the Catholic Church, and one of the earnest supporters of the same. Our subject is a Democrat in his political proclivities, and although not an office-holder takes the greatest interest in matters connected therewith. He sustains in the community at large a most enviable reputation as a man and citizen.

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**E**DWIN ANDREWS. Prominent among the citizens of Otoe County, where he resides on section 34 of North Branch Precinct, and in every way worthy of such a position, is the gentleman of whose life the more salient features are here presented. He is a representative of a very old Eastern family that has occupied a similar high station in other States. He is the son of Bartholomew and Amelia (Meriam) Andrews, both natives of Connecticut. The grandfather of our subject was by occupation a farmer. He removed from his home in that State to Onondaga County, N. Y., where he died. The parents of our subject were brought up in their native State and there married. Afterward they removed to the Empire State, and took up land and carried on farming for the remainder of their days. They were the parents of twelve children, all of whom grew to mature years. Their names are recorded as follows: Anna, Caroline, Lavina, Clarrissa, Alemenia and Curtis, all of whom are now deceased. Six are now living, viz.: Thomas, of Otoe County; Guernsey and Noah, both of Onondaga; Edwin, our subject; Titus, of

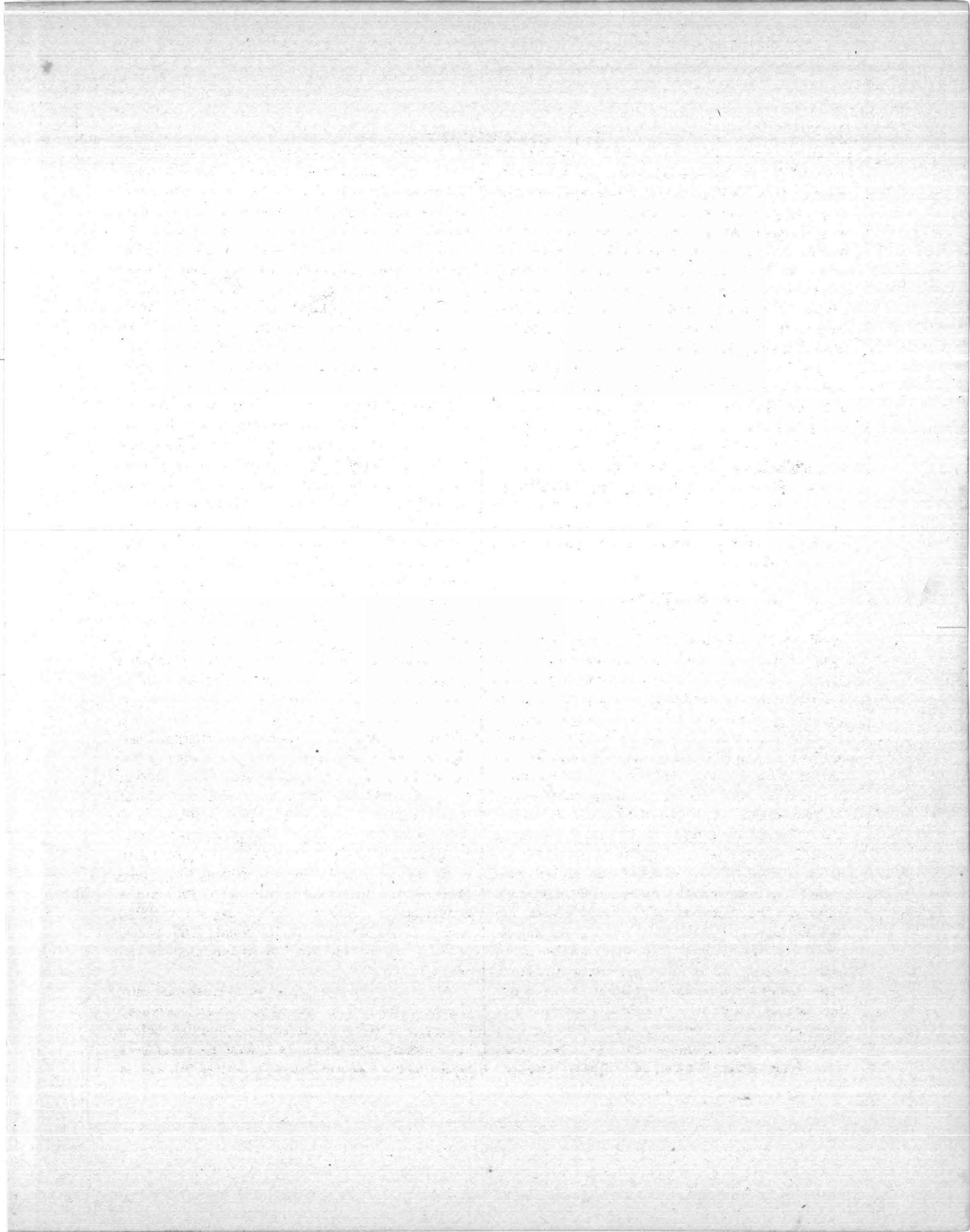
Onondaga County, and Solomon, of Keokuk, Iowa.

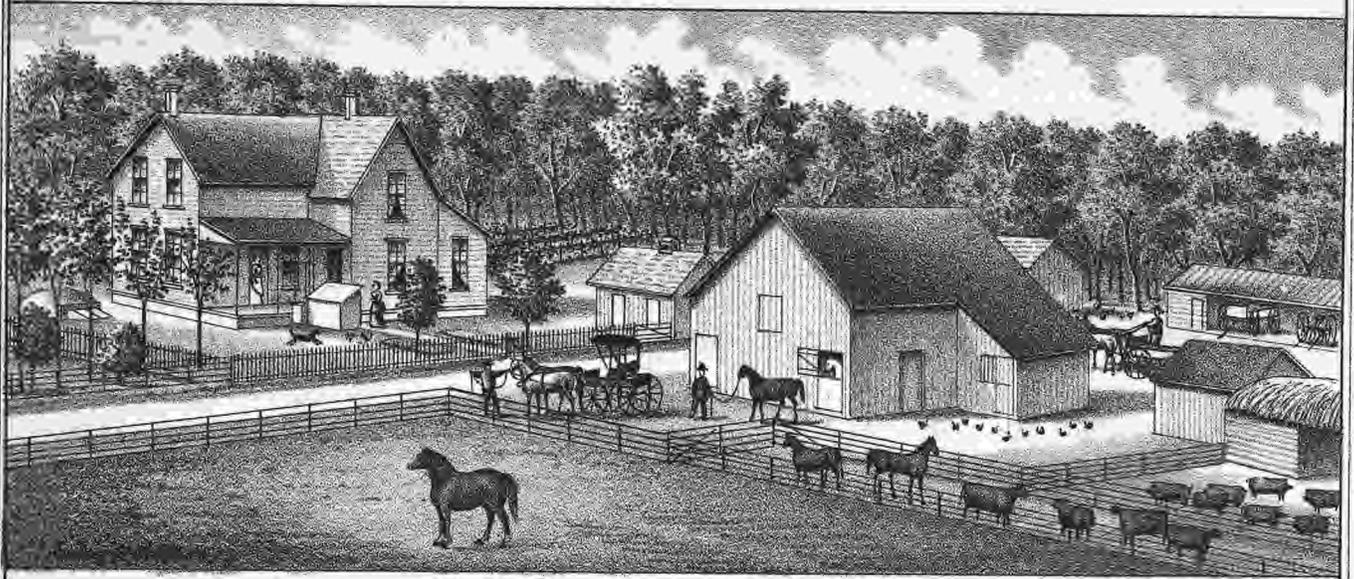
The early days of our subject were spent upon the home farm and in attendance at the common schools. From that time until he attained his twenty-first year he continued to assist his father upon the farm. Beginning life for himself, he commenced work as a carpenter in his native county, and was accounted a skilled workman. In 1852 he was united in marriage with Diana C. Weller. To them there have come nine children: Marsha, and Amelia, who married L. E. Sinsebaugh, are deceased; the surviving members of the family are Charles C., George, Warren, Albert; Eugenie, who is the wife of Clarence Francis; Genevieve and Hannah.

Our subject purchased fifty acres of land from his father, which he later traded for another farm, and then gave his attention to the work connected therewith. He continued to make his home in his native county until he came to Nebraska. Here he purchased 200 acres of land, which is the property upon which he now lives. At that time it was nothing but raw prairie, entirely unimproved, and so far as the raising of crops was concerned, that was an impossibility. By careful, continued earnest labor he has made such a success of his work as to be able to purchase from time to time additional property, and now owns about 1,000 acres, all of which is thoroughly improved.

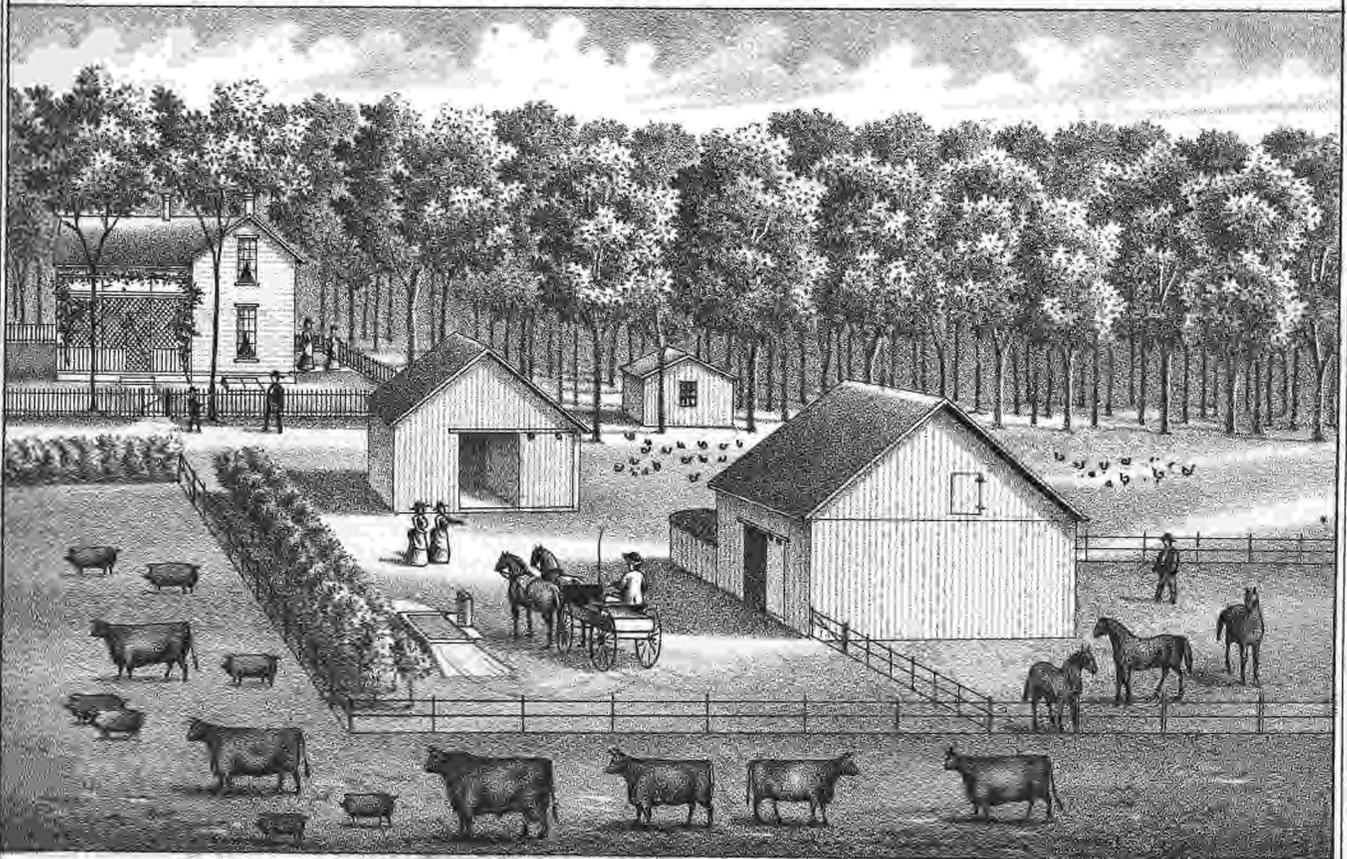
Mr. Andrews devotes himself to stock-raising, and his reputation as a raiser of thoroughbred cattle and hogs is established, while as a breeder of fine horses there are few who surpass him. During the year 1887 he fed over 16,000 bushels of corn. His ranch has two sets of buildings and sheds, which are as good as any in the county, well built, conveniently arranged, and supplied with every modern convenient arrangement. His residence, which is in keeping with his position in the county and the financial world, was built in 1869, and is one of the finest in the county, and it was at that time by far superior to anything in the county.

When Mr. Andrews came to Nebraska he purchased his land at the rate of \$9 per acre, becoming the owner of 200 acres, and had to go in debt before he had completed his house, but as the years have passed he has been increasingly successful, and is





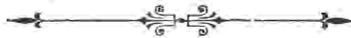
RESIDENCE OF C. H. SHARP, SEC. 36. (SOUTH.) PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF J. H. DAVIDSON, SEC. 1. HENDRICS PRECINCT.

now one of the most substantial citizens of Otoe County, and one of the original stockholders of the First National Bank of Syracuse.

Mr. Andrews has received repeated assurance of the confidence and esteem in which he is held by his fellow-citizens, and has frequently been called upon to accept some public office, but has always declined to do so. He has, however, filled the chair of Justice of the Peace, and while thus engaged evinced his fitness for the office whenever called upon to hear a case and render a decision. He is a staunch friend and supporter of the Republican party and has so continued throughout his life. Our subject is one who justly takes the greatest delight and pride in his family, and is especially proud of his sons, his faithful assistants on the farm.



**J**AMES H. DAVIDSON, a very intelligent and prosperous farmer, is numbered among the leading men of Hendricks Precinct, where he has a fine homestead on section 1. The fact that he is a correspondent of six weekly newspapers indicates abilities of more than ordinary capacity, and few men in this section of country possess a greater fund of general information. He was graduated from Central College in Morrow County, Ohio, and takes a warm interest in the maintenance and establishment of educational institutions. His home, presided over by a most amiable and excellent lady, a model wife and mother, is one of the most pleasant and attractive to be met with.

In reciting the history of any individual it is but natural to revert to those from whom he drew his origin. The parents of our subject were George and Rachel (Brownlee) Davidson, the former a native of Washington County, Pa. George Davidson was born in 1803, and was the son of James Davidson, a native of Ireland, and of Scotch-Irish descent. The latter married Miss Jane Holmes, and emigrated to America during his early manhood, settling in Washington County, Pa. They became the parents of three sons, who were all graduated from the Medical College at Philadelphia. George began the practice of medicine, and was married in his

native State. Thence a few years later he removed to Belleville, Ohio, but three years later, the wife becoming homesick they returned to Pennsylvania, settling in Taylorstown, where the father died. In 1833 a contagious fever raged in the city of Philadelphia, and was of such a terrible nature that finally the stricken ones were almost deserted both by friends and physicians. Dr. George Davidson, however, refused to desert his post, was stricken down with the fever and died. His course as a physician had been a remarkably conscientious one, as he was a man of more than ordinary humane instincts.

After the death of her husband Mrs. Davidson was married in 1838 to Allen McNeal, a farmer by occupation, and Ruling Elder of the United Presbyterian Church at Iberia, Ohio. She had in early life made a profession of religion, and became a member of the South Buffalo Association Church, in the faith of which she passed away after a life warmly devoted to the Master's work. Of the first marriage there were born two children only: James H., our subject, and his sister Georgiana, now Mrs. Francis, and the wife of a well-to-do farmer in Union County, Iowa. Of her second marriage there were born four children: Lizzie B., a teacher at Medicine Lodge, Kan.; Joseph, President of the Citizens' National Bank of the same place; Thomas, a lawyer, a graduate of Hillsdale College, and editor of the Medicine Lodge *Crescent*, also an ex-member of the Kansas Legislature; Mary died at the age of sixteen years.

The subject of this sketch was born in Taylorstown, Pa., and was but three years of age at the time of his father's death. He remained with his mother until reaching his majority, and completed his education in Ohio Central College, being graduated from the scientific department at the age of nineteen years. He was for two years afterward engaged in teaching, then established himself on a farm in Page County, Iowa, and in 1865 purchased 160 acres of land in that county, and after making some improvements returned to Ohio, and was married to Miss Margaret Dickson, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in the town of Tully, May 26, 1861.

Mrs. Davidson was born in Washington County,

Ohio, March 26, 1839, and was the second daughter of Isaac and Mary (Hannah) Dickson, the latter a full cousin of T. S. Arthur, the late well-known author, and founder of "Arthur's Magazine." Mr. Dickson was born in Washington County, Pa., and was a farmer and miller by occupation. He secured a competency, and is still living, being, with his excellent wife, eighty-eight years of age. They are at present residents of Marion County, Ohio, where Mr. Dickson owns a large extent of land. The mother was born in County Down, Ireland, and came with her parents to America in her youth.

During the progress of the Rebellion Mr. Davidson enlisted as a Union soldier in the 23d Ohio Infantry, State Militia, serving as Lieutenant, but the regiment was one year later disbanded by a proclamation of the Governor, their services not being further required. Our subject then returning to Iowa labored on his farm a period of five years, but met with great reverses, his buildings being once destroyed by prairie fires. In the spring of 1871 he changed his residence to Hendricks Precinct, this county, making the journey overland with two teams, and settled upon the place which he now owns. Here he has 160 acres, and by the exercise of perseverance and energy soon found himself upon his feet and on the road to prosperity. At the time of his leaving Iowa the following appeared in the *Page County Herald* in February, 1871: SOLD OUT—Mr. J. H. Davidson, our excellent friend of Lincoln Township, has sold his farm and will emigrate to Nebraska this month. He does not move from Page County because he thinks Nebraska is a better State, on the contrary he regards the glorious kingdom of Page County as standing head and shoulders above all competitors, but he goes thither on account of the inducements of his uncle, hoping to better his condition. May good fortune attend him."

Upon coming to this county Mr. Davidson immediately began the improvement of his land, setting out trees and erecting buildings and fences. The following appeared in the *Nebraska City News* a short time later: "Mr. J. H. Davidson, of Page County, Iowa, moved to his new place eleven miles south of Syracuse in this county on the 3d of last month, bringing his family and stock. By the 25th

he had sowed twenty-five acres of wheat, and in the meantime hauled the lumber for his house thirty miles from Nebraska City, and Messrs. J. Lewis & Bailey, his carpenters, erected and enclosed a four-room cottage for him in nine days, with cellar under it. On his second trip he came in and subscribed for the *News*, the crowning glory of his emigration. Thus in twenty-five days he moved seventy miles, did nearly all the work with one hand, and has before him the prospect of ease, comfort and a competence. Why will men grub among the rocks and stumps of old States when there is a garden State so near?" Mr. Davidson has groves of maple, cottonwood and elm, an orchard of 200 apple trees, and a spring of living water which could scarcely be purchased at any price. He has added to his real estate to the extent of 160 acres in Palmyra Precinct.

Mrs. Davidson is a well-educated lady and taught school before her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born seven children, the eldest of whom, George A., was born in Ohio, Aug. 2, 1862; he completed his education in Peru, Neb., where he attended the Normal School three years, and is at present engaged in teaching. Mary E. was born Feb. 19, 1869, also attended the Normal School at Peru, and is following the same profession as her brother; Isaac, who was born in Boone County, in Iowa, is now pursuing his studies in the Normal School at the same place; Lizzie M. was born in Amity, Iowa, April 26, 1868, has taught school, but is now a pupil at Peru; Robert F. was born July 23, 1870, and died Aug. 12, 1871; Jennie was born Feb. 1, 1873, and is attending school at Peru; Jay was born Feb. 15, 1880.

Mr. Davidson, politically, is a staunch Republican. He served as Justice of the Peace for a period of six years. In January, 1882, he was appointed Notary Public by Gov. Nance for six years, then re-appointed by Gov. Thayer, May 14, 1888, for a like term. Socially, he belongs to Palmyra Lodge No. 30, I. O. O. F., in which he has held all the offices. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church, attending services at Hopewell. In this Mr. Davidson has been Trustee and Elder six years. He takes a lively interest in church work, and formerly offici-

ated as Superintendent of the Sunday-school. His career has been that of a useful and honored citizen, and one who will be long remembered after he has passed away.

A view of the Davidson homestead is presented in this connection.



**C**HRISTIAN H. SHARP, of Palmyra Precinct, came to this county in the spring of 1882, and purchased a school lease, intending to perfect his title to the property as soon as it was possible for him to do so. His land is finely located, and well adapted by nature to the purposes of agriculture. The improvements upon it have been brought about by Mr. Sharp, who has erected good buildings, planted shade trees, an orchard of 100 apple trees, besides the smaller fruits, plums, cherries, peaches, apricots and grapes. As a member of the community he has made fully as good a record as in his farming operations, being public-spirited and interested in those projects tending to the general welfare of the people. A view of Mr. Sharp's residence is presented in this ALBUM, among those given of representative places in Otoe County.

Our subject is of Swiss ancestry. The first representatives of his family in the United States crossed the Atlantic during the Colonial days. His parents, Schem and Martha (Hostetter) Sharp, were natives of Pennsylvania, the father born in Mifflin County and the mother in Lancaster County. The paternal grandfather, Peter Sharp, was born in Switzerland, whence he emigrated directly to Pennsylvania, and from him descended the families of that name in the United States. The Hostetters have also an ancestry equally old and honorable. The great-grandfather of our subject, Michael Hostetter, was a little boy at the time of the Revolutionary War, and when seven years of age was captured by the Indians and held by them a period of seven years. Among the other terrible atrocities which the savages committed, he was obliged to witness the death by burning of his parents, one brother and two sisters in a pit. It is therefore not to be wondered at that to this day the Hostetters regard the Indian tribes with both fear

and hatred. From Michael Hostetter sprang the family of his name in America. They, as well as the Sharps, were residents of Eastern Pennsylvania for more than a century.

The parents of our subject in the spring of 1832 removed from Pennsylvania to Logan County, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in 1863, at the age of seventy-seven years, and the mother two weeks later, aged sixty-one. Their six children were named respectively: Susanna, Lydia; Christian H., our subject, and Annie, who were twins; Joseph and Jacob.

Our subject was born in Mifflin County, Pa., March 15, 1826, and when we consider the time and locality, it is not to be wondered at that his educational advantages were somewhat limited. By his own love of learning, and his natural abilities, however, young Sharp acquired more practical information than is often possessed by those who have spent a term of years in college halls. By a most fortunate marriage his love of learning was encouraged, and he has become possessed of a good fund of general information. He still keeps up the course of reading which he began years ago, and is a man with whom it is both pleasurable and profitable to converse.

Mr. Sharp accompanied his parents to Logan County, Ohio, where he worked out by the month until the summer of 1853, when he went into Wayne County, and changed his occupation from that of farmer to carpenter. Here he met his future wife, Miss Elizabeth A. Plank, to whom he was married Aug. 22, 1853. This lady was born in that county, Jan. 4, 1831, and is the seventh in a family of nine children, the offspring of John and Elizabeth (Schrock) Plank, the father a native of Lancaster County, Pa., and the mother of France. Mrs. Plank came to America with her parents when a small girl, they settling in Pennsylvania, and she was married in Mifflin County. Soon afterward Mr. and Mrs. P. removed to Wayne County, Ohio, where they lived until 1859. Mrs. Sharp's father is still living in Davis County, Iowa, at the age of ninety-six. The mother died there in September, 1866.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharp after their marriage contin-

ued residents of the Buckeye State for a period of six years, our subject first working as a carpenter, and then renting a farm. The failing health of Mrs. Sharp induced them to try a change of climate, and they removed to Davis County, Iowa, where they lived for a period of thirteen years, and during which time the health of Mrs. Sharp perceptibly improved. Thence in 1872 they changed their residence to Fremont County, where Mr. Sharp purchased eighty acres of land, and thereafter employed his time considerably in fighting grasshoppers, drouth, floods, hail and other storms. The delicate health of his wife still continued, and he thus had many difficulties to contend with. In the spring of 1882 he came to this county, and is now beginning to realize the reward of his labors and his patience.

To our subject and his estimable wife there have been born nine children, three in Wayne County, Ohio, four in Davis County, Iowa, one in Fremont County. They were named respectively: John K., Jephtha J., Susanna, Lincoln L., Charles William, Jacob C., Mary E., Matilda and Fanny S.

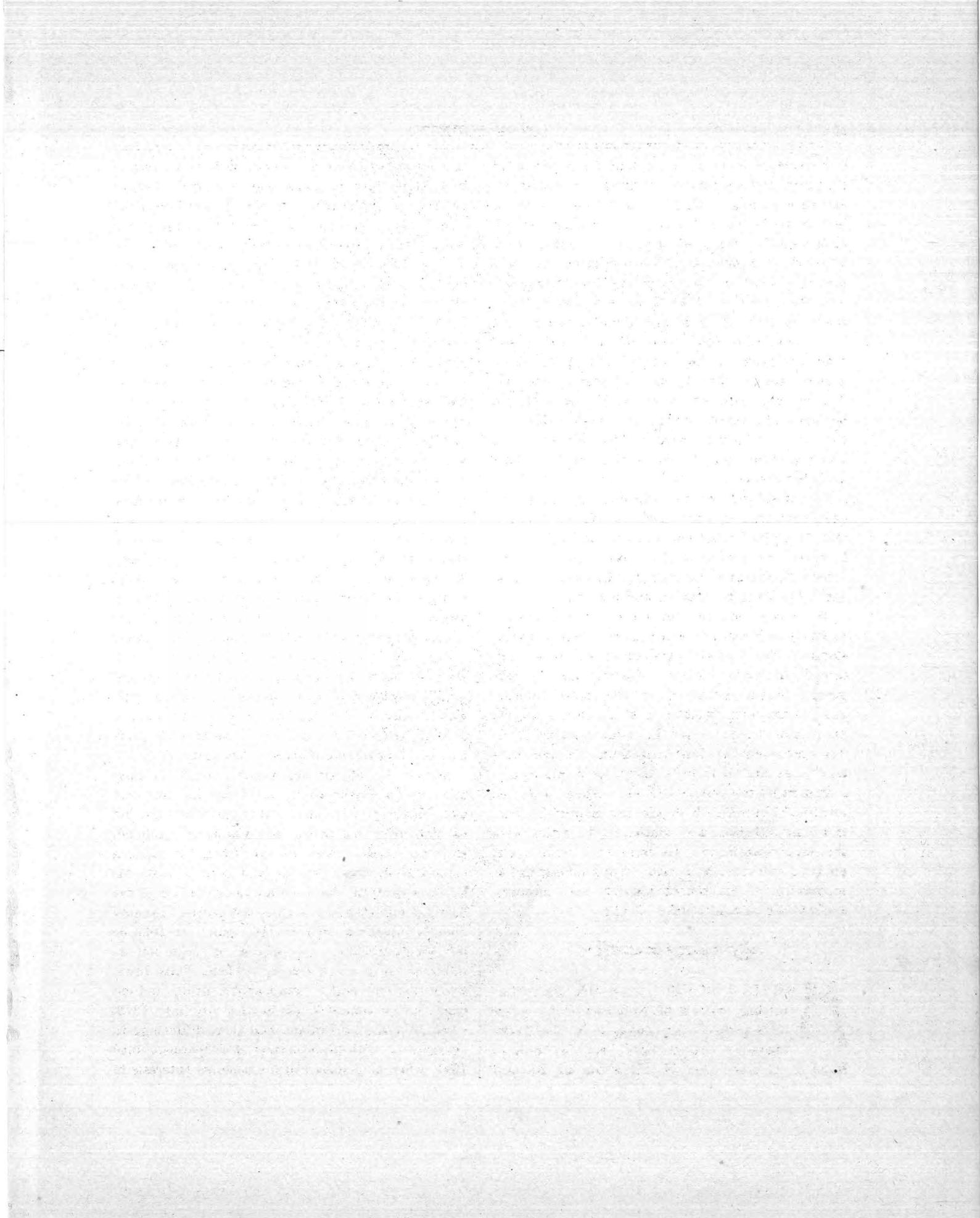
Mr. Sharp laid the foundation of his present property in Fremont County, Iowa, where, notwithstanding the various misfortunes we have mentioned, he made money. During his younger years he was a member of the Mennonite Church, and for six years officiated as a minister, pursuing his studies at night, after the arduous labors of the day were over. He labored zealously in the Master's cause, and in Davis County, Iowa, was Superintendent of the Sunday-school. About 1861 he identified himself with the German Baptist Church, and is now Deacon, and politically, he votes with the Republican party. He cares very little about politics, however, and aside from officiating as Moderator in his school district, has carefully avoided the responsibilities of office.



**M**ARVIN J. COVELL is an able and enterprising citizen of Nebraska City, where he is prosperously engaged in the livery business. He was born Sept. 14, 1839, in Batavia, Genesee Co., N. Y., a son of Richard

and Sylvia C. (Eldred) Covell, likewise natives of that State, born in Rensselaer County. Richard Covell, the grandfather of our subject, was a native of Rensselaer County, of Scotch ancestry, and was a pioneer of Genesee County, where he located in 1830. He bought of the Holland Purchase Company a tract of land five miles west of Batavia, and engaged in agricultural pursuits thereon until his death. The father of our subject was reared in his native county, and there married the daughter of James Eldred, who was, it is thought, a native of Vermont, and was a farmer and merchant, spending his last years in Hoosic, Rensselaer County. Mr. Covell moved from his old home to Genesee County, and bought a farm three miles from Batavia, and was successfully engaged in agriculture in New York until 1855. In that year he disposed of his farm and other property, and moved to Kalamazoo County, Mich., where he purchased a good farm near Galesburg. In 1872 he sold his property in that State, and went to Iowa to live in Cedar Falls. At the expiration of two years he went from there to Minneapolis, Minn., and staid two years. He then settled in Las Vegas, N. M., with his children, but his death finally occurred in the home of our subject in this city in August, 1879, while here on a visit. He was a man of probity, and was much respected by all who knew him, as was also his worthy wife, who departed this life in 1867, in Kalamazoo County, Mich. Nine children were born of their marriage, six of whom grew to maturity.

Marvin Covell, of this sketch, passed his boyhood in his native town, receiving the education and training usually accorded to farmers' lads, and he thus grew to a strong and vigorous manhood. He was sixteen years of age when his parents moved to Michigan, and he continued to make his home with them for several years, managing the farm for his father during the last years of his stay under the parental roof in Michigan. In 1869 he left home, and the three succeeding years was established as a grain dealer in Cedar Falls, Iowa. From there he went to Minneapolis, Minn., and engaged in the same business in that city until 1873, when he moved to Indiana, and there dealt in grain extensively, with headquarters at Valparaiso, until 1877, when he disposed of his business interests in





J J Cornwell Mrs F S Carnicheal

that State. He then proceeded to Chicago, and spent nearly two years on the Board of Trade. In 1879 our subject took a new departure, coming to Otoe County to engage in farming, and was thus very profitably employed until 1884, when he came to Nebraska City, and bought a livery stock and hack line, and he is still conducting the business with gratifying success.

Mr. Covell has not lacked the assistance of a good wife to help him in the upbuilding of a home, which she makes cheery and cozy, as he was united in marriage, in March, 1876, to Miss Nannie R., daughter of William and Sarah McCoy, and a native of Illinois. Their union has been blessed by the birth of four children, namely: Fannie E., Phillip, Mattie and Clara.

Mr. and Mrs. Covell are valued members of the Baptist Church, and they contribute liberally to its support. Mr. Covell belongs to Nuckolls Lodge No. 13, A. O. U. W., and was a charter member of Rampkin Encampment No. 331, M. W.



**J**AMES D. CARMICHAEL, a pioneer of Otoe County, has by his zeal, enterprise and business ability, contributed greatly to its growth and development. His home until recently was very pleasantly located in the town of Minersville, which he himself platted and named in 1874. The present site of the town was formerly owned by a company who purchased it of the Government, and then started a paper in its interests, which was printed in New York, and by that means they advertised it extensively, and sold lots, giving bonds for deeds. Finally all but three of the old company left, a new company was formed, and one of the three signed all his rights and title to the land in favor of Mr. Carmichael, who bought the land at public auction when it was sold by the Government at the land-office. The city was once quite flourishing, having 200 inhabitants. There is a store here with a small stock of goods, and a few dwelling-houses. The town has a very fine location on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River, commanding an extensive and beautiful prospect for a long distance both up and down the

stream. Mr. Carmichael has upward of 400 acres of land here; the greater part of it is timber, and he carries on a large business in clearing it and selling the wood and lumber.

The subject of this sketch was born in Wayne Township, Mifflin Co., Pa., Aug. 7, 1812. He is derived from a sturdy, vigorous Scotch ancestry, being a descendant of one of three brothers who emigrated from Scotland to America in Colonial times. His father, Duncan Carmichael, and his grandfather were born in Bordentown, N. J., and the latter, so far as known, spent his entire life there. The father of our subject was married in Pennsylvania, and moved from there to Tennessee about the year 1800, becoming an early settler of Grainger County. He first went to that State to seek a location, going to Ft. Pitt (now Pittsburgh), Pa., and from there down the Ohio River to Limestone Landing, near Maysville, Ky., and thence overland to Tennessee. He was accompanied by a brother, and they selected a location and then went back to Pennsylvania for their families. They started on their return to the new homes that they had selected in the wilderness with teams, taking their household goods along, and going through Maryland and Virginia to Tennessee. The land that Mr. Carmichael had bought was heavily timbered, and after building a log house to shelter his family, he vigorously commenced the pioneer task of cutting down the tall old forest trees and preparing his land for cultivation. He resided there ten years, and then returned to Pennsylvania to settle on his father-in-law's farm, and there died Feb. 24, 1812. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Elizabeth Cunningham, and she was born in Wayne Township, Mifflin Co., Pa. Her father, John Cunningham, was born in Ireland, and came to America in his youth. He was a poor boy, and worked about until he could earn enough money to buy a small tract of land in Wayne Township, of which he was an early settler. Soon after that he entered the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, and for three years served his adopted country faithfully. While he was away his wife and two small children occupied the cabin that he had erected on his land. The Indians were at that time troublesome, and Mrs. Cunningham used to walk to the

fort, four miles distant, every night, carrying one child in her arms. She would return in the morning to her home, and busy herself all day about the farm work, which she did all alone, and through her diligence all of the grain was saved, reaped and threshed. She was indeed a true helpmate, and to her courage and able assistance her husband was greatly beholden for the prosperity that came to him in after years. After his return from the war Mr. Cunningham engaged in farming and stock-raising, and became well off. He planted two good orchards and erected a large stone house on the home farm, in which he and his wife passed their last years.

In this pleasant home our subject grew to manhood, and there his mother passed away in May, 1848. Of her marriage three children had been born: Abbie, who married William Dysart, is now deceased; John C., who died at the age of twenty, and our subject. He attended the district schools and assisted on the farm until he was nineteen, when the management of the farm fell to him. He resided on the old homestead until 1845, when he went to LaFayette, Ind., where he engaged in buying and shipping grain. He had previously visited that place in 1840, and bought a section of improved land eight miles from the town, which he rented until 1847, when he sold it. In 1850 he moved to St. Louis, but after four months' residence there he moved to Rock Island, Ill., on account of ill-health. He engaged in the latter city as a pilot over the rapids to the river steamers. He became prominently identified with the best interests of Rock Island, and at the end of four years gave up his position as pilot to accept the office of Superintendent of Public Works. He built the first levee at Rock Island, and the first macadamized streets in the city, and various other improvements were the results of his energy and efficiency. In 1857 he started for the Territory of Nebraska, having sold a small steamer to the Union Colony that was coming here to locate. He delivered the steamer at the point in Otoe County known then as Otoe City, now Minersville. In July of that year Mr. Carmichael bought a steam sawmill in Fremont County, Iowa, on the east bank of the Missouri River. He operated that a year, then sold it, and

in 1859 started a lumber-yard at the point now known as Minersville, and he ran flatboats from here to Line Island, and did a large business, people coming even from as far west as Beatrice to buy lumber of him. He was actively engaged in the lumber business ten years, and at the same time had a steamboat wood yard to supply the many boats that were constantly plying up and down the river. In 1863 Mr. Carmichael became interested in farming, buying a farm on the southwest quarter of section 2, Otoe Precinct, and in 1868 he removed there and devoted his time almost exclusively to agricultural pursuits until 1881. In that year he sold his farm and returned to Minersville.

Mr. Carmichael was married, March 27, 1838, to Miss Julia Leyman, and on the 27th of March, 1888, they celebrated their golden wedding. This was an occasion of solemn and heartfelt joy to their many warm friends for what the years had brought them, and that they were still in the enjoyment of vigorous bodily and mental health. In the fifty years that they have walked the path of life together, they have not only mutually encouraged and strengthened each other in the trials that come to all, but their friendly hands have often been extended to help others, and many were the grateful hearts that overflowed with good-will and kind wishes toward them on that anniversary. Theirs has been a happy wedded life, affording to the world a spectacle of true marriage. They have one child, Myra, who married George Brown, and lives in Otoe Precinct. They have nine grandchildren living and two great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael reared their granddaughter, Abbie E. Brown, who lived with them from infancy until her marriage to S. J. Thomas. She now resides in Nebraska City, and has two children—Minnie L. and Harry F.

Mrs. Carmichael was born at Clark's Ferry, Dauphin Co., Pa., Aug. 9, 1815. Her father, Henry Leyman, was born in Reading, Pa., and was reared and married in his native State. He learned the trade of stone-cutter, and became an architect and stone builder. Later he entered the mercantile business at Millerstown, Perry Co., Pa., and there died. The maiden name of his wife, Mrs. Carmichael's mother, was Mary Rudy. She was

born in Huntingdon County, Pa., and died in La-Fayette, Ind.

Mr. Carmichael is a man of more than average mental capacity and ability, well dowered with firmness and strength of character, and still retains much of the enterprise and energy that marked his earlier years. He was at one time one of the leading members of the Republican party in this vicinity. He cast his first vote for Jackson, and he afterward voted for Polk and Pierce, and when the Republican party was formed he fell into the ranks and voted for Fremont, the first candidate of the party, and he voted for Lincoln and for Grant, and in 1872 voted for Greeley. He then became a Greenbacker, and was elected to meet at the State Constitutional Convention, which was voted down at the same election. He served as Justice of the Peace in Territorial days and married the first couple in Otoe Precinct. Mr. Carmichael at present resides in Nebraska City, where he has long been favorably known. His portrait and that of his estimable wife are presented in this connection.



**HON. WILLIAM BUCHANAN.** No pioneer of Otoe County is more entitled to honor and respect than the subject of this biographical sketch, who has borne an active part in the advancement not only of the material and public interests of Otoe County, but has done much to promote the cause of education and religion within her borders. When he came here thirty-three years ago last May (1888) to cast in his lot with the few brave, hardy, adventurous settlers who had preceded him, he found the broad, undulating prairies almost as wild and primeval as if fresh from the hands of Nature. There were but few habitations scattered along the water courses; Indians, who were always friendly, still made their home here, and were frequent visitors at his house, gladly partaking of his hospitality, as, Indian like, they were always hungry; deer, antelopes, wild turkeys and other wild game roamed across the plains, where now stand the most populous and thriving cities of Nebraska, and the first winter that he was here he shot a deer near his present home. Our

subject, with courage and persistent endurance, met and surmounted the various sore trials and hardships that are peculiar to the life of a pioneer, and has accumulated a good property, improved a fine farm, and has built up one of the most comfortable homes in Nebraska City Precinct.

Our subject was born April 28, 1826, in Monroe County, Ohio, five miles west of Woodsfield. His father, William Buchanan, was a native of Pennsylvania, and his grandfather was born in Ireland, and was of Scotch ancestry. He came to America and settled in the western part of Pennsylvania, where he followed farming, and spent the remainder of his life. The father of our subject was reared and married in his native State, and moved into Washington County, that State, about 1820, and then to Monroe County, Ohio, the removal being made with teams, and became a pioneer. He bought a tract of timber land, erecting a log house on it, the same in which our subject was afterward born. The surrounding country presented the wildest aspect, and deer, bears and wolves were plentiful there for some years after his settlement. They were forced to live in the most primitive way, and the mother of our subject cooked by the fireplace, and spun and wove the flax and wool out of which she made all the clothing of the family, and the father at the same time made the shoes for the children. The nearest market and depot of supplies was at Bellaire, fifty miles distant, over rough roads through the primeval forest. Salt was scarce and very expensive, and Mr. Buchanan relates that his father used to go to Pennsylvania on horseback and pack salt back for family use. His father lived to clear a good farm and to see the country well developed, dying in 1882, at the ripe old age of ninety years. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Stewart, and she was a native of Pennsylvania. Her father was a native of Ireland, and was of Scotch antecedents. There were eight children born to the parents of our subject, all of whom grew to maturity.

The subject of this sketch resided with his parents in his native county until he was twenty-two years old. He then married, and settled in Lewisville, Monroe County, where he was engaged in the mercantile business continuously from that time

until the spring of 1855. He then sold out and started for the Territory of Nebraska, having resolved to make his home in the future under these sunny skies. He traveled on the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers to Leavenworth, Kan., thence went to St. Joseph and from there to Savannah, Mo., where he made a short visit. He then resumed his journey and proceeded to Omaha and Council Bluffs, the latter being a small village, while Omaha was but a hamlet. There was no hotel there at that time, and the only place of entertainment for strangers was a small building where meals were served to order. Our subject spent two weeks at Council Bluffs, and then went on to Missouri by stage, and he crossed the stream at Brownville, Neb., where he met S. F. Nuckolls and J. S. Morton, who invited him to ride to Nebraska City. He gladly accepted their kind invitation, and thus, early in the month of May, made his first entrance into the city with which his interests were to be so strongly identified in the future. The only hotel in the place was pointed out to him, and he saw that it consisted of a small, rude frame building, not completed, and not a room in the house was plastered. The Government buildings that had comprised Ft. Kearney were partly standing then, and there were three stores with a small supply of goods.

Mr. Buchanan's object was to seek a location for farming. He had explored the country around Omaha for that purpose but did not like it there. He found these surroundings much more pleasing, and he bought lots in the city, and employed a man to build a house for him while he went back to Ohio for his family; he returned with them early in December. He had started to come by water, but the Missouri was so low that the boats could only go as far as St. Joseph, Mo., and from there they came with a team. Our subject found his house ready for occupancy, and during the winter he traded his home for his present farm, it then being held as a squatter's claim. In the spring of 1856 he moved his family here, there being a log cabin and a stable on the place, and twenty-five acres of the land were broken. He at once set about making more improvements, and has been a continuous resident here since. He now has a valu-

able, highly cultivated farm, has erected a good set of frame buildings, and has planted a fine orchard of fruit trees of various kinds.

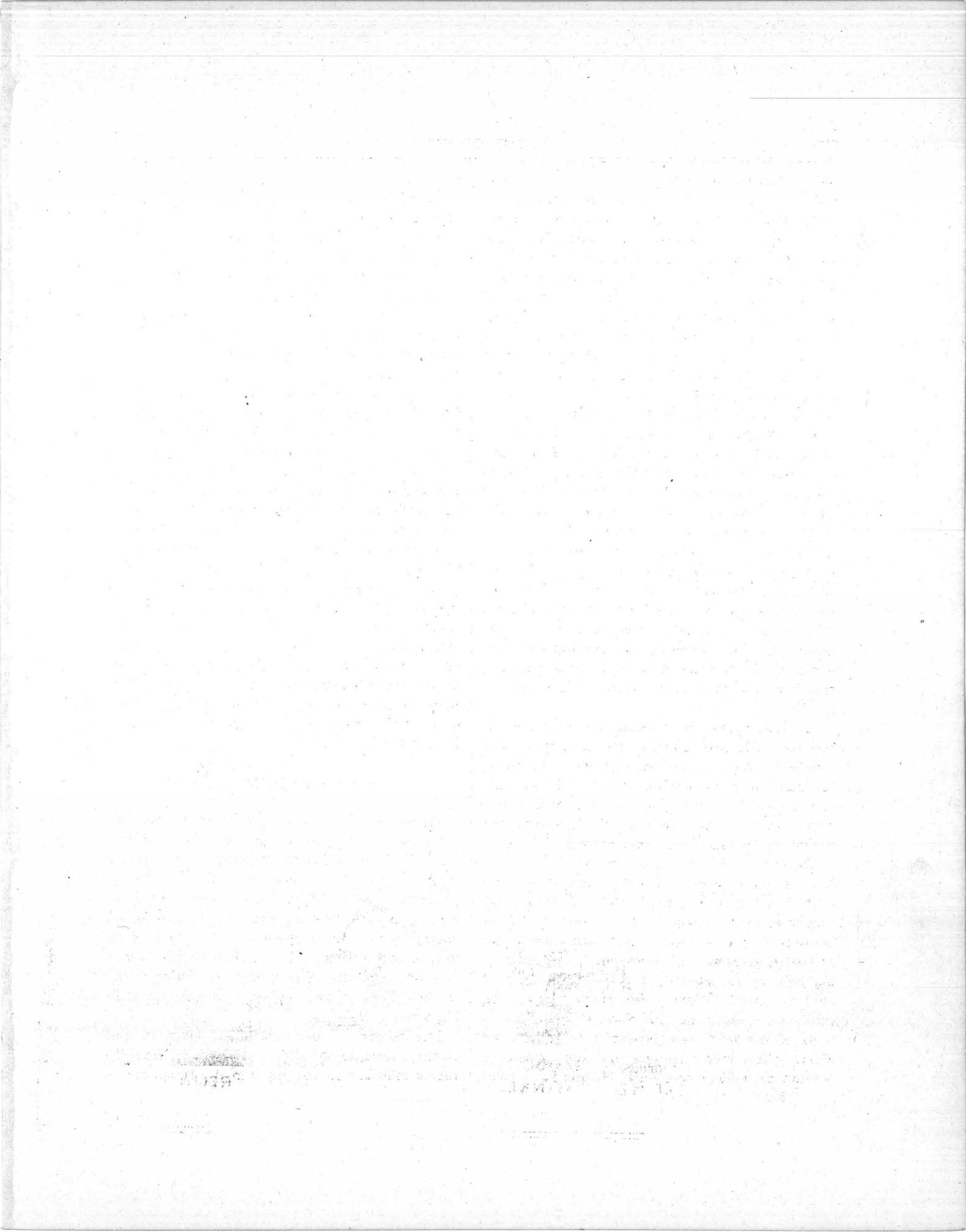
April 2, 1850, was the wedding day of our subject, when he was united to Miss N. D. Oldham. Ten children have been born to them, six of whom are living, namely: Samuel Ross, John W., Charles Francis, Ella L., Sarah Anna and Nannie. James J., their second child, died at the age of twenty-three, being killed by lightning; the other three died in infancy.

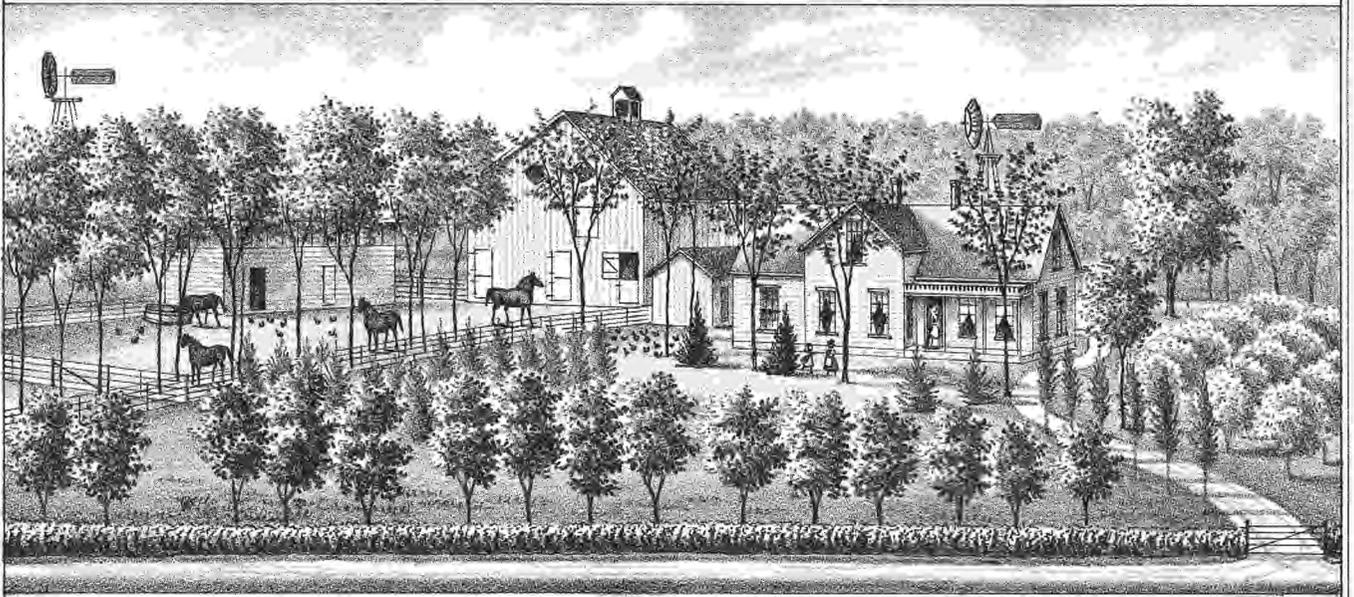
In nothing more strongly did the pioneers of Otoe County show their wisdom and foresight, and their desire to promote the highest and noblest interests of their new homes, than by the early introduction of the church and the school-house, so that the religious and educational institutions have kept pace with the material advancement of the county. Our subject has been an important factor in the establishment of both, in which he is warmly interested. He served on the School Board for a number of years, and he and his estimable wife are devoted members of the Presbyterian Church, and they unite in doing good and in helping others. Mr. Buchanan has also served the public as a member of the Territorial Legislature, having been elected to represent his district in that body in 1861. His political principles are formulated in the platform of the Democratic party, of which he is a faithful adherent.

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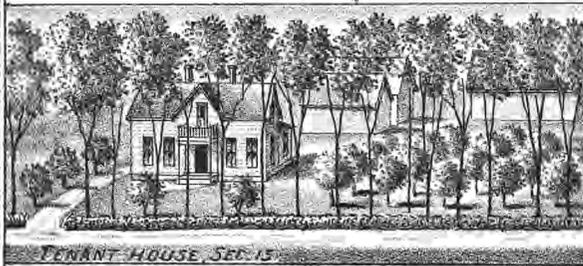
**J**ACOB HOPP. This gentleman is a member of the firm of Tangeman & Sons, of McWilliams Precinct, engaged in the milling trade, and has been so connected since the fall of the year 1884. He has been directly and profitably engaged with the firm, and is a practical miller, having learned the business in all its details in the mill he now operates. Our subject has been a resident of the county for over ten years, living chiefly in Osage Precinct until he began to learn the milling trade.

The subject of our sketch was born in Lee County, Iowa, on the 29th of July, 1859. He is the fourth child and second son of Phillip Hopp, now a

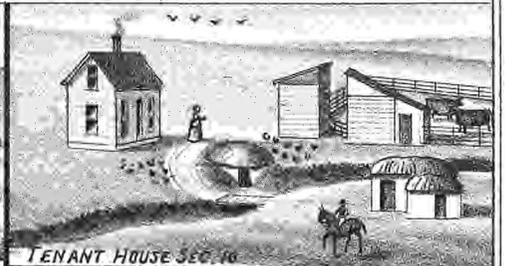
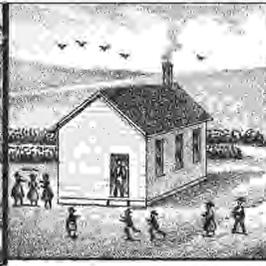




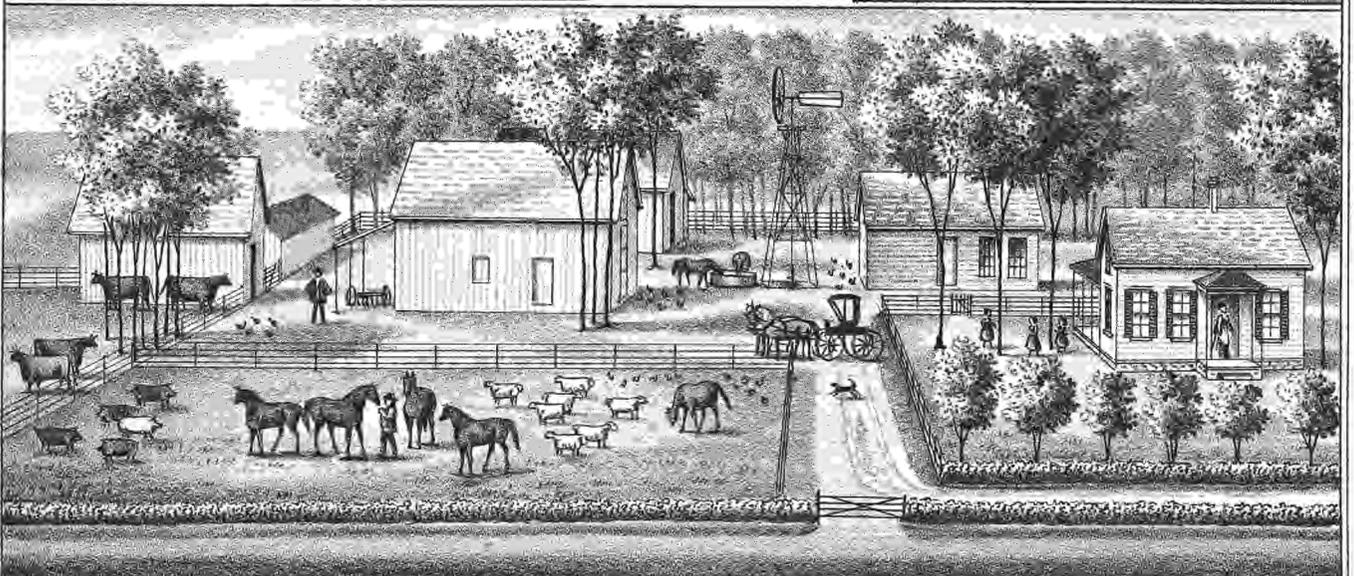
RESIDENCE OF F. J. STOOKER, SEC. 5. BELMONT PRECINCT.



TENANT HOUSE SEC. 15



TENANT HOUSE SEC. 16



RESIDENCE OF HENRY WINKELHAKE, SEC. 15. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

prominent citizen and successful and enterprising farmer in Osage Precinct, where he has lived for over ten years. He is a practical farmer, thrifty and careful. He had previously lived in Lee County, Iowa, where our subject was brought up and received his education in the district schools.

Mr. Hopp was about nineteen years of age when he came to this State. He attained his majority while living in Osage Precinct, and continued to make his home with his parents until he came to the Tangeman Mills. He celebrated his marriage in McWilliams Precinct, when he was united with Miss Alvina Tangeman. This lady was born in Clayton County, Iowa, on the 14th of August, 1863, and was but a child of six years when her father, John G. Tangeman, settled in this precinct. To Mr. and Mrs. Hopp has been born one child, who received the name Lillie.

The religious home of our subject and his wife is within the German Evangelical Church, with which they have been connected many years. He is the School Treasurer of his precinct, an office he has held since 1886. He is also one of the staunch Democrats of the district, and takes much interest in political work. Although a young man he has made many friends and is highly esteemed, and without doubt there is before him a future that will grow brighter as the years pass.



**HENRY WINKELHAKE.** The career of the prosperous German citizen is amply illustrated in the subject of this biography, who is proprietor of 440 acres of land in Rock Creek Precinct, and generally well-to-do. He has a substantial set of farm buildings, good stock and machinery, groves, orchards, and all the other appurtenances of the modern country estate. He came to Nebraska during its Territorial days, and purchased a tract of prairie land, and it is hardly necessary to say that since then his time has not only been industriously but profitably occupied.

The boyhood days of our subject were passed in the Prussian Province of Schambure, where his birth took place April 24, 1843. His father, Gollip Winkelhake, is of pure German ancestry, and is still

living upon the old homestead in Germany. The mother died when he was an infant. Their family consisted of six children, five of whom are now living. They all received a good education in their native tongue, and Henry, more ambitious perhaps than the others, when a youth of sixteen years determined to cross the Atlantic, and seek his fortunes in America. Embarking on a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen, he landed eighteen weeks later in the city of New York, and proceeding at once to Madison County, Ill., soon secured employment as a farm laborer. He remained a resident of the Prairie State for a period of five years, then came to Nebraska, locating in the spring of 1865 on a part of the land which he now owns and occupies. Later he added to his landed area, and in the course of a few years, as the result of most persistent and industrious labor, found himself on the road to prosperity, and in the enjoyment of a good income. A view of his place is shown in this connection.

Our subject has around him a blooming family of seven children, the result of his marriage with Miss Sophie Blumberg, which took place March 10, 1869, in Madison County, Ill. Mrs. Winkelhake is a native of the same Province as her husband, and was born July 29, 1850. Her father, a bailiff of the court by occupation, and a native also of Germany, spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying there when middle-aged. The mother in 1866 came to America with her children, and located on a farm in Madison County, Ill., where she is still living among them, and is now quite well advanced in years. Her daughter Sophie came to Nebraska with her husband a short time after her marriage. The sons and daughters of her union with our subject are named respectively: Emma, William, Mary, Anna, Henry, Jr., Frederick and Edward. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest six months. They are being carefully trained and educated, and there is reason to suppose will fill a position in society equal to that of their honored parents. Our subject and his wife are active members of the Lutheran Church, in which Mr. W. is one of the pillars, and to which he gives cheerful and liberal support. Politically, he is a solid Republican.

**F**RANCIS J. STOKER occupies a place among the agriculturists of Belmont Precinct worthy of one who has from his youthful years paid considerable attention to both the theory and practical working of that calling. His property is situated on section 5, Belmont Township, and is 360 acres in extent. When he purchased it in 1867 its appearance was anything but promising to one understanding the difficulties of bringing prairie land into such condition as the farmer requires before he can hope to utilize it and receive from it a ripe and due reward in time of harvest. His house and farm buildings are substantial, well built, and admirably suited to the different purposes for which they were designed. His fields are well cultivated, also his orchards and groves, which cover at least from twenty to thirty acres, showing that he has been careful both in the selection and training of these most desirable adjuncts to farm life in Nebraska, or any other State where the summers suggest the necessity of shelter and shade. A view of the place is shown on the accompanying page.

Our subject is the son of Ambrose Stoker, of Stark County, Ohio, but a native of La Belle France, and he was born on the 10th of December, 1835, in Stark County, Ohio. He was reared upon a farm, and received his education in the common schools of Stark and Wayne Counties. When sixteen years of age he began to learn the machinist's trade and followed the same until 1864, and from that year also did business in the lumber trade. He came to Nebraska City in June of 1858, when there was very little city and almost no improvement beyond its limits. In that place he established and ran a sawmill from 1865 to 1874. He then removed upon his present property, which he had purchased in 1867, and had improved gradually from that time.

Mr. Stoker celebrated his marriage in Carroll County, Mo., Oct. 9, 1866, upon which occasion he received the hand of Nannie J. Jackson, the amiable daughter of Davie and Nellie Jackson. This union has been blessed by the birth of eleven children, six of whom survive, whose names we mention as follows: Nellie G., Belle A., Frank A., Minnie H., Lulu and Robert H., all of whom are still single and reside at home.

With the fraternity of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Stoker has been connected since 1864, and is much esteemed by his fellow members. He and his family are attached to the services of the Presbyterian Church, and although not a member of the communion, our subject is a firm believer in the truths taught, and is a liberal supporter of the organization. In political affairs he is by no means prominent, and prefers not to hold office, though he has served as member of the Council in Nebraska City, and in that connection did good service. He is a Democrat.

**F**RANK McCARTNEY by reason of his official connection with the affairs of this county needs no introduction to our readers, who at the same time, we are assured, will be appreciative of the endeavor here made to set before them in succinct form a sketch of the history of this gentleman. He was born in Kent Township, Jefferson Co., Ind., on the 12th of December, 1832, where he was brought up, and which supplies the earliest pictures which his memory can recall. He came to Otoe County in 1857 with his father, who settled in Wyoming Precinct.

The subject of our sketch is the second of five children born to his parents. Recognizing the many advantages derivable from a developed intellectual power, his parents provided him with the best education in their power, which was that supplied by the country schools. At the age of twenty-three years he entered the University of Nebraska in order to take the literary course, and studied for two years.

Leaving the university, our subject engaged in teaching for two years in this county, and was then appointed Deputy County Clerk, serving in that capacity for five years. In 1885, after an excellent run for the office, he was elected to his present position as County Clerk. This he continued to hold, being enthusiastically re-elected in 1887, giving every satisfaction to all concerned by the excellent manner in which he undertook and performed the various matters pertaining thereto.

In 1884 Mr. McCartney was united in wedlock with Miss Ida P. Brown, daughter of John P.

Brown (see sketch). She made her home with her parents until her marriage. She is a graduate of the Nebraska City High Schools, and of the Schonenberger Hall, and is eminently fitted to occupy any position in either the social or domestic circles.

The subject of our sketch has always taken a lively and active interest as a young man in questions of political and governmental interest. He is a member of the Republican party, and usually votes the ticket of the same. In the social societies also he is most favorably known, and holds membership in the I. O. O. F. and A. O. U. W.. He is a man generally respected and esteemed in the county, by his genial affability and uniform courtesy winning many friends to his side.



**C**HARLES H. KRESSEN is at the head of one of the most important enterprises of Nebraska City, viz, that of the manufacturing of plows and other agricultural necessities. He was born in Prussia, on the 6th of February, 1845. His father, George Kressen, followed agriculture as his chosen occupation, and never left his native country. Two brothers and a sister of our subject, viz, Martin, Mike and Susannah, came to America in the year 1881.

Until he was about fourteen years of age the subject of this writing was allowed the privilege of attending school, after which he was his father's help upon the farm for about a year, and then commenced to learn the trade of a blacksmith, which, having learned, he continued to follow until 1865, when he came to this country. He had saved enough of his earnings to bring him over, and also to assist his brother, but that left him without capital to start in the New World.

In starting in this country our subject had a rugged frame, good health, and a thorough knowledge of a good trade, but no finances. Our subject started to work in Chicago, but not meeting with anything in his line, he engaged in a lumber-yard, working for a time until he found an opening in that with which he was more familiar. He worked for one year, and then came to Nebraska City, and

followed his trade, working first by the day until he was able to start in business for himself. He leased a lot, erected a frame building, and started as a general blacksmith, until his business was well established, and then he turned to the manufacture of plows. He was a splendid workman, and speedily built up a fine reputation.

The business of Mr. Kressen constantly extended and grew more and more profitable to him, until it has taken the shape of the present large establishment, which is one of the institutions of the city, and is located on Fifteenth street and Central avenue, stands 24x80 feet, and is well supplied with all needed machinery for turning out the very best possible work. Adjoining this building is another of the same ground measurement, which is used for the manufacture of the plows used and sold by him. His plows are in large demand throughout Kansas, Nebraska, Dakota, Washington Territory and elsewhere; he also has a large trade in carriages and wagons.

In 1872 our subject became the husband of Anna Schrittr, a lady of Australian birth, but of German parentage, who was most admirably fitted to fill any place in society, as well as the more important though limited circle of home. She has presented her husband with seven children, who bear the following names: Emile, Katie, Frank, Emma, Annie, Ella and Stella.

The subject of our sketch has become one of the wealthy citizens and much respected members of Nebraska City and society, and one cannot but admire the push and enterprise as well as excellent judgment of this gentleman, who, while building for himself a profitable business, has also brought to the agriculturists of the West an almost perfect implement for their arduous labor.



**C**HARLES B. CHAPMAN, who is so successful as a general merchant in Nebraska City, and in that connection very favorably known throughout a large section of the county, was born in Backer-Box, Gloucestershire, England, Nov. 16, 1834. His father, Joseph Chapman, was born in Devonshire, of the same country. When a young

man he received the appointment of a revenue officer, and for several years was appointed to service in Gloucestershire, and filled the position until his death. His wife, whose maiden name was Felicia Ham, was a native of Fowey, Cornwall. She came to America in 1872, and spent her last years with her children, in Howard County, Iowa. Her father, the grandfather of our subject, was a ship's chandler, in which business he was obliged to keep in stock almost everything a vessel might need, from the outfit of the cabin boy, the supplies for the men, Captain or passengers, to the most complete furnishing of everything throughout the vessel. He became largely interested in the shipping trade, and part owner of several vessels. He grew to be wealthy, and at the time of his death, in 1848, was one of the rich men of the community.

The family of which our subject is a member included nine children, whom we mention as follows: Elizabeth, who became the wife of Joseph Millward, now living at Minneapolis; Mary, who is the wife of Benjamin Millward, and who resides in Minneapolis; Jane, who was married to George Hayden, and died in England; Edward, one of the successful merchants of Halifax, N. F.; John, who died in England; our subject; William, in Washington Territory; Joseph, in Kansas, and James still in England.

In the matter of education the subject of our sketch was favored in being privileged to attend school quite regularly until his father's death, in the year 1848. He was then apprenticed to the trade of auger-maker, and served the usual term of seven years, and being very steady and quite a lover of work, he made unusually satisfactory progress. He was required to work ten hours per day, and it was not unusual for him after he became better acquainted with his business to do considerable overtime work.

In 1856, accompanied by his wife, Mr. Chapman made his way to this country. Landing at the city of New York by no means wealthy, but ready to do good work, he proceeded to Mauch Chunk, Pa., and there found employment in a mill, and there continued for about a year; then he and his brother received word that they would do better in the city of Philadelphia, and accordingly

went there, opening a wire factory for a company, and remained there for a year. There he met with an accident and concluded to leave the mills, and again accompanied by his brother, he went to Howard County, Iowa, and located at Cresco, the county seat, and then the western terminus of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. Shortly afterward he purchased 160 acres of unimproved prairie, built a dwelling, and started to improve a farm; but one year of farming in what was then the Far West about satisfied his ambition in that direction, and he wrote to his former employer for his former position, and almost immediately received an earnest request for his return. This he did as soon as he could settle up affairs, and was made foreman of the shops, a position he held for eight years, after which he returned to his farm, where he remained until 1882. He then sold his property and came to Nebraska City, and during two years engaged in farming in the vicinity, when he embarked in general mercantile business, which he has continued prosperously engaged in until the present.

In 1856 Mr. Chapman was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Butler, who was born in the city of Birmingham, England, on the 24th of November, 1834. After a very happy wedded life, which, however, was not without its trials and difficulties, she died on the 28th of August, 1886, leaving two children, who received the names Felicia Mary and George Edward. These were born in England, and are now living with their father.

The subject of our sketch is an ardent member of the Baptist Church, and has been such since the year 1855. He is a strong temperance man, is identified with temperance work locally, being quite enthusiastic and held in high esteem throughout the community.



**O**LIE N. NELSON, senior partner of the firm of Nelson Bros., boot and shoe dealers of Nebraska City, stands at the head of one of the principal mercantile establishments in the place, and is numbered among its self-made men, who, beginning life dependent upon their own resources have attained to an enviable position socially and

financially. He was thrown upon his own resources early in life, with a limited education, but has developed remarkable business abilities, which, combined with his sound common sense and a fund of general information, have placed him upon a substantial footing and given him a leading position among the representative men of Otoe County.

Mr. Nelson is of Scandinavian birth and parentage, his early home having been in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, where his birth took place April 11, 1859. His parents, Nicholas P. and Mary (Kalsen) Nelson, emigrated to America with their family in the spring of 1865, and coming directly to the West located in Nebraska City, but later removed to Eastport, Iowa, where Olie N. spent a part of his boyhood. His first business engagement, when a youth sixteen years of age, was with Blum & Co., at Nebraska City, with whom he remained for one and one-half years. He has spent no idle days since that time, having been steadily engaged in business in Nebraska City. The stock and trade of Nelson Bros. is surpassed by no firm in the city, and they have received many commendations for their excellent management, their promptness in meeting their obligations, and the manner in which they have generally distinguished themselves as business men. In the sketch of the younger brother, J. W., found on another page in this volume, will be noted further mention of the parents, who are now residents of Nebraska City.

Mr. Nelson identified himself with the Masonic fraternity in 1883, in the Western Star Lodge No. 2, in Nebraska City. He takes a warm interest in the success of Masonry, with whose principles he is entirely in sympathy. Politically, he is a staunch Republican, but has no desire for office, preferring to give his attention to his business concerns. He makes his home with his parents in Nebraska City.

JOHN T. BEETEM, proprietor of 240 acres of land on section 3 in Hendricks Precinct, the whole of which he operates, is recognized as one of the most enterprising farmers of this locality. This property lies one-quarter of a mile from the town of Hendricks, and is conse-

quently quite valuable. The buildings are tasteful and substantial, and everything about the premises is indicative of thrift and prosperity.

The subject of this sketch was born in Van Buren County, Iowa, Nov. 1, 1847. His parents, John D. and Mary (Burnum) Beetem, were natives of Kentucky, the father born in 1809. His paternal grandfather served under Washington in the Revolutionary War, and his father later fought in the Black Hawk War. At the close of the latter the father removed across the Mississippi into Missouri, where he carried on farming several years, then moved to Van Buren County, Iowa. From the Hawkeye State he went to Wisconsin, locating near Shellsburg, where he was engaged in mining. This venture not proving successful he removed to Dubuque County, and carried on farming there five years.

The father of our subject now decided to try the soil of Allamakee County, Iowa, where he purchased 600 acres of land, and there spent the remainder of his life, passing away in 1869, at the age of sixty-three years. The mother is still living, making her home with our subject, and is now sixty-nine years old. The household circle included eleven children, of whom the three elder, Seadford, Adam and Edward, are deceased. Those surviving are: John T. (our subject), Joseph, George, Frank, Louisa, Sarah and Rolf.

Our subject continued at home with his parents until reaching his majority, acquiring a common-school education and becoming familiar with the various employments of farm life. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in Company F, 6th Iowa Cavalry, and was mustered into service at Davenport, going from there with his regiment to the frontier upon an expedition against the Indians; he participated in the battle of Bad Lands. He gave to his country a service of over three years, being mustered out at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1865.

Upon retiring from the army Mr. Beetem began farming in Allamakee County, Iowa, where he continued until the fall of 1870. Then, coming to this county he located upon the land which he now occupies in Hendricks Precinct, and upon which he has made all the improvements which we now be-

hold. He subsequently added eighty acres to his first purchase. The fields are divided by a handsome hedge fencing, and seven acres have been planted to trees, forming a fine grove. He has an orchard of 100 apple trees, and other choice fruits on the place. The farm is supplied with running water and native timber.

Mr. Beetem while a resident of Iowa was married, in Delaware County, that State, May 8, 1868, to Miss Catherine, daughter of John and Katie (Boyne) McPherson. The parents of Mrs. B. were natives of Scotland, whence they emigrated to America in 1849. The mother departed this life at her home in 1869. The father is still living, and a resident of Hendricks Precinct, being now seventy-seven years of age. Their family consisted of six children—Jeanette, David, Jane, Robert, Margaret and Catherine.

The wife of our subject was born in Scotland, in 1846, and came to America with her parents. She was given a good education and developed into a schoolmistress, following the profession of a teacher before her marriage. Her union with our subject has resulted in the birth of seven children, who are all at home with their parents. Mr. Beetem, politically, is an uncompromising Democrat, and, with his estimable wife, a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Hendricks. He has been Moderator in his district four years, and as an ex-soldier belongs to the G. A. R., Post No. 54, at Palmyra.



**W**ILLIAM I. McKEE, a resident of thirty years' standing in this county, came with his mother's family to Syracuse Precinct when a lad nine years of age, and retains ownership of the homestead which they then began building up. This comprises 186 acres of good land on section 7, together with a comfortable farmhouse and the adjacent buildings necessary for the successful prosecution of agriculture. For the past few years Mr. McKee has given his attention principally to stock-raising, which has netted him handsome returns annually. He is ranked among the leading representatives of the farming district, a man in whom his neighbors have confidence, and whose

career has been such as to gain him the esteem of all who know him.

Morrow County, Ohio, was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place June 2, 1848. His parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Kelley) McKee, were natives of Delaware, and the father died in Ohio when his son, William I., was only four years old. The mother five years later came with her family to Nebraska, and passed to her rest at the homestead, in the fall of 1873. The parental household consisted of nine children, of whom five are living.

Mr. McKee continued under the home roof during his childhood and youth, acquiring his education in the common schools. At the age of nineteen years he was united in marriage with Miss Esther E., daughter of Jacob and Mary (Dunlap) Sollenberger. This lady is also a native of Ohio, and came with her parents to this county in 1858. The family at first located in Nebraska City, but later moved to a farm in Syracuse Precinct, where the father followed agricultural pursuits until 1883. The parents then retired from active labor and took up their residence in the town of York, where they now live.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee after their marriage resided on the homestead until the spring of 1884. Our subject then going into Holt County, purchased 480 acres of land, and engaged extensively in stock raising, buying and shipping. In March, 1888, he returned to the old homestead, where he has since lived, although still retaining possession of his Holt County farm. His home circle now includes six interesting children, one son and five daughters, namely: Della, Mattie, Elizabeth, Mary, Frank and Edna. The eldest is twenty years of age and the youngest ten, and all continue at home with their parents. Mr. McKee votes the straight Republican ticket, and socially, is a Knight of Pythias.

Jacob Sollenberger, the father of Mrs. McKee, was born in Miami County, Ohio, in 1825, where he grew to manhood and learned the trade of a carpenter. He married Miss Mary Dunlap, a native of the same State, and soon afterward they settled in Shelby County. Thence, in 1856, they removed to Richland County, Wis., and fifteen months later came to Nebraska. Mr. S. subsequently home-

steaded a farm near Syracuse, where he resided until his removal to his present home in the town of York, where he now follows his trade. The parental household consisted of nine children, seven of whom are living, namely: Esther E., the wife of our subject; Ann Belle, Mrs. David Brakeman, of York, Neb.; Ona, Lincoln, Etta, Grant and Maggie at home with their parents.



**H**ENRY HUCKINS, editor of the Unadilla and Nebraska City *Times*, established the *Journal-Times*, which he now conducts with great ability, in the winter of 1884. In its first issue it appeared as a small daily, three-column folio, called the *Daily Stock Journal Times*, and its modest request for the encouragement of the public met with a most generous response. It is now recognized throughout the State as a fearless and outspoken paper, independent in politics, but leaning toward Republican principles. Shortly after its first issue it dropped its first title and appeared, greatly enlarged and improved, as the *Daily Evening Times*. It was the first paper in town to use other than hand power in propelling its presses, and connected with it now is one of the most complete job departments in the county. It is always in the lead in any project to advance the interests of the city and county, and is enjoying a steadily increasing circulation.

The main points in the family history of our subject are essentially as follows: He is the son of Daniel and Polly (Banghart) Huckins, who were natives of the Dominion of Canada, both born in 1820. There also they were reared, and were married in the city of Westminster. The paternal grandfather, a native of New Hampshire, served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and spent his last years in Lexington, Mich.

The father of our subject, at the age of seventeen starting out for himself, made his way to Port Huron, Mich., in the vicinity of which he purchased eighty acres of land, which he occupied and cultivated for a period of thirteen years. His experience as a pioneer was not unlike that of others who settled in a wild country and battled with the pri-

ventions and hardships incident to that region. From 1838 to 1869 the elder Huckins was employed at clearing land and shoemaking in and about Lexington, Mich., then determined to cast his lot with the people of the young and growing State of Nebraska. He made the journey to this county overland with teams, and settled in the embryo town of Nebraska City, where he followed his old trade of shoemaking, and in 1874 established in business for himself. In October, 1888, he took up his residence in Unadilla, where, with his estimable wife, he is still living, and engaged in stock-raising on a small scale.

The parental household included six children, namely: Sarah, who died when four years of age; Roy died at the age of four years; Pembroke also died at the age of four; A. B., M. S. and Henry are those who still survive, and all are residents of Otoe County. A. B. is renowned as a prohibition singer, and M. S. follows his trade of painter. Henry, our subject, the youngest child, was born in St. Clair County, Mich., Dec. 26, 1858, and was eleven years of age when his parents came to Nebraska City. He still recalls many of the incidents preparatory to the removal, and the after experience of pioneer life. He completed his education in the High School of Nebraska City, and began to learn the printer's trade when a boy of fifteen years, four years later escaping from the confinement of the office, and engaged as agent for the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company. His forte, however, seemed to be the newspaper business, and he soon returned to his legitimate trade, establishing, as we have already indicated, the paper which he has since conducted with such success. In April, 1887, he enlarged it to a five-column folio, and in November following added still another column to its size. On the 14th of July, 1888, he removed to Unadilla. In the meantime, in the month of April, 1886, he had established a weekly in connection with the daily, conducting both for a time, then discontinued the daily and enlarged his weekly. The business office in Nebraska City is on Central avenue.

Our subject was married, on the 1st of February, 1887, to Miss Lovina Retherford, who was born in Licking County, Ohio, Jan. 29, 1858. Her parents are now deceased. Of this union there is one child,

a son, Clarence Leon, who was born Oct. 5, 1884. In addition to his office and material, Mr. Huckins owns twenty-five acres of valuable land adjoining the town of Unadilla, besides a house and lot in Nebraska City. He reflects with pardonable pride upon the headway he has made in his publishing business during the last three years, and which has been the result of great industry and perseverance.



**AUGUST BESCH.** The large and finely improved farm of the subject of this sketch forms one of the most attractive features in the landscape of Russell Precinct, being conspicuous for its improvements and its general air of thrift and prosperity. The proprietor, who is of German birth and ancestry, is one of the best representatives in this part of the State of a nationality which has done so much toward the development of the Great West.

Our subject was born in Prussia, Dec. 25, 1845, and is the son of Henry and Orlika Besch, who were of pure German ancestry, and the latter of whom died when her son August was a child two years of age. The father was subsequently married to Caroline Schaeffer, a native of his own country, and they are both still living. Of the first marriage there were two sons, our subject and his elder brother, Ferdinand, who is now a resident of East Troy, Wis. Of the second marriage there were also born two sons, Charles and John, who continue upon their native soil.

Our subject, in common with the children of the Fatherland, was given an excellent education in the parish school, and when fourteen years old commenced an apprenticeship at the blacksmith's trade, at which he worked until the age of twenty-three. He had been a bright and ambitious lad, and now determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic.

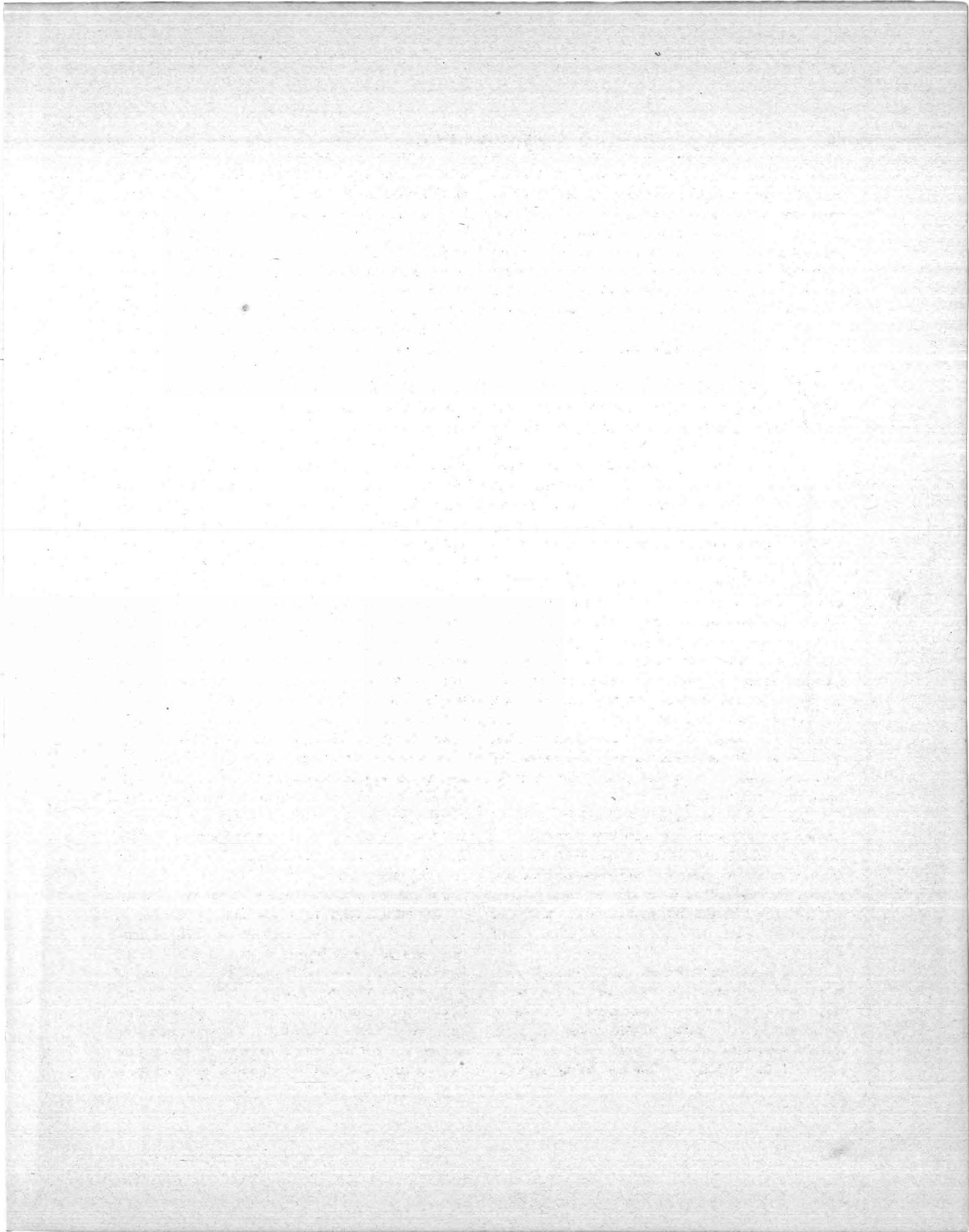
Young Besch embarked on board a sailing-vessel at the port of Bremen in 1868, and seven weeks later landed in the city of Baltimore. Thence he proceeded by rail directly to Milwaukee, Wis., and shortly afterward secured employment as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Racine, being engaged

with one man a period of four years. Upon coming to Nebraska in 1872 he first took up his abode in the vicinity of Grand Island, but not being pleased with that section went into Muscatine County, Iowa. There he worked on a farm five years, then commenced farming on rented land for himself, being thus occupied until the spring of 1883.

Our subject now returned to Nebraska, and settled upon 120 acres of land in Russell Precinct, this county, which he had previously purchased, and which he has since occupied. The improvements which the passing traveler views to-day with admiring interest are all the result of the industry and perseverance of the present proprietor. He has set out groves and an orchard of 100 trees, planted hedge fencing, enclosed some of his fields with wire fencing, has put up a house and barn, and the other structures necessary for his convenience. He could now comfortably retire from active labor, and have sufficient to keep him in his old age. The long habit of industry, however, with which he has been imbued and which he has exercised so many years, will probably cling to him as long as he lives, and just so long will he be busily engaged with hands or mind. In the building up of one of the best homesteads in Russell Precinct he has added so much to its real-estate value, and especially to the value of the property around him.

Mr. Besch was married in Muscatine County, Iowa, March 14, 1878, to Miss Caroline, daughter of August and Fredricka (Herwig) Fricke. Mrs. Besch was born in Muscatine County, Oct. 2, 1856, and was the eldest of seven children comprising the parental household, which included six daughters and one son, of whom we name: Caroline, Lizzie, Annie, Henry, Mary and Emma. Those surviving are residents of Iowa.

The parents of Mrs. Besch were natives of Prussia, the father born in 1824, and the mother in 1829. Mr. Fricke came to America when twenty-two years of age, in time to serve as a soldier in the Mexican War. He participated until the close of that conflict, and then settling in the city of St. Louis, Mo., engaged at his trade of carpenter. Later he recrossed the Atlantic, and spent one year among the friends and associates of his youth. Upon returning to the United States he lived for a





*Charles H. Cowley*



*Samson Cook*

few years in Ohio, then returned to St. Louis, where he was married, and shortly afterward homesteaded 160 acres of land in Muscatine County, Iowa. After farming several years in that county he sold out, and changed his residence to Madison County, but a year later moved back to Muscatine County. This time he purchased eighty acres of land, where, with his excellent wife, he is still living, and carrying on farming successfully.

To Mr. and Mrs. Besch there have been born four children—Frank, Walter, Fredericka and Charles. Our subject votes the straight Republican ticket, and in religious matters adheres to the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, in which he was carefully reared by his parents. He has frequently been called upon to serve in the various local offices, not only nominated but elected, but declined to serve. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Besch served in the German Army against Napoleon, and was given a medal for brave and gallant services. He spent his last years in America.



**L**AWSON COOK. Among the intelligent farmers of Otoe County, who are important factors in developing and sustaining the extensive and varied agricultural interests of Nebraska, no one is more worthy of consideration than the gentleman of whom we write, and we are glad to be able to present a brief sketch of his life to his fellow-citizens. He is the proprietor of one of the finest farms in the Missouri River Valley, it being pleasantly located in Otoe Precinct, and comprises 180 acres.

Mr. Cook was born in Cumberland County, England, July 25, 1818. His father, likewise named Lawson, was born in the same county, but his father, John Cook, was a native of Belfast, Ireland, tradition says of Scotch ancestry. He moved to England after he had grown to manhood, and settled in Cumberland County. He afterward enlisted in the navy, and fought on the side of the British Crown in the Revolutionary War. He spent his last years in the village of St. Bess, Cumberland County, dying at the advanced age of eighty-five years, and he and his wife, whose

maiden name was Ann Lawson, and who was a native of England, are both sleeping their last sleep in the ancient churchyard of St. Bess. The father of our subject spent his entire life in his native county, and he married Jane White, likewise a native of Cumberland County. She was a daughter of James White, a native of Dumfries, Scotland, who, after marriage, settled in Cumberland County, England, and there spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Cook was a shoemaker by trade, and pursued his calling until his death, in 1836. To him and his good wife were born nine children, all of whom grew up. James, William, Richard, Alexander and our subject were the only ones who came to America. James now lives in Nemaha County; William, who settled in St. Louis, is dead, as is also Richard, who first settled in Cleveland, and later removed to Wyandotte County, Kan. Alexander lives in Chicago.

Lawson Cook was reared in his native county, and as his father's family was large, he was early taught to make himself useful, and at the age of ten years, when most boys are in school, he began to be self-supporting by working in a spinning factory, whereby he earned six cents a day. He soon received injuries in one of his hands which nearly caused him the loss of that useful member. He then abandoned factory labor, and went to work on a farm, receiving in payment from eight to twelve or fifteen cents a day, but as his usefulness increased his wages were raised to £16 a year, and that was the highest wages that he ever received in the old country. Mr. Cook married in his native England, in 1842, Miss Jane Fellowfield, who was born in the same county as himself. She died in Liverpool, in 1848, leaving two children: Margaret, who lives in London, and William, who lives in Hebron, Neb. In 1849, the year following the death of his wife, Mr. Cook decided to try his fortunes in America, hoping to get more money for his work, and thus be able to build up a much more comfortable home than he could hope to do in the old country, under the low wages that prevailed there. After an uneventful and tedious ocean voyage, he landed in Boston on the 4th of July, and found the patriotic citizens celebrating our National holiday. He did not, however, tarry

to assist them, proceeding directly to New York City, where he found employment in a machine-shop. He had a quick, bright mind, and being a natural mechanic, it took him but a short time to learn the new trade, and as he became an expert he commanded good wages. In 1852 he went to St. Louis, and there put in the tubes into the first tubular boiler ever made west of the Mississippi River. He continued to work in that city throughout that season, and then returned to New York City, where, with another Englishman, he took a job to bore holes in the boilers of the steamer "Adriatic." Mr. Cook worked at his trade in New York City until 1856, and then came to the Territory of Nebraska, coming by rail to Alton, Ill., and thence by boat to St. Louis, and from there on a boat to Nebraska City, it taking fourteen days to perform the trip from St. Louis. He started at once to seek a location, and bought a claim of land on section 14, Otoe Precinct. After making his claim, before settling on it, he returned to New York City to cast his vote for Gen. Fremont, the first Presidential candidate of the Republican party. In the same fall he erected a frame house on his claim, and when the land came into the market he bought it of the Government. The next year his family joined him, and he resided on that place until 1868, when he sold it and bought his present farm. He first purchased 200 acres, and later bought an additional tract of eighty acres, making 280 acres in all. But a part of that the river freshets have taken, leaving him only 180 acres. This is good bottom land, of unsurpassed fertility and productiveness, and all well improved.

Mr. Cook has been three times married. His second marriage, which took place in New York City, was to Mrs. Agnes Harrison, her maiden name being Jenkinson. She was born in England, and died on the 1st of March, 1866, leaving one child, Jane, who lives in Custer County, Neb. Mr. Cook's third wife was formerly Fanny Smart. She was born near Oxford, England, and died about 1878. There were three children born of this marriage—Eliza, Archibald and Harry.

Mr. Cook is gifted with a thoughtful and vigorous mind. He is a great reader, a lover of good literature, and is well posted on all public questions.

He is a strong Republican and is heartily in favor of protection. He has belonged to the party from its very beginning. He says that he heard Fred Douglas lecture in England in 1847. He has been a delegate to many of the County, Territorial and State Conventions of his party.



**HON. CHARLES H. COWLES.** In the death of this gentleman, which occurred at his home in Wyoming Precinct, April 14, 1888 Otoe County lost one of its most honored pioneers, and one who had distinguished himself as a citizen of more than ordinary worth. A native of Genesee County, N. Y., he was born May 20, 1818, and was the son of Harry Cowles, a patriot and a soldier, who did valiant service in the War of 1812. The latter, a man of high character and fine capabilities, was also chief of navigation on the brig "Niagara," under command of Capt. Elliott in Perry's fleet of nine vessels which achieved the victory on Lake Erie, which forms no unimportant event in American history.

The Cowles family is of Scotch-Irish ancestry, being among those persecuted people who fled from Scotland into the North of Ireland on account of their religious belief. The family was first represented in America during the Colonial times, and their history has been one of which their descendants may be proud, for among them have been the most eminent men of our times.

Capt. Harry Cowles, the father of our subject, after leaving the army was made a Captain of the home guards in the State of Ohio, where he had emigrated, and met his death while discharging the duties of this position, being run down by a frightened horse and instantly killed. Nine children, eight sons and one daughter, were thus rendered fatherless. Of these three are living. The daughter is the widow of Judge A. A. Bradford, of Pueblo, Col., and the two sons are residents of Colorado. The mother passed away a year after the decease of her husband, and the children were taken into the homes of relatives and friends. Charles H., with the others, was trained to habits of industry, and being of a buoyant and persevering disposition, he

made friends, and was seldom at a loss for employment. He was for a time engaged in a clock factory in the Western Reserve, Ohio, and was a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, until a youth of eighteen years. He then changed his residence to Jefferson County, Ind., living there from 1841 to 1848, and in the latter year, crossing the Mississippi, took up his residence on Platts' Purchase in Missouri, but soon afterward removed to Atchison County, and put up the first house at Linden, then the county seat. In the meantime he had been married in Indiana, Dec. 9, 1841, to Miss Mary Martin, who accompanied him on his journey westward.

Mrs. Mary (Martin) Cowles was born in Venango County, Pa., March 15, 1818, and is the daughter of Solomon and Jane (Thompson) Martin, the former of whom was also a native of Venango County, and likewise a hero in the War of 1812. After the close of that struggle he carried on farming for a time in the Keystone State, and when quite well advanced in years crossed the Father of Waters, and spent his last days in this county, dying at the advanced age of eighty-six years. He was a remarkably intelligent and well-informed man, possessing decided views, and one who commanded respect wherever known. His wife had died in Jefferson County, Ind., when fifty-three years of age. Both were active members of the First Presbyterian Church, in which Mr. Martin was a Ruling Elder for a period of fifteen years. Politically, he was in early manhood an old-line Whig, but upon the abandonment of that party identified himself with the Republicans. The parental household included seven children, three of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. Cowles began their wedded life at Decatur, Ind., where they lived until the spring of 1842, then went to Platte County, Mo. In the fall of 1853 Mr. Cowles made his first trip to Nebraska Territory. During the summer of that year it was learned that the Kickapoo, Otoe and Omaha Indians were not only willing but anxious to sell their lands to the Government in order to facilitate trade. Mr. Cowles, with others, determined to call a convention to meet at St. Joseph the following winter for the purpose of memorializing the President and Congress in regard to the necessity of taking early steps to treat with the Indians, organize a Terri-

tory, and open it up for settlement. Mr. Cowles was chosen as one of the delegates to this convention, upon which occasion it was "*Resolved*, That the emigrants to the Territory ought to receive the same protection to property that they enjoyed in the States whence they came." Considerable discussion followed, and upon motion of Mr. Cowles, it was agreed to report nothing on the subject. One gentleman, Judge Bradford, was deputized to effect a treaty with the Indians, and another, H. P. Downs, appointed to escort the chiefs to Washington, where, however, the excitement in Congress over the slavery question prevented a treaty being ratified.

Notwithstanding this state of affairs, however, Mr. Cowles crossed the river and got out timber for his house, a little later bringing over a stock of goods, and commenced trading early in 1854, before the Indian title was extinct. He next purchased what is now termed Greggspport, from a Frenchman, selling afterward to Mr. John Gregg, and in 1856 removed to Wyoming Precinct, where he resided for a period of thirty-two years, and until his death.

Mr. Cowles was not only one of the first settlers of this county, but one of its most prominent men both in church and State. He was at once recognized as a man of more than ordinary ability, was elected to represent Otoe County in the first assemblage of the Legislature, and subsequently made a Senator. The cares of office, however, had no charm for him, and as soon as possible he quietly withdrew, declining the further honors which his fellow-citizens were anxious to bestow upon him. He was an earnest advocate of Republican principles, having been a member of the party since its organization. He cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Harrison in 1840, a short time before reaching his majority, and while a resident of Indiana. Young as he was, he at that time developed admirable qualities as a stump speaker, and labored in this manner for the General throughout Decatur County.

While a member of the Nebraska Legislature Mr. Cowles introduced the bill changing the name of this county from Pierce to Otoe, and instituted many other projects both pleasing and beneficial to

the people. He had from his boyhood been a lover of books and study, and to these devoted his leisure hours, so that he became one of the best informed men of his time. Genial and companionable by nature, he was a favorite both in social and business circles, and made friends wherever he went. An active member of the Presbyterian Church, he officiated as Elder, and was one of its chief pillars. His estimable wife is still living at the old homestead. She was admirably fitted both by nature and training to occupy a position by the side of such a man as her husband, looking well to the ways of her household, and stimulating both husband and children to worthy efforts and generous deeds. Amiable and kind in disposition, she was ever a most faithful and devoted wife and mother, and although now seventy years old, is bright, cheerful and active, retaining in a remarkable degree her powers of mind and body. She has been identified with the Presbyterian Church for a period of fifty-two years. The three living children of the household are: Lauriston M., who resides on a farm in Jefferson County, and married Miss Mary Campbell; Charles Clayton, a sketch of whom will be found elsewhere in this work, and who lives on a part of the home farm, and Emma, the wife of W. H. Moore, who is also represented in this ALBUM, lives in Nebraska City.



**A**LBERT G. ATKINSON. We are often reminded that "what everybody says must be so," and if popularity be any key to character that of our subject is of a very high order. He is at the same time one of the substantial citizens of Belmont Precinct, and is the owner of a splendid, fertile farm of 240 acres, which he operates chiefly as a stock farm.

Our subject was born on the 1st of April, 1836, in Fayette County, Pa., to James and Elizabeth (Miller) Atkinson, both of whom were natives of Westmoreland County, Pa. The mother of our subject departed this life at her home in Iowa, Oct. 1, 1872. His father was also born on the 1st of April, but in the year 1811, and is the son of Thomas Atkinson, a native of Scotland. Since the

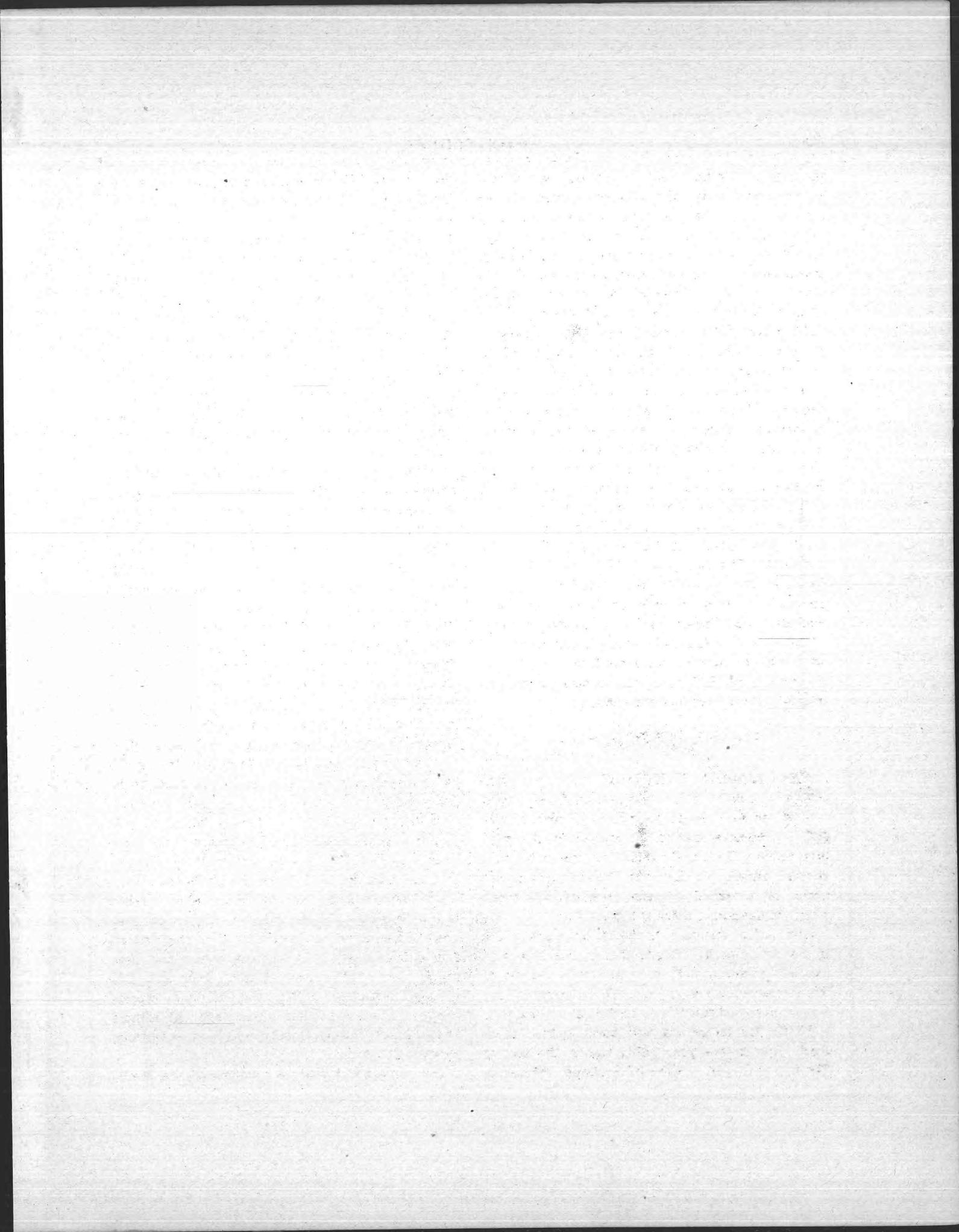
death of his wife Mr. Atkinson, Sr., has been a resident of Rock Creek Precinct, where he still resides.

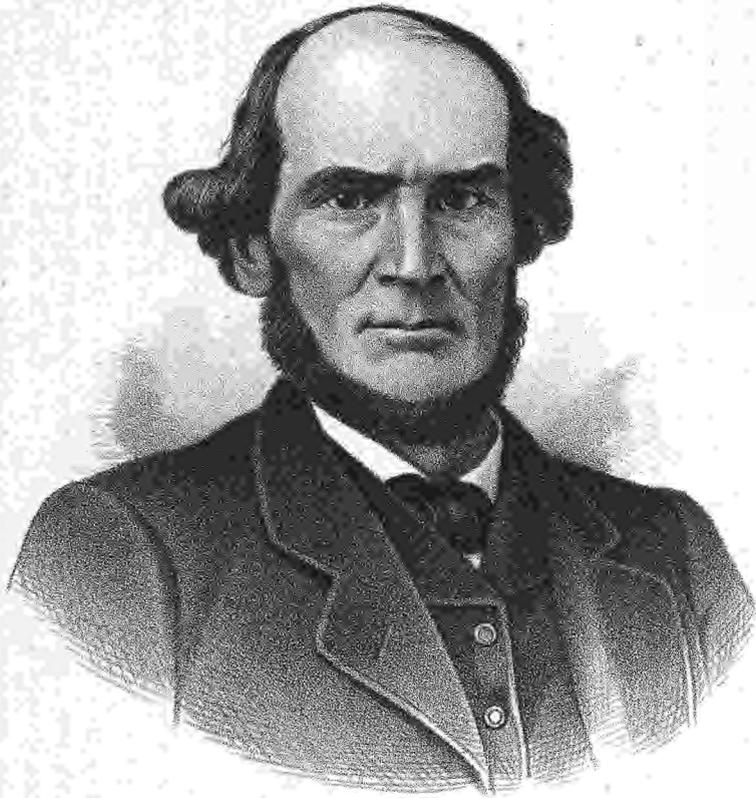
Our subject came to Belmont Precinct in 1846, but after two years removed to Atchison County, Mo., and from there in the year 1851 to Fremont County, Iowa, which is almost opposite to Nebraska City, but then Nebraska City had no existence and nothing marked the spot except old Ft. Carney and the Government barracks. Our subject has frequently followed the plow and oxen over the place where now stand handsome business blocks, and where the busy, bustling crowds are hurrying to and fro in pursuit of their usual avocations or pleasure.

Prior to the war our subject made several trips to the mountains with ox-teams loaded with grain for the United States Government, and also for private parties. In 1861 he enlisted in the 2d Iowa Battery, that afterward gained a distinctive name for especially effective service in action. In this battery he served over three years. He was present in the following battles: Shiloh, Vicksburg, New Madrid, Island No. 10, Jackson (Miss.), Champion Hills, Raymond, and all the engagements around Corinth. He was once slightly wounded, receiving an injury of superficial character from a gunshot, but still such as in nowise disabled him. Very few members of his battery were so fortunate as he, for the reason of the dangerous duty they were called upon to perform, and largely because of their reputation as accurate and rapid marksmen, most of his companions were either killed or severely wounded.

In the year 1865 Mr. Atkinson settled in this county, and upon the 23d of February of the same year celebrated his marriage with Mary Thompson, the daughter of Andrew and Catherine (Bennett) Thompson, natives of Ohio. Her mother is now deceased, and her father a resident of Oregon. This union has been fruitful in the birth of four children, two of whom are living, and bear the names of William and Katie. John and Edgar died at the ages of fourteen and nine respectively. William was united in marriage with Minnie Shellhorn, of Pawnee County, and lives in DuBois, Pawnee Co., Neb.

Our subject and wife are members of the Meth-



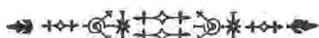


Franklin Ball



Yours Truly  
John Martin

odist Episcopal Church, and are highly esteemed members of society. He is a member of the G. A. R., and is attached to the post at Nebraska City. Politically, he is affiliated with the Republican party, and is a much valued and esteemed citizen.



**F**RANKLIN BALL. The tall and commanding figure of this gentleman has been familiar to the people of Palmyra Precinct for the past eighteen years. He is a carpenter, builder and farmer combined, and the evidences of his skill are discernible in a large number of business buildings and mills along the western line of this county. He is a typical New Englander, and although past the meridian of life, retains an astonishing amount of strength and energy, the result of correct habits and a clear conscience.

Mr. Ball traces his ancestry on his mother's side as far back as 1120. She was a Lawrence, and the earliest records trace Archbishop Lawrence on his way from Italy to England. Later they speak of one of his descendants, Robert Lawrence, of Lancashire, who was the occupant of Ashton Hall in 1191. Later, and in the seventeenth generation, one of the first representatives in America settled on land near Dedham, Mass., about 1783. Farther on in the family history Samuel Ball, of Alstead, N. H., married and reared a family, and among his sons was Samuel, Jr., the father of our subject, who married Miss Amelia Lawrence, a lineal descendant of Archbishop Lawrence, and the mother of our subject. The Ball family was also of English ancestry, and its representatives on this side of the water settled in New England prior to the Revolutionary War. The great-grandfather of our subject in that conflict served as a Lieutenant Colonel in a New Hampshire regiment, and yielded up his life fighting for his adopted country on the battle-field of Saratoga Springs. His son Samuel later took up the cause in which his father laid down his life, was equally valiant with his honored sire, and was given the commission of First Lieutenant. He at one time, single handed and alone, captured five English soldiers, and marched them triumphantly into camp.

Mrs. Amelia (Lawrence) Ball, the mother of our

subject, was the daughter of Joseph, who was the son of David Lawrence, Jr. The latter was the son of David and Betsey Lawrence, who emigrated from England to Massachusetts after their marriage, and settled in what is now known as Norfolk County, Conn., in the seventeenth century. They took up land about 1680 or 1690, and their descendants are now heirs to a large property, which, through a quibble now of the law or some break in the direct line, is about to revert to the English Crown. One of the estates granted by the Crown comprised a large extent of land upon which stood the famous Lawrence and Ashton Hall, from the sale of which was realized \$500,000,000, which vast amount of capital lies in the vaults of the Bank of England, when it should be distributed to the Lawrence heirs in America.

The parents of our subject were married in Alstead, N. H., where the father pursued his trades of mason and butcher, and also carried on farming. There also was spent the remainder of their lives, Samuel Ball resting from his earthly labors April 1, 1862, when sixty-five years old. The mother survived her husband a number of years, and died at the age of seventy-eight. Their nine children were named respectively: Hardin, Ransom L. and an infant who were twins, the latter dying; Willard, Franklin, Levi, Alonzo, Amelia and Melissa. With the exception of a deceased infant all grew to mature years, were married, and settled in comfortable homes of their own. Of these five are now living.

Franklin Ball was born in Alstead, N. H., June 14, 1824, and there his boyhood and youth were mostly spent. He was educated in the common schools, and learned the trades of carpenter and millwright. At the age of twenty-two years he was married, in August, 1846, to Miss Susan Bullock, and they became the parents of five children, of whom Martha, Sarah and Joseph died when less than three years old. The survivors are: Nalbin S., who is in the employ of the Rock Island Railroad, and lives in St. Joseph, Mo., and Rosa A., the wife of Fred Eaglehoff, of Russell Township, Otoe County. The latter is the mother of two children.

Mr. Ball in the fall of 1853 left New England and migrated across the Mississippi to Davenport, Iowa, was for a time employed in various sawmills

and gristmills, and finally entered the employ of the Rock Island Railroad Company in the construction of elevators. He put up one of these structures at each of the three towns, Downer, Wilton and Fulton, and for a time was employed in the Eagle Works at Ottawa, Ill., fulfilling the contract of putting in shafting and other machinery.

Mr. Ball also assisted in putting in the machinery of the sawmill of Grinnell, Gillett & Co., of Davenport, Iowa, acting as foreman. Before coming to the West he had put in two years on the machinery of the Lancaster Gingham Works at Clinton, Mass. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War he was living on a farm in Scott County, Iowa, and although possessing sufficient patriotism he was not permitted to enter the ranks on account of impaired health. He was personally acquainted with Gov. Kirkwood and Adj. Gen. Baker, who were anxious to have him go South as superintendent of a bridge gang, but on account of his health he was obliged to decline.

Our subject has met with some severe losses since the commencement of his business career. He had taken up 240 acres of land in Scott County, Iowa, but on account of the imperfect title lost it, together with the labor of years. Subsequently he lost \$3,500 by the failure of the bank of Cook & Sargeant, at Davenport. He also lost heavily through the failure of a milling company of that same place, and after having been in receipt of a fine income for a number of years was now obliged to go back and commence over again as a journeyman carpenter.

Mr. Ball labored thus a period of three years in Iowa, and in September, 1868, came to this State, the year after its admission into the Union. He had already pre-empted 160 acres of land, and located his family upon it. He then repaired to the embryo city of Lincoln, assisted in the completion of the State House, fulfilled his contract for other buildings, and was foreman of the carpenter force employed in the erection of the Insane Asylum. In 1871 he put in the woodwork of the mill of George McKee, at Nursery Hill. Later he worked on the Hill Elevator in Nebraska City, then returned to Lincoln, and was employed in the erection of the Cropsy Mill.

During the exciting period of the German whisky

riot at Davenport, Iowa, in 1855, Mr. Ball did good service on the police force, having under his charge sixteen men, and through his courage and cool judgment was largely efficient in quelling the disturbance without the loss of blood. He cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce, and has been a staunch supporter of Democratic principles from his youth. Nineteen years of his life have been spent in public service, during which time he has filled the offices of Deputy Sheriff, School Director, Road Supervisor and Justice of the Peace. In all of these he has acquitted himself in the most creditable manner, giving satisfaction to his constituents, and was re-elected to each office.

Mr. Ball was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Young, Feb. 24, 1870. This lady was born in Pike County, Ill., in 1840. Her parents died when she was quite young and she was reared by strangers. Of her union with our subject there have been born six children, namely: Milly, Gilbert, Ellen, Frank, Ransom L. and an infant unnamed (deceased). The two latter were twins.



**C**APT. JOHN MARTINE, who has hosts of friends in Otoe Precinct, is the subject of a very interesting history, and a man who has fought his way through many difficulties to a good position among his fellow-citizens, socially and financially. He owns and operates a good farm of 160 acres, comprising the southwest quarter of section 16. He has distinguished himself as a patriot and a soldier, having ample right to his title as Captain, which was obtained through his military service in the Union Army.

The Martine (formerly La Martine) family is of French descent, and allied to the nobility of fair France. The father of our subject, Adam Martine, was of French birth and ancestry, a native of Alsace, which was then Lorraine; he married Miss Catherine Glodney, who was born in the same Province. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom died in infancy; the living are: Our subject, Michael and George. The parents, in the year 1835, emigrated to America, settling in Philadelphia, and later went

to Ohio; there the father was prospered in his labors as an agriculturist, and accumulated a fine property. He rested from his earthly labors in the year 1868, at the age of seventy-six years and five months. The mother survived her husband a period of eight years, her death taking place in 1876, when she was eighty-one years old; she, like her husband, was of noble birth. Our subject's brothers, Michael and George, are both residents of Coshocton County, Ohio, have large families, and are in good circumstances.

Capt. Martine was born near the city of Strasbourg, in the Province of Alsace Lorraine, France, Nov. 30, 1830, but when brought to America was too young to have retained any recollection of his native place. He grew up on the farm in Ohio, although he had begun his education in the city schools of Philadelphia. After the removal of the family to Ohio, where they were among the early pioneers, young Martine was obliged to travel three miles through the woods, climbing over logs three or four feet in diameter, through bush and bramble, to reach the temple of learning. Limited as his opportunities were, however, he appreciated them and kept his place at the head of his class. When not in school his services were utilized around the homestead, where he remained until his marriage, Aug. 30, 1852. The lady who at that time became the wife of our subject was Miss Mary Ann Bordenkarker, who was also of French birth and parentage, and by whom he became the father of six children. They lived upon a farm in Lyndon Township, Coshocton Co., Ohio, until the outbreak of the Civil War. Before his enlistment the Captain went to Corinth, Miss., to take care of a brother-in-law who was dangerously ill, but who died before he could reach him. Immediately upon his return home, his sympathies being now doubly enlisted in the cause of the Union, he assisted in the organization of a company made up mostly from the young men and boys of his own neighborhood, with whom he had previously drilled. This was Company C, and was a part of the 80th Ohio Infantry. He went with them to the front, but at Corinth was taken seriously ill, and obliged to accept his honorable discharge. He did not by any means, however, intend to give up the fight, and as soon as his health would

permit he left his sick bed and organized Company K of the 1st Ohio Militia, and of which he was elected Captain, receiving a five-years commission from Gov. Todd, then Governor of Ohio. He participated in the efforts made to capture Morgan while on his raid through Ohio, after that did guard duty in different parts of the State, and the regiment was subsequently disbanded.

After the close of the war Capt. Martine removed with his family, in September, 1865, to Brown County, Ill., but staid there only about two years, next crossing the Mississippi and settling in Nebraska City. Here our subject was Superintendent of a section of the Council Bluffs & St. Joseph Railroad, which was then in process of construction. Later he had the supervision of a company of men working in the Summit cut on the Midland Pacific. In the year 1868 he purchased the land which he now owns and occupies, and thereafter gave his attention to it. Here the wife and mother died, at the age of forty years, March 8, 1875. The six children of this marriage were named respectively: John, Jr., George, Maria, Jacob, Maude Lena and Ella. John married Miss Rosa Morgan, is farming in the vicinity of Syracuse, and is the father of two children; George married Miss L. Anderson, lives on a farm in Otoe Precinct, and has three children—George, Lena and Joseph; Maria is the wife of Benjamin Griffin, of Buffalo County, and the mother of three children; Maude Lena married James White, of this county, lives on a farm in Russell Precinct, and is the mother of three children; Ella married Otis Brown, is a resident of Otoe Precinct and the mother of three children—Howard, Dessie and John; Jacob is married, and farming in Custer County, this State.

Capt. Martine, on the 12th of May, 1876, contracted a second marriage, with Miss Lucy Scherrer, a native of Baden, Germany, and who became the mother of three children, only one of whom is living, a daughter, Mary, who resides with her father at home. Mrs. Lucy Martine departed this life at her home in Otoe Precinct, Nov. 8, 1880, aged thirty-seven years. Capt. Martine, Aug. 16, 1883, was married to Mrs. Elizabeth High, *nee* Schuster, who was born in Prussia, Sept. 17, 1836, and came to the United States in 1882. She is the mother of

one child, a daughter, Katie, who is now in school. The Captain also has an adopted son, Frank Fuller, now fourteen years of age, and living with them.

The principles of the Democratic party have usually been the exponent of the political opinions of Capt. Martine, although he refuses to be controlled by party lines, and votes for the men whom he considers best qualified for office. He has never desired official honors, and with the exception of serving as School Director one term, has steadily declined holding office in Nebraska. While a resident of Coshocton County, Ohio, he served as Justice of the Peace and Assessor, and was continuously in office of some kind until entering the army. He prefers now to relegate its duties and responsibilities to other men. Both he and his excellent wife are members in good standing of the Catholic Church at Nebraska City.



**L**OUIS DAMMA. The subject of this narration became a resident of this county in December, 1864, and has signalized himself as a hard-working and enterprising citizen. This course has not been without its good results, for by it he has become the owner of one of the finest farms in McWilliams Precinct. This property is pleasantly located on section 31, and comprises 273 acres of improved land, with a set of good farm buildings. Mr. Damma located upon his land in the spring of 1868, with little means save his strong muscle and stout heart, and from that very modest beginning has arisen to an enviable position socially and financially.

Our subject was born April 1, 1843, in Franklin County, Mo., and is of German parentage. His father, Henry Damma, was born in Germany, and married a lady of his own nationality. After the birth of four children they emigrated to the United States, and soon after setting foot upon American soil made their way southwest across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. Here the father engaged in farming, and died of the cholera early in the fifties, when about fifty-five years old. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land,

and thus Louis when a lad ten years of age was left an orphan.

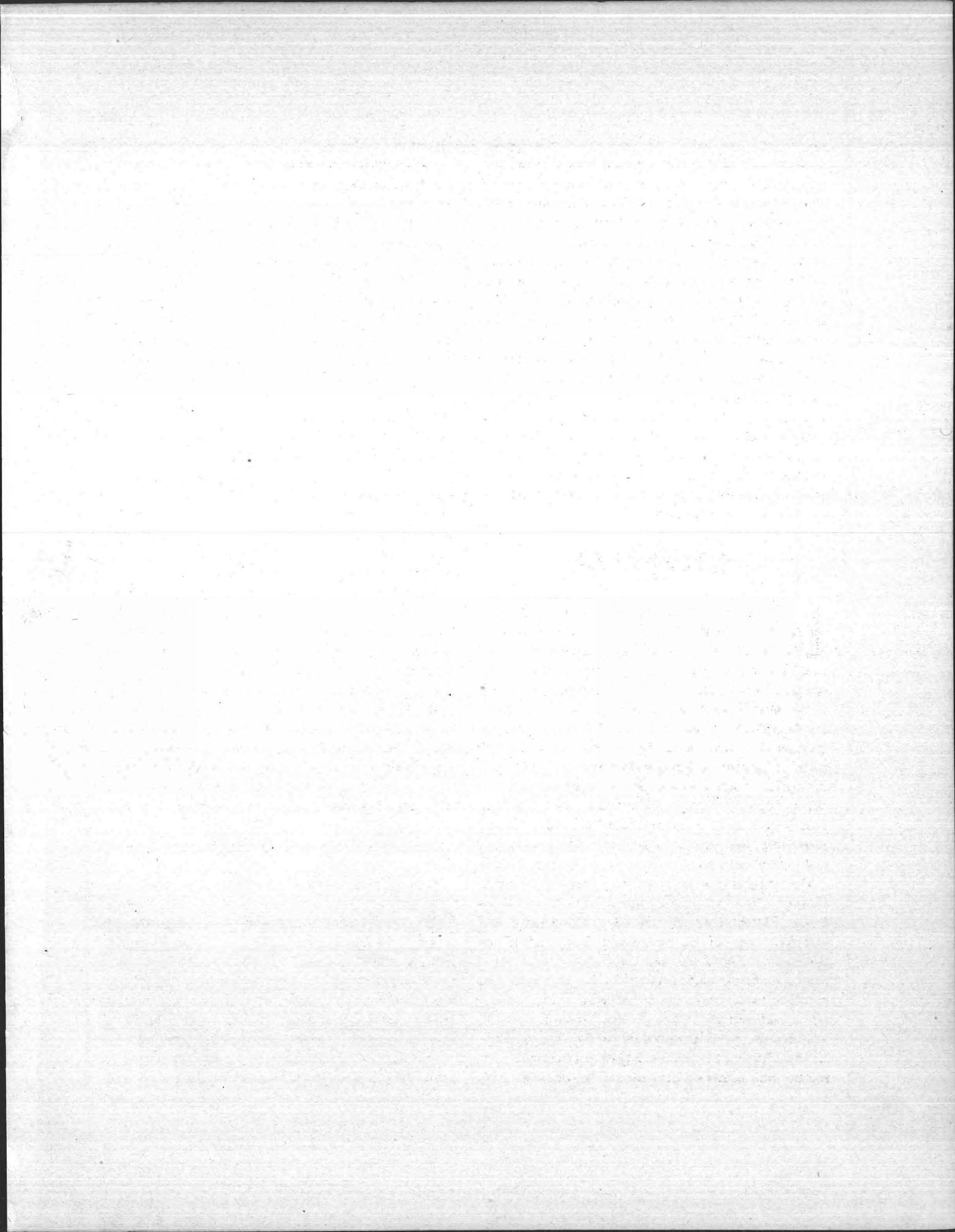
After the death of his parents our subject was taken into the home of his brother, William Damma, who lived in Franklin County, Mo., and with whom he remained until a youth of seventeen. After the outbreak of the late Civil War he enlisted in the 4th Missouri Infantry, Company E, under command of Capt. Montwiler, doing mostly guard duty, and serving a period of eighteen months. Upon leaving the army he returned to his native county, and soon afterward came to Nebraska. In Otoe County he was married, Feb. 17, 1870, to Miss Dora Reimers, a native of Germany, and who came to the United States with her parents when a young woman. They first settled in St. Louis, thence came to this county, and afterward removed to Kansas, settling on a farm in Barton County, where the father, Henry Reimers, is yet living. The mother, Mrs. Mary Reimers, died in the spring of 1888, aged about fifty-five years.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born six children, namely: Anna, Alvina, Julius, Bertha, Amy and Louis. The eldest is seventeen years of age and the youngest seventeen months. They all continue under the home roof. Mr. D. votes the straight Republican ticket, and both he and his wife are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, and takes very little interest in political matters. His chief pride is in being a first-class farmer, and in this respect his career has been one of which he may be proud.



**P**AUL MASON CAMPBELL, probably the youngest man represented in this work, is at present mail clerk on the main line of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad, being stationed between Pacific Junction and McCook, and having his home in Nebraska City. He was born Sept. 21, 1865, in Nebraska City, and is the youngest son of Hon. J. C. Campbell, M. D., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

Our subject at an early age gave evidence of more than ordinary capabilities, being a lad fond of





*Yours truly  
W. L. Davis*



*Yours Truly  
Lewis Lewis*

his books and ambitious to excel. He was graduated from Nebraska College in the class of '83, taking special honors, and being the subject of much favorable comment at the time. He served as Notary Public in Nebraska City before reaching his majority. He intends in the near future taking up the study of law, which he has chosen for his life profession. He has set out upon a most promising career, one which will be watched with interest by hosts of friends. He is the scion of an excellent family, the members of which have distinguished themselves in many of the public walks of life with credit and fidelity. In the sketch of his brother, Ezra T. Campbell, M. D., on another page in this volume, is given a more extended history of the family and its antecedents, which forms a most interesting record.



**L**EWIS LEWIS, whose portrait is given on an adjoining page, is one of the earliest pioneers of Nebraska, is numbered among its most honored citizens, and has seen much of life in the Great West. He is a man very highly esteemed by the people around him, one who is a public-spirited citizen, always willing to lend a helping hand in the carrying out of every project tending to the good of the community. His excellent partner, one who has stood by him through the storms and sunshine of many years, is a lady who has proved herself in every way suitable to be the companion of a good man. They have a large family of handsome and intelligent children, of whom they have reason to be proud.

The property of Mr. Lewis embraces the southwest quarter of section 4, Otoe Precinct, where he has lived and labored since 1862; he first came to the precinct in April, 1855. He comes of excellent Pennsylvania stock, being the son of Enos and Elizabeth (Pinnell) Lewis, who were natives of Delaware County, that State, the father born on the very farm where the English Army was centered when Washington was at Valley Forge. Grandfather Lewis had purchased this from William Penn during the first settlement of Pennsylvania. They were Quakers in religion, and Enos Lewis traced

his ancestry back to the early Colonial days, when his progenitors crossed the Atlantic from England and settled in Pennsylvania.

The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, spent his entire life in his native county, and died there in 1833. The mother of our subject had been married first to a Mr. Burns, but of this union there were no children. Of her marriage with Enos Lewis there were born three sons and three daughters, the eldest of whom, Wayne, was killed by being thrown from a gig when one year old. The next son, Henry, is a resident of Cloud County, Kan.; he married Miss Isabelle Frost, and is the father of seven children, namely: Henry D., Ida M., Ernest, Alfred B., John W., Edith and Wilbur. Mary, Mrs. Jackson LaTier, is a resident of Taylor County, Iowa; Esther, Mrs. John W. White, resides in West Chester, Chester Co., Pa.; Elizabeth, Mrs. Booze, a widow, is a resident of Philadelphia, Pa., and the mother of three children—Henry, Albert and Lilly.

The subject of this sketch was the fifth child of his parents, and was born on the old homestead, the birthplace of his father, in Delaware County, Pa., Sept. 20, 1831. He was but two years of age at the time of his father's death, and resided with his mother two years, then went to live with his aunt, Mrs. Esther Garrett, of East Goshen Township, Chester Co., Pa. He continued with her until a lad of twelve years, but lived under the same roof until sixteen. His education during those years was carried on principally three months during the winter season, but later he entered Greenwood Dell Academy, where he studied one year, and afterward attended Unionville Academy for eighteen months. In the meantime he worked two and a half years on a farm.

In the spring of 1853 our subject set out for the West, and traveled extensively through Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Later he returned to Philadelphia, Pa., but could not content himself in that region, and started once more for the West. In the fall of 1853 he went to Jackson County, Mo., and in May, 1854, started East, finally landing in Pennsylvania, in August. Mr. Lewis, no more satisfied than he had been before, after returning home, finally made one desperate effort, starting out the

third time from his native State, and determined now to stay. This time he took in Louisville, Ky., St. Louis and Independence, Mo., and remained in this vicinity until the spring of 1854. Later, returning East, he visited Baltimore, New York City, and in the latter visited the Crystal Palace. He next journeyed to Philadelphia, where he suffered an attack of cholera, but fortunately recovered, and then went to Zanesville, Ohio. From there, a month later, he pushed on westward to Iowa, this time accompanied by his brother Henry. They stopped and worked in Rome, Henry Co., Iowa, until the spring of 1855, when our subject started on foot for this county, having for his companion Edward H. Bishop. They had intended to go to California, but changed their minds and stopped in Nebraska City.

Our subject, who had been born with the gift of prudence and economy, occupied himself on the Otoe ferry boat, which made regular trips across the Missouri. On the 11th of July, 1855, accompanied by a party, he started off on the enterprise of removing the Otoe Indians to their Blue River Reservation, and this accomplished returned to this county. In the fall of 1856 he took up a homestead claim, which he still owns, and has for a period of thirty-two years.

The marriage of Lewis Lewis and Miss Susan Wright was celebrated at the home of the bride in Otoe Precinct, this county, in September, 1862. Mrs. Lewis was born in 1840, and is a daughter of Michael and Rosina (Atler) Wright, who were natives of Germany, and came to the United States when their daughter Susan was a child four or five years of age. In the family there were only besides herself her four older brothers—George and John, Joseph now deceased, and Michael, also dead. They lived subsequently at Nauvoo and Alton, Ill., New Orleans, La., and St. Louis, Mo., and at Nauvoo Mrs. Lewis saw the destruction of the Mormon Temple by fire. Her two brothers came first to Nebraska, and she joined them in May, 1858. The mother died in Illinois; the father served as a soldier in the Mexican War, and subsequently visited California, and has never returned. To Mr. and Mrs. Lewis there have been born eleven children, eight of whom are living, viz: Mary E., Rosina,

Anna, Ella, Lewis, Jr., John, Henry and George. Three children died in infancy. Mr. Lewis voted for the State Constitution in 1866, and in politics gives his support to the Democratic party.



**A**NDERSON L. DAVIS. The live-stock interests of Southern Nebraska constitute one of its richest sources of profit, and in this industry a large proportion of its enterprising and intelligent men are engaged. The subject of this sketch, whose portrait we give on a preceding page, for the last few years has made of this a specialty, feeding and shipping in large numbers, and to this devotes one of the finest farms in Nebraska, comprising 480 acres of valuable land, including 100 acres of timber. He usually keeps 200 head of cattle and several hundred hogs. In the city of Syracuse he superintends a fine trade in farm implements, having directed a portion of his capital in this important channel. He has been a resident of Nebraska a period of thirty-two years, having arrived here in its Territorial days, on the 3d of December, 1856.

Our subject first crossed the Mississippi when a youth of a little over twenty years of age. He was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, Sept. 26, 1836, and is the son of L. A. and Mary L. Thompson (*nee* Chamberlin) Davis. His paternal grandfather, Jesse Davis, a native of New York State, was of Welsh ancestry, and a farmer by occupation. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and marched with his regiment to Buffalo during the destruction of that city by fire. L. A. Davis, also a native of the Empire State, joined his father in the ranks of the soldiery, being then but a youth, and also saw the burning of Buffalo. The mother of our subject was his second wife, he having married and become the father of five children before his union with Mrs. Thompson. After the death of his first wife and his marriage with the latter he left the Empire State with his little family, and settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, where his death took place about 1862. His wife, Mary L., had preceded him to the silent land some years.

The subject of this sketch was the only child of the second marriage of his father, and continued a resident of his native State until coming to Nebraska. He had been reared upon the farm, and after crossing the Mississippi was employed at farming near Nebraska City, this county. He left the Buckeye State in 1856, and, accompanied by his half-brother, Morris T. Thompson, proceeded by rail to Iowa City, thence by stage to Council Bluffs and Sidney, and from there on foot to a point opposite Nebraska City. The time being in December, the river was filled with loose ice, and they were ferried across in a skiff, the trip being a perilous one. Upon arriving at his destination young Davis secured a job at cutting cordwood through the winter, and in the spring secured employment on a farm. Soon afterward he preempted a tract of land in this county. This, however, he did not improve, but worked with his brother five years.

During this period occurred the panic of 1857, when a man could scarcely obtain fifteen cents for a day's work—in fact there was no money to be had at times—wheat was selling at thirty cents per bushel, and corn at eight cents. Mr. Davis, finally, in 1862, began freighting between Nebraska City and Denver, and in the fall of that year located on a ranch fifteen miles west of Camden on the Blue River. Here he passed two winters, then sold out and resumed freighting, making four trips across the plains, each time being accompanied by his brother. They spent the following winter in Colorado on the Platte River, and in the spring our subject sold his cattle with the intention of returning to Ohio, but on account of the Indians deemed it the better part of prudence to remain where he was.

In the spring of 1866 Mr. Davis set out with a train to Nebraska City, and thence made the desired trip to his native State, where he arrived on the 1st of July, after an absence of ten years. A six-months visit among his old friends satisfied him, and returning to Nebraska he commenced farming. His health, however, had become greatly impaired, so instead of following the plow he began dealing in live stock, which business he has since followed with the most satisfactory results. In 1876 he took up his residence in Syracuse, and since that time

has given his principal attention to his stock operations and the trade in farm implements.

Mr. Davis was married quite late in life, in June, 1880, to Miss Meda, daughter of Henry and Mary Phelps. Her parents were natives of Iowa, and are now living in this county. Mrs. Davis was born in Iowa, May 4, 1857, acquired a common-school education, and remained with her parents until her marriage, residing during that time mostly in her native State. The result of her union with our subject is three bright children—Mary L., Arthur and Luella. The family residence is located in the northern part of the city, and its furnishings and surroundings are fully in keeping with the means and station of the proprietor.

A Democrat in principle, Mr. Davis is a reliable supporter of his party, and has served three years as County Commissioner. He is not, however, in the least ambitious for office, preferring to devote his time to his own concerns. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Honor. He is a genuine, capable business man, prompt to meet his obligations, and straightforward in all his transactions.



**S**TARR COZIER GREGORY. Among the worthy and honored citizens of Talmage, one whose life is in many regards an example of good to younger persons, is the gentleman whose life's history is here epitomized. He is one of the well-known and successful men of Talmage, and has been associated with its interests since the first business house was erected. There was at that time a demand for some competent person to make his headquarters at that place for the buying and shipping of stock, there being large numbers in the vicinity. This place our subject was destined to fill. Being the first to occupy the field he has made quite a reputation throughout the county and district, and is one of the most extensively engaged in his line of business. The distinction is his of having shipped the first carloads of cattle and hogs sent out from this place.

Recently our subject has been buying and shipping for LaFayette Higgins, of Auburn, in this State, but not until after he had been in business

for himself for a period of about sixteen years. For the past four years he has been a resident of Talmage, and has won for himself many friends among his fellow-townsmen. As a business man his reputation is fully sustained without the tarnish resultant from dealings of a questionable nature.

Mr. Gregory is the owner of a fine property in Johnson County, and in this place has one of the pleasantest homes. It is a large, roomy house, planned and arranged with a view to comfort. He has also a large brick business house, the upper story of which is occupied by the G. A. R. hall and Roberts Lodge No. 104. After subscriptions for a large part of the expenses toward erecting a hall had been made to the order, Mr. Gregory put up his building, and leased the hall to the order for ninety-nine years.

The connection of our subject with this State began in the year 1867. His first property was 160 acres of land in Spring Creek Precinct, which was at the time simply raw, uncultivated prairie, but under the skillful management and continued efforts of our subject became one of the best farms in the district. It is now valued at \$40 per acre. He was in the beginning in a thorough pioneer country, for no railroads then had laid their steel bands across the prairie, and there were no markets as at present, nothing nearer than Nebraska City, which was twenty-two miles distant. He is much gratified to see the splendid progress that has been made within the last decade principally, and justly proud of the privilege of having a part in helping to that end.

In coming to Nebraska the subject of our sketch came a comparatively poor man from DeKalb County, Ill. It was also the scene of his early life, he having been born in Genoa, of that county, on the 21st of August, 1842. His family were pioneers in Illinois and enjoyed an enviable reputation for those qualities that make a family respected and admired in the community. Previous to making their home in Illinois the parents of our subject had lived in New York State.

Mr. E. S. Gregory, father of Starr Cozier, was born about the year 1803, at Johnstown, in the Empire State, as were his parents before him. The family has a history in connection with that State

that reaches back almost to the early settlements. He was brought up on a farm and also learned the trade of shoemaker. While yet a young man, he went to Maine, where he met and married his wife, whose maiden name was Jane Brown.

Mrs. Gregory, the mother of our subject, was born and brought up in the Pine Tree State, in the vicinity of Scarborough. After her marriage with the father of our subject they began life together at the bottom of the ladder, the husband plying his trade for about ten years, and then came West, settling in DeKalb County, as above mentioned. There brighter days began to dawn upon them, and the farm proved a perfect success, and served for their home during the remainder of life. Mr. Gregory died at a very advanced age, in January, 1887, beloved and respected by the community at large. He was one of the old-time Abolitionists, and was active in behalf of the party, feeling and expressing himself strongly in behalf of the cause. From the history of DeKalb County, page 481, we take the following, which may be of interest in this connection: "In 1840, his brother-in-law, Ezra Starr Gregory, cast the first, and that year, the only Abolition vote cast in the county, voting for James G. Birney, for President. Mr. Gregory was the pioneer of that grand political movement in DeKalb County, and his name should be honored as the first to come boldly to the front in an effort to remove the dreadful stain of slavery from our civilization. At the next election Mr. Gregory was joined by others of DeKalb County's worthy citizens, who wanted all men under our flag who should obey the laws of the country, to be as free as they were. These men were Jeremiah L. Brown, Abner Jackman, Jutus Preston, Gideon King, John Judd and Benjamin P. Brown, the brother of the subject of this sketch. At the next election these parties were joined by a host of others." (Biography of Jeremiah Libbey Brown.)

Mr. Gregory, our subject, is the first son and second child of three born to his parents, who lived to maturity. He had been very carefully brought up by his parents, and from earliest childhood was taught to abhor everything that verged upon the dishonest and dishonorable. He early began to store his mind with useful information, and



development of a farm, and can now look with satisfaction upon the result of his labors, which have been crowned with success. He keeps good grades of cattle, horses and swine, and is numbered among the leading agriculturists of Otoe County.

Mr. Damma came to Southern Nebraska from Franklin County, Mo., in 1861, and entered 200 acres of land in Osage Precinct, the larger portion of which comprised all the elements of fertility. He made some improvements, but after a visit to the part of McWilliams Precinct where he now lives, concluded the latter to be more desirable, and accordingly to this transferred the scene of his operations. He has made all the improvements which have given to his homestead the reputation of being one of the most desirable in Southern Nebraska.

A native of Prussia, our subject was born Oct. 4, 1833, and was the eldest but one of a large family of children, the offspring of Henry and Catherine Damma, a further account of whom will be found in the sketch of Louis Damma, found on another page of this volume. He was a little lad of seven years when he emigrated with his parents to the United States, and upon disembarking from their long voyage across the Atlantic, their journey was still further lengthened out by a tedious ride, partly by rail and partly by horse-teams to the southwest, and across the Mississippi into Franklin County, Mo. There the father engaged in farming, and both parents spent the remainder of their lives.

Our subject developed into manhood in Missouri, and was married in Gasconade County, that State, to Miss Charlotte Pahde, who was of ancestry similar to his own. Mrs. Damma was born in Franklin County, Mo., Aug. 26, 1842, and is the daughter of Frederick and Henrietta Pahde, who were natives of Prussia and are now in Nebraska. Mrs. D. was but a small child when her father emigrated from Prussia to Gasconade County, where she grew to womanhood, receiving careful home training and a common-school education. Of her union with our subject there have been born ten children, one of whom, Minnie, died when eighteen months old. The survivors are F. Louis, L. John, H. Moses, C. Henry, H. Mary, H. William, Anna

C., Lena C. and August W. The parents are members in good standing of the German Evangelical Church, and Mr. Damma, politically, uniformly votes the Republican ticket.



JACOB W. NELSON, perhaps the youngest business man of note in Nebraska City, is junior partner of the firm of Nelson Bros., who carry on a thriving trade in boots and shoes. They established in business in 1885, and have advanced with a success which has been phenomenal, and which could only be attained by the closest application to business and a straightforward manner of dealing with their fellow citizens. J. W. is especially noticeable as being a young man of excellent judgment and sound sense, with more than ordinary business capacities. Energetic and prompt to meet his obligations, he has already attained an enviable position in business circles, while he is also a favorite in society, and being of a fine personal appearance, is exceedingly popular among the young people of his circle.

Our subject was born on the other side of the Atlantic, in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, May 27, 1864, and when scarcely more than an infant was brought by his parents to the United States. He is the son of Nicholas P. and Mary (Kalsen) Nelson, who were also natives of Scandinavia, and of excellent families. The household circle consisted of four children, the eldest being Olie N., senior member of the firm; Jacob, our subject, and Emma and Eddie, who are now at home. The father is a shoemaker by occupation, and the parents are still living in this city. Mr. Nelson was reared to manhood in Nebraska City, where his parents settled at once upon coming to America. He was given a practical education, and trained in those habits of industry and honesty which form the basis of a true and upright character. He makes his home with his parents, and besides his interest in the store is a member of the Building and Loan Association, which has now established a good foothold, and promises to be of great benefit to those associated with it.

Nelson Bros. carry a large and finely assorted

stock of goods, and number their patrons among the best people along the eastern line of the county. Mr. Nelson is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. Genial and companionable, he is a gentleman of excellent principles, and one with whom it is both pleasurable and profitable to converse. He keeps himself well informed, not only in regard to the details of his especial trade, but to all matters of general interest to the intelligent citizen.



**C**HARLES W. PIERCE. The life record of this gentleman is indissolubly linked with the early history of Nebraska City, the first settlement in Otoe County, as it was he who surveyed and platted the city, and his name often occurs in its annals in after years. In this connection a few items regarding its origin may not be out of place. Prior to 1854 Otoe County belonged exclusively to the Pawnee, Otoe and Omaha tribes of Indians, although occasional itinerant traders found their way to this point from St. Louis, then the great trading-post of the Northwest. As early as 1841, or some say not until 1844, Col. Stephen W. Kearney (afterward Major General) selected the present site of Nebraska City for a military station on account of its admirable strategical and commercial advantages, and in 1846, on the 22d of April, Company G, 22d United States Dragoons, under command of Capt. Allen, arrived here and proceeded to establish a post, to which they gave the name Ft. Kearney. A block house was at once erected between Main and Otoe streets, on Fifth street, and quarters for the officers, hospitals, etc., were built. In 1848 the fort was abandoned by the Government, and the property left in charge of Mr. Harden, and subsequently of Col. John Boulware, and in 1850, of Hiram P. Downs, who retained it until the Government withdrew all claims to the site upon which the fort was built in the spring of 1854. The American Fur Company made this one of its stations soon after the establishment of the military post, and continued to occupy it until the United States extinguished the Indian title to the land. The original settlers and claimants as squatters were Col. John Boulware, John

B. Boulware and Col. Hiram P. Downs, the Boulwares staking off a squatter's claim in the spring of 1853 to what afterward became the Kearney division of Nebraska City, and Col. Downs claiming two quarter-sections of land, 160 acres of which is now included within the corporate limits of Nebraska City, as soon as the land was abandoned by the United States.

When Mr. Pierce came here on the 3d of May, 1854, he found these gentlemen and their families the only inhabitants of the future city. Mr. Downs was then living in a log building erected by the soldiers in the rear of the block house, where the Morton House now stands. Mr. Pierce surveyed the claims referred to, and, furthermore, we are told in a recent history of the county, that "in April, 1854, Stephen F. Nuckolls, and in May of the same year Allen A. Bradford, crossed the river and made arrangements with Hiram Downs whereby they became with him joint owners in the claim which he had taken, and they immediately employed Charles W. Pierce to survey and stake off a city, the work being commenced in 1854." The first permanent habitation in the city, however, and indeed in the county, antedated the platting of the city two years, John B. Boulware having built a ferry house in 1852, on the river bank at the foot of Commercial street. Charles H. Cowles erected the first frame house on the town site near the corner of Fifth and Main streets, and the second one was built by our subject on Main street between Fourth and Fifth streets. The first hotel was built in the fall of 1854 by Mr. Downs. The first post-office, called Table Creek post-office, was established at Nebraska City as early as 1854, and Mr. Pierce was appointed Postmaster of Nebraska City.

Mr. Pierce is still an honored resident of the city in whose foundation he played so important a part thirty-four years ago. He is widely known and is highly respected, not only as a pioneer but as a man and a citizen. He is a native of New York City, born in that great metropolis Feb. 21, 1828, coming of good old New England stock. His father, Wilder Pierce, was, it is thought, a native of Massachusetts, as his father, Amasa Pierce, was born, reared and married in that State. He, the grandfather of our subject, moved from his native State

to New York, and was one of the early pioneers of Cortland County, where he cleared a farm from the wilderness and made his residence until a few months before his death. He then went to Niagara County, and died at the home of his son. The father of our subject learned the trade of ship carpenter, and in the War of 1812 served in the United States Navy, and was with Commodore Lawrence when the latter was killed, and the vessel and crew were captured. In 1831 Mr. Pierce went on a cruise in the United States man-of-war "Hornet" in quest of piratical crafts, and was lost with the crew and vessel. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Catherine Ryder. She was born in the Mohawk Valley, N. Y., and spent her last years in New York City, dying in 1845.

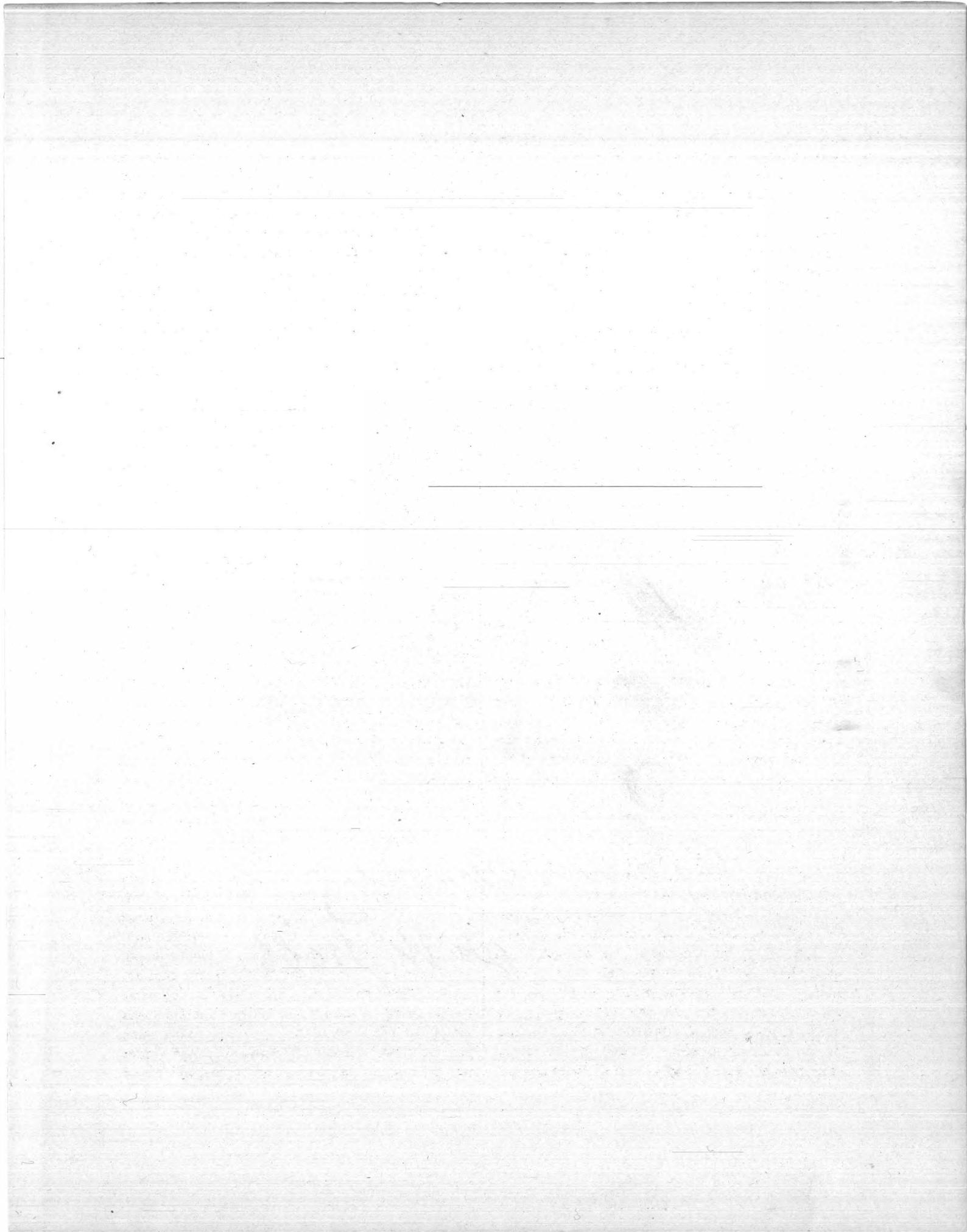
The subject of this sketch was for the most part reared and educated by his paternal grandparents. He attended the public schools, and at the age of fifteen commenced the study of civil engineering. In 1849 he went to Dubuque, Iowa, and there engaged with a party of surveyors who were surveying Government land in that State. In December of that year he gave up his profession there and went to Kanesville, now Council Bluffs, which was then a hamlet of a few log buildings, and the two succeeding years he was engaged in superintending a ferry across the Missouri River at Belleville. In the spring of 1852 he went to Sidney, Iowa, but his health being poor he did but little while there. He remained there until May, 1854, and on the 3d of that month he came to the present site of Nebraska City. Charles W. Coles came with him to engage in mercantile business, and was the first merchant of the city. As before stated, Mr. Pierce had come here for the purpose of surveying and laying out the city, and before cold weather set in he had a part of the city platted, and ten or twelve families were settled here by that time, and these early settlers and about 600 Indians spent the winter here. In July, 1854, the Nebraska City post-office was established, and Mr. Pierce was made the first Postmaster. But there was no regular mail carrier for nearly a year, and the citizens used to employ some person to go to Sidney, Iowa, fifteen miles distant, for the mail once a week. In 1855 a mail carrier was appointed, who brought the mail twice a week,

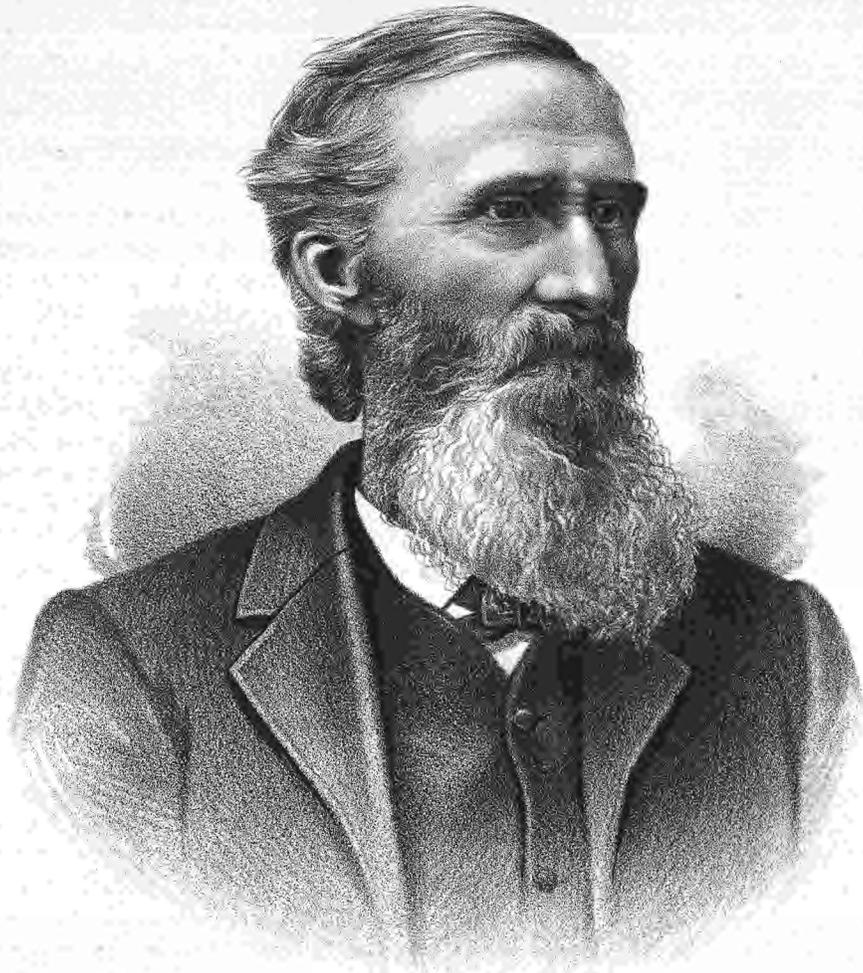
and soon three times a week, until the railway was built on the opposite side of the river, and then daily. In 1855 Mr. Pierce resigned his office and was appointed inspector of survey by the Government, which position he held until August, 1857. He then resumed surveying for the Government, and was a United States surveyor in Nebraska for seven years. When Otoe County was organized he was made County Surveyor, and was re-elected to that office several times, until at the end of twelve years he utterly refused to serve any longer. In 1854 Mr. Pierce took the census in the northern half of the Territory, and during the second session of the Territorial Legislature he was Sergeant-at-Arms of the Territorial Council. In April, 1855, he was deputized by the Indian agent to remove the Otoe Indians to their reservation. He made the survey in April, and during the summer removed his charges to their new home.



**B**ARNARD BRADY. Within the confines of Belmont Precinct, and in the southwestern part of section 24, is located the farm of this gentleman, which embraces 160 acres of land, and has been brought to a good state of cultivation. One of its most attractive features is the handsome and substantial residence, while a good barn and all the other necessary out-buildings, with fruit and shade trees, form a most attractive background. Mr. Brady has been thorough and successful as an agriculturist, and is a man of good business capacities. As a citizen he is esteemed as one of the most valued members of his community.

Our subject was born at Port George in British America, Aug. 17, 1830, and is the son of Antwin and Mary (Riley) Brady, who were natives of Ireland, and the former a British soldier in the War of 1812. Later he went to Ireland, and there the subject of this sketch spent a portion of his boyhood. His parents died in Ireland, and Barnard then returned to British America with relatives, and came to this county in August of 1854, while Nebraska was a Territory. He took up a claim that same year opposite St. Joseph in Kansas, but the border war coming on he was forced to flee, and found





*Yours Truly*  
*F. W. Robb*

refuge in Macon County, Mo., until the troubles were over.

Mr. Brady in the spring of 1863 returned to this county during the progress of the Civil War, but in the meantime had served as a Confederate soldier in Company I, 4th Missouri Infantry. He located permanently on his present farm in September, 1870, and is now the owner of one of the most desirable estates in this part of the county.

Our subject was married, in May, 1870, to Mrs. Sarah Nestor, widow of George W. Nestor, and daughter of Dudley and Kerby Abbott. Mrs. Brady was born Oct. 9, 1843, in Missouri. Her parents were natives of Ohio, and their household consisted of fourteen children. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, four of whom are living, namely: Thomas H., John D., Edward W. and Andrew J. The eldest is sixteen years of age and the youngest nine. Of the first marriage of Mrs. Brady there had been born two children, both daughters, Caroline and Martha, who are living in Oregon and married. Mr. Brady, politically, is a Democrat, and socially, in 1883 identified himself with the Masonic fraternity.

**H**ON. FLEMING W. ROBB, ex-member of the Nebraska Legislature, and one of the early pioneers of this county, first crossed the Missouri on the 23d of June, 1856, at the old town site of Wyoming, and at once pre-empted the quarter of section 3, where he has now a well-developed farm, which yields in abundance the products of Southern Nebraska. Subsequently he added 120 acres to his first purchase, eighty acres of which he has since presented to his son, Montgomery Robb. He came to Nebraska with moderate means, but has now a good property, and socially, occupies a high position among the leading men of his community and county.

Prior to casting his lot with the pioneers of Nebraska Territory our subject had spent his years in Lycoming County, Pa., having been born near the town of Muncie, that county, Aug. 31, 1815. His father, William F. Robb, was a native of Carlisle, that State, and of excellent Scotch-Irish stock. When two years of age he removed with his father,

Robert Robb, to Lycoming County, when that section of country was peopled principally by Indians and wild animals. Robert Robb settled upon a tract of land where he made some improvements, but was finally driven off by the Indians. He finally located in Muncie Township, where he spent the remainder of his life, and where his death took place at the home of his son William F.

The father of our subject became intimately acquainted with the privations and hardships of life in a new country, such as was Pennsylvania during his boyhood and youth, and developed into manhood in Lycoming County. He was there married in Muncie Township to Miss Mary Shoemaker, a native of Lycoming County, and of Dutch ancestry. Her family had lived for a time in Berks County, and were people well-to-do and highly respected. After marriage the elder Robb and his young wife located on a farm in Muncie Township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, doing good to all around them and building up for themselves and their children a comfortable homestead. Their sons and daughters were given a practical education and trained to habits of industry and principles of honor. The father in religious belief was a Presbyterian, while the mother held to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject was the fourth son and fifth child of his parents. Of the parental family only he and his brother Charles W., a prominent attorney of Pittsburgh, Pa., are living. Fleming W. was reared to manhood in his native county, where he learned the trade of a tanner, which he followed a number of years in Pennsylvania. In common with the young men of his time, his chief ambition was to have a pleasant and comfortable home of his own, and with this end in view he was married, June 23, 1846, to Miss Ellen W. Montgomery. This lady was born in Clinton Township, Lycoming Co., Pa., Feb. 28, 1826, and is the daughter of John and Mary (Hammond) Montgomery, who died in their native State, Pennsylvania, many years ago, the mother while a young woman and the father at the age of forty-eight years. Their family consisted of seven children, two of whom are living; the sister Elizabeth is the widow of Edward L. Lloyd, of Williamsport, Pa.

Mrs. Robb was only ten years of age at the time of her mother's death. She was carefully educated, first in the common schools, and then in the Female Seminary at Muncie, Pa., remaining with her father until her marriage. Of her union with our subject there have been born five children, three of whom are deceased, namely: Mary H., who died when eighteen months old; John, who died at the age of four years, and Lizzie L. The latter was reared to womanhood and became the wife of W. C. Carpenter, with whom she removed to the town of Ogden, in Utah Territory, and where she died Oct. 3, 1888, leaving one child, a daughter, Eleanor. Two of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Robb are married and living: Washington Hammond Montgomery Robb took to wife Miss Jessie Walbridge, and is farming in Wyoming Precinct on a part of the old homestead; Amelia B. married M. J. Fenn, and lives at Auburn, Nemaha Co., Neb. Mr. and Mrs. R. are members in good standing of the Episcopal Church; they were the first members here and established the church; Bishop Talbot preached the first sermon of the Episcopal Church in this township at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Robb. Our subject cast his first Presidential vote for Gen. Harrison in the year 1836, at Williamsport, Pa., also again in 1840, and since its organization has been a staunch supporter of the Republican party.

Mr. Robb has been prominent in public affairs almost since the time of coming to this county, being a man of more than ordinary intelligence and well informed. In the fall of 1876 he was elected by the Republicans to represent his district in the Nebraska Legislature, and did good service, especially as a member of the Committee of Education. He entertains a genuine interest in the welfare of his adopted county, and has built for himself a worthy record as an honest man and a good citizen.



**E**ZRA S. HAWLEY, a pioneer of Nebraska of 1859, is among the foremost of the wide-awake business men of Nebraska City, to whose zeal and enterprise she is so largely indebted for her position as the leading metropolis of Otoe

County. He is a native of New York State, born in the town of Deposit, Delaware County. His father, William Hawley, was born in Connecticut, April 26, 1789. He was reared in his native State, and when a young man went to the State of New York and settled in Delaware County, of which he became a pioneer. He bought a tract of timber land, cleared a farm, and was a resident there some time, and then moved to the town of Deposit, and kept a hotel there for a number of years. A few years before his death, which occurred Aug. 29, 1871, he moved to Elyria, Ohio, and there passed the remainder of his life. He was twice married. He was united to Esther Benedict June 12, 1812. She died Oct. 16, 1831. His second marriage was May 30, 1832, to Elizabeth (Broade) Childs. She was born in Pennsylvania, May 30, 1792, and died Dec. 22, 1862. There were four children by the first marriage. Our subject is the only child by the second marriage.

Mr. Hawley was but six years old when his parents moved to the village of Deposit, and there he received his education in the public school, and at the academy in the same town. When he was eighteen years old he entered upon his mercantile career as a clerk in a general store in Deposit. In 1857 he started West to seek a home on the broad prairies beyond the Mississippi, intending to settle in Kansas, which was then the scene of the great emigration from the East and South, and the battleground of the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions. He traveled by rail to St. Louis, and from there by boat to Sibley, a few miles below Kansas City, where he met an old townsman, Wheeler Brown. They bought some cattle together and a wagon, and drove to Kansas City to get a supply of provisions, and then proceeded on their way to Kansas. In the afternoon of the third day of their journey it commenced to snow and blow, and they thus had their first experience of a Kansas blizzard. At night they reached a vacant shanty that had been erected by Hackaday and Hull, mail-carriers. The sides and roof of the building were covered with shakes, rived by hand, and there being no chimney, they built a fire on the ground in the middle of the shanty. They then rolled themselves in their blankets on the floor, and passed the night there.

The next morning, the 12th of April, they started again, and had only proceeded a mile when they came to the locality known as Palmyra. There our subject made a claim, and was soon after appointed Postmaster of the town. In May he and Mr. Brown went to Linn County, and made a claim there on land known as the Indian trust land, and soon after, when it came into the market, bought it at Government price. Mr. Hawley soon sold his land, however, and returned to Palmyra, only to find that in his absence someone had jumped his claim in that place. He then went to Kansas City, and was there appointed agent for the Missouri Express Company. Kansas City was then a small place of about 2,500 inhabitants, a frontier town, without any railway connection with the outside world, and with little promise of its present greatness. All the business at that time was done on the levee. The first brick building for business purposes that was built in the city away from the levee was erected in 1857, by Col. Titus J. Nicaragua, for a billiard hall and saloon. In the fall of 1857 the Missouri Express Company sold to the United States Express Company, and our subject was employed as their agent until June, 1858, when he was sent to St Joseph to establish an express line from that town to Omaha for that company. He remained in charge in St. Joseph until March, 1859, when he came to Nebraska City to take charge of the company's office here. Soon after he was appointed agent for the St Joseph and Hannibal steam packet company, and the Luckbaugh stage line. A short time after he formed a partnership with a Mr. Wooley, and engaged in the business of receiving and forwarding freight, Nebraska City then being the headquarters of the freighters, who took supplies to the different military posts, mining camps and towns further west. Their business assumed enormous proportions, and in 1865 the firm forwarded 250,000 bushels of corn and 13,000,000 pounds of merchandise and mining machinery. Corn at that time was worth \$1.50 a bushel in Nebraska City, and \$8.50 in the mountains. In 1864 the firm, in addition to their other business, concluded to try freighting, and consequently bought a lot of cattle and started two trains loaded with corn for Denver; one train of twenty-four wagons, with six pairs of oxen to a

wagon, and the other with twelve wagons, with four mules to each wagon. In 1865 potatoes were very scarce in Denver, selling at fifty cents a pound, and our subject and his partner, concluding that it would be a good speculation to send some to that point, early in the spring of 1866 started a train loaded with the tubers. Before their train arrived, however, potatoes had been carried into the city from other sources, and the prices had consequently been greatly reduced. But the trainmaster had been instructed by Mr. Hawley not to sell for less than fifteen cents a pound, but to leave them with a commission dealer, and the latter concluded to take them at the price asked. In 1867 the Union Pacific Railway had extended its lines to the North Platte, and the occupation of the freighter was gone from that time forth. Mr. Hawley and his partner then turned their attention to mercantile pursuits, and opened a general store, having commenced the sale of farm implements in 1859, and they continued that also. Our subject soon bought his partner's interest in the business, and soon after discontinued all but the sale of farm implements, in which branch of business he is still engaged, selling farm implements great and small, including wagons and carriages, and doing an extensive business. In 1859 he sold the first harvesting-machine ever sold in Nebraska south of the Platte River, and probably the first ever sold in the State.

Mr. Hawley was married, in 1859, to Miss Henrietta Sheldon, and six children have been born to them, three of whom are living—Florence, Fanny and Henrietta. Jay Sheldon, their only son, died when thirteen years of age; Janie died in her eighth year, and Lizzie died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Hawley are members of the Presbyterian Church, and are workers in the Sunday-school. In politics Mr. Hawley is one of the leading Democrats of the city, and he has always affiliated with that party. He has been prominently connected with various enterprises tending to develop the city and benefit the surrounding country. He was one of the incorporators of the Midland Railway Company, which was the nucleus of the various railways that now enter the city. He is a member and director in the Building and Loan Association,

and is President of the Board of Trade; he is also President of the City Council. In 1872 he was elected County Commissioner, and served three years. When the State was admitted to the Union in 1867, Mr. Hawley was much interested in the location of the capital, favoring and working for Lincoln. In the fall of 1867 he attended the sale of lots in that city, and in company with his partner, J. M. Burke, erected the second business building ever built in Lincoln.

Coming to this portion of the country at an early day, and seeing much of the aboriginal owners of the land, becoming conversant with their manners and customs, Mr. Hawley has gained a clear idea of the Indian question, and can tell many interesting things concerning the red man. He relates that in 1860, the Indian agent, Maj. Dennison, lived in Nebraska City, and that the last boat that came up the river in the fall of 1859 had brought him \$40,000 to pay to the Indians that were living on the reservation at Salt Creek. In March, 1860, five Indian chiefs, with about twenty-five braves, appeared in the city and complained that the money had not been paid to them. The citizens called upon the Major for an explanation. He coolly remarked that he made his report to the Government, and not to citizens. The following day the Indians captured Mr. Dennison, bound him with ropes, and took him to the court-house, where a council was held, consisting of five whites and five Indians. The Major finally consented to make a statement of what he had done with the money. It seems that he had made many charges against the Indians, of which the following is a sample: For a certain depredation of the Indians they were charged \$1,500. One of the chiefs explained that the braves had been out hunting, and being unsuccessful, on their return had killed a cow belonging to a white settler, and that they expected and intended to pay for it whatever it might be worth, probably not more than \$20. And there were many other such charges that took up the greater part of the money. The Indians, however, secured some, and returned to their reservation. There was quite a feeling among the citizens regarding the capture of the agent by the Indians; some declaring whatever he might have done the Indians ought not to have molested

him, while others were moved to pity by the distress and sufferings endured by the Indians who had depended upon the money for support during the winter.

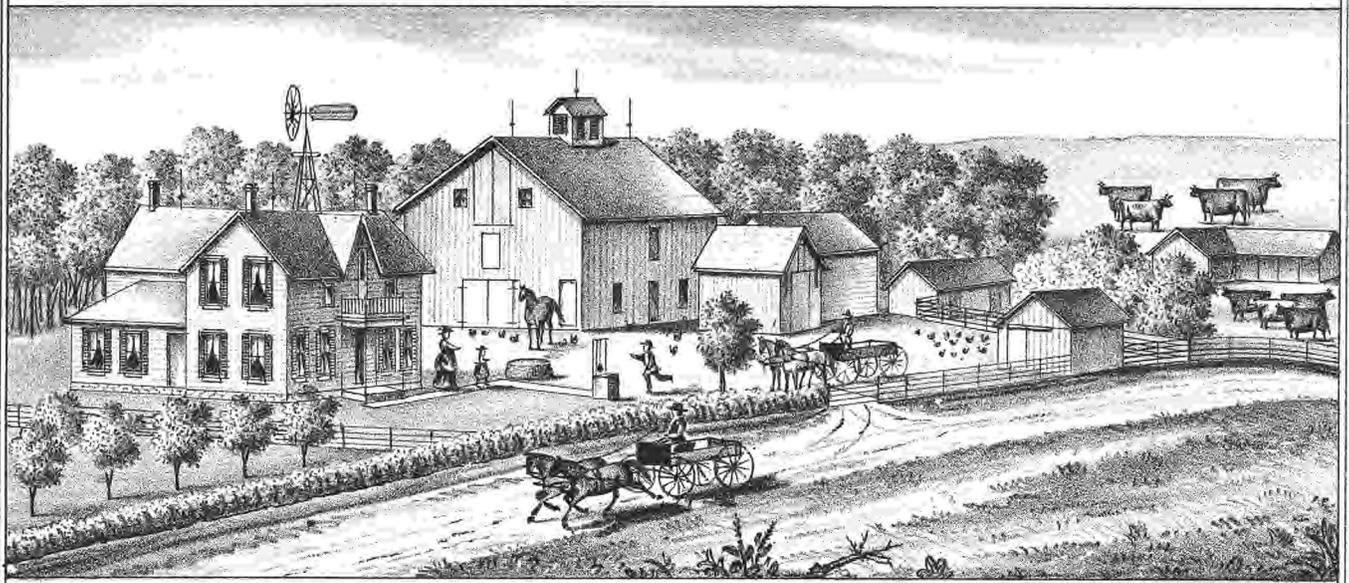
Mr. Hawley is a gentleman of pleasing address, of ripe culture, and of rare energy and stability of character, traits well fitting him for the responsibilities of the important offices that he holds. In him we have the rare example, worthy of being widely followed, of a business man without stain, a wealthy man without selfishness, a charitable man without ostentation.



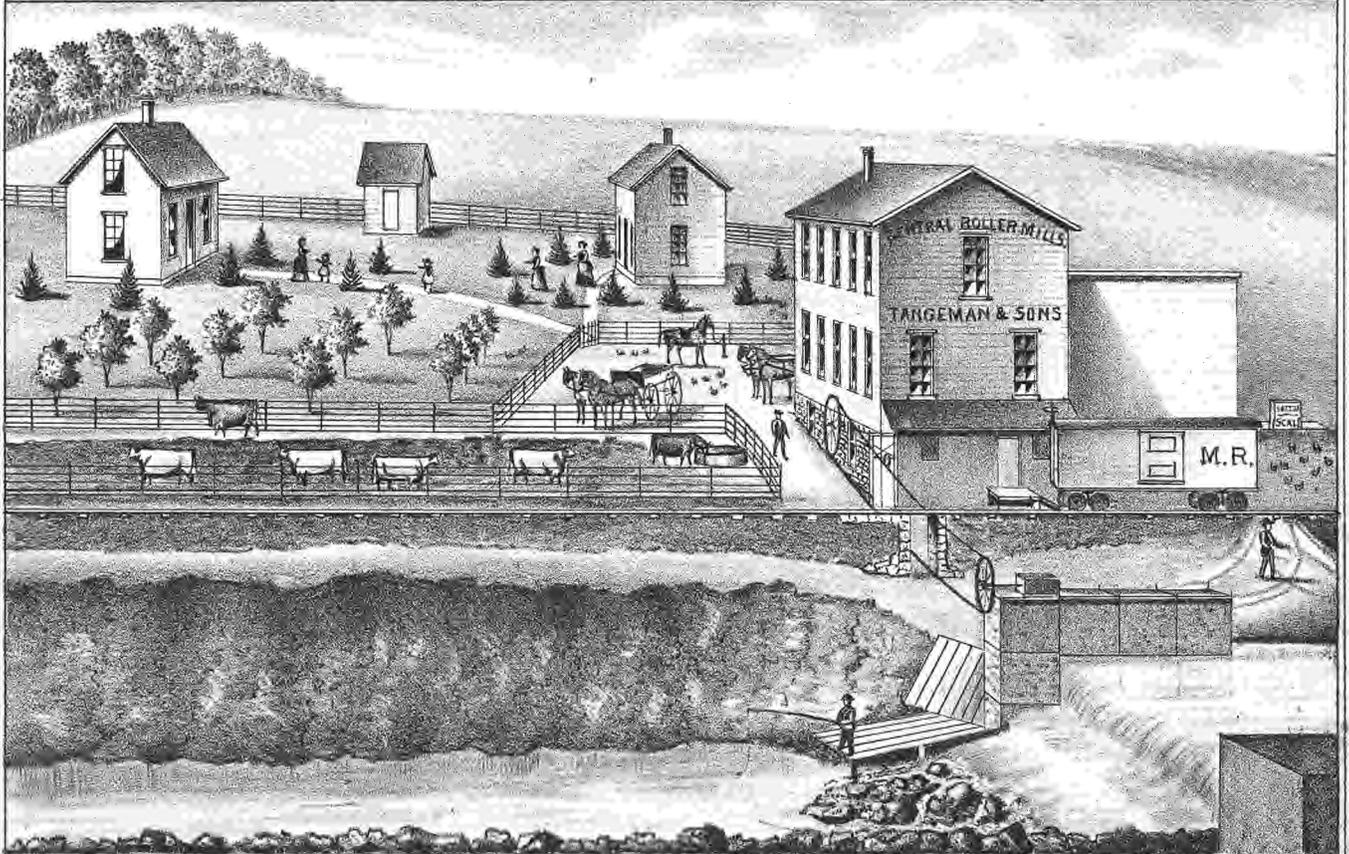
**B**ERMAN H. TANGEMAN, member of the firm of Tangeman & Sons, who operate the well-known flouring-mill on the Nemaha River, in the northwest part of McWilliams Precinct, has reason to be proud of this enterprise, with which he became connected in the spring of 1882. It is one of the leading institutions of its kind in the county, and is patronized by its best citizens far and near. The property is of more than ordinary interest and importance to our subject, the mill having been established by his father, John G. Tangeman.

The present building was erected in 1884, upon the site of the old mill which had been destroyed by fire. It has been fitted up with all the modern machinery, including five double-run of rollers, and operating by the patent process so much in favor in this latter day. There is a 60-horse power engine, driven by water, transported from the wheel to the mill by a cable in an even, unobstructed stream over a groove wheel nine feet in diameter. The entire machinery moves easily and without friction, and in a year's time puts out probably 15,000 barrels of flour, besides meal and other commodities. The firm of Tangeman & Sons are able to compete with the best manufacturers of flour in Southwestern Nebraska, and supply a considerable foreign demand, their patronage extending throughout this and adjoining States. A view of the mill with its surroundings is shown on the accompanying page.

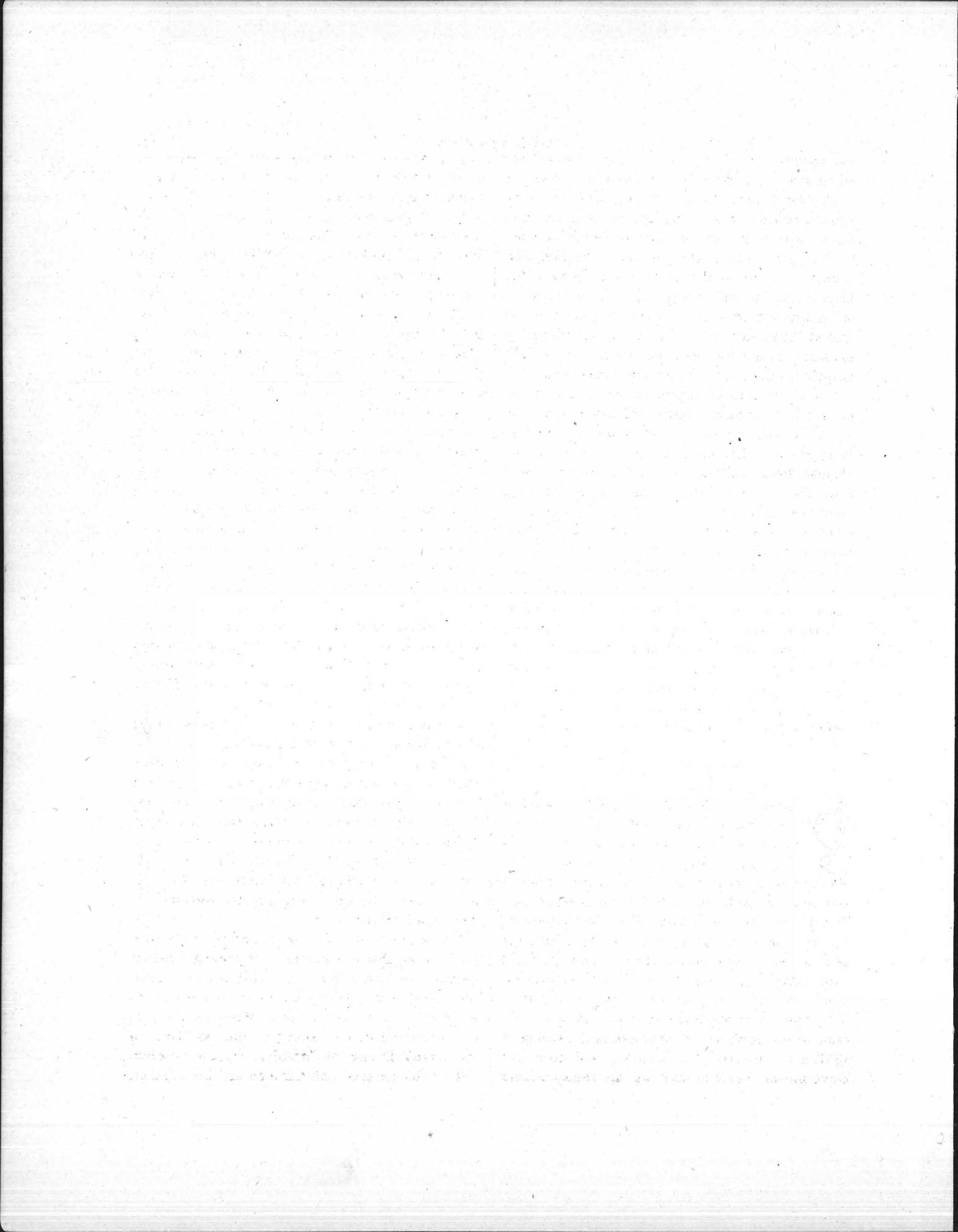
Our subject was the third child of his parents,



RESIDENCE OF HENRY WIECKHORST, SEC. 7. WYOMING PRECINCT.



CENTRAL ROLLER MILLS, TANGEMAN & SONS, SEC. 21. Mc WILLIAMS PRECINCT, OTTOE CO., NEB.



whose family comprised six children, and was born in Clayton County, Iowa, July 4, 1853. He was reared and educated in his native township, and was a youth of sixteen years when the family came to Nebraska. They settled in Osage Precinct, this county, and the father in 1881 established the present mill business, where Herman H. acquired the practical knowledge which is serving him so well at the present time. Since the retirement of his father he has managed the business in an admirable manner, and without embarrassment.

One of the most important events in the life of our subject was his marriage, which occurred Dec. 11, 1881, the maiden of his choice being Miss Mary Hopp. Mrs. Tangeman is a native of Lee County, Iowa, and was born in Charleston Township, Dec. 11, 1861. Her father, Phillip Hopp, a very successful farmer, is a resident of Osage Precinct, where he has lived for many years. The parental family included nine children. Mrs. Tangeman received a fair education in the common schools, and remained with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of one child, a daughter, Leonora L., who was born April 6, 1887. Our subject, politically, is a sound Republican, and, with his excellent wife, a member of the German Evangelical Church, of Osage Precinct. He has never sought office, but at the solicitation of the people of his school district serves as Director.

**H**ENRY WIECKHORST. The homestead of the subject of this sketch, who is one of the most prominent and well-known farmers and stock-raisers of Wyoming Precinct, is finely located on section 7, and embraces 160 acres of land, which has been brought to a highly productive condition. His entire landed estate embraces 480 acres, lying on three different sections, all in first-class condition and provided with suitable buildings. Mr. W. is a fine illustration of the self-made man, beginning in life without other resources than his own industry. He came to the Territory of Nebraska in the spring of 1857, and purchased 160 acres of land from the Government, where he took up his residence, and

where he still lives. A view of the place is presented in this connection.

The neighbors of our subject were few and far between at the time of his settlement in this county, when there were little signs of life to be seen except Indians and wild animals. Not only did he come to a new portion of America, but America itself was new to him, as he had but recently crossed the Atlantic from Holstein, Germany, where he had spent his youth and early manhood, and where he was born Feb. 24, 1828. Thus he had more difficulties to contend with than the native-born American, having to learn a new language and become familiar with the habits of a strange people. Too much credit cannot be given him and others of his countrymen who crossed the Mississippi under like circumstances at that period.

The father of our subject was H. Wieckhorst, a well-to-do farmer of pure German ancestry, who spent his entire life in his native Holstein. He, however, only lived to be middle-aged, dying at the early age of forty-two years. He was married in early manhood to Miss Eldora Harderes, who survived her husband many years, and lived to the age of seventy. The parental household consisted of seven children, four of whom are now living. Of these our subject was the third child and third son of the family, and, together with his brothers and sisters, received a thorough education in his native tongue. After leaving school he went into the regular army, where he spent the years from 1849 to 1852, seeing very little of warfare. In the spring of 1857, after having employed himself at farming with indifferent results, and not being satisfied with his prospects in his native Germany, he resolved to emigrate to the United States. He embarked at Hamburg, and landed in New Orleans, whence he proceeded directly westward to Nebraska Territory.

Our subject came to this country a single man. Some years after his arrival in Wyoming Precinct he made the acquaintance of a most estimable lady, Mrs. Fredricka (Miller) Laas, to whom he was married Aug. 17, 1877. Mrs. Wieckhorst is also of German birth and parentage, and was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, in October, 1845. Her parents were Christin and Dora Miller,

who were also natives of Germany, and are now deceased. Mrs. W., like her husband, received a good common-school education, and was first married in Nebraska to Mr. Fred Laas, with whom she came to America in the spring of 1871. Of that marriage there were no children.

Mr. and Mrs. Wieckhorst began their wedded life together on the farm which they now occupy, but which bears little resemblance to its original condition. It has taken years of time and thousands of dollars to develop the homestead and effect the improvements which are to-day observed with admiration by the passing traveler. Of their union there have been born three sons, the eldest of whom, Peter, died when four weeks old. Henry P. was born July 31, 1882, and Herman, Oct. 17, 1886. These are bright and intelligent boys, and are being well educated and carefully trained. Mr. Wieckhorst, politically, is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He and his estimable wife were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere.

The Wieckhorst residence is one of the handsomest in Wyoming Precinct, and with its adjacent buildings occupies a gentle elevation, which commands a fine view of the surrounding country. In the rear is an apple orchard in bearing condition, and there is an abundance of the smaller fruits, which yield bounteously in their season. The dwelling, with its surroundings, completes the ideal picture of the country home of people blessed with cultivated tastes and abundant means.



**A**NDREW J. REYNOLDS. This gentleman is one of the much valued citizens of South Branch Precinct, where he owns a very fine farm comprising 200 acres on sections 29 and 32. He is prominent as one of the progressive and successful men in his line, and also as a temperance worker and in religious circles. His father, Thomas Reynolds, was born in Orange County, N. Y.; his mother, whose maiden name was Sarah Benedict, was born near Obed, N. Y. After their marriage Mr. Reynolds, Sr., continued farming in his native State. He took much interest in political

affairs, and was an active worker in that arena; he was numbered among the Democratic party, but later in life became one of the Free-Soil party. Although frequently called upon, he never aspired to or would hold office. His life closed in 1856, his death occurring in Yates County, N. Y., after a life of seventy-four years. He had survived his wife about two years, her demise occurring in 1854, she being at the time fifty-seven years of age.

The grandfather of our subject was in the Revolutionary War, serving as a private under George Washington. He was wounded several times; one especially caused him considerable suffering; it was in the right side, and for some reason did not heal well and kept him in confinement longer than had been expected; but finally it healed, and he was enabled to serve until nearly the close of the war, when he was taken prisoner by the British and placed in a church, and was not further noticed until almost dead from starvation. He is reputed to have been the largest and stoutest man in the regiment, and also the best wrestler.

The family of which our subject is a member included twelve children, viz: Phoebe A., Ellen, Pattie J. (who died when twelve years of age), Joseph, William, Andrew J., Angeline (deceased), Sarah, Hannah, J. Brooks (who died when three years of age), Daniel and Thomas Benton. Daniel enlisted in the 19th New York Infantry, in 1861, and served for two years. In the battle of Antietam, under Gen. Banks, he was taken from the regiment and made foreman of bridge builders. While busily engaged they had all their clothing, tools and weapons taken from them, but managed to effect their escape; they were taken by surprise by a party of Confederates. Thomas B. volunteered at the same time as his brother, but being deaf was rejected. Later, when men were necessary and the need pressing, he was drafted and served under Gen. Gilmore. He was taken prisoner and sent to Andersonville, where he was confined seven months, and when released was in a semi-starved condition. Upon returning home fever sought to effect what prison had left undone, but he recovered, although his constitution could never again be what it was prior to the imprisonment.

The subject of our sketch was born in Yates

County, N. Y., near the town of Middlesex, on the 30th of November, 1828. Until he was twenty-one years of age he made his home with his parents, the years being filled with the engagements of school and home until he came to years of discretion, when he became his father's assistant. In beginning life for himself he, in 1858, concluded to go West; he stopped about twelve months in Cook County, Ill., and then went to Pike's Peak. The gold fever was at its height, and he intended to get his share if possible; he had crossed Missouri and was in this State when there was a stampede from the gold district back home. The reports from those returning were such as to decide him to remain in Nebraska; he staid in this county for one year, and then went on to the mountains, where he worked for about eighteen months. He was beaten out of his wages, and did not find life so agreeable as might have been expected, and therefore returned to South Branch, took up his present property of 160 acres, and settled upon it.

In the beginning of his new home Mr. Reynolds found everything to do. There was nothing here but the raw, uncultivated prairie, neither house, barn, fence nor field. Settlers were very few, his being the third homestead claim that was entered in the county, but with strong courage and determination to succeed he went to work; speedily his house was set up, barns and other farm buildings erected, and one by one the various improvements were made. About that time he purchased an additional forty acres, and this has shared with the original 160 in being brought to a well-nigh perfect condition for agricultural purposes. There are few if any farms in the county presenting a better appearance, or actually more productive than that of our subject.

On the 6th of April, 1853, in Yates County, N. Y., was celebrated the marriage of Miss Eleanor M. Bassett and Mr. Reynolds. His wife is the daughter of David Bassett, of New York, and the reader is referred to the sketch of that gentleman found in this volume for items of interest connected with her family. She was born in Allegany County, N. Y., on the 10th of April, 1830. She is a thoroughly educated and accomplished lady, and has taught school for about seven terms. They have adopted

two children: Leonora Hughes, who has made her home in Denver, Col., and Edna Reynolds, who was born on the 7th of September, 1876, and still resides with our subject and his wife.

Mr. Reynolds has been Assessor for one year; he has also been on the School Board three years. He is, politically, a very strong Prohibitionist, and is very active in that cause. It is not, therefore, surprising to learn that he is an enthusiastic member of the I. O. G. T., and is affiliated with the lodge at Rockford. Both Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and were, perhaps, the principal instigators of the enterprise to build a church house. He deeded the land for the purpose, gave largely himself and solicited the greater part of the money required for the building, and helped in many other ways. For many years he has been one of the Class-Leaders, and also Superintendent of the Sunday-school; Mrs. Reynolds is a teacher in the Sunday-school. There are very few families more esteemed or highly respected than this, and the community is favored in having one so interested, earnest and active.

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**E**ZRA T. CAMPBELL, M. D. The medical profession is most worthily represented in the subject of this sketch, who has been located in Nebraska City since March of 1888. He is well educated and of a good family, being the son of Hon. J. C. Campbell, M. D., a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume. Our subject was born in the city where he now resides, June 24, 1864, and is consequently just entering upon a career which bids fair to bring him success and honor. He completed his regular course of study in the High School and the Nebraska College at the age of sixteen years, and soon afterward began teaching, which he followed two years in Otoe County and one year in Nemaha County.

At an early age Dr. Campbell had resolved to enter the medical profession, and after being graduated from the college in Nebraska City in 1883, in 1884 he entered the National Medical College, or Medical Department of Columbia University, at Washington, D. C., where he studied until 1888.

Prior to this, having had ready access to his father's extensive library, he improved the opportunities to inform himself, and thus became well fitted for the duties which lay before him. He stood at the head of his class during the whole course, and after four years spent in the college at Washington, was graduated in the class of '88. He carried off the only prize in clinics. He had a fine opportunity of becoming acquainted with many of the eminent physicians of the day, and met many more in the National Medical Congress which was held at Washington in June, 1887. In that city also he had the good fortune to meet many prominent political men, and lost no opportunity to inform himself both in regard to his profession and the stirring National events which were then transpiring at the capital.

While in Washington Dr. Campbell was one of the attending physicians of the Woman's Dispensary. He is a close student and extensive reader, and keeps himself well posted concerning the new theories which are constantly being advanced in connection with the profession. He cast his first Presidential vote for Cleveland, and vigorously upholds the principles of his party, working actively in its support. In 1888 he was elected Vice President of the Young Men's Democratic Club of Nebraska City, and did especially good service during the campaign. Religiously, he is a member of the Presbyterian Church.

The Campbells of Scotland have been celebrated in poetry and history, and the Campbells of Nebraska trace their ancestry back to that branch who, centuries ago, ranged themselves under the standard of McCallum More in the series of struggles which led to the expulsion of the Stuarts from the British throne. The precise date of the arrival of the first Campbell in America is not positively known, but it is believed a number of them came over in the three ships "George, Ann and John of Dublin," the vessels leaving Ireland May 20, 1729, and arriving on the American coast in August following.

The Campbells then settled in Pennsylvania, and were the compeers of other noted Scotch and Irish families, with whom they intermarried, and perpetuated the vigorous race of people which, to this day, commands universal admiration on account of

both its physical and mental qualities. The Campbells, after adopting America as their country, were as eager in its defense and perpetuity as had been their ancestors before them in protecting their own native land from the ravages of the invador; and in the Revolutionary War they were numbered among those who fought most courageously in the struggle for Colonial independence. After laying down the implements of warfare, they entered fully as vigorously into the pursuits of agriculture and the learned professions—became preachers, writers, doctors, lawyers, lecturers, statesmen, legislators, congressmen—in fact, have represented all the honorable employments for which this country has become famous.

The history of this remarkable family it is hoped will still be preserved with that careful fidelity which has always made a record attracting the attention of the reflective mind, and has, at the same time, had associated with it the tinge of romance, making it deeply attractive to the story lover.

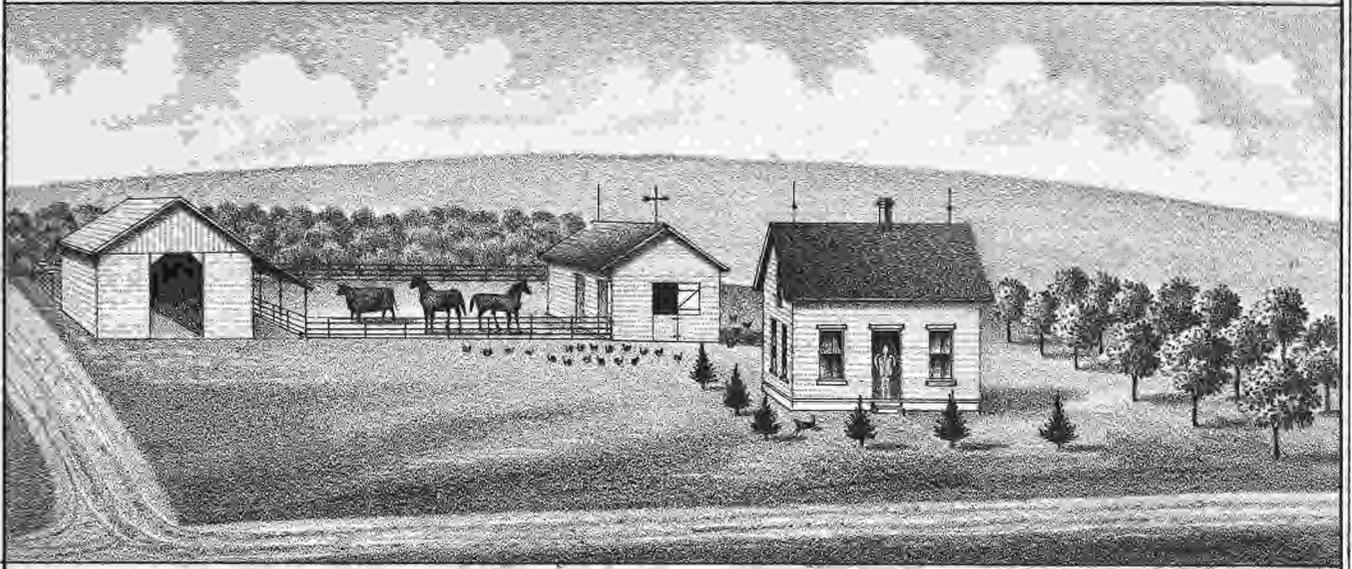


**A**LBERT L. YOUNG is the owner of a very valuable and highly productive farm of 200 acres on section 35, in North Branch Precinct, and is one of the capable citizens of the county. He was born in Onondaga County, N. Y., on the 7th of March, 1852, and is the son of Josiah H. and Mary (Cook) Young. The father of our subject resides at Berlin. When Albert was a little fellow six years of age his mother died, leaving a place in his life that could never be filled by another.

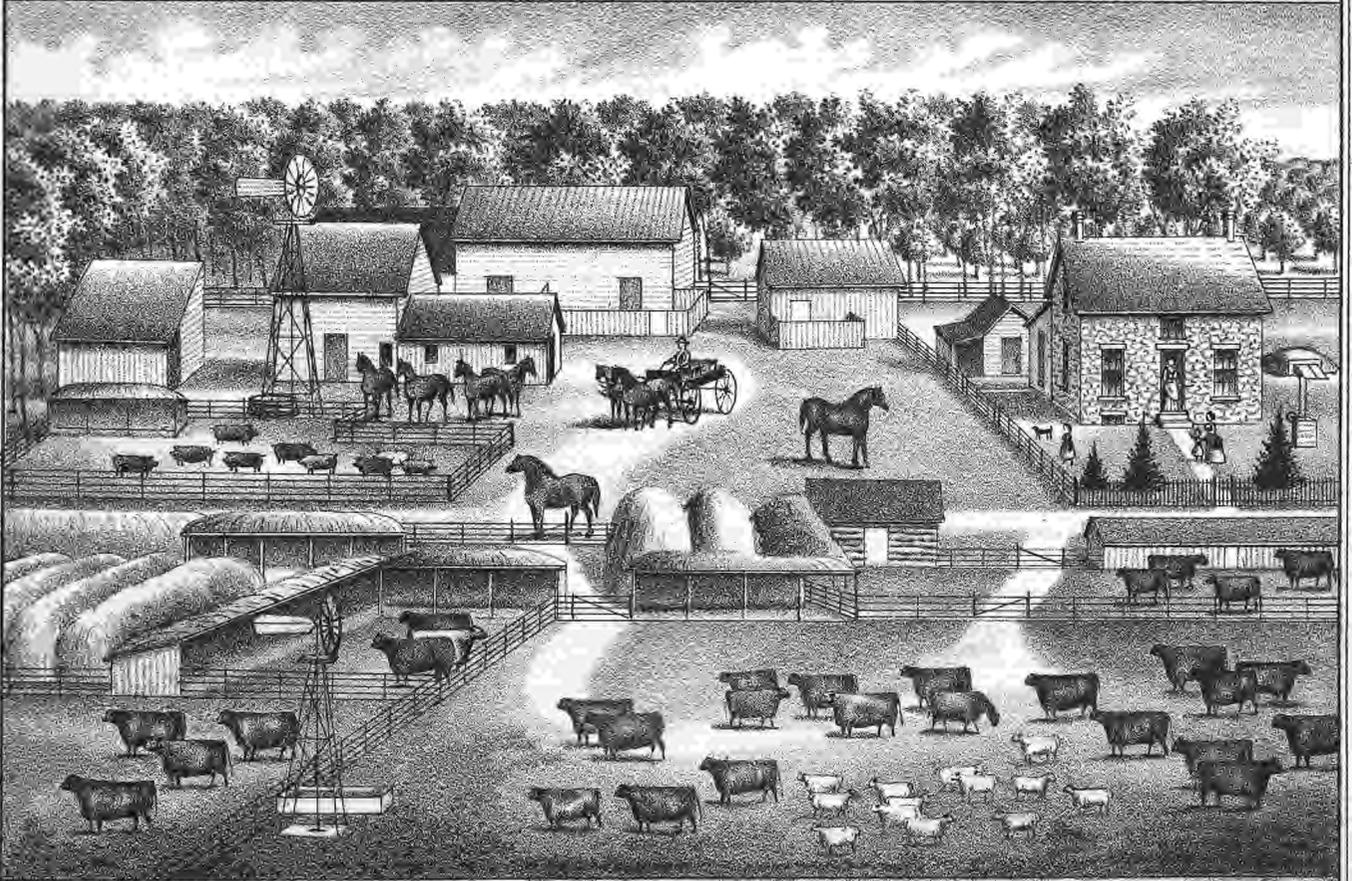
With the exception of about eighteen months in the years 1859-60, when our subject's father was on the Pacific Slope, during which period Albert lived with his grandparents and an uncle, he had remained with the family at home, and when, in 1872, his father came to Nebraska and settled on section 1, Syracuse Precinct, he accompanied him, and continued upon the farm as his father's helper for about four years.

In 1876 Mr. Young was united in marriage with Lou E. Annabel, the amiable daughter of Isaac and Anna (Crichton) Annabel. This lady was born in





RESIDENCE OF JOHN PETERSON, SEC. 15. (NORTH) RUSSELL PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF ELIJAH LUFF, SEC. 33. (NORTH) RUSSELL PRECINCT.

Winona County, Minn., on the 16th of June, 1859. Her education was received in the district school. Mr. and Mrs. Young first settled upon the property where they now reside, the first purchase including 160 acres. This was speedily brought into shape and prepared for his purpose, well improved and supplied with a good residence and the needed out-buildings for farming purposes and stock-raising. The latter has been the chief occupation of our subject, and that which has enabled him to make the success in life that he has.

Isaac Annabel, the father of Mrs. Young, was born in Saratoga, N. Y., on the 5th of November, 1810, and was the son of Prince and Ruth (Howland) Annabel. The family is of French extraction, but for several generations have been citizens of New England. Mr. and Mrs. Annabel have four children living, viz: Lucy Jane, Lorenzo, George, and Lou E., the wife of our subject. Mr. and Mrs. Young are the parents of three children—Nettie Bell, Guy Garfield and Ralph Annabel.

Mr. and Mrs. Young have made many friends in this district, and are much esteemed for their personal qualities and worth. They move in the best local society and are always accorded a cordial welcome. Our subject is thoroughly interested in all questions of political importance, and usually votes the Republican ticket, of which party he has always been a firm friend and ardent admirer.



**E**LIJAH LUFF. The reader is here introduced to a compendious biographical sketch of the largest land-owner and perhaps most prominent farmer of Russell Precinct. This gentleman operates 1,080 acres of land on sections 33, 19 and 4, and is chiefly engaged in the buying, feeding and raising of thoroughbred and high-grade stock. He is at the same time one of the early settlers of Otoe County, and has been energetic in the various enterprises and undertakings that have advanced its interests.

Mr. Luff is the son of William and Ann (Wallen) Luff. His father was born in Somersetshire, England, as was also his mother. Both come of good old English families, of what might perhaps there

be called the upper middle classes, a distinction happily unknown and largely not understood in our free land. His parents died respectively in the years 1878 and 1880, the father being seventy, and the mother seventy-two years of age. They were the parents of seven children, who received the following names: Betsey, William, Joseph (deceased), George, Matilda, Elijah, and Sidney (deceased).

The native place of the subject of our sketch is in Somersetshire. He was born on Good Friday of the year 1834. Until he was twenty years of age he continued at home. He received no schooling as a child, and has felt the injury resulting therefrom all his life, and has labored hard to overcome the same.

In the year 1855 Mr. Luff sailed from Bristol on the good ship "Try," and landed at New York City after a dull and wearying journey of six weeks, experiencing for the greater part of the time bad weather, which was by no means helpful to the comfort or spirits of those who were invading Neptune's realms for the first time.

In beginning life in the New World, our subject went to Wayne County, Ohio, and worked for one summer at masonry; in the winter he found employment on the railroad. In the spring of 1856 he went by rail to Leavenworth, Kan., thence by steamer to Weston. From there he footed it to St. Joseph, a distance of thirty miles, his entire earthly belongings and property packed in an old carpet bag that he carried upon his back in primitive style. From St. Joseph he came to Nebraska City, and spent two years here, and in 1859 he went to Russell Precinct, going from there to Pike's Peak, but being unsuccessful in mining gold, returned after four months, and took up the remunerative, though sometimes dangerous, employment of freighting from Nebraska City west to Denver. He continued thus engaged during the greater part of the war period.

On the 1st of January, 1863, our subject made a change; leaving his freighting he homesteaded the present farm whereon stands his residence. It was then in nowise different to the prairie surrounding it, and he had all the work he could do to bring it to anything like a right condition. He had a fine practical knowledge, and is naturally a fine business

manager. From time to time as he was able he bought land, adding piece by piece until the present noble estate is the result. All is in Russell Precinct. He has a large herd of cattle and feeds perhaps fifty more, but his chief pleasure on the farm is his horses, of which he has some twenty-five or thirty head, all of standard breed, and either pure blood or very high grade. He owns the well-known animals Compeer and Coleus.

Mr. and Mrs. Luff celebrated their union in wedlock in Russell, upon the 6th of November, 1863. The wife of our subject was prior to her marriage Miss Charlotte Mills. Her parents, William and Jane Mills, were born in Somersetshire, England. Her father was a very prosperous farmer in his native country, and died there in 1872, aged sixty-nine, having survived his wife almost twenty years, her demise occurring when she was forty-seven years of age. Mrs. Luff, who is also of English birth, came to this country from Bristol in the year 1863, and came into this State with the above-mentioned result. She is the eldest of three children; her brother George is now deceased, and her sister Harriet is now in Michigan. She is the mother of six children, viz: George, Albert, Annie, Thomas, Charles and Alice, all of whom are still with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Luff hold a very high position in society, and are much esteemed, both on account of the sterling qualities of their character and their social position. Their family is among the best in the county, and in all that means true home life they are in the front rank. As a citizen, man and friend, Mr. Luff is universally regarded by those who know him worthy of every regard. His political sympathies are with the Republican party, and have been since he came to understand the political institutions and principles of his adopted country.

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**C**HRISTIAN BISCHOFF, the champion stock-raiser of Otoe County, owns and operates 400 acres of finely improved land, occupying a portion of sections 28 and 29 in Rock Creek Precinct. As one of the self-made men of Southern Nebraska he has built up for himself a good record,

his career having been marked by great industry and perseverance, and the result of which he cannot fail to look upon with satisfaction. His homestead is noticeable for its handsome and substantial buildings, the dwelling being roomy and convenient, and the barns and outhouses finely adapted to the shelter of stock and the storing of grain. His land is well watered by Sand Creek, and the soil has responded bountifully to the labors of the agriculturist.

Mr. Bischoff ranks among the pioneer settlers of Nebraska Territory, coming within its limits as early as the spring of 1858. He then pre-empted 160 acres in Rock Creek Precinct, and began the labors which have been crowned with such flattering success. Prior to this he had been living in the vicinity of Mendota, Ill., where he was employed as a farm laborer eighteen months. To this point he had migrated from Kenosha, Wis., where he settled in the fall of 1854, upon his emigration to the United States.

Our subject, a native of the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, was born Sept. 9, 1834, and there he lived until a youth of nineteen years, receiving a thorough education, and upon leaving school was employed at farming. He was accompanied to the United States by his father, Christian Bischoff, Sr., the mother having died when our subject was a little lad four years of age. She in her girlhood was Miss Dorthia Detrich, and died at the birth of her ninth child, leaving four sons and three daughters. Two children had died before the decease of the mother. The survivors accompanied their father to America, and the latter located in Chicago, Ill., where his death took place three months later, when he was sixty-six years old. Both parents had been members of the Lutheran Church, and were people of honesty and integrity, and of good standing in their community.

After the death of their father the children worked out by the month. Christian came to Nebraska a single man, but not long afterward met his fate in the person of Mrs. Elizabeth (Neolch) Fuchs, to whom he was married in the spring of 1860. Mrs. Bischoff, also a native of the German Empire, was born in the Kingdom of Wurtemberg, May 7, 1832. She crossed the Atlantic with her brothers

and sisters early in life, and was joined later by her father, John Neolch, who had been twice married in Germany, and where both wives died. The first was the mother of Mrs. B., and her maiden name was Godlieber Eslinger. The father was in good circumstances in Germany, and spent his last years with his daughter, Mrs. Bischoff, passing away at a ripe old age at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Seypher, in Holt County, Mo.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bischoff there have been born eight children, three of whom, Lizzie, Christ and an infant unnamed, are deceased. The survivors are: Johanna, the wife of William Eden, a well-to-do farmer of Rock Creek Precinct; Christian, Jr., Caroline, Henry and Anna at home with their parents. Mrs. B. by her first marriage is the mother of two children, Joseph and John, who are now married, and reside in Otoe County. Her husband, Joseph Fuchs, was a native of Germany, and died in Cass County, Ill. Mr. and Mrs. B. are active members of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a warm adherent of the Republican party.



**H**ON. J. C. CAMPBELL, M. D., the oldest practicing physician not only of this county but the State at large, is the subject of a history more than ordinarily interesting. He has been identified with the interests of Nebraska since its Territorial days, and figured prominently in governmental matters, and all the various enterprises tending to its development and prosperity. Although having nearly attained his fourscore years, he is remarkably well preserved, mentally and physically, standing among his compeers like the sturdy oak, scarcely touched by the storms and changes of three-quarters of a century. He is a man of fine physique, of noble and commanding presence, and Nature formed within him a heart fully in keeping with his stature. He counts among the people of Otoe County hosts of friends, who have watched a remarkable career with that admiration well worthy of its achievements.

Dr. Campbell was born near the city of Lexington, in Fayette County, Ky., Dec. 22, 1812, and is the only surviving member of his father's family.

The latter, Dr. John P. Campbell, was born in Rockbridge County, Va., and married Miss Isabella McDowell, a native of the same. He was finely educated, having been graduated from Hampden Sidney College, and at an early period in his life entered upon a successful career as a medical practitioner, which, however, he abandoned later on to enter the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. Although a slave-holder by inheritance, Providence had created him with a hatred for the peculiar institution, and for the purpose of freeing his slaves he changed his residence from Kentucky to Ohio. In the former State a law required a man who freed his colored people to give security for their support in years to come, so that they should not become a burden to the State.

The father of our subject upon his removal to Ohio located in Chillicothe. He had been born and reared as the son of a wealthy Kentuckian, but such were his conscientious scruples that in his later years he was willing to forego many of the luxuries by which he had been surrounded in order to labor in the Master's vineyard. His career, however, was cut short by his untimely death, when he was about forty-seven years of age.

Mrs. Campbell, the mother, after the death of her husband returned to Kentucky with her children, and there fell to her inheritance more slaves, but she, following in the footsteps of her lamented husband, returned with them to Ohio, setting them free also, and in Chillicothe lived with her children for several years. Finally she returned to her native State, where she spent the remainder of her life, passing away at the age of sixty-five years. She was the mother of six children, namely: James McD., Margaret M., Mary U., Jane L., John Calvin (our subject) and Edward H. All of these lived to mature years, but as we have said, all but our subject are now deceased.

The earliest recollections of our subject are mostly of Chillicothe, Ohio, to which he was taken by his parents first when scarcely more than an infant. He was quite young at the time of his father's death, and, much to his regret, has no recollection of one so closely allied to him, and who so nobly performed his part in life. John C. was given a good education in his youth, attending both the common

and a private school, and at the age of seventeen entered the Miami State University of Ohio, where he took the classical course of four years, and from which institution he was graduated with honors about the time of reaching his majority.

The youngest brother of our subject had crossed the Mississippi, and was engaged in mercantile business at Burlington, Iowa, and thither John C. now repaired to join him, not even taking a vacation in which to revisit his home. He had always been bright and ambitious, and thoughtful beyond his years, and now began in earnest the more serious business of life. Soon after reaching the Hawkeye State he pre-empted a quarter-section of land in the vicinity of the embryo town of Burlington, and then made arrangements to pursue the study of medicine, under the instruction of Drs. Lowe and Hickock, in whose office he remained a number of years. He was thus prepared for entrance into the medical department of Kemper College at St Louis, and which is now the medical department of the State University. Two years later he was graduated from this institution, and returning to Iowa commenced the practice of his profession, where he remained three or four years, and built up a good patronage.

During his residence at this place Dr. Campbell was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Henderson, a lady of excellent family, and own cousin to the late Hon. Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana. This lady became the mother of one child, and died at Mt. Pleasant, in less than two years after her marriage. The child also soon followed its mother to the silent land. Upon his removal from this place Dr. Campbell established an office in New Purchase, now Agency City, six miles from Ottumwa, and in the spring of 1845 contracted a second marriage, with Miss Martha Rogers. This lady was born in Missouri, and is the daughter of Dr. Rogers, who was a native of Virginia, and his wife of Tennessee; they spent their last years in Missouri. Of this union there were born three sons—John James, Edward Hugh and William H. The two elder are leading business men of Montana, engaged in the drug trade; William H. is a clerk of the Morton House of Nebraska City.

In the fall of 1854 Dr. Campbell once more

changed his residence, this time choosing Nebraska City, and of this he has since been a resident. Thus a pioneer of three Territories, viz: Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska, he has had the privilege of witnessing most remarkable changes, and during the vicissitudes of a long and useful career has been no unimportant factor in their development, especially of the latter.

From Agency City, Iowa, Dr. Campbell removed to Sidney, in Fremont County, Iowa, where he became especially interested in the establishment and maintenance of schools, and was elected and re-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, discharging the duties of this responsible office in a most praiseworthy manner. As soon, however, as the purchase of lands from the Otoe Indians was consummated, he found his preferences greatly drawn toward this section of country, and resolved to identify himself with the people of Nebraska Territory. He was one of the very first to make settlement, and as early as 1855 was elected to the Territorial Legislature. The year following he declined to be a candidate, desiring to give his attention more closely to his profession, but in 1857 he was again persuaded to take upon himself the responsibilities of a Legislator. He then was given a period of rest until 1861, when he was elected to the Territorial Council. His cool and temperate judgment and wise foresight were especially useful at that period in the history of Nebraska, and there were few enterprises in which his opinion was not sought and his influence solicited in furthering the interest of the Territory struggling to become a State.

It is hardly necessary to state that Dr. Campbell was a leading member of the convention called for the purpose of drawing up a constitution for the proposed State of Nebraska. Among his coadjutors at that time were Judges Mason, Lake, Manderson, Wakeley, Woolworth, Butler, etc. The first document drawn up in this connection was rejected by the vote of the people, on account of the provision for the taxation of church property.

Mrs. Martha Campbell departed this life at her home in Nebraska City, in 1861. Our subject contracted a third matrimonial alliance in Nebraska City in the spring of 1862, with Miss Sarah P. Childs, who was born in the city of Philadelphia, Pa., in 1829. Her

father, Capt. William Childs, was commander of a merchant vessel, a man of high character, remarkable intelligence, of English birth and ancestry, and closely allied to the Rothschilds of London. During a mutiny on board his ship he was foully murdered, and his remains cast into the sea. He had been married in Philadelphia, Pa., to Mrs. E. Brodt, and their home was in Philadelphia, Broome and Delaware Counties. Mrs. Campbell came to the West with her half-brother, E. S. Hawley. Of her marriage with our subject there were born one daughter and two sons—Henrietta E., Ezra T. and Paul M. Henrietta is the wife of Rev. G. Sumner Baskerville, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, and at present stationed in Tower City, Dak.; of Ezra T., a popular and prominent physician of Nebraska City, a sketch will be found elsewhere in this work; Paul M., who has a taste for the profession of law, of which he purposes soon to become a student, is at present in the United States Railroad Mail Service, from Pacific Junction, Iowa, to McCook, Neb. Mrs. Sarah P. Campbell died at the home of her daughter Henrietta E., in Dakota, Aug. 11, 1888, aged sixty-two years.

The earlier years of Dr. Campbell were particularly signalized by his interest in education, and those acquainted with the early history of Nebraska City will recollect that in the early days its public school system was far ahead of any in this or adjoining States. He had for his associate in this good work Dr. Parker, and once every week they visited every class of this city school, not excepting those of the colored pupils. Dr. Campbell for six years was a working member of the School Board, and even after his withdrawal did not lose the warm interest which he had always felt. As auxiliary to the school he has been the warm defender of religious institutions, and an almost lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church in different places. He assisted in the organization of the churches at Burlington, Mt. Pleasant and Sidney, Iowa, and later in that of Nebraska City. One remarkable fact in connection with these was that the same minister, Rev. Cole, was at different times stationed at the four places.

The career of a man who has lived so long and so well presents to the reflective mind a picture am-

ply worthy its attention, and one that it is most pleasant to dwell upon. Dr. Campbell has labored faithfully, and learned well all through his life, improving the opportunities for the acquirement of knowledge, and for doing good to his fellowmen. He has thus built up for himself a monument more enduring than marble, and one on which his descendants may look with pride in after years. The hosts of friends whom he has gathered around him form a source of comfort and of honor to him during the years of his green old age, and trust that he may for years yet be enabled to shed around him that bright and healthy influence which has been one of the marked features of a most remarkable character.



**C**HARLES BREHM occupies a position among the general farmers and stock-raisers of McWilliams Precinct; his property and home are upon section 32, the farm comprising 160 acres in an excellent state of cultivation. His farm buildings are complete, substantially built, and of convenient arrangement. When he took up this property in 1874 there was nothing to distinguish this land from the virgin prairie around.

Prior to coming to Nebraska in 1873 Mr. Brehm had resided in Lee County, Iowa, having from the year 1869 successfully operated a farm in that county, settling there immediately upon coming from his native land. He was born in Bavaria, on the 28th of July, 1804. He is the son of Carl Brehm, and grew to manhood in his native place, was educated in its schools, and afterward learned the trade of a carpenter.

When twenty-one years of age the father of our subject enlisted in the German Army and went to fight under Napoleon in the French wars. He fought at the battle of Leipsic, and the night of the 1st of January, 1813, while crossing the River Rhine he was thrown into the stream, but rescued later by his comrades. He was soon after taken sick but soon recovered; this was the only occasion he could remember that he was ill. He died from old age, having attained seventy-five years.

The subject of our sketch is the youngest but

two of eight children who lived to attain their majority. He served in the Bavarian regiment of the German Army for five years, was in the War of 1866, and participated in some of the minor engagements. Shortly after receiving his discharge he came to the United States and located in Franklin Township, Lee Co., Iowa, entered land and began farming.

In 1871 Mr. Brehm was united in marriage with Miss Christina Frank, in Lee County. This lady was born in Bavaria on the 21st of January, 1849. She came to America with her parents in 1855, and lived with them upon the farm which they took in Lee County. Both are now quite aged, and are residing in Franklin County of the same State. Her parents were members of the German Evangelical Church, and the wife of our subject was brought up in that religious faith. She was educated in the Iowa schools, and is thoroughly domesticated. She is the mother of eight children, whose names are as follows: Fred, Minnie, Charles, William, Phillip, Jr., Mary, Martha and Jacob.

Our subject and wife are members of the Evangelical Church. In politics our subject is independent. He has made the institutions of his adopted county a study, and has learned to understand and appreciate them fully.



**W**ILLIAM REDFIELD. The main points in the history of the subject of our sketch, who is now a resident of the city of Syracuse, are as follows: He was born in LaHarpe, Hancock Co., Ill., Sept. 14, 1845, and is the son of William and Mary (Scott) Redfield. His parents were natives of Livingston County, N. Y., where they were reared and married. They moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where they lived until 1843, then moved to Illinois and settled among the pioneers of Hancock County. There the father improved a farm which now lies adjacent to the flourishing town of LaHarpe. Three years later, however, he pulled up stakes, and crossing the Mississippi located in Liberty, Mo. Not being pleased with this locality he, in the fall of that same year, went to

Southwestern Iowa, settling on what is now known as the old Shesher farm. The country was wild and new, and Indians were plentiful. In 1848 the family moved to Silver Creek, Mills County, and the father improved three farms in that locality. In 1856 he changed his residence to Fremont County, Iowa, and opened three more farms. Then going into Page County he took up a tract of raw prairie, and there also opened up a farm, which became valuable, and of which he retained possession until his death, which occurred in 1878, while on a visit to the home of his nephew in Johnson County, Neb. The mother of our subject survived her husband only three years, her death taking place at Shenandoah, Iowa, in 1881. The household circle included seven children, of whom six are living. George Z. Redfield is a well-to-do farmer of Nemaha County, Neb.; Hiram and Frank are in business at Shenandoah, Iowa; Tryphena is the wife of D. W. Hall, of Creston, and Rebecca married Sylvester Whiting, of Otter Tail County, Minn., where she now lives, but when married they were residents of Mills County, Iowa.

William Redfield remained a member of the parental household until July, 1871. He had by the exercise of great perseverance acquired a common-school education, and developed into a youth of more than ordinary intelligence on the frontier. Now starting out for himself he made his way to Salt Lake City, Utah, and took charge of a store of general merchandise in the American Fork Mining District, forty miles from Salt Lake. He was thus occupied a period of five years, and until the camp was broken up. Then returning to Shenandoah, Iowa, he dealt in horses until 1876. He was variously occupied thereafter until 1885, when he took up his residence in Blue Springs, Gage Co., Neb., from there removed to Nebraska City, and thence to Syracuse. He still owns property in Shenandoah.

Our subject while a resident of Utah made the acquaintance of Miss Sarah E. Browning, and was married to this lady in Shenandoah, Iowa, Dec. 1, 1879. Mrs. Redfield was born and reared in Salt Lake City, and is the daughter of James A. and Sarah (McGera) Browning, the former of whom is an accountant and bookkeeper in Salt Lake City, in the employ of one of its leading firms. The mother

died about 1882. Of this union there have been born five children, namely: Ethel, Frederick, Carl, Cleveland and Clyde. Mr. Redfield is a staunch Democrat, politically, and socially, a member of the Masonic fraternity. He was Master of the lodge at Tabor, Iowa, while attending college there.

**L** EONARD T. SPICKNALL. This gentleman, who represents the brickmaking industry in Talmage, and is in fact an enterprising and prosperous manufacturer of that most necessary article of building material, has in his yards all the modern appliances for the turning out of an almost perfect article, and manufactures over 600,000 per annum. He has been connected with this branch of industry at this place since 1882, and has enjoyed an enviable reputation and a large and extensive patronage throughout the entire surrounding district, supplying the brick for all of the buildings since erected in the town and neighborhood. Linked with this business he has another, in every way diverse if not diametrically opposite, but is no less successful on that account from a financial standpoint, viz: that of a restauranteur, carrying on the same in Talmage.

Previous to coming to this county in April, 1883, our subject had lived in Dearborn County, Ind., where he was born on the 17th of December, 1829. His father, Leonard Spicknall, was a native of Virginia, and came of one of the old and worthy Virginian families. He was a lifelong agriculturist. The father of our subject was first married to Amelia Roland, a Virginian lady, with whom he removed to Indiana after the birth of their first child. She died at the age of twenty-nine years, leaving five children. Subsequently the bereaved husband, who every day felt the pressing need of his little ones for some care other than his own, was married to Emma Horrom, a lady who was born in Vermont, but who had lived in Indiana almost all her life. The family circle came to include ten children, five of whom were sons, and eight of whom attained to years of maturity and are yet living, the subject of this sketch being the eldest. The parents lived in Dearborn County until the

end of their days, which were not reached, however, until they had both passed the allotted threescore years and ten.

Our subject, on starting in life for himself, in 1852 went to Illinois, and passed four years in Grundy County, near Morris. Returning at the end of that time to his native place, he was there married to Mary Whitaker, the daughter of William and Hannah (Vozy) Whitaker, both of whom were natives of England. Their daughter Mary was born in Dearborn County, in the year 1841. She was reared and educated there upon her father's farm, which had been brought from an unimproved condition to one of the best and most fertile farms in the county. She has presented her husband with six children, all of whom are still at home. Their names are as follows: William B., Charles O., Jeanette G., Clara L., Olive L. and Evert A.

Mr. and Mrs. Spicknall and three of their children are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which our subject is a Steward and also Trustee, and has for many years held the office of Class-Leader. He is deeply interested in the temperance cause, and is a local Prohibitionist. In general governmental questions he is numbered with the Republican party.

**W** ILLIAM RAY, senior member of the firm of Ray & Hicks, is engaged with his partner in general merchandising in Dunbar, and also has an interest in the City Hotel and livery stable at that point, besides owning a large mercantile house in Woodbine, Iowa. He was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, Nov. 1, 1840, and is the son of George Ray, now deceased.

The father of our subject emigrated from his native State of New York to Grant County in 1847, settling not far from the lead mines of Galena, Ill. In that region William received a common-school education, and in the spring of 1863 migrated across the Mississippi into Fayette County, Iowa. During the progress of the late Civil War he enlisted in Company F, 49th Wisconsin Infantry, serving one year, and doing mostly post duty.

Our subject upon being transformed from a sol-

dier to a civilian returned to Fayette County, Iowa, where he lived until 1876. He then removed to the vicinity of Atlantic, and engaged in stock-raising three years. In the fall of 1879 he came to Nebraska, and locating in Holt County, carried on farming and stock-raising together with real-estate business until 1888. He still has a ranch in the vicinity of Stuart. In September of the last-named year our subject came to Dunbar, and in addition to the business already noted, ships large quantities of produce from this county to Omaha. He represents a large amount of real estate, owning besides the property already mentioned 1,920 acres of land in Holt and Brown Counties. His general merchandising transactions yield him a handsome income, as the firm enjoys an extensive patronage. They keep a full stock of everything in their line.

Mr. Ray, on the 4th of July, 1867, was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. Bastedo, who was born in Wyoming County, Pa., Aug. 2, 1843. The parents of Mrs. Ray were George and Diadama Bastedo, the former of whom died in Missouri about 1867. To Mr. and Mrs. Ray there have been born four children—George E., Paul L., Mary E. and Beatrice. The eldest is twenty years of age and the youngest ten. Mr. and Mrs. Ray are members of the Presbyterian Church, and our subject is identified with the A. O. U. W. and the G. A. R. Politically, he votes the Democratic ticket, and entertains the interest felt by every intelligent citizen in the building up of its community, and its advancement socially, morally and financially. The mother of our subject, Mrs. Lucinda Ray, was a native of Ohio and is now deceased. The parental family included nine children, five of whom are living and four deceased.

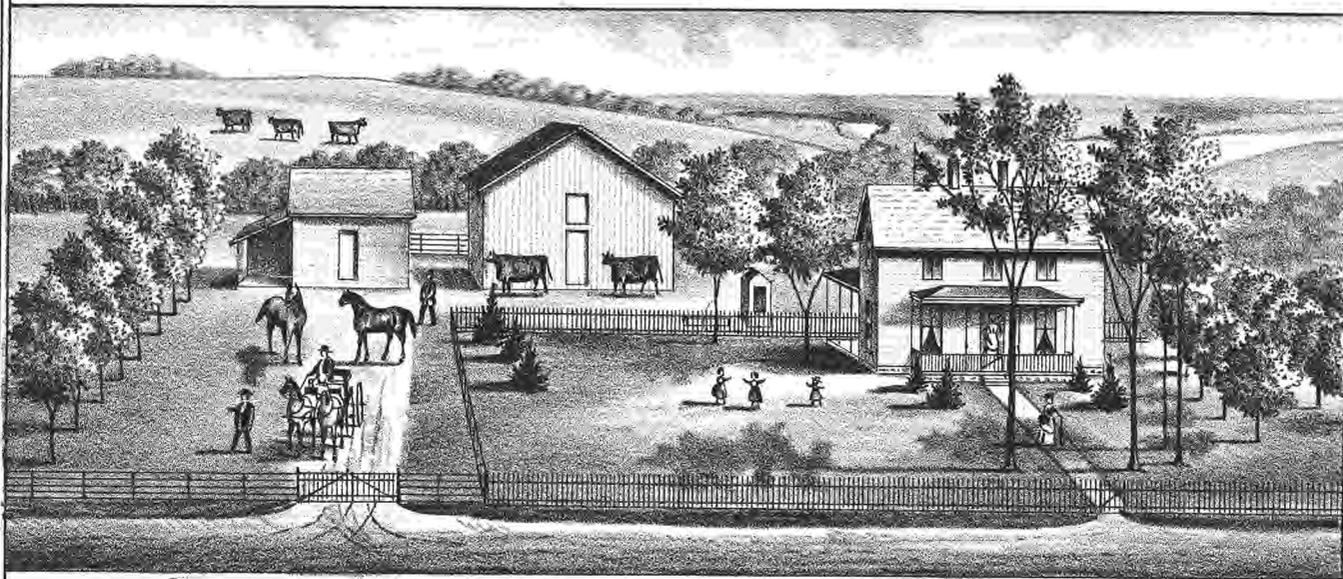


**C**APT. PATRICK RODDY, one of the most public-spirited men of Nebraska City Precinct, and a leading land-owner, has a fine farm of 160 acres on section 31, 320 acres in North Branch Precinct, also 160 in Russell Precinct, west of Unadilla, a part of which he secured as early as 1864. The homestead proper includes 160 acres, a very fine tract, under a high state of cultivation and

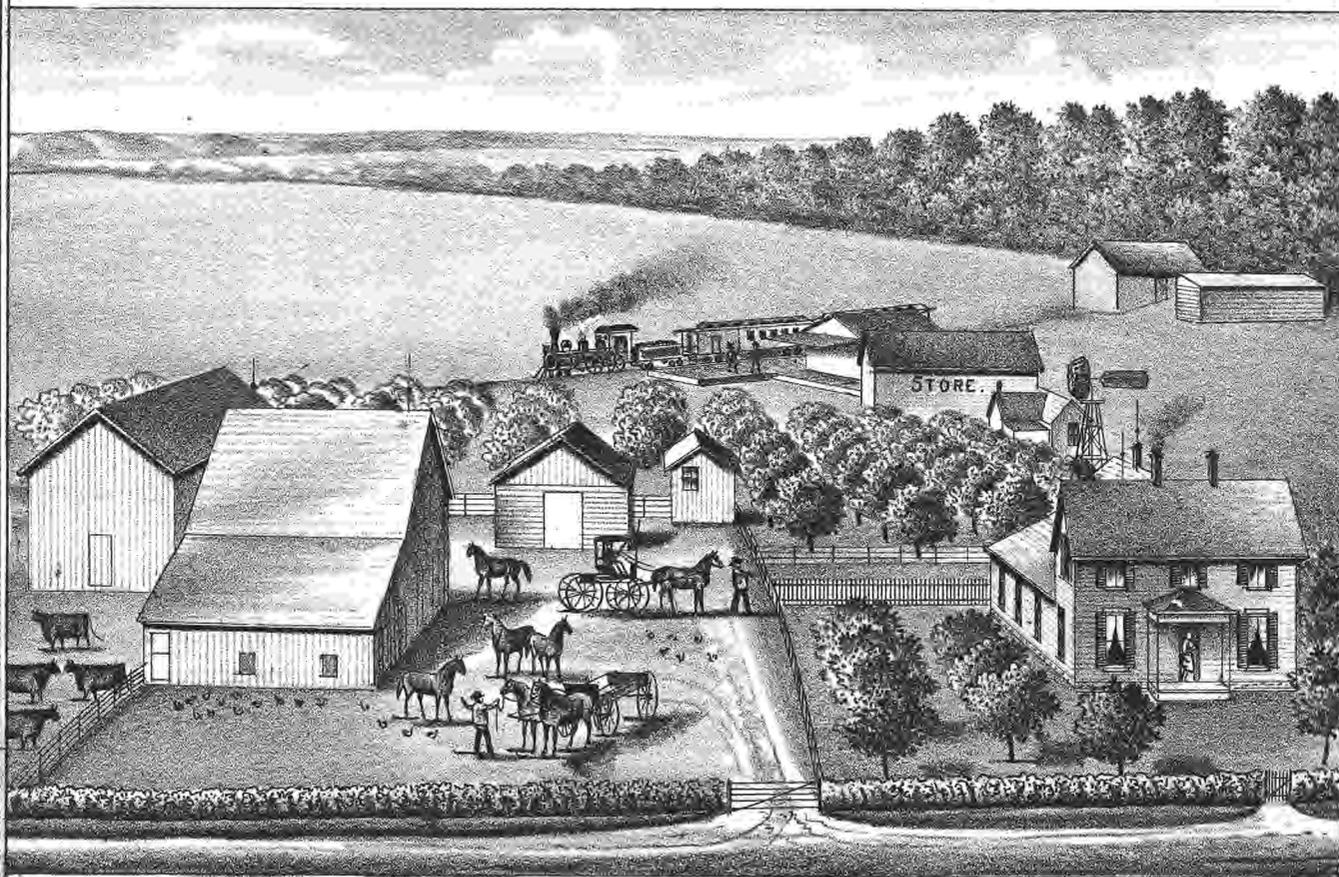
supplied with good buildings. The balance is fairly productive, and is devoted to general farming and stock-raising.

Our subject was born in County Westmeath, Ireland, July 12, 1842, where he lived until a young man twenty years of age, then resolved to seek his fortunes in America. He first settled in Ontario, Canada, where he occupied himself at farming until 1863, then came to the States, and making his way westward engaged on a Missouri River boat. The second year he was promoted to a deck hand, and later became watchman; the third year was promoted to the position of mate, and later became Captain of the "Kate C. Nutt," continuing on the river until 1872. He was for a period of five years in the meantime connected with the Hannibal & St. Joseph Packet Company, and for a like period as Captain was connected with the Missouri River Transfer Company, of Omaha.

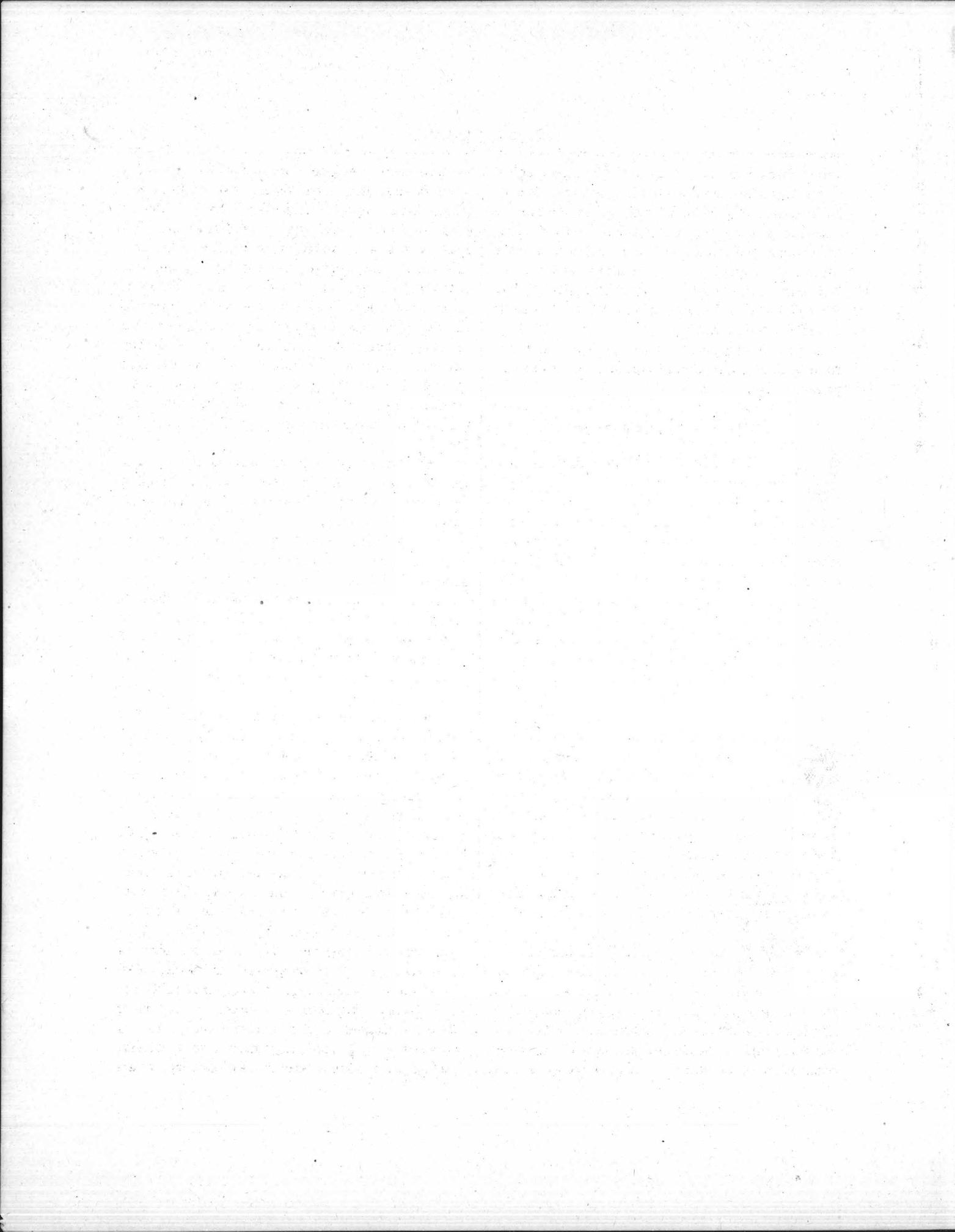
While in the city above mentioned our subject made the acquaintance of Miss Mary Henzie, to whom he was married Jan. 9, 1870. Mrs. Roddy is a native of the same country as her husband, and was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, March 17, 1848. She came alone to the United States when a young woman, and lived for a time in New York City. Later she migrated further west, taking up her residence in Omaha, where she met her future husband. Her parents were Daniel and Catherine (Delaney) Henzie; the former is deceased, and the latter resides in Queens County, Ireland. The Captain and his family located on their present farm June 20, 1872. The household circle includes six children, three sons and three daughters, namely: Maggie A., John, Thomas, Mary, Kate and James P. The eldest is eighteen years of age, and the youngest three, and all are at home with their parents. Mrs. Roddy and her youngest child in 1887 made a visit to the old home in Ireland. The Captain is an active Republican, sound on the tariff question, and a fervent advocate of the principles of his party. He has never been an office-seeker, although holding positions of trust and responsibility in his school district for a number of years. He is a man held in high esteem among his neighbors, and during the Presidential campaigns has been of eminent service to his party in this district as a



RESIDENCE OF PATRIC RODDY, SEC. 31. NEBRASKA CITY PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF W<sup>m</sup>. KROPP, WYOMING STATION.



stump speaker, of more than ordinary force, logical in his arguments, and one holding the attention of his audience. He has uniformly given his encouragement to the enterprises calculated to develop the county, and besides his connection with various other interests, is a stockholder and Director in the Nebraska City Street Railway Company. Capt. Roddy and family are members of the Catholic Church in Nebraska City.

A fine lithographic view of the home and surroundings of Capt. Roddy appears on an accompanying page.



**W**ILLIAM KROPP. Among the men who have assisted in the advancement of Wyoming Precinct as a farming community, the subject of this sketch holds no unimportant position, being one of its most prominent farmers and stock-raisers. He owns a valuable tract of land embracing 1,145 acres, 520 of which are embraced in the homestead, and this latter has been brought to a high state of cultivation, and is provided with a fine set of farm buildings, including a substantial dwelling, and the barns and other structures necessary for the proper shelter of stock and the storing of grain. A view of the farm is presented in this connection.

Mr. Kropp came to this county and Wyoming Precinct in December of 1863, although as early as the year 1857 he had taken a claim in Mt. Pleasant Precinct, Cass County, upon which he settled in the spring of 1858. This he sold five years later in order to change his residence to this county, and first purchased a quarter of section 23, in Wyoming Precinct. He was successful from the start, and added gradually to his possessions, being now numbered among the most extensive land-owners of the county.

A native of what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, our subject was born April 25, 1833, and is the descendant of an ancestry noted for health and strength both of body and mind. His father, Henry Kropp, also a native of Hanover, was one of its most prosperous farmers, to which occupation he was reared from his boyhood up. He

married there Miss Lota Twick, who was also of a good family, and a native likewise of Hanover. They settled upon a farm near their childhood home, and there were born to them four sons and four daughters, of whom our subject was the second son and third child. Four daughters and two sons are yet living, and all are married. William, however, is the only one who makes his home in this State, the rest of the children being residents of Lake County, Ill. With the exception of one daughter, the wife of a minister of the Albright Church, they are engaged in agricultural pursuits. One son, Henry by name, was drowned while attempting to cross the Weeping Water, July 4, 1864.

In September of 1853 the parents of our subject left their home in Germany, and crossing the Atlantic, with their children took up their residence in Lake County, Ill. They are both now deceased. William was twenty years old at the time of emigrating to America. He had received a good education in his native tongue, and now set out on his own account, employing himself at whatever he could find to do, frequently working by the day. Upon the advice of Mr. E. Crover, one of the pioneers of Lake County, Ill., he resolved to push further westward, and coming to this county located a piece of land and prepared to settle. He only sojourned, however, for a brief time in this region, but returning to Lake County, Ill., staid there during the winter, and in the spring of 1858 secured to himself a wife and helpmate in the person of Miss Dorothea Stoll, who, like himself, was of German birth and ancestry, and born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, Feb. 2, 1834. The parents of Mrs. Kropp were Peter and Sophia (Huenemoeder) Stoll, also natives of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, and the father a farmer by occupation. They also came of a hardy race of people, and the father was a farmer by occupation. They were married in Germany, and after the birth of three sons and four daughters, of whom Mrs. Kropp was the third daughter and fourth child, the whole family emigrated to America in August of 1854, and located at once in Lake County, Ill. A few years later, in 1858, they moved to Nebraska, locating again upon a farm in Cass County, where

the death of both parents occurred some years ago.

Mrs. Kropp was reared and educated in her native Province, and was twenty years old upon emigrating to America. She continued a member of the parental household until her marriage, became thoroughly versed in all home duties, and was trained to habits of industry and economy. After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Kropp started to Nebraska on their wedding tour, and soon afterward took up their residence on the new farm in Cass County. When they first moved upon it they immediately built a small frame dwelling, and after built a small addition, and that remained their home while they lived in Cass County. They worked together, hand in hand, with the mutual purpose of acquiring a competence and a home for themselves and their children. That they succeeded admirably is evident in noting their condition and surroundings to-day.

Of the family of nine children who were given our subject and his estimable wife, only four are living, namely: George W., who is operating the first store built at the station of Wyoming, and who is now Postmaster; John H., William F. and Louis, who are at home with their parents. The two youngest are students of the college in Nebraska City. One daughter, Minnie, died at the interesting age of twenty-seven years. Her death took place April 23, 1887. She was a sweet and intelligent young woman, and her death was a severe blow to the affectionate hearts of her parents. Bertie, a little daughter of nineteen months, died in Cass County, Neb., in the spring of 1862. Edward died in October, 1876, when four years old, and Ernest died at the age of seven, in June, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Kropp are consistent members of the German Methodist Church, and our subject, politically, is a sound Republican.

**T**HOMAS R. WHITTAKER. Along the lines of the great railroads which stretch out into every part of the fertile and growing West hamlets and villages have sprung up. Many of these have grown into prosperous and busy cities, while others are but quiet and ordinary trading

places for the neighboring farmers. Among the latter is Delta, a small place in McWilliams Precinct, and to this place our subject, who is now Postmaster, came in 1882, and embarked in the mercantile business. At that time he opened a general store, and for a time conducted the only business house in the place. In connection with still handling all the goods usually found in a country store, Mr. Whittaker also deals in lumber and coal, and in these lines is very extensively engaged. He can be justly classed among the solid business men of the county, and although enjoying no schooling in any particular line of mercantile life, having been brought up on a farm, he has displayed no little business tact and genius, and although a young man, has assumed great responsibilities in the business world.

The biographical writers of this volume met comparatively few men actively engaged in business life who were natives of this county. Most of them came here after they had reaped the advantages of experience in the more serious duties of life, but we find in our subject a native of Otoe County, he having been born in Delaware Precinct, Sept. 4, 1859. He was educated in the public schools of that precinct and at the State Normal School, and such knowledge as he acquired in these excellent institutions was supplemented by a thorough course in Bryant's Commercial College at St. Joseph, Mo. In early life he had evinced a great liking for business transactions, and we see that he has enjoyed unusual success in this particular line. He is straightforward and upright in all his dealings, enjoys in an unusual degree the confidence and respect of the people throughout the community, and we predict for him a bright future.

The father of our subject, Reuben Whittaker, is one of the extensive and well-to-do farmers of Delaware Precinct. He was a pioneer of this section of the State, having come to this region over thirty-three years ago. His wife was Miss Jane Wilson, to whom he was united in marriage here. She is one of the leading ladies of the precinct in which she resides, and the family are not only well known, but highly respected.

Mr. Whittaker, our subject, was united in marriage with Miss Fannie Cooper, in Pottawatomie

County, Kan. This lady was born in the latter-named county, in 1863. There she was reared, and received an excellent education in the common schools and at the State Normal School. She is a refined and intelligent lady, and prominent in the enterprises carried on by the ladies of her neighborhood. Her father is a well-to-do farmer of Pottawatomie County. She has become the mother of two children—Roy and Eugene.

Mr. Whittaker has become a leading member of the community where he resides, and has filled some of its most responsible official positions. He has served as Postmaster for four years, and is at present Postmaster of Delta, by recent appointment. He was also Justice of the Peace, and politically, is a sound Republican.



**J**OHN WASHINGTON JAMES, one of the most successful general farmers of Wyoming Precinct, has been a resident here for a period of twenty-two years, occupying his present homestead, which is pleasantly located on sections 16 and 9, and now embraces 240 acres of thoroughly cultivated land. The buildings and other improvements are creditable to the industry and enterprise of the proprietor, and the homestead with its surroundings forms the ideal country place, where are enjoyed all the comforts of life and many of its luxuries.

Mr. James came to Nebraska in the spring of 1867, soon after it had been transformed from a Territory into a State. He at once selected the land from which he intended building up a homestead, and after providing a shelter for himself and family, proceeded with the cultivation of the soil, and endured in common with the people around him the difficulties and hardships of life in a new settlement. He had learned farming in all its details in Mercer County, Pa., where he was reared from a boy to manhood.

Our subject was cradled on the other side of the Atlantic, in County Donegal, Ireland, where his birth took place Nov. 1, 1847. He is of excellent Scotch-Irish ancestry, the latter being of those people who were driven from their native Scotland to

the North of Ireland during the time of the religious persecution, when so many homes were made desolate. His father, William James, was a farmer by occupation, and a native of County Donegal, where he died in middle life. The mother, Mrs. Margret (Buchanan) James, was a native of the same county as her husband and son. After his death she and her children emigrated to America, locating in Butler County, and then a year later into Mercer County, Pa., where they lived for a number of years, then set out for the farther West. Some of the other members of the family had preceded them to this section, and joining them here, the mother took up her abode with her two sons, and here her death took place Oct. 15, 1884, when she was seventy-two years old.

Our subject was next to the youngest child of his parents, whose family consisted of seven sons and two daughters. He was not quite three years old when he went with his mother to Pennsylvania, and was reared to manhood in Mercer County, Pa. There also he made the acquaintance of his future wife, Miss Mary Luella Van Tine, to whom he was married Feb. 24, 1881. This lady was born in Wyoming Precinct, Dec. 22, 1862, and is the daughter of Abraham D. and Eliza J. (Snell) Van Tine, who were natives of Pennsylvania, and pioneers of Wyoming Precinct, to which they came as early as 1857, while Nebraska was a Territory, and where they still live. Mrs. James was reared and educated in this county, and lived at home with her parents until her marriage. Our subject, politically, is a sound Republican, entertaining decided views, although having no desire to hold office.



**W**ILLIAM BISCHOF. Few sojourners in Nebraska City, taking note of its business interests, fail to observe the hardware establishment which is the outgrowth of the enterprise of the subject of this sketch. He came to this place in the fall of 1867, and in partnership with Anton Zimmerer purchased his stock, and they conducted the business together until the spring of 1883. Mr. Bischof then purchased the interest of his partner, and has since operated alone. He

recognized as one of the leading men of the place, and has in the main been the architect of his own fortune, building up a good business from a very modest beginning.

The city of Nuremberg, Bavaria, was the native place of our subject, where his birth occurred March 14, 1835. In common with the children of Germany, he was placed in school at an early age, and prosecuted his studies until a youth of seventeen, completing them in the Polytechnic Institute at Nuremberg. He had been a lad bright and thoughtful beyond his years, and determined to become a man among men, and secure for himself and those who might be connected with him by the ties of nature a good home and a competence. Not being satisfied with his prospects upon his native soil, he determined to seek his fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic. Accordingly, in the month of June, 1852, he set sail from the city of Hamburg, and after a safe voyage of six weeks set foot upon American soil in the city of New York. Thence he proceeded southwestward to Atchison County, Mo., by rail to Cincinnati, and thence via the Ohio, Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, which was at that time the most convenient route to that point. He left the steamer at what was then called Woerlens Landing, where a few settlers had collected together, and at a time when the country around bore little evidence of civilization. The now flourishing city of St. Joseph, seventy-five miles south, was then an unpretentious village, but the most important point in that region, and the nearest depot for supplies. Kansas and Nebraska at that time were unorganized Territories, inhabited almost entirely by Indians. To this place our subject had been accompanied by his brother, and they, securing a tract of land, began to till the soil. They were thus occupied a period of four years, but not being satisfied with the results, William laid down the implements of agriculture, and repairing to Sioux City, Iowa, engaged there as a clerk in an establishment of general merchandise. This place also was in its first stages of settlement, having only been laid out as a town the year before, but had already six or eight stores.

After a residence of three years in Sioux City Mr. Bischof, in 1859, having with true German

thrift and economy saved what he could of his earnings, concluded to become his own man and start in business for himself. Gathering together his personal effects he set out for the farther West, with the intention of starting a ranch and trading-post combined, which should furnish a place of entertainment for freighters who traveled with teams over the country, and to whom a resort of this description was indispensable.

Mr. Bischof selected his location at Cottonwood Springs, near McPherson, in Western Nebraska, at a period when the nearest house was ninety miles east, and nothing but wild Indians and buffaloes were to be seen perhaps for a period of days together. Game of all kinds was abundant, and Mr. Bischof frequently stood in the door of his house, which was built of cedar logs, and brought down with his rifle a buffalo or deer. Elks and antelopes were plentiful, and troops of Indians frequently cast at the new settler and his establishment glances not altogether friendly.

Mr. Bischof had transported a large stock of merchandise to this point, which he traded mostly to the Indians for buffalo skins and furs. A year later he moved to what was called Fremont's Slough, twenty-five miles further west, and remained there six years. At the expiration of this time, having a generous supply of solid capital, he decided to invest it within the bounds of civilization, and accordingly changed his residence to Nebraska City, where he has since lived. Many a man having had his experience, cut off as he was from intercourse with the more cultivated part of his fellowmen, would have deteriorated mentally, but Mr. Bischof through it all maintained his love of reading, and by the best means at hand kept himself posted upon the current events. Mail facilities during his residence on the frontier were necessarily uncertain, but occasionally he would secure a book, paper or periodical, and of these it is hardly necessary to say he made the best use. Upon coming to Nebraska City he had no difficulty in being admitted to the intelligent circle of men here, where he has done good service in the encouragement of the institutions and enterprises calculated to build up the community socially and financially. He has been President of the Board of Education, and a mem-

ber of the City Council, was President of the Board of Trade two years, and is now Vice President of the Merchants' National Bank. He cast his first Presidential vote for John C. Fremont, and has since continued an earnest supporter of Republican principles. Socially, he belongs to the I. O. O. F., being a member of Frontier Lodge No. 3, in Nebraska City.

Our subject while living on the ranch was married in Nebraska City, Dec. 28, 1865, to Miss Kiny Zimmerer, a sister of his former partner, A. Zimmerer, and they became the parents of seven children, namely: William, Lulu, Otto, Eta, Arthur, Olga and Lillie. All of these are living and reside at Nebraska City, except William, who is at Seward, Neb. The mother of these children departed this life at her home in Nebraska City, in the summer of 1884. In the sketch of A. Zimmerer, found on another page in this volume, will be noted further mention of this family.

On the 7th of August, 1886, Mr. Bischof contracted a second marriage, with Miss Matilda Belha, a native of Bohemia, and who came to America alone when twenty-two years old. The parents of Mrs. Bischof are now residing in Bohemia. Of this union there is one child, a son, Frederick, born in May, 1887. The family residence is pleasantly situated in the northwestern part of the city, and opens its hospitable doors to many friends. It is tastefully finished and furnished, and forms an abode entirely suitable to the means and tastes of its proprietor. Mr. Bischof in 1870 invested a portion of his surplus capital in a fine brick block at the intersection of Seventh street and Center avenue, which is occupied mostly by his own business.



**F**REDERICK PAAP. The career of the self-made man is finely illustrated in the subject of this sketch, who began life in America dependent upon his own resources, without means, a stranger in a strange land. He is now one of the leading farmers and land-owners of Berlin Precinct, holding a clear title to 1,360 acres, which he has transformed from a tract of wild prairie to a highly productive condition. The homestead occupies the

southwest corner of section 15, and presents one of the most attractive spots in the landscape of that region, being embellished with fine buildings, a commodious and convenient residence, a substantial barn, and the pens and sheds required for the shelter of stock, of which the proprietor makes a specialty. Within, the home is presided over by a lady well educated, refined and hospitable, who has done her share toward the building up of the reputation of the family, and assisted in drawing around them hosts of friends.

Our subject was born in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, Aug. 31, 1839, and is the son of Frederick, Sr., and Mary (Scholtz) Paap, who were natives of the same place as their son. The paternal grandfather, Dedloff Paap, was a cooper by trade, but served in the German Army during the war between France and Russia. On the mother's side, Grandfather John Scholtz inclined more to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture, being for a number of years overseer of a farm. Both spent their entire lives in their native Germany.

The father of our subject occupied himself as a gardener near his native town until 1857, then resolved to emigrate to America. He was accompanied by his wife and children in the voyage across the Atlantic, and for two years thereafter lived in Cleveland, Ohio. In the spring of 1859, coming to this county, he purchased eighty acres of land on section 15, in Berlin Precinct, for which he paid the sum of \$70, all the money he had in the world. He commenced in true pioneer fashion the development of the farm, and was prospered in his labors, building up a good homestead, and surrounding himself with all the comforts of life. He doubled his original purchase, and there spent his last days, passing away Aug. 4, 1879, when sixty-nine years old. The mother is still living, making her home with her son William, in Berlin Precinct, and is now seventy-eight years of age. Their three children were named respectively: Frederick, our subject; William and Louisa. The two latter are residents of this precinct.

Mr. Paap attended the common schools of his native town until a lad of fourteen years, in the meantime learning the art of gardening of his father. After leaving the day school he pursued

his studies at an evening school four years longer. He came with his father to the United States when a youth of eighteen years, in 1857, making the voyage on a sailing-vessel, the "St. John," embarking at Hamburg, and landing at New York six weeks and three days later. In the meantime they encountered several storms, and at one time the ship took fire, but fortunately this was arrested before very much damage was done.

Young Paap landed a stranger in a strange land, not being acquainted with a soul in America, and almost penniless. He made his way to Cleveland, Ohio, where for two years he employed himself at whatever he could find to do, sometimes by the month, and sometimes by the day. In 1859 he resolved to cross the Mississippi, made his way by rail to St. Louis, and thence by steamboat to this county, landing in Nebraska City. He was fortunate in securing employment on a farm, and worked the first year for Dave Martin, receiving at the close in payment for his services \$150. This seemed quite a goodly sum, as he had landed in Nebraska with \$5.

Our subject the second year of his residence in this county was employed at a hotel in Nebraska City. In 1862 he engaged in freighting to Denver, and later worked in John Bennett's mill near Nebraska City. The years 1863 and 1864 found him freighting again, and later he was employed in a wholesale establishment at Nebraska City. His journeyings across the plains were invested with the usual dangers and hardships of those times, as the Indians looked upon the whites with very unfriendly eyes, and the traveler at no time felt secure either as regarded life or property. Mr. Paap, however, possessed a cool and temperate judgment, which enabled him to keep out of difficulty both with the rough white element of that region and with the Indians. During the early part of 1865 he was one of the company of home guards organized for mutual protection.

The eighty acres of land which our subject occupies as his homestead proper was purchased by him in the spring of 1860, but he did not make any attempt at improvement upon it until after his marriage. Then, fortified by the assistance and sympathy of a good wife, he put up a modest

dwelling, and in true pioneer style began the improvement of his property. In breaking the soil the wife frequently drove the oxen while Mr. Paap held the plow. After he had put in his first crop he began setting out fruit and shade trees, and has now fine groves and eleven acres planted with apple trees and choice fruits of the smaller varieties. In adding to his landed area he has paid all the way from \$7 to \$25 per acre, but for none of it would he to-day take less than \$35 per acre. This he has divided into six farms, each being supplied with groves, orchards, houses and barns. For the building of his present fine residence he was obliged to haul all the material from Nebraska City. It is handsomely finished and furnished, and supplied with all modern conveniences.

Mr. Paap began at an early date his operations as a stock-raiser, and has been remarkably successful. He keeps none but good grades of animals, and his horses are especially fine, being draft animals of the Clydesdale stock. Of these he has seventeen head, besides a span of valuable mules. In his stock operations he utilizes 320 acres of his land, over which he has personal supervision, and rents the balance.

The marriage of Frederick Paap and Miss Caroline Sturm was celebrated at the home of the bride in Weeping Water, Feb. 2, 1864. Mrs. Paap was born in what was then the Province of Alsace, France, March 24, 1846, and received a careful education, becoming familiar with both the French and German languages. She came with her father's family to America when a young girl of thirteen years, in the spring of 1859. Her parents were Andrew and Madaline (Understock) Sturm, also natives of Alsace, and the father a prosperous farmer. The mother died in Germany in 1853. The family crossed the Atlantic on the sailing-vessel "Progress," and not long after landing in Nebraska, locating in Cass County, where the father purchased 320 acres of land. Upon this he settled with his family, effected good improvements, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death taking place in April, 1874, at the age of seventy-three years. The children of the paternal household, five in number, were named respectively: Magda-

lene, Andrew, Sarah, Caroline and Mary. The brother and sister of Mrs. Paap are residents of Nebraska. Her maternal grandfather served in the French Army during the war between France and Germany, in 1812. Grandfather Sturm during his early manhood was the owner of a fine property, but for thirty-six years afterward was bedridden from an incurable disease which consumed the most of it.

To Mr. and Mrs. Paap there have been born five children, namely: Omar, Alexander, Albert, Medora and Lydia, the latter twins. The eldest of these is twenty-four years of age, and the younger ones ten. They are being trained and educated in a manner befitting their station in life. Mr. and Mrs. P. are charter members of the German Methodist Episcopal Church at Berlin, and have always contributed liberally and cheerfully to its support. Mr. P. gave valuable assistance in erecting the church edifice, has been a Trustee for many years, and is Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Politically, he is a fervent supporter of Republican principles, and has done his party good service in this county, frequently being sent as a delegate to the State and County Conventions. He has also served on the Grand and Petit Juries. He is a man who keeps himself posted upon current events, one with whom it is interesting and profitable to converse.



**N**ICHOLAS RUSH. Among the prominent citizens of South Branch, and one whose character is such as to commend itself to all, a successful farmer, and an army veteran, is the gentleman whose life story is herein presented in succinct form. He is the son of Antonius and Augusta Rush, and now makes his home on section 28, where he operates successfully along the line of general farming and stock-raising, giving chief attention to the former, eighty acres of fine agricultural land.

The father of our subject was born in Naples, Italy, and followed farming. His mother was born at Naples, and married under the sunny skies of that Southern European kingdom. They became the

parents of six children, viz: Joseph, Pasco, Rosa, Caroline, Celestia and Nicholas. The latter was born in Naples on the 8th of May, 1837. His early life was spent in Italy. He continued upon the farm of his father until he was eighteen years of age. Then, in 1855, he went to France, where he studied as a musician, and from there to England in the practice of his chosen profession. In 1861, again taking his journey, he came to "the land of the free," landing in New York City. He traveled at first chiefly through the Southern States, and then went to Illinois.

Although but so recently come to the country and almost before he was fully able to grasp the meaning of the new institutions of the New World, or thoroughly to imbibe the principles of its independence, Mr. Rush saw that country in the throes of a civil war, and enlisted in the Union Corps, serving in Company S, 2d Illinois Artillery. He was mustered in at Springfield in June, 1864. He did not come out of the struggles unscathed. Injuries were first received from being thrown off his horse, which stunned him and left some injury of the head that has rendered him permanently deaf. This the thundering cannon so affected as to almost entirely destroy the hearing, and he must ever remain in the stillness and comparative solitude that such a condition necessitates. He was mustered out at Chicago in August, 1865, and continued in Illinois until 1866, when he came west to this county.

Life in the West has brightened for our subject, both in his farm and home, for upon coming he entered his present property of 160 acres, improved it, made it his own, and has taken good care of it from that time, until now it is one of the best cultivated farms in the district. His home has been made home to him in Nebraska, for here he was united in wedlock; first in Nebraska City, in the year 1873, to Miss Anna Wood, who died in 1875, aged twenty-five years. The second occasion occurred in Johnson County on the 17th of March, 1878. The lady of his choice was Miss Jane Powell, the daughter of Stephen and Isabella (Mapps) Powell, who were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. They came to Johnson County in 1857. They were among the pioneers and founders of the county. Mr. Powell died in

1863, aged forty-seven years, and the mother is still living. They are the parents of seven children—William, Angeline, Jane, Thomas, John, Joseph and Elizabeth.

The wife of our subject was born in Joliet, Ill., Feb. 2, 1850. She was seven years of age when she came with her parents to this State, and has seen perhaps more than usually falls to the lot of man or woman in these days of advanced civilization in the West, of real frontier life. To Mr. and Mrs. Rush there have been given seven children, and their names are recorded as Mary M., Celestia E., Ida Sybel, Albert Wesley, Rosa A, Edith Pearl and Willis Logan.

Mr. Nicholas Rush is one of the substantial supporters and consistent members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and one of the prime movers in its organization. His wife also is with him in this relation. She is a lady of education and cultivation, and is one who has found the art of making home something more than a mere stopping-place; a place to be desired, looked for and prized. The political sentiments of our subject are strictly harmonious with those of the Republican party, of which he has always been a firm friend.

**E**CLARENCE REED, of Syracuse Precinct, stands prominent among its prosperous farmers and stock-raisers, and operates one of the best farms in this section of country, pleasantly located on section 25. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1865, where he completed the rudiments of an excellent education, and later entered the State University at Lincoln. Completing his course in this institution he was employed two winters thereafter as a teacher, but aside from this has been most of his life engaged in farming pursuits. In his labors as a tiller of the soil he has met with more than ordinary success, having secured one of the most comfortable of modern homes, and a competency for his old age.

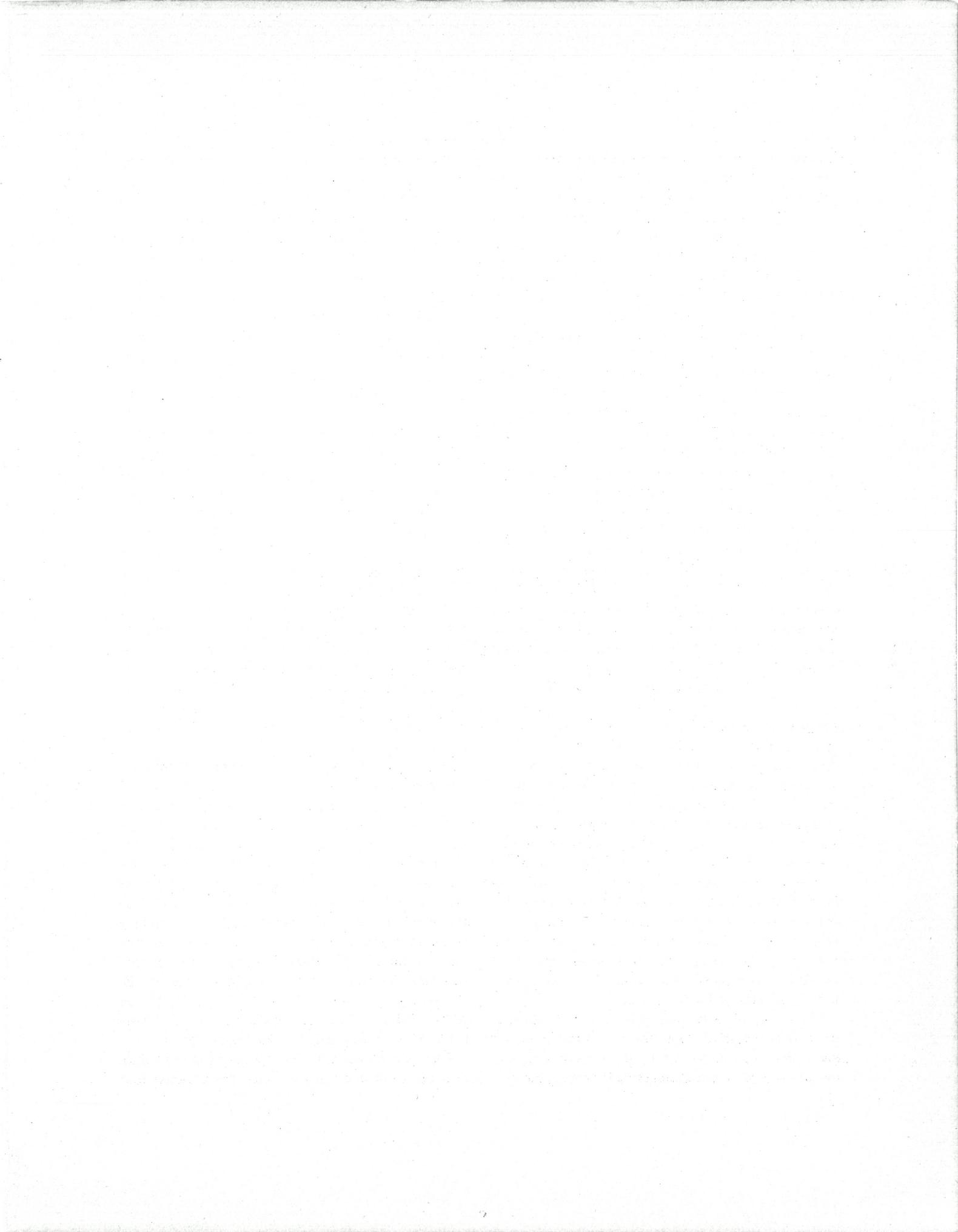
The main points in the family history of our subjects are substantially as follows: His father, Cyrus Reed, was born in the State of Pennsylvania, and was the son of an old Pennsylvania family, the par-

ents of which spent their entire lives upon their native soil. Cyrus Reed grew to manhood in his native county, where he became familiar with the various employments of the farm, and remained a member of the parental household until attaining his majority. His business career began as a live-stock dealer, buying cattle in Illinois, and driving them to the Eastern markets before the days of railroads. He was highly successful, and became the owner of several valuable farms in Pickaway County, Ohio, which were located near the now important town of Circleville. During the war he lost considerable property.

In the spring of 1865 the father of our subject sold a portion of his Ohio property, and coming to Nebraska purchased 1,600 acres of land in Otoe County, nearly all of which was raw prairie. Upon this the family settled in a small house, and the father, imbuing a great admiration for the West, finally disposed of all his property in the Buckeye State, and turned his attention to stock-raising on his land in this county. He died at his home in McWilliams Precinct, Dec. 4, 1870, at the age of fifty-two years. He was a Republican in politics, and as a son of one of the earliest settlers in Pickaway County, Ohio, saw much of pioneer life, enduring many of its hardships and privations. He for a time engaged in general merchandising at Nebraska City, but his preferences were for farming and stock-raising.

Mrs. Anna (Lowe) Reed, the mother of our subject, was born in Ulster County, N. Y., and is the daughter of Jacob and Susan Lowe, who migrated to Pickaway County, Ohio, during the period of its early settlement. There Mr. Lowe carried on farming until his death. Mrs. Reed afterward made the journey from Ohio to Nebraska in a buggy when she was over sixty years old. She was married to Mr. Reed in 1855, and after coming to this county became the wife of Edwin Parsons, and is now living on a farm in Delaware Precinct. Of her first marriage there were born five children, namely: E. Clarence, our subject; Harry H., Josiah E., Cyrus A. and John W. All of these are living, and residents of Nebraska and Colorado respectively.

Our subject was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, July 29, 1857, and resided under the parental roof





*Chas. W. Sherfey*

until reaching manhood. A few months after reaching his twenty-second year he was married, Dec. 25, 1879, to Miss Leona Dunbar, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Dunbar. Mrs. Reed was born Nov. 7, 1860, in Dunbar, and is the daughter of John and Anna (Watson) Dunbar, who were natives of Canada, and are now in Nebraska. They came to this county about 1856, settling in Delaware Precinct. Here Mrs. Reed was reared and educated, taking kindly to her books, and developed into a teacher, which profession she followed some time before her marriage and one term afterward. Mrs. Reed received her education at the Peru Normal School. Of her union with our subject there have been born two children: Anna Lavina, May 19, 1883, and Clarence Herbert, Feb. 17, 1887.

Mrs. Reed is a very estimable lady, and a member of the Seventh-Day Advent Church. Mr. Reed, politically, supports the principles of the Republican party, but is in favor of prohibition. He is well known throughout the county for his enterprise, being one of its most extensive farmers and stock-raisers, handling large numbers of cattle and hogs, and keeping good horses, these latter mostly for his own use.

PROF. CHARLES W. SHERFEY has been identified with the literary and industrial interests of Nebraska City from its infancy. He is at present engaged in horticultural pursuits, raising flowers, small fruits, and vegetables, and has the best appointed greenhouse in Otoe County. He is a native of Maryland, born July 6, 1829, a son of Solomon and Catherine (McNeil) Sherfey, natives respectively of Gettysburg, Pa., and of Loudoun County, Va. Jacob Sherfey, the grandfather of our subject, lived near Gettysburg, but it is not known on which side of the State line he was born. His father, Casper Sherfey, was born about the year 1735, in Saxe Coburg Gotha, Germany, sixty miles northwest of the city of Hanover. At the age of sixteen years he came to America, and at the age of twenty-three years, 1758, he married Magdalena Deardorff, a German

lady, who was born in 1738. They resided in Frederick County, Md. To them were born fifteen children, six of whom died in childhood. The nine surviving children were five sons and four daughters. Their sons were: John, who removed to Jonesboro, Washington Co., Tenn.; Abraham, removed to Virginia; Benjamin, removed to Augusta County, Va.; Jacob lived at Gettysburg, Pa.; Joshua lived in Frederick County, Md., died in Parke County, Ind. Their daughters were: Rebecca, who married Joseph Carey; Mary, who married Nicholas Oustatt; Catherine, who married John Schriver; Elizabeth, who married Jacob Carroll, Casper's son; Jacob, married Catherine Bosserman, in 1794. He was born in Frederick County, Md., March 4, 1769, and died Aug. 5, 1842. His wife was born in York County, Pa., Aug. 12, 1773, and died Aug. 4, 1844. To them were born eleven children, two of whom died in childhood, namely, Maria, aged two years, and Daniel aged four. Eight sons and one daughter grew to mature years. David was born Jan. 13, 1797, died March 31, 1861; Solomon, born Jan. 26, 1799, married Feb. 6, 1827, died May 5, 1876. Next was Jacob. John was born Jan. 23, 1805, married March 21, 1837, died Feb. 12, 1871; Abram, born Aug. 10, 1807; Samuel, Jan. 17, 1810, married Dec. 29, 1836; Joseph, born June 30, 1812, married Feb. 6, 1840, died Oct. 4, 1850. Simeon, born Feb. 7, 1814, married March 3, 1836, died Oct. 3, 1850. Hannah Sherfey Farnsworth, born Dec. 2, 1817, married Sept. 29, 1848.

The father of our subject was reared in Pennsylvania, and in 1827 he went to Maryland and lived there until 1854. He married a Virginia lady, a daughter of John McNeil, who was, it is thought, born in Maryland, of Scotch-Irish ancestry. His father, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born in Ireland and came to America when a young man with an older brother. His brother soon started to return to his native land, and was never heard from afterward. Mr. McNeil settled in this country permanently, married, and it is supposed, spent his last years in Perryville, Vermillion Co., Ind. The maternal grandfather of our subject married in Virginia, moved from there to Maryland, and thence to Vermillion County, Ind., in about 1835. He was numbered among the pioneers

of that county, where he improved a farm and spent the remainder of his life. Mr. Sherfey removed from Maryland to Tippecanoe County, Ind., accompanied by his wife and four children, the removal being made with the old-fashioned covered wagon drawn by a pair of horses. They took with them their household goods, and as their route lay through a sparsely settled country, they often camped by the wayside. Mr. Sherfey became a pioneer of Tippecanoe County, engaging in the mercantile business there, and he also managed a flouring-mill. In the fall of 1837 he sold out there and moved to Burlington, Iowa. At that time Iowa formed a part of the Territory of Wisconsin, and during the winter of 1837-38 the Territorial Legislature met in Burlington. There were then but few white inhabitants in the Territory, and the greater part of the land was still owned by the Indians. He lived to see it one of the most populous and wealthy States in the Union, and as one of its pioneers he was instrumental in bringing about the great change. He established himself in the mercantile business, and he got his goods either from Cincinnati or St. Louis, Chicago then being a small, unimportant town, with no communication whatever with the West, except overland by teams. Mr. Sherfey resided in and near Burlington until his death in 1876, when that town lost one of its most honored pioneers, one who had done much to build up its mercantile interests. He was a man of marked intelligence, strict integrity, and much capability. His wife, a most estimable lady, died at the home of our subject in Nebraska City, Aug. 6, 1887, at the age of eighty-one. There were four children born to this worthy couple, all of whom are living, namely: Caroline A., widow of E. D. Rand, lives in Burlington, Iowa; Charles W.; John M., lives in Burlington; William E. lives in Council Grove, Kan.

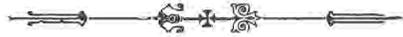
Charles W. Sherfey was in his fifth year when he accompanied his parents to Indiana, and he was eight years old when the family moved to Burlington, Iowa. He there attended the early schools and gained the preliminaries of a liberal education. When he was twenty years old he went to Green Castle, Ind., to enroll his name among the students of Asbury University (now DePauw University),

and was graduated from there with the first honors in the class of '54. He decided to fit himself for the legal profession, and with that end in view he entered the law department of Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. After completing his course there in 1856, he returned to Burlington, and in 1857 came to the Territory of Nebraska, bringing with him a printing-press, and locating in Platts-mouth, he established the *Platte Valley Times*, and published that paper quite successfully for one year. Then came the great financial crisis, which made it very hard to run a paper with any profit in that city, so he came to Nebraska City, where he soon began the publication of a paper called *The People's Press*, the forerunner of the *Nebraska Press* of the present day. A short time before the office was burned in 1860, he had severed his connection with the paper, and abandoning the editorial profession, had adopted that of teacher, for which action he may be considered a public benefactor, as in those early days of the settlement of the State it was very difficult to get instructors for the schools who were themselves well educated. He taught in Nebraska City almost continuously until 1879, thus incalculably raising the standard of education here, and giving this community the benefit of his superior literary attainments for nearly twenty years. In 1863 Mr. Sherfey bought six lots in the northern part of the city and built a small frame house, into which he removed with his wife. He has since bought other lots and now owns forty-four in various parts of the city, and in 1877 he erected his present residence, a commodious, comfortable frame house, very pleasantly located on a rise of ground commanding a view of the city.

Prof. Sherfey was married in 1862 to Miss Irene, daughter of Wesley and Mary A. (Boaton) Spurlock, of whom see sketch. Mrs. Sherfey was born in Iowa, in February, 1843. The pleasant wedded life of our subject and his amiable wife has been blessed by the birth of four children; the eldest, Carrie A., died when seven and one-half years old; Charles E., Irene Belle, Eulalia. Mr. and Mrs. Sherfey are valued members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and whenever opportunity offers they are among the first to extend a

helping hand to the needy or to sympathize with the sorrowing. Mr. Sherfey is an uncompromising Republican in his political views.

The portrait of Prof. Sherfey appears in connection with this personal sketch.



**J**ONAS SUGDEN. Among the pioneers of 1866 who resolved upon the experiment of invading the Territory of Nebraska, was the subject of this sketch, who landed in Nebraska City in the winter of that year. The early years of his life were spent as a machinist, during which he became an expert as a blacksmith and general mechanic, but upon coming to the West he necessarily changed his occupation, taking up the pursuits of agriculture. For a time, however, before securing a tract of land, he followed freighting across the plains, in the meantime homesteading the northwest quarter of section 33, Syracuse Precinct, which is included in his present homestead.

Our subject, when taking possession of his property, fashioned a dug-out in which to shelter himself and family, and gradually began making improvements about him, although he was obliged to employ himself elsewhere in order to obtain the wherewithal for the sustenance of himself and family. As time passed on he found himself making headway, and the dug-out soon gave place to a comfortable frame residence, which later was flanked by a barn and the other out-buildings necessary to his comfort and convenience. He has steadily progressed since that time, and is now numbered among the well-to-do farmers of this region, who have been the architects of their own fortunes, and thus imbibed that spirit of self-reliance which enabled them to hew their pathway to success.

The subject of this sketch was born in Yorkshire, England, March 7, 1834, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Sugden) Sugden, who, however, bore no relationship to each other before their marriage. The father was a farmer all his life, and the parents are still living, continuing residents upon their native soil. They are naturally well advanced in years, and come of a long-lived race. All of

their children, ten in number, are also living and all in England, with the exception of our subject and one brother, who is a resident of Chase County, this State. The others were named respectively: John, Elizabeth, Mary, Robert, William, Ann, Judith and Paul.

Jonas Sugden, when a lad of twelve years, commenced his apprenticeship as a machinist in his native town of Kiefley, at which he served nearly five years, when the firm by whom he was employed went out of business. He then commenced working as a journeyman in Bradford and Birmingham, but about 1853 or 1854, when a young man grown, he sailed for America in company with his brother John. After landing in New York City they proceeded northwestward to Minnesota, but later returned southeastward to Pennsylvania, where our subject followed his trade for a time at Erie. Later he was employed at his trade in the city of Buffalo.

During the progress of the late Civil War Mr. Sugden was in the employ of the Pittsburgh & Erie Railroad Company, and identified himself with the Machinist and Blacksmith Union Brotherhood. On coming to Nebraska, in 1866, he followed freighting, as we have already stated. He had been married while a resident of Canada, in 1862, to Miss Jessie Bulchart, who is a native of Dundee, Scotland, and the daughter of Andrew and Jessie Bulchart, who spent their lives in Canada. Mrs. Sugden came to America with her parents when eleven years old, locating in Upper Canada, where she was married. Of this union there have been born ten children, who were named: Elizabeth, William, Jessie, Judith, Daisy, Rudolph, Thomas, Mary, John and Paul. Elizabeth became the wife of William H. Hill, and died in Chase County, this State, in 1886; Jessie died when nineteen years old.

Our subject and his wife have proprietorship in five farms in this county, comprising altogether 720 acres of land, besides a tree claim in Colorado. Mr. S. for many years devoted his attention chiefly to stock raising, buying, feeding and shipping. The farm residence is convenient and substantial, flanked by a good orchard covering an area of twenty acres, and including all the choice fruit trees which flourish upon the soil of Nebraska. In 1878 he established himself in the harness business at Syra-

cuse, where he operated successfully for a period of fourteen years. He crossed the Mississippi poor in purse, even obliged to borrow money to get his family to their destination. His possessions to-day are the result of his own resolute industry. He has made it a point to live within his income, has been prompt in meeting his obligations, and thus gained for himself a solid foundation financially and in the opinion of his fellowmen. He was one of the pioneers of his neighborhood. His settlement here was rather the result of accident than intention, as he had started for California. In passing through Nebraska City he saw on exhibition specimens of potatoes, corn and other products grown in this State, and being informed that he could secure a homestead, and in due time produce the same, determined at once to make settlement. He has never repented of his decision, and declares that in all his travels he has found no section of country equal to Nebraska. A pleasant, genial and companionable man, he has made hosts of friends wherever it has been his lot to dwell, and none have been warmer or more sincere than those west of the Mississippi.

Mr. Sugden for a number of years was a supporter of Republican principles. During the campaign of 1884 he felt that he would be justified in changing his allegiance, and accordingly wheeled over into the ranks of the Democracy. He, however, meddles with public affairs very little, preferring to give his time and attention to his farming interests.



**D** J. SCHOMERUS is one of the leading boot and shoe dealers in Nebraska City. He has a commodious, well-appointed store in the Grand Pacific Block, carries a large and well-selected stock, and does an extensive business. He was born May 28, 1831, in Hanover, Germany, and is a son of Christian and Famkam Schomerus, both natives of Hanover. The father was a grocer, and spent his entire life in his native land, dying when but fifty years of age. The mother is now spending her declining years with our subject, and notwithstanding that she is in her

ninety-seventh year, she is strong and vigorous, both physically and mentally. There were eight children born to her and her husband, seven of whom grew to maturity: John Herman, Henry M., John Conrad, Christian A., Johanna M., our subject and Fredericka. Henry died in Germany, but the remaining members of the family came to America. Herman located in St. Louis and died there; the others settled in Nebraska City. Johanna was first married to George Strechan; her second husband was Jacob Atkin, who is still living; she died in this city. Fredericka married Frederick Zuck, and lives in Otoe County.

The subject of this sketch obtained a good education in the schools of his native land, which he attended until he was sixteen years old. He then learned the trade of cotton weaver, and was engaged at that in the old country until 1858, when he came to America, where he hoped to be able to earn more money in payment for his labors, and so be able to establish a comfortable home. He landed at New Orleans, and thence proceeded by a steamer up the Mississippi River to St. Louis. He disembarked in that city a stranger in a strange land, without money and without friends, and laboring also under the further disadvantage of being unable to understand the language of the people. But with all these discouragements the heart of the sturdy young man beat high with hope and a firm resolve to make life a success in this to him unknown country. He was endowed with plenty of strength and muscle, and knew well how to use them, so that he did not have great difficulty in securing work, finding employment in Columbia, Ill., with a farmer, receiving as payment the sum of \$9 a month and board. His next place of employment was at Alton, Ill., for a few weeks. He then took a job of splitting rails, and as this was entirely new work for him, he could only earn his board that winter. In the spring of 1859 he came to Nebraska City, and shortly after hired out to a German farmer who lived twelve miles southwest of the city, and he worked for that man until the fall of the year, for \$12.50 a month. Wishing to become more conversant with the English language, he engaged with an American that fall, for \$9 a month, and worked with him that winter. In the spring of

1860 he crossed the plains to Pike's Peak with ox-teams, and there he secured work in a sawmill until fall, at \$25 a month and board. In the fall he returned to Omaha, and then came to Nebraska City to work on a farm in this vicinity. In the spring of 1861 he came to Nebraska City, and was employed in a livery stable for a few months prior to his enlistment in the 2d Nebraska Cavalry, with which regiment he went to the frontier, and did gallant service in suppressing the Indian outbreak. He was present at the battle of Whitstone Hill, and continued in the army until the fall of 1863, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment. He was then employed in a restaurant and confectionery store until the spring of 1864. He then went to St. Louis, where he hoped to obtain more profitable work, but being disappointed in that, he enlisted in Company I, 41st Missouri Infantry, and from that time did garrison duty until the close of the war, when he was honorably discharged with his regiment, and once again came to Nebraska City. While he was in the army he had been prudent and economical, and had wisely saved his earnings, so that on his return here he had enough to buy a good breaking team, consisting of five yokes of oxen, and he then engaged in the profitable work of breaking prairie at \$4 an acre. He followed that business two seasons, but in the fall of the year 1866 he abandoned that to form a partnership with George Burtz, in opening a confectionery store. In 1867 Mr. Schomerus left his partner in charge of their business, and went back to his old home in Germany, in very much more prosperous circumstances than when he left there ten years before. Having had a very pleasant visit among his old friends, he returned to his adopted country in the fall of that year, accompanied by his betrothed and a brother and his family. In the following year he bought his partner's interest in the business, which they had been conducting together, and carried it on alone for a few years. He then sold out and bought a farm nine miles northwest of the city. He did not move onto his farm, however, but continued his residence in the city, and in 1877 formed a partnership with John H. Minke, to engage in the boot and shoe trade. They were associated together for about five years, and then divided the stock, our

subject retaining the old stand, and he is still carrying on a flourishing business.

Mr. Schomerus has been twice married. His first marriage, which took place in New York City in 1867, was to Miss M. E. Wilkan, also a native of Hanover. After a pleasant married life of ten years, she died Oct. 14, 1877. Mr. Schomerus was married to his present estimable wife, formerly Miss Anna Hobbe, of Oldenburg, Germany, Sept. 19, 1878. They are respected members of the Lutheran Church, and are foremost in its good works. They are kind and charitable toward the poor and unfortunate, who find in them true friends in the hour of need. Mr. Schomerus is a loyal citizen, as was proved by his course during the war and by his conduct since. He was a Republican until 1872, when he went with the liberal party, and he now affiliates with the Democrats.

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**F**RANK C. RICHARDS, junior member of the firm of Dundas & Richards, publishers of the *Talmage Tribune*, conducts with his partner one of the best local papers in this county, and a journal which is duly valued by the people. It is a five-column folio, issued every Friday, and fulfills in a praiseworthy manner the object for which it is intended, as a dispenser of local news. It was established in March, 1882, under the editorial management of other parties, later became the property of the Talmage Publishing Company, and came under its present management in July, 1888. Mr. Richards has done his full share in placing it upon a sound basis, financially, and it is in the enjoyment of a healthy and steadily increasing circulation.

Mr. Richards began life in Grant County, Wis., Nov. 13, 1861, the home of his parents at that time being in the vicinity of Georgetown. The latter were John S. and Louisa (Daigh) Richards, the father a native of Virginia and the mother of Illinois. They became residents of the Badger State at an early period in their lives, and there their marriage took place. The father engaged in farming, and after the birth of a part of their family the parents removed to Christian County, Ill., lo-

cating near Grove City, where they built up a good homestead and lived until coming to Nebraska in 1861.

The parents of our subject after crossing the Mississippi located first in Nemaha County, this State, and in the fall removed to a farm in Douglas Precinct, that county, where they still live. John Richards is a man of note in his community, a good citizen, and politically, a solid Republican. He is about sixty-three years of age. The mother, a most estimable lady, is a devoted member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their family includes eight children, all of whom are living, and are residents of Nebraska.

The paternal grandfather of our subject, also John Richards by name, was a farmer in the Old Dominion. He became imbued with the spirit of emigration, and some time in the forties left Virginia with his family and lived for a time in Ohio. Later he removed across the Mississippi to Iowa, and finally to Grant County, Wis., where he spent his last days, yielding up his life at a ripe old age. He had married in early manhood Miss Mary A. Cordell, who died in Greene County, Iowa, about 1884, at the home of her daughter, when about eighty-four years old. These excellent old people, who had been careful and conscientious in all their dealings with their fellowmen, were members for a long period of the Methodist Church.

On his mother's side the grandfather of our subject was John Daigh, a Virginian by birth and a farmer by occupation. He emigrated to Ohio during its pioneer days when a single man, and there married Miss Sarah Porter. Later they came west to Illinois, and settled among the earliest pioneers of Sangamon County, whence they removed to Christian County. There they resided until the discovery of the lead mines at Galena. Grandfather Daigh, however, with a desire to see something more of the world, again changed his residence, this time to Grant County, Wis., and located in the vicinity of Jamestown, about eighteen miles north of Galena, Ill. In 1867, however, he moved back with his family to Christian County, and in 1882, when quite aged, he and his estimable wife crossed the Mississippi into Nemaha County, this State, locating in Douglas Precinct, where his death took

place Jan. 27, 1886, at the age of seventy-eight years. As the result of a temperate life and good habits he continued hale and hearty until the final summons came. Grandmother Daigh survived her husband but a few months, her death taking place in August following, when she was sixty-nine years old. She was a member of the Methodist Church.

Frank C. Richards, our subject, continued a member of the parental household until approaching manhood, pursuing his studies first in the common schools of Grove City, Ill. Later he became a student of the Normal School at Valparaiso, Ind. He came to Nebraska with his parents, and on the 4th of August, 1887, was married, in Douglas Precinct, Nemaha County, to Miss Harriet E. Bishop. This lady was born near Wyoming, this county, April 12, 1864, and is the daughter of Rev. James and Mary A. Bishop, the former of whom was a native of Virginia, and died at his home in Glen Rock in 1884, when past eighty years of age. Mrs. Bishop is still living, and makes her home on her farm at Glen Rock, being now about sixty years old.

Mrs. Richards removed with her parents from Otoe to Nemaha County when a little child, and was educated in the public schools. She is a cultivated and intelligent lady, and takes great interest in State and National affairs, coinciding with her husband in his Republican principles. Mr. Richards spent his boyhood and youth under the parental roof, and soon after leaving school began teaching in Douglas Precinct, Nemaha County. Later he embarked in the grain trade at Glen Rock, Neb., where he was occupied successfully a period of three years in the interests of the firm of Spear & Hulburd. Later he resumed teaching, and finally became Principal of the Johnson schools, of which he had charge two years. He took a warm interest in the educational affairs of that locality, and by the exercise of great perseverance succeeded in establishing the Teachers' Association and Institute. He was urged to accept the Presidency of this, but declined in favor of Prof. Charles Fordyce, an old and experienced teacher of many years' standing.

Mr. Richards, in 1884, identified himself with the Masonic fraternity, and is a charter member of Blue Lodge No. 124, of Auburn, also a member of

the I. O. O. F. of that place, being connected with Mayflower Lodge No. 76. He has filled the various offices of the order and takes a warm interest in its success. He is rapidly becoming identified with the most important interests of Talmage, where he is recognized as a capable and efficient journalist, as well as a valued member of society.



**C**HARLES G. FISCHER is one of the worthy representatives of the German-American citizens of Nebraska City. He was born on the 21st of August, 1843, in Saxony, Germany, which was the native place of his father, Frederick Fischer, and also indeed of his family so far as it can be traced. His grandfather, Nicholas Fischer, was a small but successful farmer there, while the father of our subject learned and followed the trade of slate-roofing, and later also learned the trade of a tailor. In 1856, accompanied by his wife and five children, he came to America, by way of Hamburg to Hull, England, across that country by rail to Liverpool, and thence by steamer to New York. Leaving that city the little family of Mr. Fischer went to Cincinnati, where he followed tailoring until his death from cholera in 1866. His wife, whose maiden name was Caroline Lehmann, who was, we need hardly add, a native of Saxony, bore bravely the trouble that fell upon her household, and did her best to meet the case. She is still living in Cincinnati. Their family included eleven children, only five of whom, however, now survive. These are Mollie, Charles G., Mary, Clara and Otto.

The subject of our sketch was thirteen years of age when he came with his parents to this country. He had attended the schools of the Fatherland, and also joined the classes of the public schools of Cincinnati, continuing for about two years, when he went to learn the trade of a machinist in the shops of the Hamilton & Dayton Railroad. He remained there for four years and then worked in various shops until 1861.

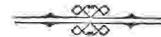
On the 13th of June, 1861, the subject of our sketch enlisted in Company C, 28th Ohio Infantry, and continued in the service until 1863. Among

the many engagements in which he took part were those of Fredericksburg, Harper's Ferry, on the Gallier River, Va., where he was wounded by a piece of a bursting shell, injuring him in the right arm, thus disabling him from further service. He was therefore honorably discharged in October, 1863, and returned to Cincinnati.

Our subject returned to his old trade and continued to follow it in Ohio until 1869, when he came to Nebraska City and engaged in a furniture store, where he worked until the 27th of July, 1871, when he entered into business for himself, continuing until July, 1875, when his business was destroyed by fire, then going to Colorado. After four months in the mountains he returned to Nebraska City, where he was shortly afterward appointed engineer of the City Fire Department, which he held for one year and a half.

In 1880 our subject opened his meat-market on Central avenue, which is still his place of business and the center of quite an extensive trade. He is well respected in the community, both as a citizen and business man. He is a worthy member of the William Baumer Post No. 24, G. A. R., and also the Schiller Lodge No. 23, K. of P., and Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F.

On the 14th of April, 1864, Mr. Fischer was united in marriage with Barbara Swan, who was born in Bohemia, and came to America with her parents when about six months old. They have become the parents of five children, who bear the following names: Edward, Hart, Robert, Willie and Lulu.



**F**REDERICK W. SCHROEDER, who has become widely known as the proprietor of the Short System Roller Mill of Syracuse, which he purchased in 1887, is a native of Germany, and was born on the 3d of September, 1835. It was his misfortune to be left an orphan quite early in life. When seventeen years of age he commenced working in a mill, at which occupation he continued, employed for various persons until 1869, acquiring in the meantime the trade of a millwright.

Our subject emigrated to the United States in

1869, landing at New York, and proceeded at once to make his way as rapidly as possible toward the West, finally stopping in Nebraska City. He soon obtained work in a mill at Peru, and although, perhaps, in some few minor details the labor connected therewith was different from that to which he had been accustomed in his native country, he proved himself an able workman. The following year he took a homestead in Buda Precinct, Lancaster County, this State, which he proved up, and later ran a mill in Nebraska City for two years. When the mill was burned, at the end of that period, our subject rebuilt and continued business as before. In 1878 he built a mill at Roca, in Lancaster County. This mill had a capacity of forty barrels per diem. It was destroyed by fire on the 6th of July, 1887. The company in which the property was insured failed, and Mr. Schroeder consequently did not obtain the \$3,000 which his policy called for.

The subject of our sketch finally came to Syracuse and purchased his present property, which was then idle and out of repair. He built a dam and has put the whole equipment into splendid working order, expending upon it \$4,000. The mill manufactures some of the finest flour of the State, and has a capacity of thirty-five barrels daily. Mr. Schroeder is building up a lucrative patronage, and his customers appreciate his high sense of honor and general business integrity.

The interesting event of the marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 31st of July, 1868, a short time before he came to this country. The maiden name of the lady who then linked her life and interests with his was Anna Dorethea Damka. They became the parents of three sons: Fred W. C., Gustave H. and Fred William, all of whom, by a kindly Providence, are still spared to the father. Mrs. Schroeder departed this life on the 9th of January, 1887, sincerely mourned by her family and friends as one who had been in the highest degree faithful to the responsibilities and duties of life, a true wife and mother.

The subject of our sketch is a devout member and able supporter of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is deeply interested in every department of its work. In politics he is a Prohibitionist,

and in all points connected with the various issues at stake endeavors to advance the interests of his party.

The view of the homestead and mill property of Mr. Schroeder will be found on another page. The whole is very neat, pleasant and tasteful—a goodly sight to the eye. It not only adds beauty to the landscape, but value to that section of country.



**J**OHAN O. FARMER is one of the most promising, enterprising and practical young farmers and stock-raisers of South Branch Precinct, and operates 160 acres of splendidly improved land on section 24. He is the son of Elias and Mary N. (Wolf) Farmer, who were natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. They were married in the latter State, and there continued to make their home until the husband and father died in the year 1862, after a severe sickness, the cause of death being black erysipelas. After this event the mother of our subject was married to Mr. William DeVolt, a gentleman of French family, residing at present in South Branch. Of her union with Mr. Farmer two children were born, our subject and Nathan M. After her marriage with Mr. DeVolt she gave birth to two other children—Elmer E. and Eva E.

The place of the nativity of our subject is Knox County, Ohio, the date of that interesting event Feb. 6, 1860. His father died when he was about two years of age, and he continued to live with his mother until he was ten years of age, and then started in life for himself. He began by working out upon a farm, by which he managed to support himself, and being allowed the privilege of attending school during winter, which he did until he was sixteen years of age, he succeeded in obtaining that indispensability of a successful life, a good practical education.

Mr. Farmer came to Nebraska when eighteen years of age, settling first in Omaha in 1878, and later in Nebraska City, and thence coming out to his present place, which was purchased by the two brothers; later he bought out his brother, and since that time continued it alone. He has made all the

improvements on the place; the grove he set out carefully, the hedges and fences he has planted and trimmed, stretched and kept. The orchard he has been careful to select and put out and tend, the house and buildings are also largely his own work. These are substantial, commodious and convenient. The home is in point of fact a bright, cheery place, that can be appreciated no less by the visitor, to whom a cordial hospitality is always shown, than by the owner of the property.

On the 16th of October, 1884, at Tecumseh, Mr. Farmer and Emma A., daughter of Frederick and Caroline (Miers) Watermerer, were united in wedlock with happiest results. They are the parents of two children: Lola M., born Aug. 13, 1885, and Rosa E., Nov. 10, 1887. The parents of Mrs. Farmer were born in Germany, and upon coming to the United States settled first in Wisconsin, and later in Illinois. Her father was a professor of German and English, and was teaching in Cairo, Ill., when he died in 1874; her mother, who is still living and has reached the advanced age of sixty-seven years, makes her home with our subject. She is the mother of two children: Emil T., and Emma A., the wife of our subject, who was born on the 10th of March, 1862, at the Wisconsin home.

The subject of our sketch has served as Constable, and is also now the School Moderator of this district. Politically, he is Democratic, and takes a lively interest in politics. With his wife, he attends the Baptist Church, and in that, as in every other relation in life, both are held in much esteem. There is evidently a future before Mr. Farmer that will be worthy of his character, power and energy.



**P**ETER SCHARP. Among the intelligent and thrifty German farmers of Wyoming Precinct none held a higher position among their fellow-citizens than the subject of this sketch, who departed this life after a long and painful illness, on the 17th of March, 1888. A native of Holstein, Germany, he was born Jan. 24, 1841, and emigrated to America with his parents in 1856. The latter were Timm and Mattie Scharp, who were also of German birth and parentage, and

whose family consisted of six children. Soon after setting foot upon American soil they made their way directly to the West, settling in Wyoming Precinct, this county, where their son Peter grew to manhood and received a common-school education. The death of the father occurred about 1883. He was accidentally killed, having been thrown from a wagon which was struck by a runaway team. Mr. Scharp was hurled with much violence to the ground, and instantly expired. The mother is still living on the home farm with her son Timm.

Upon reaching manhood our subject started out for himself, and managed to secure 160 acres of land on section 21, upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. He began in earnest the cultivation of the soil, but feeling the need of a wife and helpmate was in due time united in marriage with Miss Johanna Guencel, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in Wyoming Precinct, Oct. 29, 1868. The young people commenced the journey of life together in a manner suitable to their means and station, and labored with one mutual purpose in the building up of a home and the development of a farm. Their first dwelling was a small frame house, which, in 1883, was replaced by the present fine residence.

Mrs. Scharp was born in Gorlitz, Prussia, on the 14th of August, 1840, and is the daughter of Carl and Christiana (Frenzel) Guencel, who were natives of the same, and of pure German ancestry. They were reared and married in their native Province, the father in the meantime serving three years in the German Army. Later he established himself upon a farm, and spent his entire life upon his native soil, his death occurring in 1874, when he was sixty-five years old. Both parents were reared in the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, of which they became members at an early age. The mother is still living in Germany, being now seventy-eight years old.

Mrs. Scharp lived at home with her parents until the spring of 1868, and then came alone to the United States, joining her brother, Ernest Guencel, in Nebraska City, where she lived until her marriage with our subject. Of this union there have been born nine children, two of whom, Mattie and Timm, died at the ages of five and two respectively.

The survivors, Mary, Peter J., Hannah, Ernest, Emma, John and Carl, are all at home with their mother, and form a very intelligent and interesting little family, being given the training and education suited to their station in life.

The Scharp homestead comprises 160 acres of land, and in addition to this property Mr. Scharp owned 180 acres elsewhere, including forty acres of valuable timber. Mrs. Scharp since the death of her husband has managed her affairs in a very intelligent manner, and kept up the reputation of the estate in a most creditable style. The farm buildings are first-class in every particular, and Mr. Scharp as a stock-raiser had gained quite an enviable reputation. He was a Republican in politics, and with his wife and children a loyal adherent of the Lutheran faith of his forefathers. His name is held in kindly remembrance by all who knew him, as that of a man honorable in his dealings with his fellow-citizens and one who did good service in the building up of one of the most intelligent communities of the West.



**J**ACOB DIENER came to the southwestern part of this county in the spring of 1877, and settled upon a tract of rented land which he cultivated for a period of five years. In the fall of 1881 he purchased his present farm of 160 acres on section 6, South Branch Precinct, and the year following took possession. It was then raw prairie, and the homestead which the traveler views to-day with admiring interest, with its buildings, groves, orchards, machinery and live stock, has been the result of the persevering industry of the present proprietor, the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this sketch. He has of late been giving his attention largely to fine draft horses and good breeds of swine. Of these he makes a specialty, and realizes therefrom a handsome income.

Next in importance to the life and character of an individual is that of those from whom he sprang. The father of our subject, John Diener, was a native of Rhenish Prussia, and married Miss Caroline Reim, who was born and reared in his own neighborhood. The paternal grandfather, Phillip Diener,

a native of the same Province, spent his entire life there. His son John, upon reaching manhood and being married, settled upon a small farm of sixty acres, the soil of which he tilled until 1835, and not being satisfied with the result, embarked with his little family for America. Here he located first in Carlisle, Pa., and was employed on a railroad. Thence he went to Pottsville, in Schuylkill County, and for a time was employed in coal mining. Later he took up his residence in Northumberland County, where his death occurred in 1874, at the age of sixty-four years. The mother, still continuing a resident of Pennsylvania, died in 1883, at the advanced age of eighty years.

The seven children of the parental family were named respectively: Lena, Margaretta and Caroline, who are now deceased; Jacob, of our sketch; John, living near Syracuse, in this county, and Dorothy, a resident of Pennsylvania. Jacob, like his parents, was born in Rhenish Prussia, Aug. 29, 1823, and until a lad twelve years of age continued with them on the farm in his native Province. Like most of the children of Germany, he was given a good common-school education, and he remembers the incidents of preparation for the long voyage across the Atlantic, together with their stormy passage over. They set sail from Havre de Grace, France, encountering seven weeks of bad weather, and finally landed in the city of Baltimore.

Our subject proceeded with his parents to Carlisle, Pa., and for several years thereafter was engaged in coal mining, during which time he met with many hairbreadth escapes incident to this often dangerous occupation. He was a workman of more than ordinary intelligence and ability, finally operated by contract, and upon several occasions sunk the trial shaft, a difficult proceeding, requiring great judgment and skill. In the spring of 1877, however, becoming very tired of mining and of the constant battle with falling slate and inhalation of gas which often threatened to destroy him, he resolved to change his occupation to something more pleasant and less dangerous.

Putting his resolve into execution, Mr. Diener made his way across the Mississippi, and the first night spent in Otoe County was in the rapidly developing town of Syracuse. After locating upon

the land which he rented in Hendricks, he sent for his family, and subsequently proceeded as we have already indicated. He was first married, Jan. 6, 1844, in Schuylkill County, Pa., to Miss Catherine Diehl, who was born in Germany, Sept. 5, 1825, and only survived her wedding five years, her death taking place in the winter of 1849. This lady was the daughter of Phillip and Catherine (Schound) Diehl, natives of Bavaria, and the father was a coal miner by occupation. Upon coming to America they settled in Schuylkill County, Pa., where the father died at the age of fifty years, in 1842. The mother is still living in Pennsylvania, being now eighty-eight years old. Their children were Lewis, Phillip, Frederick, Caroline, Charlotte, Louisa, Augustus and Lizzie. Philip and Jacob are deceased.

This union of our subject resulted in the birth of four children, all sons: Phillip Albert died when about three years of age; John Frederick is mail agent on the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad. He served during the Civil War, in the 7th Pennsylvania Cavalry, and in the battle at Dallas, Ga., was wounded and captured by the enemy. He experienced the terrors first of Atlanta and then Andersonville Prison, but his life was spared, and he returned home after being paroled and exchanged. He was mustered out in 1865, with his regiment in Georgia, and is now in Syracuse. Charles is a stationary engineer by profession, and a resident of Schuylkill County, Pa.

Phillip Diehl during the late war served as a Union soldier, and died at Hatteras Inlet. Caroline became the second wife of our subject in the fall of 1852. She was born Sept. 5, 1829, and was a child two years of age when she came with her parents to America. Of this union there have been born nine children, namely: Louis, Ernest A., Laura, Albert, Lizzie, Frederick, Henry, George and William. Louis and Ernest A. are farmers, one in Palmyra Precinct, this county, and the latter in Lincoln County; Laura is the wife of Harry Johnson, a well-to-do farmer of Lincoln County, and the mother of five children. The following are also in that county: Albert; Lizzie, the wife of Peter Lloyd; Frederick and George. The other children are at home with their parents.

Mr. Diener, politically, is a decided Republican,

and in religious matters belongs to the German Lutheran Church. His estimable wife is a member of the German Reformed Church. They have one of the pleasantest homes in the county, and their hospitable doors are always open both to friend and stranger, to whom they extend that welcome which is always so grateful to the recipient, and by which means they have gathered around them hosts of warm friends.



**W**ILLIAM M. THALER. The life of this gentleman is illustrative of the fact that thoroughness is the key to success. As a boy this marked his life, whether in school or on the play-ground; it was equally true of him as a young man starting in life, as a soldier, and in his business relations of later years. He is a representative citizen of Palmyra, and has the esteem of his fellows. He is the son of John M. and Margaret Thaler, both of whom were natives of Germany. The occupation of his father was that of a stonemason, and he was considered a skilled worker. In the year 1839, when he had reached the advanced age of sixty years, he started with his family for America, and settled in Springfield, there continuing to follow his trade. About the time he was eighty-two years of age the sands of the hourglass of his life had run out, and he departed this life at Springfield, in the year 1861. His wife lived to be eighty-four years of age; she died at the residence of our subject in the year 1883. The father of our subject was twice married. By his first union he became the father of one child, and by the second, that to which reference is made above, of twelve children. Our subject is one of the younger children; he and his brother Charley, who died at New York in 1839, were twins.

The native place of William Thaler is Honackon, Wurtemberg, Germany. He was born in the year 1836, but his residence in that county was of comparatively short duration, and his early recollections center around the Springfield home. His education was obtained in the Springfield schools, and was supplemented by a course of instruction in the Brooks Seminary. He was all that is meant

by the expression a thorough boy, vivacious, bright, an intense lover of fun, and perhaps at times a little too exuberant for the comfort of some less youthful. There was, however, always present with him a certain sturdy sense of manly honor, and his record is not tarnished as it might have been had his home training been less careful and complete. Upon leaving school the question of trade or calling was placed before him, and he elected to become a stone-cutter. He served an apprenticeship of two and a half years, working on the stone block representing Illinois in the Washington Monument for about six weeks, toward the latter part of his apprenticeship. Difficulty with the boss caused him to leave, and he went to Logan County, Ill., and there engaged on a farm.

While in Logan County our subject met Miss Melinda Lanterman, who was born near Springfield, Ill., in 1834, to John and Elizabeth Lanterman. The father of this lady was a farmer, and prosperous in his occupation, his death occurring when she was about twenty years of age; she shortly afterward went to keep house for her brother, whose home was in Logan County. It was here the acquaintance was formed that resulted in their marriage on the 5th of March, 1857. They lived in Illinois until 1860, and then he came alone to this State, arriving in Nebraska City on the 5th of April, 1860, and his family came in March, 1861. The same day he went out to visit a cousin whose home was in the vicinity, and, upon being asked by his relative how he liked the Territory, replied: "I like it well enough to live and die in Otoe County." He has not yet changed his opinion.

His visit to Nebraska City over, Mr. Thaler returned to Springfield, Ill., where he cast his first Presidential ballot for Lincoln, whom he had served in youth as a chore boy. He remained in Illinois over winter, and in the spring of 1861 returned with his wife and child, and rented first a farm in Otoe County, which he held for two years. At the close of that period, his first impression of the county being strengthened, he purchased a farm, but did not improve it before the war.

At the risk of a retrogression, we mention an incident in connection with the first vote for President mentioned above, as indicating the principles

that underlie the character of our subject. At the time Fremont was spoken of for the Presidency Mr. Thaler sympathized with the Fillmore party. A day or two afterward he received from his former employer and benefactor, Lincoln, a sharp letter. Seeing the folly of his conduct, he made a vow that if Lincoln ever ran for office again he would vote for him; consequently, in the fall of 1860, when in Nebraska City, he did not think it too much to return to Illinois to cast his vote. The day after his return home he called on Lincoln, who was well pleased to see him, and filled with strong emotion as he understood the purpose of the journey from Nebraska. With a look that will ever be remembered by our subject he said: "Well, William, you have come a long way to vote for me, will you come that far to defend the principles you are voting for?" The promise was given that he would do so, and has since been nobly fulfilled.

In 1861 Mrs. Thaler died at Nebraska City, leaving to the care of her husband a little daughter, Margaret, and, although the condition was unfavorable to the fulfillment of his promise to Lincoln, and his path in that direction thus rendered very difficult, he was so moved by McClellan's defeat, that, when the call came for 600,000 men, he started once more for Springfield, and enlisted in Company A, 73d Illinois Infantry, for three years, and served during the remainder of the war. Only about one week was allowed for drilling at Camp Butler, before they departed for the front. Everything else was learned under the rebel fire.

The first battle in which our subject participated was that at Perryville, fought on the 9th of October, 1862. The next was at Chickamauga. He was taken sick with typhoid fever at Nashville, and lay between life and death for a long time, in the summer of 1863, in the hospital at that place and Chattanooga. After the battle last mentioned he was again taken ill, and upon recovery served in the engagement at Nashville. He was at Greenville, Tenn., when Lincoln's assassination occurred. At that place he served on detached duty. On the Easter Sunday he and his comrades were having a splendid time in exercises similar to those of the old-fashioned singing school; all were feeling happy and jubilant, but the news reached them just at

that time, and from the heights of pleasure they sank to the lowest depths of sorrow, to know that the President was no more. Receiving an honorable discharge at Nashville, on the 12th of June, 1865, Mr. Thaler returned to his home.

Arriving in Nebraska City on the 20th of August, 1865, after an absence of three years and four days, our subject found things more changed than he had anticipated. On the 1st of September he started freighting over the plains to Colorado and to Ft. Laramie, Wyo. He carried on this business under Government contract for two years, then, coming once more to Nebraska City, on the 11th of January, 1867, he went to his farm, started to improve it, and has since gone on with that good work.

The second marriage of our subject was celebrated on the 26th of November, 1868, and he then became the husband of Miss Permelia Ann Cassle, the daughter of John and Sarah (Thomas) Cassle. Her father was born in South Carolina and her mother in Ohio, but removed to Indiana, and finally came to Nebraska, in 1856, and settled near Nebraska City. They became the parents of nine children, eight of whom are living. Mrs. Thaler is the fourth child, and was born on the 1st of July, 1837, in Warren County, Ind. At the time the family removed to Nebraska she was nineteen years of age. This union has been consummated by the birth of four children, whose names are as follows: Bertha M., who died when about sixteen years of age; Florence A., Willie W., and Milton, who died when but an infant. By his former marriage Mr. Thaler had two children—Margaret A., and John M., who died in Quincy. Margaret is the wife of Ira Gordon, and resides at Wabash, Neb., and is the mother of three children.

In 1879 our subject sold his property and purchased a farm near Palmyra. In 1883 he went into his present business, which is that of a hardwareman and dealer in harness and saddlery. He built a brick corner block in 1883, in partnership with C. B. Coswell. This business venture has been most satisfactory in every regard, and he has prospered beyond his most sanguine expectations. He has also built a branch store at Hendricks, in

which he has a half-interest, and has erected a good residence in the best part of the town.

Naturally Mr. Thaler is an enthusiastic member of the G. A. R., and has been the commander of the post. He is an earnest member of the Christian Church, his wife and daughter equally so of the Baptist communion. Our subject feels strongly in the matter of Prohibition, and heartily espouses that cause. He has received many indications of the esteem in which he and his are held in the town, and also of the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens. At present he is serving upon the Village Board his third term, holding the office of President of the same.



**L**EMUEL E. SINSABAUGH, of Syracuse, was the first man to locate upon the present site of this city, coming here in August, 1871, and putting up the first building within its limits. He at once established a lumber-yard, and was accordingly the pioneer in this business. He is now engaged in the breeding of fine horses, being the owner of the celebrated Bashaw Stock Farm, where he has a fine stable of Cleveland Bays, the better class of road horses and Shetland ponies.

Bradford County, Pa., was the early tramping ground of our subject, where his birth took place Feb. 16, 1839. His parents were David and Susan (Peck) Sinsabaugh, and as they died when he was a small boy, he knows little of the history of his ancestors farther than that his grandparents were residents of Orange County, N. Y. Of the parental family there were eleven children, ten of whom grew to mature years. These were: Rachel, the wife of Huston Munn; William, Richard, Alpheus, Hector; Elsie, Mrs. Minard DeGross; Thomas M., Lemuel E.; Miranda, the wife of James L. Patterson, and Lois, Mrs. George T. Hunt. These are residents of Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Illinois and Nebraska.

Our subject was left an orphan when a lad of ten years, and resided with his brothers for some time afterward. When a boy in his teens he was employed as a farm laborer, and in 1858 entered a factory where were manufactured agricultural im-

plements, at Athens, Pa. In 1860, going to Western, Pa., he engaged in lumbering, and the year following occurred the outbreak of the late Civil War. Soon after the first call for troops he entered the service as a member of Company H, 46th Pennsylvania Infantry, and operated with his comrades along the Shenandoah Valley under Gen. Banks, participating in all the battles of that campaign. On the 8th of August, 1862, the day preceding the battle at Cedar River, our subject was afflicted with a sunstroke, and during the conflict which followed was captured by the rebels, and confined at Libby Prison and Belle Isle until in January, 1863. He was then exchanged, and rejoining his regiment, participated in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, after which this division of the army was transferred to Chattanooga and to the command of Gen. Sherman. Mr. Sinsabaugh afterward fought at Lookout Mountain, Resaca and Dallas, receiving at the latter place a gunshot wound, which, in connection with the effects of sunstroke, so disabled him that he was relieved from active duty, and sent to the hospital at New Albany, Ind. Later, at Harrisburg, Pa., he received his honorable discharge, after having given a faithful service of three years to his country.

Upon leaving the army our subject returned to his old haunts in Bradford County, Pa., resuming his work, the manufacture of agricultural implements, until 1865. He then went into the oil regions, and was engaged in developing wells until the following year, when he returned to the factory. The summer of 1871 found him west of the Mississippi, and preparing to locate upon the present site of Syracuse, this county. He continued in the lumber business until 1878, and was succeeded by H. N. Carpenter. He now turned his attention to the raising of fancy poultry, and for this purpose erected a set of the finest buildings in the United States. His operations proved highly remunerative, his trade extending to every State in the Union, the Sandwich Islands and England. But, alas for human calculations, a conflagration, supposed to have been started by a firecracker, swept away, the labor of years, entailing a heavy loss of property upon which there was no insurance.

As soon as he could recover from his calamity,

our subject invested his remaining capital in a stock of general merchandise, associating himself with a partner, and the firm of Page & Sinsabaugh continued in existence until the fall of 1884. Mr. S. then withdrew and established the Bashaw Stock Farm, and as a breeder of fine horses now occupies a position in the front ranks among the men of that line in Southern Nebraska. His stables are located near the city limits, where, in addition to his farm, he owns forty acres of land.

Miss Jennie Bloodgood, daughter of Hiram and Sarah Bloodgood, of New York, became the wife of our subject Sept. 12, 1865, the wedding taking place at the home of the bride in New York. Mrs. Sinsabaugh was born in Tioga County, N. Y., and departed this life at her home in Syracuse, Neb., May 13, 1873. Of this union there were born four children: Ida M., now the wife of Henry Vose, of Syracuse; Grace is at home with her father, Willie, and one deceased. Our subject, politically, votes the Republican ticket, and is one of the pioneer members of the Masonic fraternity in this region, being the first man initiated in Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 57, in Syracuse.

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JAMES M. RILEY, the well-known and prosperous liveryman of Syracuse, is a native of the Buckeye State, and was born in Muskingum County on the 16th of June, 1857. His father, John Riley, was a native of that State, and followed the occupation of farming, and in that calling enjoyed even more than usual success. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, was Christiania McDonald, a native of Virginia, who, throughout the years of her married life, manifested a spirit beautiful in its purity and Christian helpfulness. She was in every sense of the word a true wife and mother. Mr. Riley, Sr., continued to make his home in his native State until 1885, when, owing to the death of his wife and two daughters, each of whom fell a victim to that most fatal of all known diseases, consumption, he determined to seek a climate where the surviving members of his family might have an opportunity to escape the same fell destroyer. Accordingly he sold

his farm and other property in Ohio and migrated to Kansas, where he purchased a section of land in Wabaunsee County, which he has improved and still operates as a stock farm. Of his family five children are still living, his son John M. being the eldest.

The education of our subject was obtained in the usual institution of his native county, and as he made good use of his school days and has not been neglectful of self-improvement since, he is a well-informed man and capable citizen. On leaving school he became his father's assistant upon the farm, and continued thus employed until 1877. At that time he went to Kansas, where he took a commercial course in a college at Lawrence, and throughout the three subsequent years represented L. K. Hill & Co., of Kalamazoo, Mich., as their salesman of plow attachments in the State of Kansas. Upon resigning this position he engaged in stock-raising, in which his success was even greater than it had been as a salesman.

The year 1885 is memorable in the history of our subject as that in which he was united in wedlock with Addie Daly, the estimable lady who has since that time been the companion of his life, and has enriched it by the matured intelligence, culture and inspiration of her womanhood. Mrs. Riley is the daughter of George W. Daly, of Kansas, who was born in the State of New York, but as a young man went to Kansas and taught school. While a resident there he met and married his wife, who was the daughter of one of the pioneers of Kansas. Mr. Daly is now agent for the Kansas Loan and Trust Company of Topeka, and very prosperous as a business man. The union of Mr. and Mrs. Riley has been the more firmly cemented and its happiness augmented by the birth of a daughter, to whom they have given the name Ethel.

Kansas continued to be the home of our subject some time after he was married, in fact, until he came to this State in the year 1886, at which time he settled in Syracuse, and embarked with his usual thoroughness and enterprise in his present business. The good fortune which attended his former occupation did not leave him when he came hither, and although in a new country where are many difficulties and obstacles unknown in older settled districts,

these have never turned him from his purpose. He has industriously looked after his business, and has firmly established a reputation in the community.

Like his father before him, our subject is a staunch Republican, and when opportunity offers is always ready to manifest his faith by his deeds, hence is esteemed an extremely loyal and patriotic citizen.

**A**NDREW STOUT, one of the prosperous farmers of Otoe Precinct, owning forty acres of farming land on section 20, 160 acres being the north quarter of the south-east quarter of the same section, the entire north half of section 30, and ten acres on section 23, a total of 530 acres, his residence being upon the first named, is the son of Emley and Elvira (Denney) Stout. His father was born in the State of New Jersey, but was brought up in Ohio, whence he was taken by his parents when about six years of age. This was the native State of the mother of our subject.

It is believed from family tradition that the ancestry of Andrew Stout were subjects of the British Crown, and that the grandfather of Andrew was the first member of the family to come to this country, where he settled in New Jersey after the Revolutionary War. In the War of 1812 this gentleman served as a teamster for the army.

Mr. Emley Stout and Elvira Denney were married in Morgan County, Ill., near the city of Jacksonville, in the year 1835. They are now residing near Ashland, Cass Co., Ill., and are respectively seventy-nine and seventy years of age. Their family circle includes twelve children, ten of whom grew to mature years. Their names are as follows: Andrew, Caroline, Hannah, Theodore, Aaron and Cyrus (deceased), George W., Charles E.; Mary F. died when one year old; Mary E. died aged about thirty-three; Lucinda and William.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 1st of February, 1837, in Pike County, Ill. He grew up in Cass County from the time he was twelve years of age, previous to which he had lived in Morgan County from the time he was eighteen months old. Being the eldest son he was directed to farm work

at a very early age, and while still a youth was able to take charge of almost any department of such work. This was the more necessary because his father was by no means a rich man, and needed all the help that could be given. For this reason perhaps more than any other the education of our subject was not given that attention that would have been desirable, and, under other circumstances, possible. What schooling he obtained he received during the winter months only, and upon the foundation then laid he has never ceased to continue to build.

After spending the first twenty-two years of his life under the home roof our subject started in life for himself by celebrating his marriage with Mary E., the estimable daughter of Nathan and Catharine (Epler) Blizzard. This lady was born in Clark County, Ind., and there lived until she was six years of age, when, with her parents, she went to Morgan County, Ill., which afterward continued to be her home until her marriage. The date of the latter event was Nov. 18, 1858. Both her parents are deceased.

The young couple spent the first year of their married life in Illinois, and then sold out their property and came to this State, arriving in the fall of 1859. Their first purchase was the northeast corner of section 30. By care and unremitting labor, judiciously carried on, success so far crowned the efforts of our subject that the adjoining quarter of the same section was purchased and incorporated with their previous possessions. Mr. Stout followed for many years general or mixed farming, finding it more profitable than a more special line of operations.

For six years Mr. Stout held the office of County Commissioner, and for two years he was Chairman of the board. While Mr. Stout was a member of the board many of the leading citizens of Nebraska City and the county requested the Board of Commissioners to submit to the voters the proposition to issue bonds to aid in the construction of the Midland Pacific Railroad. The proposition carried, the bonds were issued and the road built. Subsequent bonds were voted on and issued in aid of the construction of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad.

The political faith of our subject is that of the

Democratic party, of which he has for many years continued a staunch advocate and friend. When running for the Commissioner's office he ran far ahead of his ticket. He has been prominent in the councils of his party in this county. In religious belief our subject and his wife are members of the Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a charter member of the church organization at Harmony, and one of the Trustees.

Charles E. Stout, the only son of our subject and wife, was born in Otoe Precinct, April 20, 1860. He has attended in addition to the usual institution of instruction the Nebraska City College, and also the State University at Lincoln. At present he is at home assisting his father in carrying on the farm.

Mr. Stout is a man of fine character, manliness and personal worth. He has a high sense of justice and honor, and commands the universal esteem of his fellows. Concerning him as a public officer J. J. Hostettler, his fellow Commissioner, remarked as follows: "Mr. Stout is an A No. 1 man. In matters pertaining to the public good I found him very active. While we got along very harmoniously, yet when Mr. Stout would take a stand on any point he would do it because he thought it was right, and his natural ability and long experience made him one of the very best Commissioners Otoe County has ever seen."



**H**IRAM HENDRICKS, of Hendricks Precinct, was the first white child born in the southwestern part of Otoe County. This event occurred on the 30th of December, 1859. Here he spent his boyhood and youth, and grew to a promising manhood. He is now numbered among the most enterprising young farmers of this section, and bids fair to reflect honor upon the name which has been familiar in this section of country for a period of over thirty years.

Our subject, although young in years, has seen much hard labor, having been reared as the son of a pioneer, and at an early age commenced to assist his father in the development of a homestead. In the sketch of his brother, George Hendricks, found elsewhere in this volume, is given the pa-

rental history. The first recollections of our subject are of the wild, uncultivated prairie and the primitive manner in which the people of that time were obliged to live. He spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, remaining with his parents until reaching his majority, and notwithstanding the many difficulties in the way of education, became master of the common branches, the study of which he diligently pursued, and from which he emerged with a goodly portion of practical knowledge. At the age of twenty-two years he purchased the eighty acres which he now owns and occupies from his mother, and began farming on his own account. He has made all the improvements which we see to-day, and which reflect great credit upon his industry and good judgment. He has a fine tract of native timber, and streams of living water running through the farm. He has planted an orchard of 150 apple trees and laid off the fields with beautiful hedge. He has added to his landed possessions by the purchase of forty acres on section 17.

One of the most interesting and important events in the life of our subject was his marriage, which occurred April 17, 1881, his bride being Miss Jennie Fishel. This lady was born in Iowa, Aug. 19, 1861, and is the daughter of Charles and Jessie (McPherson) Fishel, the former of whom is a native of Ohio, and the latter was born on the other side of the Atlantic, among the Scottish Highlands. Mr. Fishel, a farmer by occupation, removed from Ohio to Iowa, thence in 1876 to this county, locating on a tract of land in Hendricks Precinct, where he labored successfully, and where his death took place in 1878. The mother is still living, and resides on the old homestead. Their family consisted of eight children, six of whom are living, and mostly residing in Nebraska. Mrs. Hendricks was the second child, and continued under the home roof until her marriage, acquiring her education in the common schools. Of her union with our subject there have been born three children—Charles Edwin, Carrie Winnifred and Mary Elizabeth. Mr. Hendricks is a staunch Republican, politically, and both he and his amiable wife are active members of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Solon, in which he has been Class-Leader and Superintendent of the Sunday-school. Like that of his father before him, his

house has always been open for religious meetings and every other good purpose. His energy and public-spiritedness, his enterprise and intelligence, have commended him highly to the people of this county, who expect of him still further good things in the future.



**D**WIGHT WAIT. This gentleman is one of the enterprising young business men of Palmyra, and occupies the position of chief clerk in the hardware store of Mr. Thomas Bell. His father, Cyrus Wait, was born in Vermont, near Woodstock. Upon the father's side the family is of French origin, while upon the mother's the ancestry were Irish. Mr. Wait, Sr., was an enthusiastic worker in the great cause of religion, and almost as much so in that of abolition. He died at Woodstock, Ohio, in the year 1865, when only thirty-two years of age. After her bereavement Mrs. Wait lived with her sons. She made her home in Nebraska for two years and then returned to Indiana. She died there in the year 1886, having reached the age of seventy years. She was the mother of six children, viz: Cicero, Addison, Dwight, Hinda, Herbert and Fillmore.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 22d of February, 1849, at the town of Woodstock, and grew up there. He was seventeen years of age when his father died. In common with a large majority of those gentlemen who occupy our pulpits, Mr. Wait had not been able to accumulate a competency, so that as a young man his son Dwight had to begin and climb the ladder of life for himself. One thing was in his favor—his parents had been careful to give him a good English education, and had already given some tone and shape to his character.

The first employment of our subject was as a farm hand, and he continued thus engaged in his native State until he came to Nebraska. In company with his brother Cicero he landed in Nebraska City on the 1st of April, 1872, and soon obtained work under Dr. Converse, in the construction of the Midland Pacific Railroad. He was fortunate in having known this gentleman while a boy in Indiana. Taking his shovel he began to work with the

other men and endeavored to do his best, and so well did he acquit himself that he was promoted to the position of foreman, and had the supervision of from four to twenty-five men. He continued in the employ of the Doctor for about six years, prospering financially and otherwise.

In 1878 our subject came to Palmyra and started business as a hardwareman, and built the store now occupied by Mr. Wells. His business grew in a most gratifying manner and he was very successful. In 1880 he was joined in matrimony to Miss Hannah Bell, who was born in England in the year 1858. (See sketch of Thomas Bell.) She was twelve years of age when she came to this country, and has since lived in Palmyra. Mr. Wait has built a two-story frame dwelling that is well located, and provides fully for the comfort of his family. His marriage has been blessed by the birth of four children, who bear the following names: Amy Elizabeth, Lydia, Carrie and Francis H.

The citizens of Palmyra show their appreciation of the business integrity of Mr. Wait and have continued to patronize him, and he has an extensive agricultural implement and harness trade of his own in addition to his engagement with Mr. Bell. In the I. O. O. F. our subject is much respected, and he is the Vice Grand of the Palmyra Lodge. For three years he has filled the office of Village Treasurer with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people. His political sentiments lead him to participate with the Republican party in the endeavor to bring to the people of the State a capable governing power, according to the principles they believe to be right. Mrs. Wait is a highly esteemed member of the Presbyterian Church, and in that relation, as also in every other, sustains a happy and enviable reputation.



**M**RS. PHOEBE OSBORN, widow of the late Lyman Osborn, who was a prominent and wealthy farmer of McWilliams Precinct, is now living quietly in a handsome home in the village of Talmage, where she is surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life. She is the owner of a large extent of land in Mc-

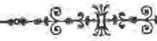
Williams Precinct, besides land in Nemaha and Saline Counties, Neb., and Scott County, Iowa. She is a lady of more than ordinary business capacity, managing her farms and controlling her property in a skillful and profitable manner. She has been a resident of the State since Dec. 9, 1869, all of the time in Otoe County and most of the time in Nebraska City.

Mrs. Osborn came to this State from Scott County, Iowa, with her husband, and they settled on the farm in McWilliams Precinct, where Mr. Osborn died six months later, on the 13th of August, 1870. A native of Seneca County, N. Y., Mr. Osborn was born June 19, 1812, and in his native county was reared to manhood on a farm. He was married first in his native county, to Miss Lucretia Sloper, and later they emigrated to Iowa, locating in the vicinity of what was then the unpretentious village of Davenport, during its early settlement. This lady died some years later, leaving a family of six children, all of whom are living, married, and settled comfortably, being prosperous and intelligent citizens. They were named respectively: Sylvester; Erena, who is now a widow; Huldah, Josiah, Eli and Ellen.

After the death of his first wife Mr. Osborn returned to his native State, and was married the second time, April 3, 1851, to Miss Phœbe Calder, of Meigs County. Mrs. Osborn was born in Washington County, that State, Dec. 29, 1828, and is the eldest child of John and Elsa (Rathburn) Calder, who were natives of New York State. They went with their parents to Ohio in their youth, and were married in the latter State, settling there upon a farm in Meigs County, where they lived many years. In their old age they crossed the Mississippi and settled in Scott County, Iowa. The father died at Davenport on the 8th of May, 1877, at the age of seventy-four years, his birth having taken place in 1803. Both he and his excellent wife were members of the Christian Church for many years. The latter, after the death of her husband, came to this county, and died at her home in McWilliams Precinct, April 27, 1882. She was born in 1807.

Mrs. Osborn, our subject, was reared and educated in Ohio, and engaged in teaching some time before her marriage. She and her husband soon afterward took up their residence in Scott County, Iowa,

where they became the parents of two sons. The elder, Lyman, Jr., married Miss Anna Puffer, of Scott County, Sept. 16, 1876, and they live on a farm in Nemaha County, this State; John is a resident of Talmage. Mrs. Osborn, like her parents, is connected with the Christian Church, and keeps herself well posted upon matters of general interest. She has abundant time for reading and recreation and social intercourse with the many friends whom she has gathered around her during the years of a well-spent life.



**W**ILLIAM B. BUXTON. The farm of this gentleman, which is largely devoted to the culture of fruit, a nursery, and the raising of graded stock, occupies the southeast quarter of section 3, in Syracuse Precinct, which has been his home since the spring of 1882. It forms a very pleasing picture of rural life, with its comfortable buildings, and all the other appurtenances in keeping with the requirements of modern and progressive agriculture.

Our subject was born sixty-three years ago, in the State of Rhode Island, Dec. 4, 1825, and is the son of William and Phila Buxton, who were of English ancestry, and whose progenitors had been residents of the New England States for several generations. The descendants of the latter are now to be found scattered all over the Western Continent. The mother of our subject died when he was a lad ten years of age, leaving five children, namely: Mary Ann, now the wife of Arnold Gillson, of Woonsocket, R. I.; Francis, also of that State; Martha, the wife of Caleb Wilson, of Rockford, Ill.; William, of our sketch, and Horatio, of Riverhead, L. I.

After the death of his first wife the father of our subject was a second time married, to Miss Ruth Buffum. William B. soon afterward left home, and was employed on a farm in Connecticut for a period of seven years; then in the town of Stafford he commenced learning the trade of shoemaker, and later engaged in business for himself at Burrillville, in his native State, and a small manufacturing town. About 1856, repairing to the vicinity of Milford,

Conn., he engaged in carriage painting, and there, Nov. 28, 1850, was married to Miss Mary L. Godding.

Mrs. Mary L. Buxton was born in Rutland County, Vt., March 1, 1825, and is the daughter of Russell and Abigail (Sherman) Godding, natives of New England. Mr. G. was a farmer by occupation, and spent his entire life in the Green Mountain State, his death occurring in Rutland County, April 11, 1833. The family at this time consisted of six children, two of whom died at an early age. Mary L., Mrs. Buxton, is the eldest living; Asa is engaged at farming in Syracuse, this county; Susan M. is the wife of George L. Alexander, of Syracuse; Loney married Rev. Walter Ely, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and they are living in Connecticut.

After the death of Mr. Godding the mother and children removed to Rhode Island, and the former in 1857 joined her children in Champaign County, Ill. Her death took place in Monticello, that State, Feb. 2, 1882, after she had attained the ripe age of seventy-nine years.

Mr. and Mrs. Buxton after their marriage continued residents of Massachusetts, and Mr. B. followed painting in the towns of Spencer and Millbury. In the spring of 1857, leaving his native New England, he emigrated to Illinois, and settled on a tract of land in Philo Township, Champaign County. This consisted of eighty acres, which he improved and brought to a good state of cultivation, and which he occupied with his family until the spring of 1882. His next removal was to this county, when he settled upon the farm which he now owns and occupies. He raises large quantities of all kinds of fruit, which find a ready market at Syracuse and Lincoln, and from the proceeds of which he enjoys a handsome income.

To our subject and his excellent wife there have been born five children, two of whom died in infancy. Mary A. became the wife of William Ennis, and died in Champaign County, Ill., in the spring of 1881; Lyman E. is farming in Cheyenne County, Kan., and Abbie G. lives at home. Mrs. Buxton has been a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over forty years, and our subject a period of twenty-five years. He

cast his first Presidential vote for Pierce, but was not fully in accordance with his political views; for a period of thirty-four years he has continued a staunch supporter of Republican principles. He has no desire for the responsibilities of office, and has therefore avoided placing himself prominently before the public.

The parents of Mrs. Buxton were of Scotch and English ancestry, and she possessed in a marked degree the admirable characteristics of that nationality, being conscientious, kind-hearted, pleasant and hospitable, and presiding over her well-ordered household in a most praiseworthy manner. Many are the friends who gather under this inviting roof-tree, and no people are held in higher respect throughout Syracuse Precinct than William B. Buxton and his estimable wife.



**G**EN. ISAAC COE, perhaps the most prominent citizen of Nebraska City, was born in Middletown, Conn., on the 15th of May, 1816. His ancestors were natives of England, and wrote their names Coe. The parents and grandparents, both paternal and maternal, were residents of the above-mentioned town of Middletown, and followed agricultural pursuits. Our subject had four brothers and one sister; the latter was united in marriage with George H. Bliss, and died in the city of Chicago, Ill., in the year 1852, and had one daughter, who is still living. His brother, Lewis Coe, died in Muscatine, Iowa, in 1887, leaving one son and one daughter, who are still living in that place. The remaining three brothers are living in the State of Connecticut.

The subject of our sketch received in youth the educational advantages afforded by the common schools. In 1846 he was united in marriage with Sarah L. Bacon, the estimable daughter of Ebenezer Bacon, whose parents and grandparents, like those of our subject, were natives and residents of Middletown, and followed farming pursuits.

After their marriage Gen. and Mrs. Coe lived upon the farm near Middletown for six or seven years, and one child was born to them, Eloise, now Mrs. F. P. Ireland, who with her husband and one

child, Sarah C., now reside in Nebraska City. Mr. Ireland is a practicing lawyer. Not enjoying sufficiently robust health to continue farming, our subject sold his property, and with his family removed to Butler County, Ala., and there engaged in business for a number of years. On selling his interests there he moved to Nebraska City, in 1858. There he invested his funds in Government land sales at the United States Land Office.

Not long after he had identified himself with Nebraska City our subject was elected by the officers of the several volunteer companies of the division south of Platteville in the Territory of Nebraska to the position of Brigadier General, and was in charge of the division for several years, the territory embraced in that district bordering seventy-five miles on the States of Iowa and Missouri and over 600 miles on Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming, as the present boundaries are defined. The term of service included the whole of the period embraced by the Civil War, and the excitement necessarily incidental thereto. Throughout, the personal liberties and effects of the citizens were guarded without exception, and the happy condition of things was very largely due to the wisdom, judgment, and other qualities of those in command of the forces. For the services thus rendered by the officers and forces at large there was made neither charge nor reward, nor was any compensation whatever given by the Territory, and that in order that no war debt might be incurred, with the result that the now State of Nebraska is upon a financially solid foundation and takes front rank among the States in that regard.

Subsequently our subject was engaged in freighting across the plains west of the Missouri River, and continued the same until the laying of the railroad and opening of the same for traffic precluded the necessity of any continuance in that line. In this he was associated with Levi Carter, a citizen of New Hampshire. They worked in partnership under the name of Coe & Carter. In addition thereto he invested money in developing the mineral resources of the various Western Territories, and derived therefrom a large interest from the original investment.

The firm of Coe & Carter assisted largely in the

construction of the Union Pacific, Denver, Pacific & Oregon Short Line Railroads, and a number of other enterprises looking toward the development of the resources of the still wild portions of the district west of the Missouri River. They were also large stock-buyers, and introduced a number of enterprises in the line of stock interests in the various unsettled portions of the western territory, buying largely of land for the feeding of such stock, including also sufficient for the harvesting of hay, etc., for their sustenance.

The family of Gen. Coe consists of two children: Mrs. Ireland, and a son Frank E., who owns a ranch well stocked with cattle and horses in Idaho Territory. In politics the General is a staunch Democrat.



**H**ON. PAUL SCHMINKE, Nebraska City. Sketches of the lives of the representative citizens of Otoe County, men who were its founders and have since taken a conspicuous part in the administration of its public affairs, are found within this volume, and the subject of this biographical notice occupies a prominent place among them. He was born in Hesse-Cassel, Germany, Aug. 16, 1835, and is a son of Peter and Dora (Doell) Schminke, natives of the same locality. His father learned the trade of painter in his younger days, and followed it in his native land until 1852, when he emigrated to this country with his wife and five children, setting sail from Bremen in March, and landing in New York in the following May. He proceeded with his family to Pennsylvania, and locating in Luzerne County, followed his trade as a painter there for one year. He then moved to Ohio, and was engaged as a painter in Washington County until 1874, when he came to Nebraska City, whither two of his sons had preceded him, and is now living here in retirement at the age of eighty-two years, honored and respected as one should be who has led a useful, upright life. His faithful wife, who crossed the seas with him to begin life anew in a strange country that they might better their condition and that of their children, died in this city. The record of the children born to this worthy couple is as follows: Justus gave

up his life for his adopted country in the late Civil War, he being a member of the 7th Ohio Cavalry, having been killed in battle in East Tennessee; the Hon. Paul, our subject; Kate is the wife of E. River; John, who lives in Nebraska City, served in the same regiment with his brother Justus, and honorably bears the scars of many battles; and J. Conrad.

The subject of our sketch received a liberal education in the excellent schools of his native land, which he attended quite steadily until he was sixteen years old, when he came to America with his parents. He commenced life in this country by working in the coal mines of Pennsylvania at sixty-five cents a day. He was thus employed for one year, when he went with his parents to Ohio, where his father had a farm, and our subject and his brothers carried it on. During the time of his residence there he learned the trade of plasterer, and was actively and profitably engaged in it for some years in that State. In December, 1858, he was united in marriage to Miss Annie Kuhlmann, to whose encouragement and assistance he owes much for his high social position in this community. Mrs. Schminke was born near Bremen, Germany, and is a daughter of Deidrich and Margaret Kuhlmann, natives and lifelong residents of Germany.

In 1865 Mr. Schminke sought the Territory of Nebraska, having determined to cast in his lot with its pioneers, and in the young and growing town of Nebraska City build up for himself and wife a substantial home. Otoe County was at that time but sparsely settled, and there was no railway nearer than St. Joseph, Mo.; all transportation and travel was either by water or with teams overland. Being a good workman at his trade he had no difficulty in finding employment, and was engaged as a plasterer here for the ensuing ten years. He then formed a partnership with his brother, and built a steam flouring-mill, known as the "Star Mills," and since then has wholly abandoned his trade, devoting what time he had to spare from his official business to the mills.

Time and again has the wise counsel of our subject been sought in making the laws of his adopted State, and Otoe County may well be proud of his career in public life. None of her citizens, we vent-

ure to assert, can show a more useful or a cleaner record as a civic officer. A leading member of the Republican party (casting his first vote for Abraham Lincoln), he has always guarded and defended the dearest interests of the commonwealth of Nebraska with a single eye to her advancement. He has been a member of the council, and has been repeatedly a delegate to the county and State conventions of the Republican party. He was elected as State Representative in 1872, and was appointed one of the commissioners by the Legislature to locate and build the asylum for the blind. In 1876 he was re-elected to represent his district in the Legislature, and in 1886 he was elected to the State Senate. As Senator he served on various important committees; was Chairman of the Committee on Internal Improvements, was a member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, of Municipal Affairs, of Labor, was on the Committee of the Hospital of the Insane, and of the Asylum for Deaf and Blind Mutes. Mr. Schminke is a prominent social factor in this community, being a member of Schiller Lodge No. 23, K. of P.; of Frontier Lodge No. 3, I. O. O. F., and of Nichols Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W. Our subject in 1877 was appointed Postmaster by President Hayes in Nebraska City, and held the office for nine years.



**ORVILLE K. BROWN.** Although one of the youngest farmers and stock-raisers of South Branch Precinct, this gentleman is by no means the least worthy of full representation in a volume of this description. Upon section 5 of that precinct he has 160 acres of fine land, devoted somewhat to agricultural pursuits, but chiefly for the purposes of stock-raising and horse-breeding. His father was John H. Brown, who was born in Marblehead, Mass., on the 28th of August, 1830. He was the son of Thomas Peter Brown, a Virginian of old and well-reputed family, who served through the War of 1812, and was otherwise prominent in the expression of his loyal patriotism. The mother of our subject prior to her marriage bore the name of Sarah A. Thomas, and was born in Pickaway County, Ohio, on the 7th of November, 1830.

Their marriage was celebrated in Adams County, Ill., on the 16th of October, 1853.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Sr., continued to live in Illinois, where they owned a farm of 360 acres, and until March of 1878 he was also engaged as a shipper of stock, but at that time he removed to DuPage County, Iowa, and after four years that were not altogether successful they removed to this State, settling in South Branch, Otoe County, in 1884, where they still reside. They are the parents of ten children, whose names are recorded as follows: Adeline, John F., Milvin, Wilbur and Franklin, all of whom are deceased; Thomas J., now in Arkansas; Orville K., Olive, Nettie and May.

The subject of our sketch was born in Hancock County, Ill., near the town of Augusta, on the 2d of January, 1861. His parents, although needing his help upon the farm, were careful that he should obtain the best education afforded by the common schools. He remained upon the home farm with his father until he was twenty-one years of age, and then began farming for himself in Iowa. This he continued until 1885. He then came to this county, and purchased his present place, which comprises 160 acres. His journey hither was performed by the aid of six teams, and was filled with the incidents usual to such an experience.

Although comparatively young Mr. Brown has had large experience in pioneer life, and has brought his farm from its native wildness and unfitness for agricultural pursuits to a very fine condition of cultivation. He has set out groves where will be found the trees most favorable to Nebraska climate, and also a very fine orchard, where may be found the choicest varieties of fruits that may be grown in the State, and every tree a good bearer, seeing that he had the opportunity from time to time to weed out the less desirable and replace them by better. One valuable acquisition is the stream of running water that passes through his farm. His chief attention is given to the raising of cattle and hogs, but he is also deeply interested in that of high-grade, thoroughbred draft horses of the Norman breed.

Life in all its opportunity and possibility is yet before our subject, and it were futile to attempt

any prophetic utterance, and yet it is safe to say that while the principles that have been his in the past are continued in exercise, the years to come will not be without a record worthy of one whose character and reputation are such as his, and whose family history is of such high order. He is a firm Prohibitionist, and was selected to act as delegate to the State Convention when it was held at Omaha.



**W**ILLIAM TASKER NICHOLSON stands in the front rank of citizens of Otoe County, and is one of the popular and influential men of his district. His admirably cultivated farm of 320 acres is situated on section 27 of Belmont Precinct, and there he is very successful in raising cattle of the Short-horn variety and high-grade Poland-China hogs, though he also raises large crops of grain. He was born in Yorkshire, England, on the 4th of February, 1831, to William and Jane (Tasker) Nicholson, natives of the same shire. The family came to the United States, and settled in this county in 1857, and took up the farm immediately adjoining that of our subject.

The father of our subject died about twenty-six years ago, as the result of a paralytic stroke caused by a fall on the ice by which he injured the spine. His wife survived until the year 1886, and then died while visiting in Chicago. She was brought back, and buried in Nebraska City Cemetery by the side of her husband.

When Mr. Nicholson first came to the county the land billowed away in beautifully rolling prairie mile after mile, without a sign of settlement or civilization, but his property is in nowise behind the phenomenal development of the State at large. His orchards cover six acres and his groves ten. All his improvements are substantial, good and valuable, and his property cannot possibly be of less value than \$50 per acre.

On the 16th of September, 1854, the subject of our sketch was united in wedlock with Miss Ann Houndsley, daughter of John and Maria Houndsley, who were natives of England, where the mother died, and the father is still living. To Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson there have come nine children, seven

of whom are living, viz: Emma, Mary J., Elizabeth A., Hettie, Sallie, William J. and Katie. Emma is the wife of George Hill, of Polk County, Neb., now residing in Oregon, and is the mother of six children, whose names are mentioned as follows: Alfred, William, Jessie, Herman, James and George; Mary J. is married to Marion J. Newman, of Greenwood, Neb., and they have two children, named Minnie and Ivia; Elizabeth is married to Mr. John Baker, of Republic County, Kan.; they have three children, who bear the names of Bertha, Roy and Harry Lee. Hettie is the wife of Isaac Crumley, of Colby, Kan.

In the office of Justice of the Peace Mr. Nicholson served most creditably to himself and with satisfaction to the people for several years, and was also Assessor for several terms. He has always been deeply interested in educational institutions and matters connected therewith, and was one to organize the school district, and raise the means necessary to have an efficient school established here. He has also been identified with the various projects, plans and enterprises that have been for the advancement, growth and development of the county.

Religiously, Mr. Nicholson is a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and also his wife and those of their children who are still at home. They are there held in high regard, and are liberal supporters of the organization. Politically, our subject is a Republican.



**C**HARLES Z. SIDLES, who is well and favorably known as one of the enterprising and prosperous farmers of Palmyra Precinct, operates 320 acres of good land on section 22. He was born in Somerset County, Pa., in October, 1838, and was the fourth of nine children born to Daniel and Catherine (Zorn) Sidles, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania. By occupation his father was a blacksmith, but became an extensive land-owner in Pennsylvania. In 1850 he removed to Stephenson County, Ill., and continued to work at his trade, and later lived a retired life in Dakota, Stephenson County, where he died in 1879, at the

age of seventy years. His wife, the mother of our subject, is still living, and is seventy-four years of age, and is making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Springman, of Palmyra Precinct. The family record gives the names of the children of this family as follows: Emeline M., Henry, Charles Z., Frank A., Sarah, Julia, Rebecca, Mary and Daniel.

The education of our subject was limited to two terms, when he attended the usual institution in Stephenson County. He early began to help his father and to work upon the farm, which he continued until he came of age. He then took and operated a farm on shares in Stephenson County. He received the hand of Miss Sarah Lowery in marriage in that county on Oct. 25, 1860. This lady is the daughter of Godfred and Mary Ann Lowery, both born in Pennsylvania; they were the parents of five children, their daughter Sarah being the eldest. She received a good English education and a careful home training, that has borne fruit since she has had a home of her own. They are the parents of the following children: Emily Alice, Ellen, Jennie, Clara A., Laura A., Lillie and Willie.

The three eldest children of our subject were born before the war, which broke out while Mr. and Mrs. Sidles were residing upon their farm near Freeport. In 1864 Mr. Sidles enlisted for a term of three years, or during the war, as required. He became a member of Company E, 46th Illinois Infantry, and was mustered into service at Baton Rouge, was present at Vicksburg, from which place they went to Shreveport, La. During his term of service he was with his regiment in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Alabama. He was at Mobile at the time of Lee's surrender, and was present at the blowing up of Ft. Fisher, and was mustered out of service at Baton Rouge, in July, 1866. Returning home Mr. Sidles sold out his interest in eighty acres of land in Stephenson County, the purchaser being his brother Frank. In 1878 he went to Livingston County, Ill., and became the owner of a farm of 120 acres, which he sold in 1884, and in the spring of that year came to this State.

Of the family of our subject Alice has become the wife of Samuel Tanner, and is the mother of one child, whose name is Charles; Ellen has become Mrs. Arthur Thompson, and she also has a son,

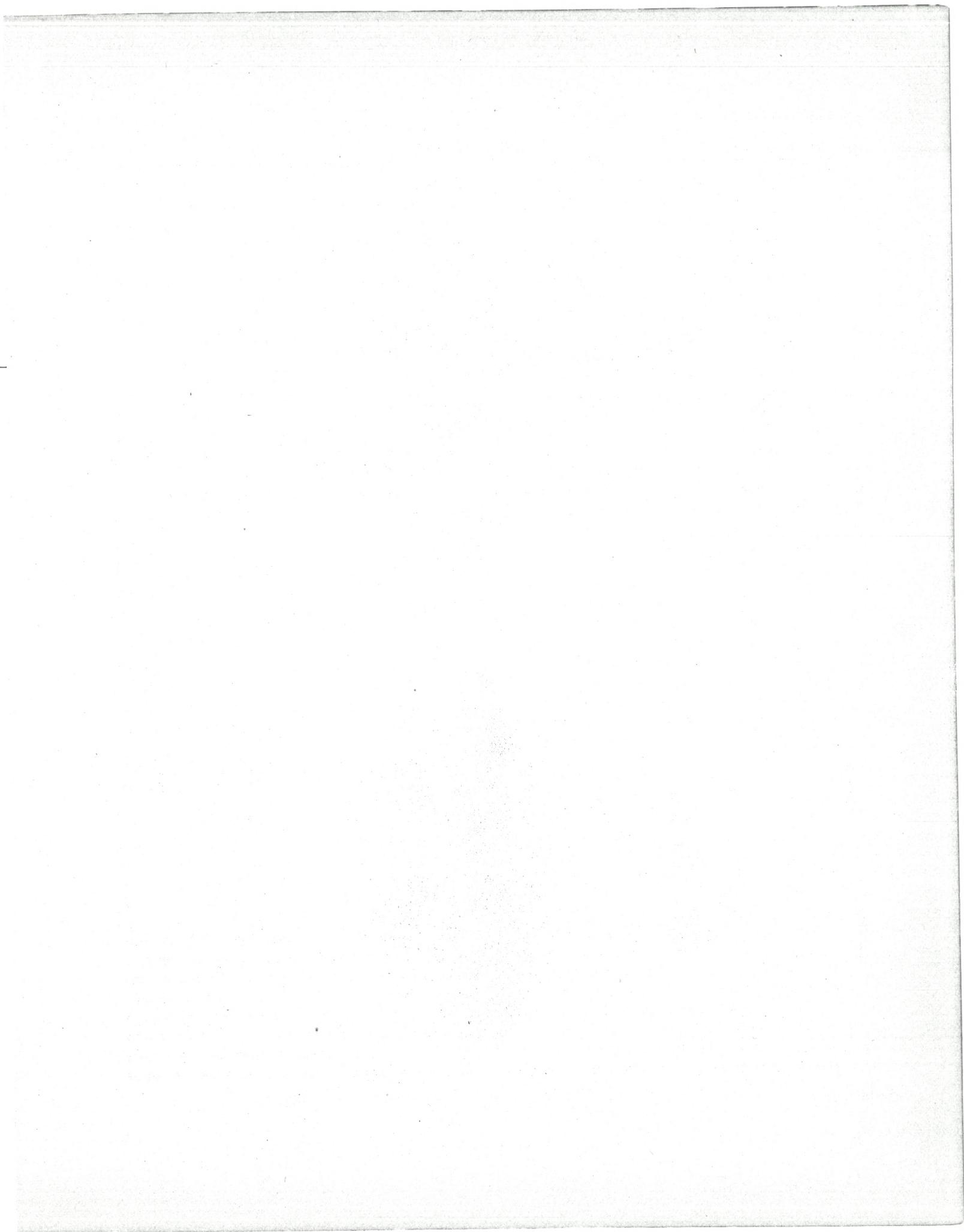
bearing the name Charles; Clara is the wife of Clarence Frye, a florist at Lincoln, and Laura is married to Mr. Berry, of Lincoln. Mrs. Sidles is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is held in high regard. The political sympathies of our subject lead him to affiliate with the Republican party, of which he is an ardent supporter.



**J**EROME B. PRATT. Among the pioneer settlers of this county the name of Jerome B. Pratt is among the best known and most honored. He is the son of Thomas and Alma (Woodard) Pratt; the father was a native of England, the mother of Vermont. His father was in the British Army and fought as a private in the War of 1812. After the war he settled in Genesee County, N. Y., where he met and married Miss Alma Woodard. He followed agriculture in the same county, and was very successful. In the fall of 1836 he removed with his wife and six children to Branch County, Mich., where he became owner of eighty acres of land, and continued to operate the same until 1872, when he died, being seventy-six years of age, and having survived his wife, who died aged sixty-nine years, in 1869. The names of their children were as follows: Jerome B., Nancy, an infant died unnamed, Ferrendee P., Ferdinand C. and Urseba A.

Our subject was born on the 30th of May, 1838, in Genesee County, N. Y., and was eight years old when he went with his parents to Michigan. His father took the second farm ever worked in the township of Algansee. He was very early initiated into farm labor of all kinds, and was but ten years of age when he began to use the ax, and became quite an expert before most lads think of leaving school.

In 1852 our subject prepared to enter the University of Michigan by attending an academy in Ann Arbor, but his health failing, he became unable to enter college. Coming West in 1856, Mr. Pratt crossed the Missouri River at Minersville, and on the 23d of April of the year 1862 engaged with the State Militia of Missouri for two years and seven months. He afterward served three





*Mary E. Baker.*



*R. L. Baker.*

months along the Platte, opening up the roads between the Missouri River and Denver, which was obstructed by the Indians, doing good service, and only being discharged on account of physical disability that was the result of exposure to which he had been subjected during his military service. Leaving the army, he returned to his squatter's claim, that lay to the east of the Pendleton farm in Otoe Precinct, and once more went to work for himself. Subsequently he traded his farm for his present home of 160 acres.

On the 23d of April, 1868, our subject was united in wedlock with Miss Elizabeth Stevens, a native of Howard County, Ind., where she was born Feb. 7, 1843. She came to this State with her uncle, and made her home with David Watkins and family. They have become the parents of four children, viz.: Minnie A.; Emma, who died when eleven months old; Urseba and Spencer. Minnie is a resident of Nemaha, and is married to Mr. Grant Gates. The other two are at home.

Mr. Pratt is a believer in the Universalist doctrine, while his wife is a member of the Christian Church. They are much esteemed members of society; the political principles of Mr. Pratt are those that govern the Republican party, of which he has for many years been a stout defender and ardent supporter.



**R**EUBEN F. BAKER. In this biographical sketch is presented an outline of the history of one of the prominent citizens of Belmont Precinct, one who stands in the front ranks of the successful farmers and stock-raisers of the county. His home farm lies on section 16 and is 320 acres in extent. His entire landed estate comprises 800 acres: 160 acres lying on section 9, 160 on section 17, and 160 on section 18. This land Mr. Baker has redeemed acre by acre from the wild waste of prairie presented to his eye during the period of his pioneership, and he has accomplished his Herculean task only by the exercise of the most incessant industry. After bringing his land to a thorough state of cultivation he turned his attention to the feeding and raising of stock, making a

specialty of Short-horn cattle and Poland-China swine. The land is splendidly improved and beautified by groves and orchards of the present proprietor's own planting. The barn and all the other out-buildings are among the best in the county. The dwelling is pleasantly situated, and constitutes a home bright and comfortable in the extreme.

Mr. Baker was born in Shelby County, Ind., on the 24th of January, 1844. His father, John L. Baker, a native of Covington, Ky., was born in 1803. While quite a young man he crossed the river into Hamilton County, Ohio, and was employed afterward with an older brother, running a flatboat between Cincinnati and New Orleans for a number of years. Later he migrated to Shelby County, Ind., and finally settled upon a tract of land in Sangamon County, Ill., in a region which was then but a wild border country.

The mother of our subject was born in Shelby County, Ind., in the year 1803, and was the daughter of Ephraim Biggs, named after her mother, Rachel. Her parents were pioneers of Indiana, her grandfather having settled there long before it was actually opened for settlement. She became the mother of eight children, of whom our subject was the third. The latter, Reuben F., upon reaching manhood, was married, Sept. 13, 1856, to Miss Mary E., daughter of John and Mary K. (Patterson) Mahard, natives of Maryland. She was born in Maryland and educated in the city of Baltimore. With her parents she afterward lived in Cincinnati, Springfield and in Old Berlin, Ill. Mrs. Mahard is still living, making her home with her children in Missouri.

There have been given to Mr. and Mrs. Baker nine children, of whom seven are living, namely: John M., George L., Horatio S., Mary A., James P., Othello C. and Araminda. John, the eldest son, became the husband of Elizabeth Nicholson, and lives in Republic County, Kan.; they have two children, who bear the names Bertha and Roy. George was married to Ida Wright, of Osawatomie, Kan.; they reside in Belmont Precinct, and are the parents of three children—Reuben, Franklin and Grover. Mary A. is the wife of John Duncan, of Delaware Precinct, and they have one child, a daughter, Mary Lenora.

Mr. Baker settled on his present property in

1871. When it is remembered that he began life a poor boy, deprived of those aids and comforts usually looked for by children from parents and friends, it is both surprising and gratifying to note the successes which have attended his efforts, and to bear in mind that the same successes await those who will as honestly strive to attain them. Mr. and Mrs. B. with three of their children are members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Dunbar, with which church our subject has been connected about thirty years. Mrs. Baker has been identified with this church since a maiden of seven-teen years.

Our subject is a staunch member of the Democratic party, and has been its supporter since it was his right to use the ballot box. The family represents the most solid and reliable elements of this county and it is eminently fitting that the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Baker should embellish these pages.



**D**R. J. W. CHADDUCK, the leading and oldest dentist not only in Nebraska City, but in the State, was born in the Shenandoah Valley, Va., Feb. 4, 1831. His ancestors for several generations back were also natives of the Old Dominion. His grandfather, Charles Chadduck, was left an orphan at an early age and obliged to look out for himself. The patronymic was originally spelled in a different manner. The grandfather when a boy was engaged in taking tobacco to market, and one day the weigh-master in writing out the weigh bill appended to it the name "Charles Chadduck," and that spelling has since been in general use among his descendants.

Grandfather Chadduck in due time married, and became the father of Eli, the father of our subject. The latter obtained a good education, developed into a school teacher, and also carried on farming. He was a man of more than ordinary abilities, and achieved considerable fame as a local politician. He turned his attention later to civil engineering, becoming County Surveyor. He spent his entire life upon his native soil. He married Miss Catherine Botts, who, like her husband, was born in the

James River Valley, and whose ancestors crossed the Atlantic in Colonial times. Both Eli Chadduck and his wife, Catherine, lived to be more than threescore years and ten. The latter after the death of her husband came to Nebraska, where she spent her last days.

Of the eight children comprising the parental household of our subject, three were sons and five were daughters. The two eldest, Mary C. and Susan V., are deceased; Emily J. and Laura E. are residents of Nebraska City; Caroline C. is the wife of James A. Matthews, of this county; George B. is the Treasurer of Holt County, Mo.; Charles T. follows the profession of a teacher in his native Virginia. James W., our subject, was the youngest born. He grew to manhood on the farm and pursued his early studies in the common school. He was married in his native county, June 12, 1855, to Miss Eliza M. Colvin, who was born in Culpeper County, Va., and whose acquaintance he made when she was a young lady of nineteen years.

Dr. Chadduck taught school about two years after his marriage, then removed to Holt County, Mo., where he entered upon the study of dentistry, a profession in which he had for several years been interested and which he had decided to make his life occupation. He found, however, that the American professional man as well as the laborer needs bread, and having no capital while pursuing his studies he worked as a carpenter and brick-maker, also at other pursuits to provide himself and family with the necessaries of life. Leaving Missouri in 1862 he took up his abode in Glenwood, Iowa, having then one child. Here he was enabled to devote himself to his profession, but the year following he changed his residence to Nebraska City, and opened the first dental office in the place. Since that time his interests have centered here. He is a member of the Masonic fraternity, and a charter member of Lodge No. 12 in Nebraska City. He has passed the various chairs of his lodge and served as Master a number of years. He belongs to the Nebraska Dental Association, of which he is a charter member and of which he has been the presiding officer. He is also connected with the Missouri Valley Dental Association. A Democrat, politically, he has been quite prominent

in politics, having been sent to the State Legislature twice and serving in the Senate one term. His estimable wife is a member in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church.



**J**AMES HUNT. The traveler passing along the upper line of North Branch Precinct invariably has his attention attracted to the large property of this gentleman, which lies on section 7, and forms one of the finest homesteads in the locality. The farm is 518 acres in extent, and is neatly laid off into pasture and grain fields; the fences are kept in good shape, while the residence, with its adjoining buildings, is of modern style of architecture, and all amply adapted to the purposes for which they are intended. The important feature of the premises is the extreme good order prevailing at every point, and the air of thrift and enterprise which is suggestive of the supervision of one of the most progressive and intelligent farmers of the present day.

Next in importance to the man himself is the ancestry from which he sprang. Henry Hunt, the father of our subject, was a native of Yorkshire, England, and there married Miss Elizabeth Cleminson, who was born in the same locality. They emigrated to America after their marriage, in 1829, and settled on a tract of land in Cambria County, Pa., where the father built up a good homestead, and passed away in the month of October, 1850. The mother is still living in Pennsylvania, and is now seventy-eight years old. They were the parents of seven children: Timothy L.; Robert, who died when about fifty-seven years old; William H., John I. S.; Ruth, who died when thirty years old; Susannah and James (our subject). Of these five are living, and those besides James are residents mostly of Pennsylvania.

James Hunt was born at the parental homestead in Cambria County, Pa., Aug. 1, 1830, and continued a member of his father's household until twenty years of age. He received his education in the common schools, and when nineteen years old commenced an apprenticeship at the carpentry trade,

which he followed in his native State about two and one-half years. In the spring of 1856, desiring to see something of the Great West, he crossed the Mississippi into Henry County, Iowa, but there unfortunately was taken ill with typhoid fever, and could neither proceed any further nor look around him in the Hawkeye State. This naturally induced a fit of homesickness, and soon after his recovery he returned to his mother's home.

The spring following, however, young Hunt returned to the West, making only a brief stay, however, and then went back to Pennsylvania and was married in 1859. He purchased a tract of land in Cambria County, and soon afterward began farming. In August, 1864, during the progress of the Civil War he enlisted in Company C, 51st Pennsylvania Infantry, being mustered in at Carlisle, and was, together with his regiment, assigned to the command of Gen. W. H. Bolton. He experienced some hairbreadth escapes at the battle of Petersburg, but aside from that returned home unharmed at the close of the war. Mr. Hunt now resumed his residence in Cambria County, where he continued to carry on agriculture until the spring of 1882. Then, crossing the Father of Waters once more, he came to this State, and was located for one year in Johnson County. In the fall of 1887 he purchased the land which he now owns and occupies. Upon this he has made most of the improvements which we behold to-day. His property lies on sections 7, 17 and 18, and in addition to the thorough cultivation of the soil he has planted fruit and shade trees, and divided many of his fields with beautiful hedge fences.

On the 16th of May, 1859, occurred one of the most important events in the life of our subject, namely, his marriage with Miss Christiana B. Keefer. This lady is the daughter of Ernest and Mary M. (Baird) Keefer, both of whom were natives of Germany, and upon emigrating to the United States settled at once in Cambria County, Pa. The father was a coal miner, and being a very industrious and prudent man, accumulated a good property. He died about 1868, at the homestead which he had built up in the Keystone State. The mother is still living, and has now arrived at the advanced age of eighty years. Their children, five in number, were

named respectively: John, Christiana B., Maggie, William and Hannah. Those surviving are residents of Pennsylvania and Nebraska.

Mrs. Hunt was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in February, 1841, and was a little girl four years of age when she came with her parents to America. She received a common-school education, and was carefully trained by an excellent mother in all housewifely duties. Of her union with our subject there have been born nine children, namely: Henry E., Harvey M., Mary E., Elizabeth C., Sanford R., Thomas S., Bertha A., Laura E. and Mabel. Henry married Miss Myrtie Holland, and lives on a farm in South Branch Precinct. The other children are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are members in good standing of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Rockford, and Mr. H., politically, votes the straight Republican ticket. He has been a member of the School Board two terms, and is one of the most highly respected men of his community, one whose word is considered as good as his bond. The Hunt family is one of the most highly respected in this part of the county, and the homestead, a view of which appears on another page, comprises a prominent feature in its landscape.



**C**APT. LOGAN ENYART stands conspicuously among the prominent men of Otoe County as one largely identified with its business and agricultural interests, a man public-spirited and liberal, one who has seen much of life, who distinguished himself in the army during the war, who suffered the loss of an eye in fighting for the principles he believed to be right, but who in the battle of life has evidently come out with flying colors. He is widely and favorably known throughout Nebraska, as much for his genial and hospitable disposition and broad and extended views of life as for his practical business talents, his perseverance and his energy.

In the vicinity of Nebraska City, where he makes his home, Capt. Enyart has been foremost among its leading enterprises, few of which have been carried to a successful issue independently of his coun-

tenance and encouragement. He is President of the Farmers' Bank, one of the wealthiest institutions of the State, an extensive land-owner in Otoe County, having the warrantee deed to a number of farms, and largely interested in live stock. His homestead proper is located on section 33 in Belmont Precinct, and comprises a fine tract of land in a highly cultivated condition, with modern farm buildings, fruit and shade trees, and all the appurtenances of a modern country estate. He has no family except his amiable and excellent wife, a lady highly respected in her community, and well fitted to be the companion of such a man as her husband.

The Enyart family is of French descent, and was first represented in the United States probably during Colonial days. Its men were of stalwart frame and noble constitution, traits which our subject has inherited in a remarkable degree. In fact, he may be called a man of iron nerves, and his high courage was amply displayed during war times, when, although he suffered great loss of property, he never permitted himself to sink under his misfortunes, but rallied from the shock, commenced again the battle of life, and became again wealthy.

A native of Monroe County, Ky., Capt. Enyart was born June 20, 1831, and is the son of Hezekiah W. and Mary (Kidwell) Enyart, who were both natives of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, John Enyart, was born in the city of Paris, France, where he was reared to manhood and married. His last years were spent in Virginia. The father of our subject left Kentucky in 1833, and removed with his family to Clay County, Mo., where they lived two years, and then changed their residence to Davis County, that State. The father was principally interested in live stock and farming, and died very suddenly, at the age of seventy-six years, upon the day of Lee's surrender, April 9, 1865. The mother survived her husband a number of years, her death taking place in Missouri, in the year 1882, at the old homestead, when she was seventy-five years old. The nine children of the parental family were named respectively: Logan, Louisa; Permelia, who died when twenty-five years old; Milton, Amanda; Josephine, who died at the age of twenty years; Albert, Hezekiah, and Mary Ann, who died when

thirty-three years old. The survivors are mostly residents of Missouri, California, Colorado and Nebraska.

The first recollections of the Captain are of his childhood home in Davis County, Mo., where he commenced going to school in a little log cabin three months each year. His education being completed in two winters, it may therefore be called quite limited, and what he has learned he has had to learn himself. By a course of reading and observation he has always kept himself fully posted upon matters of general interest. He was reared a farmer's boy, and taught those habits of industry and principles of honor which have been the secret of his success in life. The people of that day labored early and late, and many a time young Enyart worked by the light of the stars in his Missouri home, and being willing, active and muscular, accomplished an astonishing amount.

Our subject when twenty-three years of age was married, but not long afterward enlisted in the Confederate Army under Gov. Jackson (first call for soldiers to enlist in Missouri), becoming a member of Company G, 1st Missouri Cavalry. He was at once elected Captain of his company, and this fact indicates his popularity, as he entered the ranks without any military experience. He, however, possessed the natural abilities which secured him the confidence of his superior officers and the respect of his comrades, and that he seems to have held until the last gun was fired, and his subsequent course indicated how correct they were in their judgment. He led his company in his first engagement at Blue Mills, Mo., and was later at Lexington, where he distinguished himself and led his troops to victory. Later he was at the onset in the vicinity of Springfield, covering Price's retreat for ten days and ten nights. He fought at Pea Ridge under Gens. Van Dorn and Price, where he was twice wounded in one engagement, being struck first in the left shoulder and the second time in the forehead, but, notwithstanding, he kept upon his feet by his extraordinary will power, and never deserted his post until the conflict was ended.

Later Capt. Enyart was transferred to Corinth, Miss., from the West, where he fought with Gen. Beauregard in all the engagements around Corinth

in the spring of 1862; at Iuka, Miss., in the fall of 1862, and later under Gen. Price. In the second battle of Corinth, under Gen. Van Dorn, while still fighting, he witnessed the defeat of the army under that General, and also at Champion Hills fought in that desperately bloody battle. Capt. Enyart in this latter engagement received a very close call, a musket ball fracturing his nose and putting out his left eye. Although suffering untold agony for days, he never entered a hospital. We next find him at the siege of Vicksburg, where the entire army was captured, and our subject was an eye witness of the surrender of Gen. Pemberton's army to Grant and of the explosion which destroyed the Confederate boats. He was soon paroled, however, and was among the first to be exchanged at Demopolis, Ala. He was transferred to the army of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, at Dalton, Ga., and was with this renowned warrior in the famous retreat from Dalton to Atlanta, when every inch of ground for 110 miles was disputed with Sherman. In this retreat the most noted places at which fighting occurred were Lone Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope Church, Peach Tree Creek, and wound up with the siege of Atlanta.

Later Capt. Enyart fought at Jonesboro, and subsequently joining the army of Gen. Hood, went back through Georgia and Tennessee, fighting at Altona, and Tilton, Ga. At the latter place the Confederates captured the 18th Iowa Regiment. Afterward they engaged in battle with the Union forces at Huntsville, Ala., Columbia and Franklin, Tenn., where blood flowed like a river, and at the latter place Capt. Enyart was again captured, Nov. 30, 1864, and taken to Johnson's Island, in the State of Ohio, where he was confined a prisoner seven months and eleven days, until June 17, 1865, when he took the oath of allegiance to the Union, the war being over, and was released in disgust with mankind, and started for the West.

Capt. Enyart during this memorable period traveled over all the Southern States with the exception of Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland. He is pardonably proud of the fact that he was never in a hospital, and notwithstanding his wounds and extraordinary suffering attendant upon the loss of his eye, never quit the army, but fought to the

last, and was the Sir Simon Captain of his State, and certainly is amply entitled the balance of his life to the rank of Captain. In the year 1865 he made his way without a dollar in his pocket across the Mississippi to Nebraska, then a Territory. In his native State of Missouri before the war he was the owner of 1,000 acres of good land, with buildings, live stock, and all the other valuable appurtenances of a well-developed country estate. His stock was driven off and confiscated, his buildings burned and his land left waste. In Nebraska the first thing he did was to buy a yoke of oxen and a wagon on credit, which, be it said to his honor, he had no trouble in obtaining, and loading his wagon with freight for Denver, he hired a man as driver, and on the first round trip made enough to pay for his team and his expenses, and had \$50 left.

In the spring of 1866 Capt. Enyart engaged several more teams, and forming a partnership with J. W. Potter and Mont. Tremble, started with a train of thirteen wagons loaded with corn, for which they paid thirty-five cents per bushel, to Ft. Sanders. They sold this at six and a half cents per pound, and then secured a contract from the Government to remove Ft. Hollock to Ft. Sanders. This employed them a whole season, and yielded them handsome proceeds. In his travels he has been in California, Oregon (in the days of gold-hunting), also over nearly all the territory down as far as Mexico, Arizona and Utah.

Capt. Enyart now returned to Nebraska City, purchased a tract of land in Belmont Precinct, and began farming, together with raising and buying stock. It must not be supposed that these labors and journeyings were effected in an easy manner, on the contrary, Capt. Enyart endured the severest hardships, going through a wild and savage country, battling with its storms, and at intervals almost impassable roads, being obliged to accept poor fare at times, and surrounded by all the other difficulties of frontier life.

In the year 1871 Capt. Enyart turned his attention to the cattle business in Colorado, establishing his ranch fifteen miles west of Ft. Benton, on the Arkansas River. Later, as time passed on, he acquired a cattle ranch in New Mexico, and land in other sections of the Southwest and Otoe County,

Neb. He supplies stock to feeders, and in the latter part of 1888 brought up 1,300 head of cattle from his ranch in Colorado to Nebraska. In the meantime, during these years, he has given due attention to the building up of his homestead, and in his domestic life is surrounded by comfort and luxury.

The marriage of Capt. Logan Enyart and Miss Lucy Ann Childs was celebrated at the home of the bride, in Jackson County, Mo., in 1855. Mrs. Enyart was born in Clark County, Ky., but was reared in Jackson County, Mo., to which her parents removed at an early day. She is the daughter of Christopher and Rachel Childs, who were natives of Kentucky, and whose household consisted of nine children. The parents and children are now all dead but three.

The Captain and Mrs. Enyart were separated during the entire period of the Civil War, our subject never being able to visit his home until after the conflict was ended, and Mrs. E. could not go to him. Upon his retirement from the service she joined him in Nebraska City, and has stood by his side now for a period of thirty-three years, one of the most faithful wives and helpmates which a man could desire. The Captain generously acknowledges that his success in life is largely due to the good judgment and wise counsels of this excellent lady. She has stimulated him to every worthy effort, and been his encourager both in storm and sunshine. She is a lady held in high esteem by all who know her.

Capt. Enyart, although born and reared a Southerner, has been largely instrumental in extinguishing the old prejudices inseparable from the vicissitudes of the war, and the fact that he has been a prominent and popular Democratic politician in a Republican county and State speaks well for the inherent traits of his character. After filling other positions of trust and responsibility, he was elected in the year 1872 to represent Otoe County in the Nebraska Legislature, and so faithfully did he discharge the duties of his office that he was re-elected in 1874. He has been an important factor in the councils of the Democratic party in this section, frequently representing it as a delegate to the various State conventions.

The Farmers' Bank, of Nebraska City, in which our subject is a Director, and of which he is President, was incorporated June 1, 1884, and in September, the same year, it opened for business, and is considered one of the solid institutions of the State. Its stockholders are estimated at a sum approaching \$1,000,000, and it is hardly necessary to state that they are among the wealthiest and most substantial men of the county. Capt. Enyart in 1856 identified himself with the Masonic fraternity, in Missouri Lodge No. 65, now being a member of Nebraska City Lodge No. 12. This is the only organization of any society he ever belonged to.



**G**EORGE A. STRONG. Among the farming community of South Branch Precinct the subject of this sketch occupies a good position socially and financially. He has one of the most attractive homesteads in this region, finely located on section 28, and embracing 160 acres of land. He has acquitted himself as an enterprising farmer and good business man, one largely devoted to the interests of his home and his family, living quietly and unostentatiously, and preferring the comforts of his own fireside to mingling with the busy world. Although by no means advanced in years, he served in the Union Army during the late war, and preserves a vivid recollection of many of the experiences of that terrible time, in which he endured in common with his brother soldiers the hardships and privations of army life. He belonged to the home guards.

The parents of our subject, David B. and Betsey (Kagie) Strong, were natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania, whence they removed in their youth with their parents to Trumbull County, Ohio, where they were married. The mother died many years ago. Both David B. Strong and his father, the paternal grandfather of our subject, are still living. The parental household included three sons and one daughter; the latter, Mary H., died when about thirteen years old. The other sons, John A. and Henry A. are living in Ohio and Wisconsin.

George A. Strong was born in Trumbull County,

Ohio, May 12, 1846, and soon after the death of his mother, which occurred when he was seven years old, began life for himself. He worked on a farm until the spring of 1862, and then, although but a youth of sixteen years, enlisted in a regiment called the Trumbull Guards, being mustered in at Gallipolis, and at the close of the war was mustered out at the same place. He had participated in several skirmishes.

After the close of the war young Strong began an apprenticeship at the blacksmith trade, at which he worked three years in the Buckeye State. In the spring of 1868 he resolved to seek the farther West, and came to this county, homesteading the quarter-section of land from which he has transformed a valuable and productive farm. He has put up most of the buildings which he now occupies, and for the last nine or ten years has operated a blacksmith-shop on his farm, which has not only been the source of a great convenience to himself, but his neighbors also. His fields are divided by beautiful hedge fences, and he has planted fruit and shade trees, having an apple orchard of 200 trees, besides the smaller fruits.

Mr. Strong after coming to the West was married in the town of Syracuse, this county, Sept. 12, 1877, to Miss Sopha, daughter of T. J. and E. J. (James) Edwards, who were natives respectively of Kentucky and Ohio. They removed with their parents to Missouri and were married in that State, where the father for a time followed his trade of mason. In 1873 they came to this county, lived for a time in Nebraska City, and then on a farm in Fremont County, Iowa. Finally returning to Syracuse, they lived there a short time, then changed their residence to Johnson County, where they still make their home. Of their children, twelve in number, seven are living, namely: Amelia, Susan, John, Sopha, Thomas, Josephine and Frank. The brothers and sisters of Mrs. Strong are residents mostly of Nebraska.

The wife of our subject was born in De Kalb County, Mo., July 28, 1856, received a good education, and taught school four terms before her marriage. She is a very intelligent lady and a favorite in the social circles of her neighborhood. Of her union with our subject there have been

born five children, viz: M. Luella, Fred C., Susie B., J. Alta and E. Ruth. They are all at home with their parents. Mr. Strong is a Republican, "dyed in the wool," and an uncompromising Harrison and Morton man. He has been a member of the School Board of his district for the past three years, and Road Supervisor six years.



**W**ILHELM WILHELMY. Throughout the Northwest perhaps few business men are better known than the gentleman whose biography is here presented. He is the senior partner of the firm of Wilhelmy & Overton, the popular and reliable hardware firm of Nebraska City. Our subject was born near the city of Bremen, in Germany, to Christian and Mary (Arnds) Wilhelmy, July 26, 1835.

The parents of our subject came to this country with their only child in the year 1839, and for one year made their home in Buffalo, but at the end of that time removed to the western part of Ohio, when it was all new and undeveloped country. At the time of his death in 1862 the father was engaged in the hotel business at New Bremen, Ohio. His mother is still living, and makes her home with our subject, and has now reached the advanced age of seventy-nine years. Their family circle included in all three children, the two younger being born in this country. Of these Minnie died when eighteen months old, and Frederick F., who was spared to them, has grown up, entered into the affairs of life with an earnest purpose, and is a member of the firm of Rector, Wilhelmy & Co., wholesale hardwaremen of Omaha.

The first recollections of our subject gather around Buffalo, N. Y., but the days of his boyhood were passed in Western Ohio, where at the time when everything was in a formative condition and pioneer life was the regular order of things, he as a youth had every opportunity to show what was in him. The schools were supported by voluntary contributions given chiefly by the German settlers of the district, and there he received initiation into the mysteries of education.

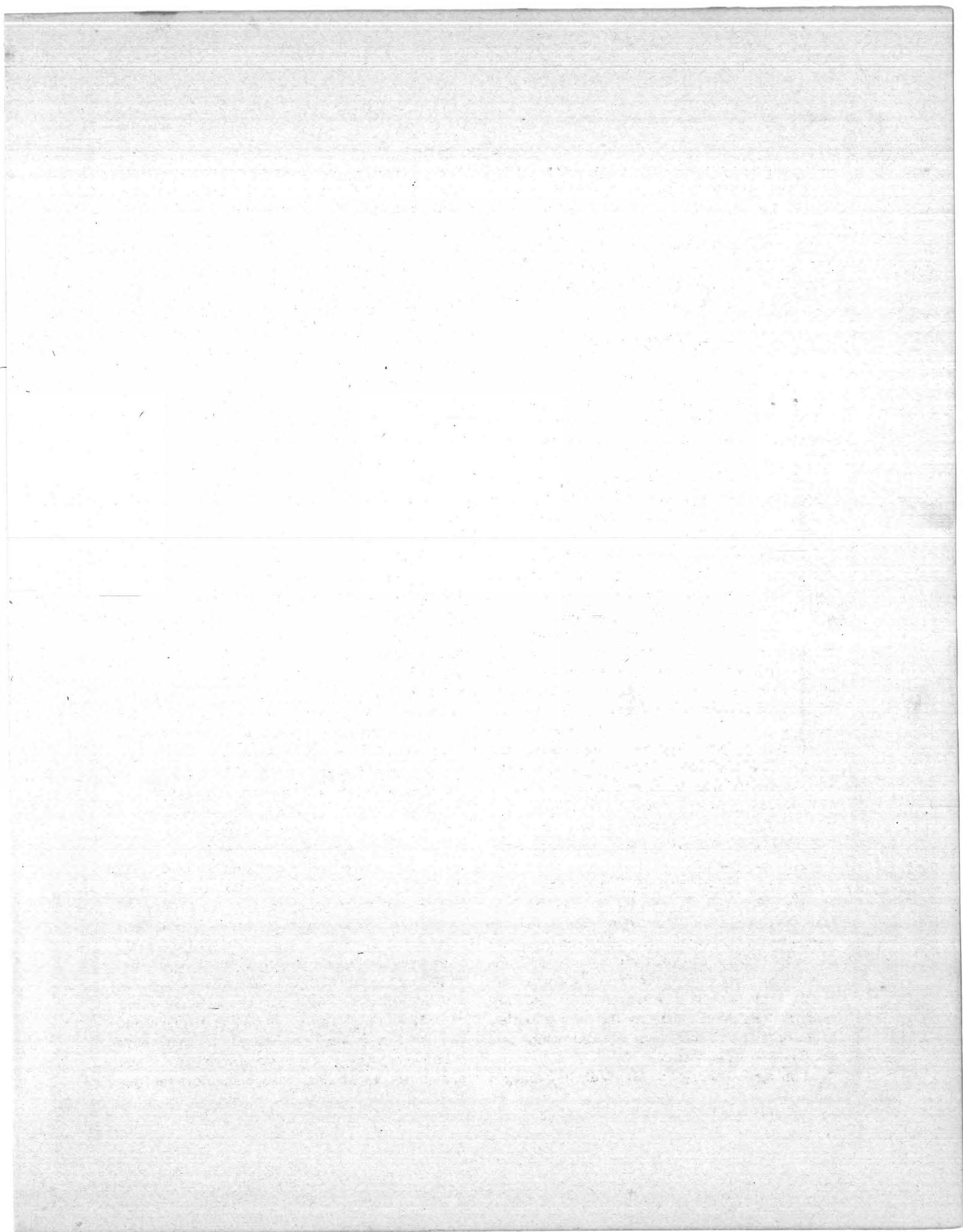
At the age of twenty-one Mr. Wilhelmy engaged

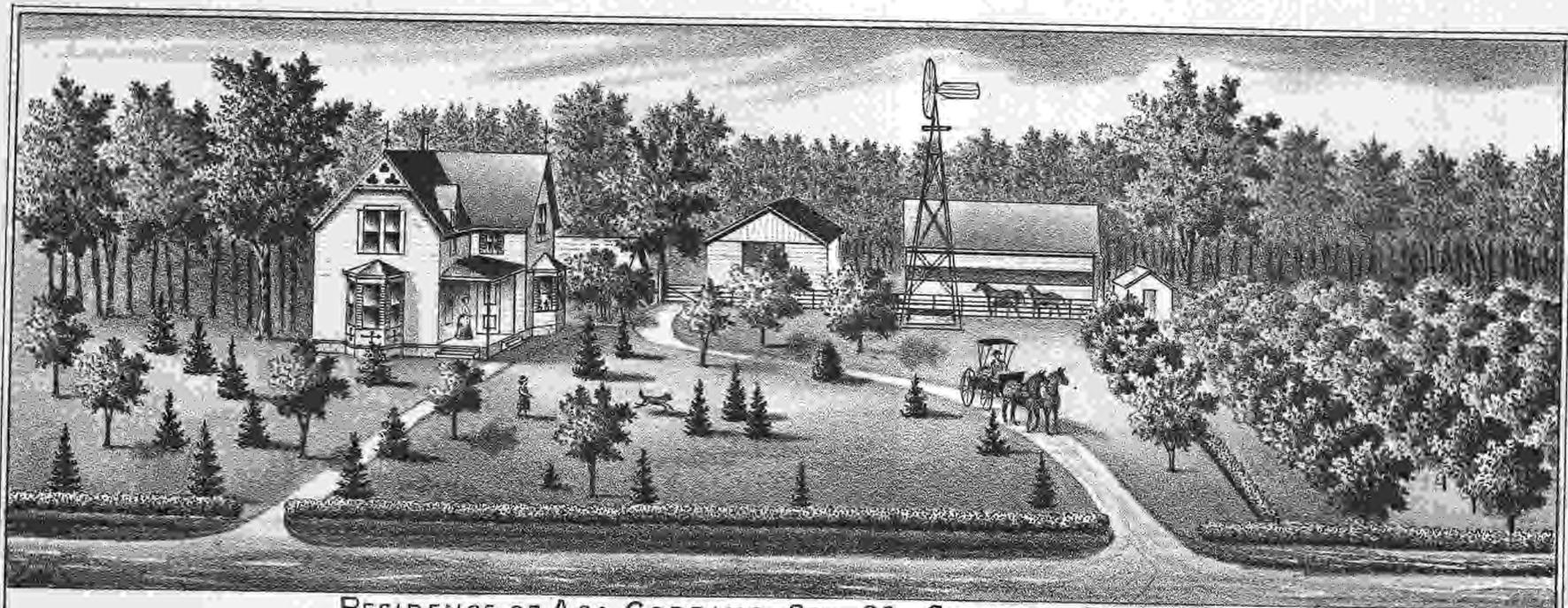
as a clerk in a general store which was located close to the Indiana and Ohio State line. Until this time he had been brought into contact with hardly any but the German settlers, but now acquired the English language, in order to successfully carry on the business he had entered into. From clerking he embarked in hotel-keeping, taking charge of his father's hotel, which he continued after the death of that parent.

In 1864 our subject was united in wedlock with Miss Margaret Koop, who is a native of Ohio, and the daughter of John F. and Matta (Willembroke) Koop. Her parents were among the number who had emigrated to Western Ohio and purchased their homestead direct from the Government, settling in the year 1833. They are still living, and are eighty-eight and seventy-eight years of age respectively. They were the parents of ten children. Of these their daughter Margaret was the second child and only daughter.

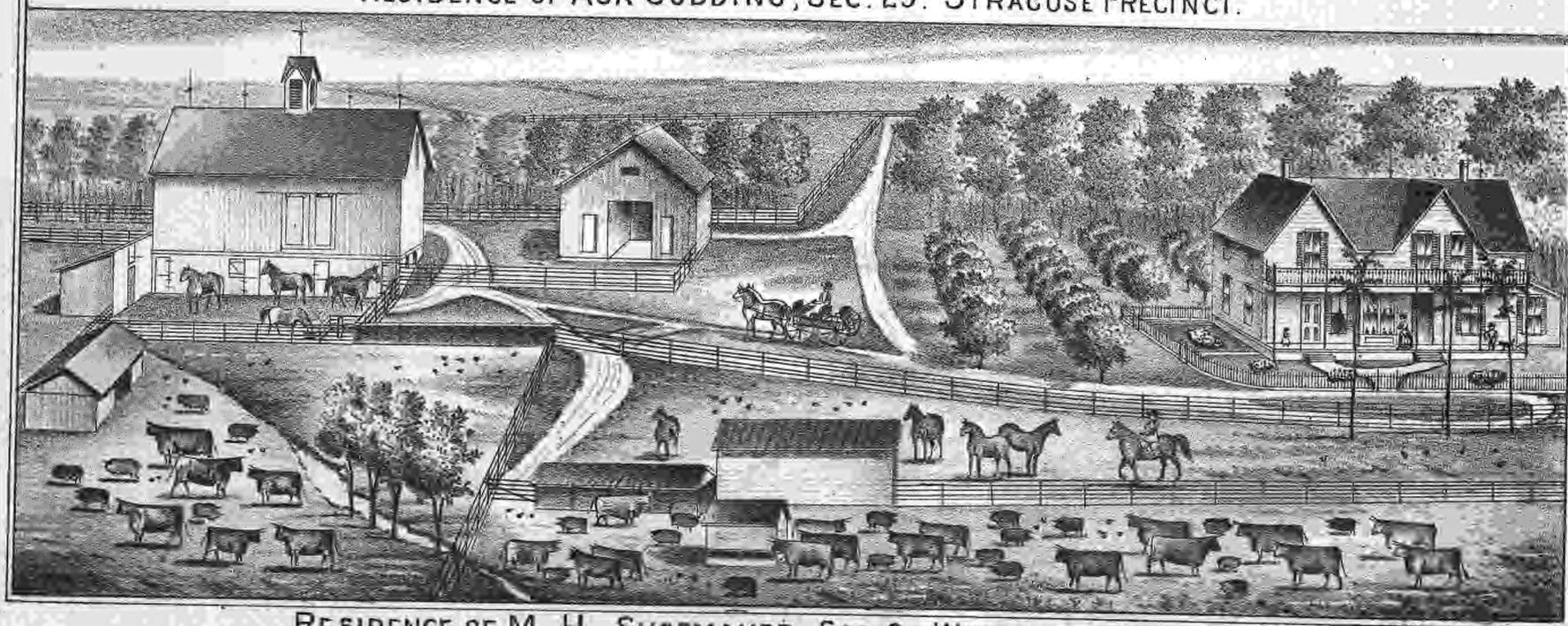
The subject of our sketch came to Nebraska in the spring of 1869, and at once engaged in the agricultural implement business, being one of the first in that line in Nebraska City. With an ever-increasing agricultural population around him he did well from the beginning, and it was not long before he was enabled to complete satisfactory arrangements for his family to join him. With his brother he continued engaged in the business until 1875, when he sold out his interests to his brother, and engaged with Rheindthard Ballard & Co., as traveling salesman, selling threshers, engines and other implements. In this he continued for about nine years, and during that time did business in almost every part of the North and Northwest. At the end of that time the two senior members of the firm died, and our subject was retained by those who had charge of affairs, and for two years continued engaged in settling up the business of the firm, making a total of eleven years he served this firm.

In 1886, in company with a Mr. Draper, Mr. Wilhelmy bought out the Simson hardware business, which is still run by him. Mr. Draper in the spring of 1887 sold his business interests to Mr. Overton, and the firm's name was changed to that above mentioned. The business has grown rapidly and is on a most satisfactory basis, and enjoys the rep-





RESIDENCE OF ASA GODDING, SEC. 29. SYRACUSE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF M. H. SHOEMAKER, SEC. 2. WYOMING PRECINCT.

utation of being strictly honest in its representations, prompt and faithful in its engagements. It is one of the best houses in the State, and is known favorably to quite a large section of country.

The family circle of Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelmy comprises five children, viz.: Willie, who died in Ohio when a babe; Eddie, who was born in McGregor County, Iowa; Minnie, born in Nebraska City; and Leon and Lillie, twins. Eddie is engaged in business with his uncle at Omaha; the other surviving members of the family are at home. The residence of our subject is one of the finest in the city, and is situated in the western part thereof. It is thoroughly in keeping with his position in the business world, of which he is certainly one of the representative men.

Religiously, the subject of our sketch and his family are members of the Lutheran Church. In politics Mr. Wilhelmy is a Democrat, but has at no time sought to take a prominent part in such matters. He is one of the prominent members of the order of the Royal Arcanum, and holds the position of Grand Regent in the same. There, as in every other circle, he is accorded the unfeigned esteem and regard of those who know him, and these sentiments extend also to his wife and family.



**A**SA GODDING. In March of 1882 the gentleman a sketch of whose life is here briefly presented purchased 160 acres of land on section 29 of Syracuse Precinct, and settled upon it. This commenced his history as connected with this county. The above property, which he still occupies, is situated on the southwest quarter of the section, and was homesteaded by Jacob Sollenberger, who sold to Charles Adams, and from the latter it was obtained by our subject. The old homestead claim shanty still stands, and was occupied for one year by Mr. Godding during the building of his present residence, which is one of the most commodious and pleasant in the county.

September 29, 1826, witnessed the birth of our subject to Russell and Abigail (Sherman) Godding, in Rutland County, Vt. When he was but six years of

age his father died, and thus he has been deprived of all the help and care that otherwise would have been received, and which is of inestimable value to a young man in starting in life, and on through the first few years at least of his experience.

Not long after the death of the head of the family, a removal was made to Rhode Island, where the mother did everything possible to keep her family together, and, as she was able, to give them the opportunity of making their way successfully in the world. At the tender age of nine years her son Asa was put to work in a woolen factory. There he continued for a number of years, learning the trade first of spinner, and afterward of wool finisher. His connection with this trade continued until 1856, at which time he emigrated to Illinois and purchased land in what is now Philo Township, Champaign County, where he was one of the pioneers.

At the time our subject located in the Prairie State there were hardly any settlers in his neighborhood, and he was prominently identified with the organization of Philo Township, and the first school district. At that time he was operating a half-section of land, but subsequently sold 160 acres. In 1874 he rented his farming property, and engaged in mercantile pursuits at Philo, becoming partner in the firm of Van Vleck & Godding. They were largely interested in grain, owning and operating an extensive flouring-mill in connection with the elevator which they built, and continued financially successful to an unexpected degree for about five years.

In 1879 Mr. Godding withdrew from the firm and removed to St. Louis. He there embarked in the manufacture of vinegar, pickles, and articles of a kindred nature. There also he built up an extensive business, continuing for nearly three years, returning at the end of that period to Monticello, Ill., and coming to this State in 1882.

While resident at Urbana, Ill., in the year 1866, our subject was united in marriage with Sarah A. Driver, of Urbana, who was born in 1840, in North Carolina. After a happy married life of ten years Mrs. Godding died at Philo, in 1876, leaving no children.

Upon the 1st of January, 1882, our subject re-entered the married state, becoming the husband

of Delia J. Heislar, daughter of George and Rebecca Heislar, of Champaign County, Ill. This lady was born in Fredericktown, Ohio, on the 6th of November, 1846. Her mother, Mrs. Heislar, died in August, 1849, leaving four children, viz.: Daniel; Mary R., now Mrs. Perry Silver; Delia J. and Theodore. Of the second marriage there is one child living, Delmont, now a resident of Hutchinson, Kan.

Mr. and Mrs. Godding have become the parents of one child living. A son, George H., born June 2, 1885, died nine days after his birth; they have a daughter, Grace A., born Sept. 23, 1882; and an adopted son, who bears the name Joseph V., who has made his home with them since he was three years of age.

Among the staunch Republicans of the county must certainly be named our subject, who has sustained since his ability to take part in political matters a reputation in that regard. While in Philo Township he served as Collector for two years, at a time when wolf scalps were accepted as payment for taxes. Mrs. Godding is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and is greatly esteemed therein. Their home, a view of which appears on another page, bears fair comparison with those of the other intelligent people of Syracuse Precinct and vicinity.

**M**ATHEW H. SHOEMAKER. The farming and stock-raising interests of Wyoming Precinct recognize in the subject of this sketch one of their most energetic and successful representatives. Since the spring of 1882 he has operated successfully 160 acres of fertile land on section 2, bringing about a great improvement in its original condition, and erecting thereon some of the finest buildings in this part of the county. A view of his homestead is presented in this volume.

Mr. Shoemaker has been especially fortunate in his live-stock operations, and has also given much attention to the planting of trees on his farm, having a fine apple orchard and the smaller fruits in abundance. Besides the home farm, he has a fine tract of land 240 acres in extent in Liberty Pre-

cinct, Cass County, which fortunately lies adjacent to the homestead. He has been kept busy in the improvement of his 400 acres, which when coming into his possession was raw prairie upon which there had been no attempt at improvement. He was a resident of Cass County for a period of fifteen years before taking possession in the spring of 1882 of the homestead which he now occupies.

Mr. Shoemaker first set foot in Nebraska in the year 1857, and is consequently one of its pioneers. He has seen it transformed from a Territory into a State, and commenced at the foot of the ladder to build up the homestead and secure a competency. That he has been in a large measure successful is indicated in his present surroundings. He comes of substantial stock, being the son of Samuel G. and Mary (Pott) Shoemaker, who were both natives of Pennsylvania, and the father, like our subject, was born in Lycoming County. After marriage the parents settled in Muncie Creek Township, under the roof where the father was born, and later his son, Mathew H., our subject, the birth of the latter taking place March 31, 1833. In 1857, twenty-four years after the birth of their son Mathew, retiring from active labor, the parents moved to the village of Muncie, where the father passed from the scenes of earth in the year 1871, at the advanced age of eighty-two years. He was born in the year 1789. The mother survived her husband a few years, her death occurring in the year 1880, and her age being eighty-three. They were married on the 22d of May, 1817, their married life therefore had reached a period of nearly fifty-six years. They had a family of six sons and two daughters, of whom four sons and both daughters are still living. Our subject is the only one residing in the State of Nebraska. Jasper and Robert F. live in Pennsylvania, where also Mary Melissa, who is still single, resides; William P. lives in Bourbon County, Kan., near Ft. Scott; and Catherine, wife of Noah Mackey, lives in Missouri, not far from St. Louis.

This branch of the Shoemaker family were of Dutch ancestry, and people usually of wealth and standing, who exercised a decided influence in the affairs of the community where they lived. They were principally agriculturists by occupation, men prompt to meet their obligations, and whose word

was considered as good as their bond. The mother of our subject also came from an excellent family, and the town of Pottsville, Pa., was named in honor of her grandfather, by whom it was founded. The Shoemakers originally, in religious matters, held to the doctrines of the Lutheran Church, but later we find them with the Episcopalians. Henry Shoemaker, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was also a native of Lycoming County, Pa., where he was reared to manhood, and married Miss Susan Dudder, of Dutch ancestry. They continued their residence in Lycoming County the balance of their lives, living to be ripe in years, and were also connected with the Lutheran Church.

Mathew H. Shoemaker was the sixth child of a family of six sons and two daughters, all of whom received careful home training, and a practical education in the common schools. Of these six are living. In April, 1860, Mr. Shoemaker and three of his neighbors, viz: Daniel B. Robb, Thomas Lindsey and Amos Weaver, clubbed together and got an outfit consisting of a wagon and three yoke of cattle, and provisions for six months, and started over the plains for Pike's Peak, where, after a pleasant trip of forty days, they arrived. Denver was then but a hamlet, and the first thing that attracted their attention on arriving there was to witness the hanging of a man by the citizens, for murder. This gave Mr. S. a fair idea of the character of the people and their methods of administering the laws as they made them for the evil doers. He remained in Colorado for two years, and the whole party spent their time diligently employed in different occupations. During his stay in Colorado he was very successful.

Our subject continued a resident of his native State until a young man twenty-four years old, when he crossed the Mississippi and resolved to cast his lot with the pioneer element of Nebraska. Some years afterward he made the acquaintance of a most estimable young lady of Wyoming Precinct, Miss Alice E. Olds, to whom he was married Nov. 16, 1874. Mrs. Shoemaker was born in Symcoe, Lower Canada, Oct. 12, 1857, and came to the States with her parents when quite a young child, they settling in this county, where she was reared to womanhood. She is a very estimable lady, and by her marriage

with our subject has become the mother of six children, three of whom are deceased, namely: Kate, Mary E. and Clara. The survivors are Edward, Artie and Jessie, who are at home with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker attend the Episcopal Church at Wyoming. Our subject was a member of the Republican party a number of years, but his warm interest in the temperance work led him in 1888 to identify himself with the Prohibitionists.

THOMAS D. SABIN occupies a prominent place among the farmers of this county, and resides on section 9 of Syracuse Precinct, his home being about one-half mile from the town of that name. He is a native of the Buckeye State, and was born on the 8th of September, 1839, in Knox County. His parents were David and Nancy (Baird) Sabin; the father was a native of Washington County, Pa., the mother of Perry County, Ohio. The latter is deceased.

The grandfather of our subject, David Sabin, was born in Vermont, which is as far as our subject has been enabled to trace his ancestry. He removed from Vermont and settled in Washington County about the time of his marriage, where he lived for many years and brought up his family, then going to Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his days in Licking County.

The father of our subject grew to manhood in Pennsylvania, and was about eighteen years of age when he took his place with his father among the pioneer settlers of Licking County. In that place he lived until the year 1856, when he migrated to Illinois and settled upon the farm near Bloomington, where he continued to follow agricultural pursuits until 1872, when he removed to Piper City, where he still resides, and although he has reached the advanced age of eighty years, enjoys the use of his faculties and fairly good health. He has been a successful man and a leading citizen; has been able to educate his children and give them a start in life.

The mother of our subject was born in Perry County, Ohio, in the year 1812, and died upon the 14th of February, 1871. Her married life extended over a period of forty years, which, from commence-

ment to close, witnessed the same affectionate devotion and faithfulness to the obligations resting upon her as a wife and mother; she filled a place in the hearts of her family that can never be otherwise occupied. She was the mother of ten children, only five of whom, however, attained to years of discretion, viz: Daniel E., who resides at Albion; Mary J., now Mrs. Fowler, who resides near Piper City, Ill.; Thomas D., our subject; Jemima W., of Chicago, and Eliza, who was married to Mr. David Hall, and died at her home at Danvers, Ill.

The subject of our sketch attained to years of manhood before leaving his native State. In 1856 with his parents he removed to Illinois and began life for himself. In 1864 he went to McLean County, Ill., and engaged in farming. The same year he was united in marriage with Eliza V. Wood, the estimable daughter of William and Mary (Campbell) Wood, who were natives of Frederick County, Va., but removed to Clinton, Ohio, where their daughter Eliza was born on the 10th of January, 1836. Their home in Clinton County was only made by cutting their way, foot by foot, in the dense forests of that district, and thus redeeming, piece by piece, the land for cultivation. Their residence in Ohio continued until 1853, when they removed to Knox County, Ill., where the mother died in 1861. The family removed to McLean County. The father died in the year 1869, at his home in Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood were the parents of eight children, seven of whom attained their majority. These are: Mary L., who became the wife of Joseph Strickle; William R., of Colorado; James H., who died at Denison, Tex.; Robert M., of Nebraska; John F., of Bloomington; Eliza V., the wife of our subject, and Dakin D., who resides in Nebraska, and is engaged in farming.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Sabin settled on a farm in McLean County and began life in earnest. Our subject gave his attention to the improvement and cultivation of his land, in the endeavor to bring his farm to as near a perfect state of cultivation as possible. He put up some first-class farm buildings, and gave attention generally to stock-farming, also to the buying and shipping of stock. In this he continued until 1883, when he

came to Nebraska and purchased his present property, which comprises 240 acres of land, and is well provided with the various appliances and buildings needed. They have but one child, a daughter, Cora, born Feb. 8, 1871, who has displayed a character and disposition most happy. The position of our subject and wife religiously is in the Christian Church, of which they are highly esteemed members and active workers. In matters of political import Mr. Sabin usually votes the Republican ticket, supporting it in any effort that is made when he conscientiously can; but he is not confined within the circumscribed limits of party fence-building, and is guided in this as in everything else by the high principles that have characterized the decisions of his life, and is swayed by the condition of the situation to be met, the needs of the constituents, and the power of the candidate to meet those needs, so that he might be called independent. He is a man who stands high in the community in every regard.



**W**ILLIAM J. DOUGALL. The name of this gentleman is familiar to a large proportion of the residents of Palmyra Precinct, he being numbered among its leading men. His career has been creditable in the extreme, and one which his children may look upon with pride. During the late Civil War he did good service as a soldier in the Union Army, and upon returning to private life has been one of the most useful members of an intelligent and prosperous community. Genial, companionable and conscientious, he is popular among his fellow-citizens, and his personal appearance alone would commend him as a man of more than ordinary capabilities. He is of commanding presence, with fine features, and a remarkably intelligent eye—a man who would be singled out among a thousand.

Mr. Dougall has the greater part of his life been engaged in farming pursuits, and his property in Palmyra Precinct embraces eighty acres on section 14, and forty acres on section 10, besides the home farm on section 15. To the latter he has given especial attention, having gathered around himself and his family those conveniences and comforts

naturally suggested to the kindly husband and father and the self-respecting citizen. He is in the prime of life, having been born Sept. 1, 1842, at the farm of his father in Princeton Township, Schenectady Co., N. Y. His parents were John D. and Jennie (Walker) Dougall. The father, a native of Scotland, was born about seven miles from the city of Edinburgh, and was given a fine education, attending school during his youthful days until coming to the United States. After taking up his residence in Schenectady County, N. Y., he engaged in teaching and farming combined, and in the Empire State made the acquaintance of his future wife.

The mother of our subject was born in the above-named county, and was there married to John Dougall. Their union resulted in the birth of five children, namely: Thomas, George, William J. (our subject), Peter and Margaret. The latter was taken from the home circle under the most distressing circumstances, she being burned to death when a child. All of the others grew to mature years, and three are now living. The parents, a brother and a sister, died during the Civil War.

Mr. Dougall spent his boyhood and youth on the farm, pursuing his first studies in the district school. At the age of sixteen years he became a student of Jonesville Academy. Not long after the first call for troops to assist in putting down the Rebellion, he enlisted in Company E, 44th New York Infantry, which was styled the "Ellsworth Avengers." His regiment was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and young Dougall participated in many of the important battles which followed, namely: Big Bethel, Little Bethel, Yorktown, Williamsburg, and was in the seven-days fight at the second battle of Bull Run. At Antietam he was promoted to Sergeant, and afterward severely wounded in the left leg. He was conveyed to the hospital at Harrisburg, Pa., where he lay a short time, and was finally obliged to accept his honorable discharge on account of disability. He had, however, given a faithful service of one year, and felt that he had performed his duty.

During the attack of Lee upon the city of Gettysburg there were 2,200 disabled and discharged soldiers waiting at Camp Distribution, not yet having

been assigned to their respective regiments. Observing that the Union troops were in need of their aid, they at once took up arms, and as if by magic, submitted to the orders of the War Department. Our subject at the time assumed command of a squad of men, and through the united efforts of the brave recruits, the plans of the rebel General were materially changed if not absolutely defeated. Mr. Dougall re-enlisted with the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry, and six days later was again found in the thickest of the fight at the battles of Fredericksburg, Kelly's Ford, and the first and second battles of the Wilderness. At the latter he was struck by two balls at about the same time, and about four rods away seventeen color-bearers fell. Corporal Dougall, notwithstanding his wounds, seized one of the falling banners, and was about bearing it on to victory, when a musket ball struck his breastplate, and although not penetrating it, dealt him such a blow that he reeled, and was in the act of falling when another ball struck him in the left heel. He was carried to the rear. At the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, when every inch of ground was disputed, the troops first advancing, then retreating, Sergt. Dougall while nearing the third line of the rebel breastworks, cleared them, and seizing the rebel colors, started for his own lines, but before he could reach them fell, severely wounded in the head. The cry went up from his comrades that "brave Dougall was no more." The latter lay unconscious on the ground nearly all day, while thousands of bullets flew thick around him, and when the ground was strewn with the dead and wounded of both armies. At night he crawled into his regiment's ranks.

Sergt. Dougall later recovering from his wounds, was given a thirty-days furlough and returned home. At the expiration of this time he rejoined his regiment and participated in the series of battles along the Chickahominy, prior to laying siege to Petersburg. Here he was promoted to Corporal, and was again wounded several times. During his army service he participated in thirty-two general engagements, besides unnumbered skirmishes and all the other vicissitudes of war, the wearisome marches, hardships and privations, insufficient food, and the various other experiences incident to life

in the army. He was present at the final grand review in Washington, and received his honorable discharge in Philadelphia, Pa., after a service of four years and thirteen days.

Our subject, April 9, 1866, crossed the Mississippi, and coming to this county homesteaded 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct. In November following he was united in marriage with Miss Emma, adopted daughter of Homer Chamberlain. This lady was born in 1848, in Canada. They began their wedded life together under the modest roof provided by our subject on the new farm, which they have since developed into a comfortable and well-ordered homestead. Their union has been blessed by the birth of five children, the eldest of whom, Minnie B., died when an interesting young girl of fifteen years. The others, Homer J., William E., Elizabeth A. and Joseph G., are all at home.

Mr. Dougall voted for the adoption of a State Constitution in 1866, and has been an ardent supporter of Republican principles. He has served as Justice of the Peace four years, Road Supervisor twelve years, and Constable for a period of fifteen years. Both he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the United Brethren Church, attending with the Mt. Zion congregation in Palmyra. Socially, Mr. B. is Adjutant in the G. A. R., in which he has also served as Officer of the Day, and as a delegate to the National Encampment.

**M**ASON H. WILES, whose highly productive and splendidly kept farm is situated upon section 14 of Delaware Precinct, was born in Sandusky County, Ohio, on the 15th of February, 1847. He is the son of Mason S. and Helen Wiles, natives of New York State. His father removed to Ohio when a young man, and there followed his trade, that of a carpenter. In 1861 he removed with his family to Eaton County, Mich., where he pursued carpentering, while his sons attended to the farm. In the fall of 1869 they migrated to Bates County, Mo., and the following spring settled in Peru, Nemaha County, this State.

The subject of our sketch was early initiated

into the various duties of farm life, and in the common school of the district received such instruction as would serve as a basis of operations in business or other engagements to which he might give his attention in after years. He accompanied his parents as they migrated from one place to another, finding such employment upon the farm as was both congenial and helpful.

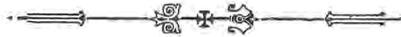
Finally, leaving home and beginning life for himself, Mr. Wiles settled about six miles west of Peru, where he lived until 1879, engaged in farming. He came to this county in the spring of 1882, and lived for three years near Nebraska City, moving to his present farm in 1885. He owns 160 acres of land amply adapted for agricultural pursuits. He has labored industriously to bring it to its present condition, and is usually rewarded with abundant harvests. In the stock department of his farm he raises chiefly cattle and hogs, and upon an average has each season no less than eighty head of graded cattle.

In no other country in the world are there so many of the masses of the people owning their own homes. This is an indication that, deep-rooted in the heart of the American citizen, is the desire for a fireside of his own, and that he finds the atmosphere of the domestic circle eminently congenial. A country has therein one of its strongest and stoutest bulwarks. Napoleon the Great is said to have remarked that if he had a nation of mothers he could conquer the world. Our subject, in common with American citizens generally, having the same desire for the home relation, sought and obtained the hand of Lenora A. Kent in marriage, that event being celebrated on the 22d of January, 1880. Their union has been fruitful in the birth of three children, who bear the names of Wyman S., Hiram L. and Frank S.

Mr. Wiles is of a retiring disposition, and consequently is not prominent in political affairs. He is, however, a loyal and true citizen, careful to do his duty, usually voting with the Republican party, but reserving to himself the right of the free citizen to support such candidates for office as he may deem most worthy and efficient.

The homestead views of this volume form one of its most attractive features, and the Wiles

residence, with its surroundings herein given, aid greatly in perfecting the illustrative department, as indicative of the tastes and industry of an intelligent community.



**T**HOMAS WEATHERHOGG is a resident on section 3, Palmyra Precinct. A native of Lincolnshire, England, he was born in 1829, and is the son of John and Hannah (Coats) Weatherhogg, of whose children six are living, namely: Charles, Jane, Thomas, William, Henry and George.

The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation, and the boyhood of Thomas was spent in his native county, where he became familiar with the employments of rural life. Upon leaving home he was in the employ of one man on a farm for a period of nine years. He was married, in 1853, to Miss Mary, daughter of Thomas and Mary Halford, who was born in 1828. Mr. H. was also a farmer by occupation, and the parental family consisted of three children—William, Rachel and Mary.

Mr. and Mrs. Weatherhogg lived in England about four years after their marriage, and became the parents of one child. In 1857 they started for America, and after a prosperous voyage landed in New York City, whence they proceeded soon afterward to the vicinity of Mendota, Ill. There our subject engaged in farming. Later, with his brothers, Charles, William and Henry, he started to Pike's Peak, in 1863, and there experienced the truth of the maxim that "all is not gold that glitters." After one year spent in fruitlessly prospecting, he turned his attention to something more tangible, and paying an exorbitant price for a team of oxen, began freighting. Later he returned to Illinois, and remained there until coming to Nebraska in the fall of 1865.

Mrs. Weatherhogg is deceased. Their only child, a daughter Anna, became the wife of George Hailey, and is now living at Long Pine, in Brown County, Ill. Mr. H. is a farmer by occupation, and they have one child, a daughter Lilly.

Upon coming to Nebraska Mr. Weatherhogg settled upon 160 acres of land in Palmyra Precinct,

and put up a small house, paying for the lumber at the rate of \$40 per thousand. Here he lived by himself, his daughter Anna having taken up her abode with his brother Charles, where she lived until eighteen years of age. She then came home to her father. Our subject in 1869 contracted a second marriage, with Mrs. Harriet (Smith) Longstreet, widow of the late Henry Longstreet. Mrs. Weatherhogg was born in Chautauqua County, N. Y., and went with her parents to Michigan. There she was first married and lived until after the war, when she came to Nebraska with relatives and took up a tract of land in Palmyra Precinct. Of this union there have been born four children, all sons—Frank, John, George and Frederick.

Mr. Weatherhogg, politically, is independent, and has never had any aspiration for office. He has fought the grasshopper plague successfully, and has now a comfortable homestead in the midst of fruit and shade trees, including an apple orchard and a quantity of grape vines, and has a grove of cottonwood, ash and honey locust trees. His fields are laid off with neatly trimmed hedge fences, and his home forms an exceedingly pleasant picture of country life.



**R**OBERT T. MCPHERSON may be placed among the substantial, well-to-do citizens of Russell Precinct, and operates successfully from a financial standpoint eighty acres of excellent farming land on section 6. Joseph McPherson, the father of our subject, was born in Scotland. He came to this country a young man and began farming in Pennsylvania, and he was the owner of 200 acres in that State and there died in 1856. The maiden name of his wife, the mother of our subject, whom he met and married in the State of his adoption, was Miss Anna Barr, who was born and brought up in Pennsylvania. The maternal side of the family represents a French ancestry. Grandfather Barr was in the War of 1812, and was one of the children born in this country, although of French parents. The mother of our subject is still living, and is sixty years of age. She was the mother of six children, of

whom the following three survive: Hugh, who resides in Pennsylvania; John and Robert T. Elizabeth, Mary and Jane are deceased.

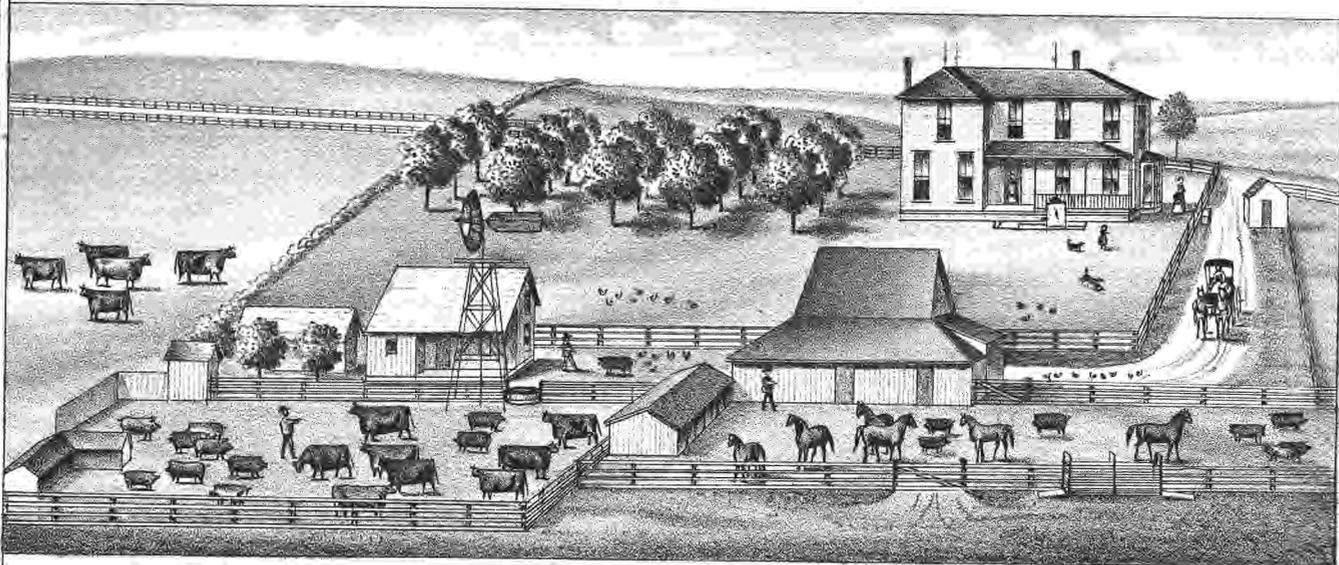
The subject of our sketch was born in Indiana County, Pa., on the 28th of August, 1851. He made his home with his parents until fourteen years of age, and then went to Illinois, and worked out upon a farm by the month for about six years. He managed to pick up while at home and during the winters of his absence a fairly good practical education, through the instrumentality of the common schools. In the year 1871 he started overland and came to Cass County, in this State. He remained there one year, and then came to Russell Precinct, in this county, where he was enabled to purchase eighty acres of land, his present property, which he has improved in a most commendable manner.



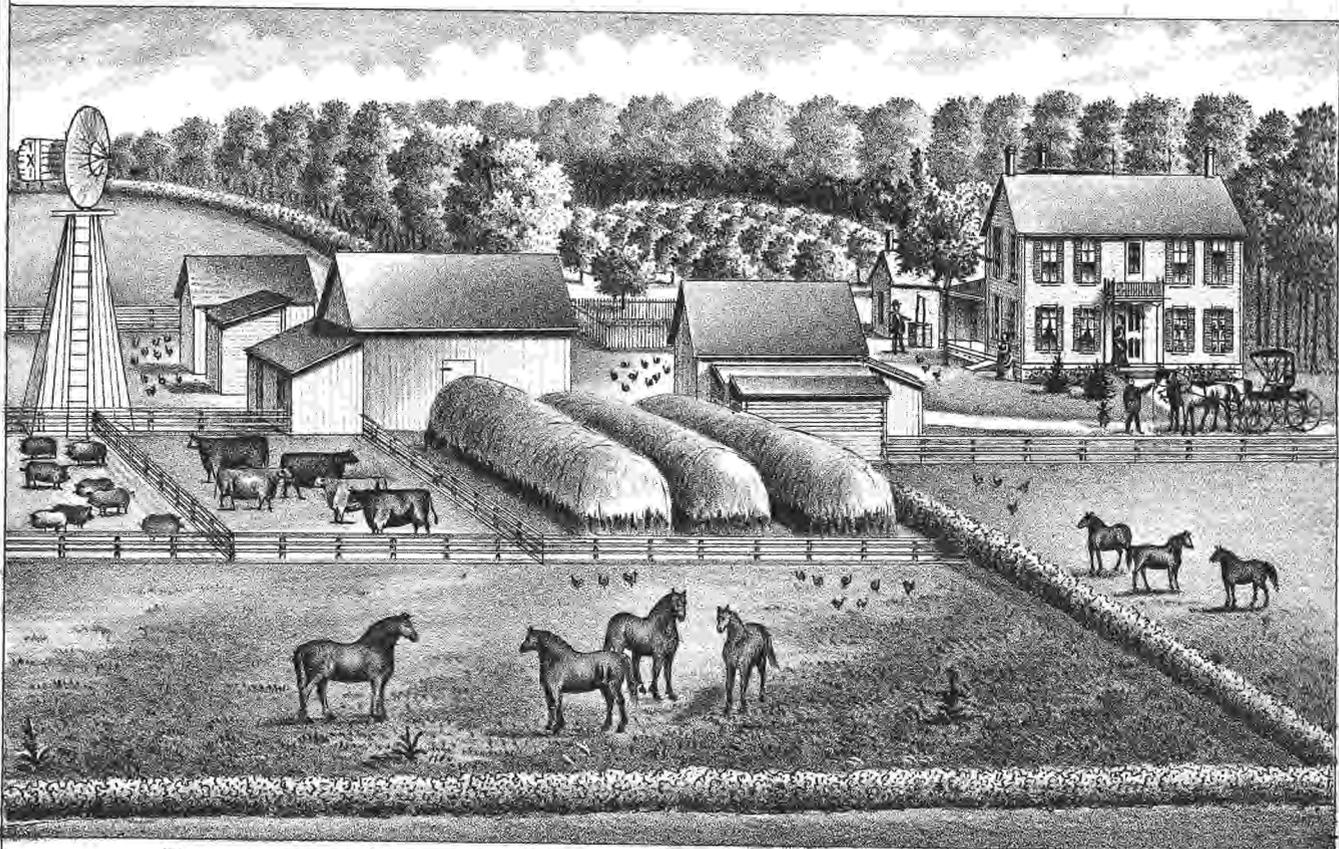
**D**IETRICH SCHINDLER. The agricultural interests of Otoe Precinct are no better represented than by the subject of this sketch, who owns a large and well-managed farm in this locality, pleasantly situated on section 22, and comprising 360 acres of as rich and fertile farming land as is to be found in Eastern Nebraska. Mr. Schindler is a native of Switzerland, having been born in the Canton of Glarus, July 10, 1843. His father, Jacob Schindler, and his grandfather, Joachim Schindler, were also natives of the same canton, and the latter spent his entire life there. The father of our subject learned the trade of locksmith in his native land, and pursued it there until 1857, when he set sail from Havre de Grace in the month of February in an American-bound vessel, accompanied by three of his five children. They landed at New Orleans sixty days later, and there took passage on a steamer up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, and landed at Otoe City, now Minersville, Otoe County, and from there Mr. Schindler started out to seek a location. He soon bought a claim in Otoe Precinct, section 22, where our subject now resides. He soon completed his purchase with the Government, and moved into the log cabin that stood on the place nearly finished. He

had ten acres broken, and planted that with corn and potatoes, and continued to live there until 1859, when he rented the land and went to Arkansas, where he bought a tract of land in Dallas County, and there the family were reunited by his wife and other two children joining them. He was prosperously engaged in farming there until his death in 1864, which was brought about in this way. It was during the war, and the country was infested by guerrillas, who, while he was on his way to Little Rock to see Gen. Steele, waylaid and killed him, and at the same time the greater part of his stock and personal property was killed or destroyed by the bushwhackers. Soon after his death the family returned to Otoe Precinct, and settled on the land that he had purchased from the Government. The mother of our subject was a resident of the precinct until her death. The record of the children born to her and her husband is as follows: Ursula, wife of Henry Vallman; Emilie died soon after the return of the family from Arkansas; Dietrich; Annie E., wife of Jacob Baltensperger; Edward died in Arkansas.

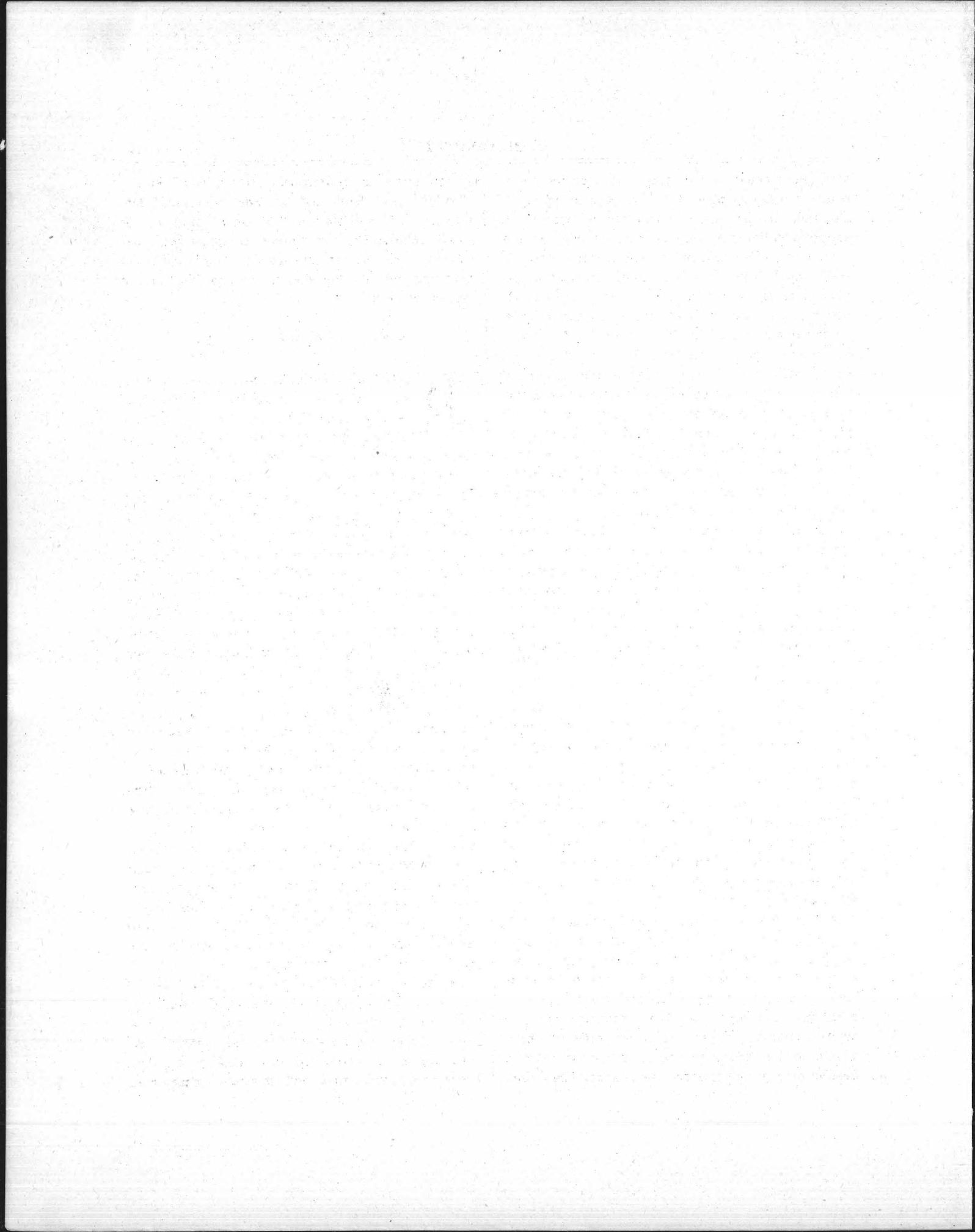
The subject of this sketch gained a good, practical education in the Swiss schools, which he attended quite regularly as long as he lived in his native land. He was fourteen years old when he accompanied his father to this country, and he remembers well the incidents of the long voyage, and of his subsequent pioneer life here on the farm where he now resides, over which deer, wolves and prairie chickens used to roam, and occasionally wild turkeys. He went to Arkansas with his father, and lived with him until 1862, when he was drafted into the Confederate Army, and was obliged to serve in its ranks as a member of Company G, 21st Arkansas Infantry, doing duty in Mississippi for one year. While at Vicksburg he obtained a furlough, and after his return home communications were cut off by Gen. Grant, and our subject was detailed to superintend the sulphur works at the Hot Springs until the Federals took Little Rock. He then went into the Union camp at that place, and gladly took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government. After that he went to Cairo, Ill., where he worked at the baker's trade for six months, when he returned to the old homestead, and in the summer of



RESIDENCE OF DIETRICH SCHINDLER, SEC. 22. OTTOE PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF DIETRICH MISEGADIS, SEC. 16. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



that year teamed for the freighters over the plains, and in the fall engaged with Col. Shoop, of the 3d Colorado Militia, who was then on the frontier to suppress Indian troubles, as teamster, and he continued with the command on the frontier until the following February, and he then returned to the old homestead to resume the calling of farmer, to which he had been devoted under his father when he first came to live in this country. Ever since he has been actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and to reward his persistent labors has as fine a farm as any in the county, well supplied with substantial buildings for every purpose, and in 1885 he erected a good frame house, in which he and his family live surrounded by every comfort that heart could desire. Mr. Schindler has paid special attention to raising stock, and derives from that branch of agriculture a good annual income.

Our subject was married, Nov. 25, 1867, to Mary Anna Tschanz, a native of the Canton of Berne, Switzerland. She came to America with the family of her father, John Tschanz, who settled twenty miles east of St. Joseph, Mo. Nine children were born of the marriage of our subject and his wife, namely: Rosa, Edward, Jacob, Lewis, Henry H., Albert H., Clarence, Emily and Madeline.

On the 29th of February, 1888, this happy household sustained an irreparable loss in the death of the wife and mother, who had been faithful in all the duties of life, and had been devoted to the interests of her family. She has left behind her a memory that will be fondly cherished by her relatives, friends and neighbors. Dec. 3, 1888, Mr. Schindler married a second time, the lady of his choice being Miss Lizette Wissler, daughter of Jacob and Eliza (Rufenacht) Wissler, from the Canton of Berne, Switzerland, but now of Humboldt, Richardson Co., Neb.

Mr. Schindler is one of the best citizens. He is a man of more than ordinary enterprise, practical sagacity, and decision of character. His public-spiritedness and liberality are well known, as he is always among the foremost to encourage and promote any scheme for the advancement of the precinct or county. Otoe Precinct is partly indebted to him for her excellent schools, as he has taken a deep interest in educational matters, and has served

several terms as Moderator. He was Road Supervisor for eight years, and in 1884 was a candidate for the State Legislature, but on account of his wife's sickness he was obliged to retire from the canvass. He has always been a Republican, and by voice and vote has worked for the interests of his chosen party.



**D**IEDRICH MISEGADIS, a large landowner and stock-raiser of Rock Creek Precinct, has his home farm on section 16, and this embraces 160 acres. On section 9 he owns 160 acres in one body and fifty acres in another, and on section 17 he has eighty acres. The whole of this is in a good state of cultivation and yields the proprietor a comfortable income. A view of the homestead is given on another page.

Our subject became a resident of this county on the 27th of October, 1873, and his labors as an agriculturist have been crowned with success. Prior to that date he had been a resident of Grant and LaFayette Counties, Wis., a period of thirteen years, having emigrated to the Badger State from his native Hanover, in Germany, in the fall of 1860. He was then a young man of twenty-five years, having been born on the 12th of May, 1835. His father, Frederick Misegadis, was a native of the same Province, which at the time of his birth was a kingdom by itself, and where for a period of eleven years he worked on the farm and drove the four-horse team of King Frederick. There also he was married to Miss Adeheida Lofrutian, a native of the same section of country. The mother died after the birth of five children, when a young woman. The father lived to be seventy-eight years old, spending his entire life on his native soil. They were Lutheran in religion, and most excellent people, honest and industrious, and respected by all who knew them.

The fourth child of his parents and their second son, our subject had two brothers and two sisters, two of whom are now in Wisconsin, one in Otoe County, Neb., and a sister in the old country. He remained in his native Province until twenty-five years of age, still unmarried, this interesting event

taking place in Dodge County, Wis. The maiden of his choice was Miss Augusta Chanfish, a native of Prussia, and who was born April 28, 1847. Her father, Ferdinand Chanfish, died when she was quite young, and she came with her mother and stepfather, William Blancke, to America when a little girl eight years of age. They settled in Watertown, Wis., where she lived until her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Misegadis became the parents of ten children, the eldest of whom, Frederick, died at the age of four years. The survivors are all at home with their parents, and form an interesting group, of which the latter may well be proud. They are named respectively: William F., E. W. Emma, Ida A., Lizzie M., Edwin H., George D., Christina A., Louis R. and Alva A. The eldest was twenty-one years of age Oct. 29, 1888, and the youngest one year old at that date. They are all members and regular attendants with their parents of the Lutheran Church. Mr. M., politically, is a conscientious Democrat, and has held the minor offices of his precinct.



**H**ON. JAMES FITCHIE, of Nebraska City, occupies a prominent position among the intelligent and cultured citizens of this county, who, as pioneers, have witnessed and assisted in its development. He is thoroughly conversant with its history—indeed, is regarded as an authority on the subject—and he has written many interesting articles concerning its early settlement. He was at one time conspicuously identified with the civic life of the county; was early appointed Justice of the Peace, and by his vigorous and impartial administration of the affairs of his office during the four years that he was an incumbent thereof, he contributed greatly to the peaceful settlement of the county and to its general prosperity by assisting in the maintenance of law and order, winning the commendations of his fellow-citizens. In 1869 he was a member of the State Legislature, and his record at the capitol stamped him as an honorable and enlightened legislator.

Our subject is a native of Ireland, but descended from a good old Scotch family, who had settled in

County Down many years previous to the birth of our subject, which occurred May 3, 1810, in that county. Thomas Fitchie, his father, was a native and lifelong resident of the same locality, where he carried on farming for many years. The maiden name of the mother of our subject was Elizabeth Hays, and she was likewise of Scotch ancestry and a native of County Down, where she always made her home. There were nine children born to the parents of our subject, eight of whom grew up, namely: John, Samuel, William, Margaret, James, Jennie, Mary and Thomas. John, Samuel and our subject were the only three who came to America. John settled in Newburg, N. Y., and Samuel in Brooklyn, that State.

James Fitchie, of whom we write, was reared and married in his native county, Miss Eliza Douglas becoming his wife Oct. 29, 1833. She was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1812, a daughter of Samuel and Alice (Wood) Douglas, natives of Ireland, and of Scotch ancestry. James Fitchie learned the carpenter and joiner's trade, and followed it in Ireland until 1834, when, with his wife he set sail from Belfast for America, coming by the way of Liverpool to New York, where he landed on our National holiday. He first located in Newburg, and worked as a carpenter there until 1837. From there he went to Pittsburgh, Pa., going by the way of Philadelphia to Harrisburg, which was then the western terminus of the railway in that State, and thence to his destination. He worked at his trade for awhile, and then engaged in the grocery business, continuing his residence in Pittsburgh until 1852. In that year he cast in his lot with the pioneers of Iowa, still keeping ahead of the railway, as Central Illinois was then its western terminus.

Mr. Fitchie was employed at carpentering in Muscatine until 1855, when he concluded to explore Nebraska for the purpose of securing a home in that part of Uncle Sam's domain. Accordingly, in the spring of that year, he started in company with a neighbor, Mr. Hays, equipped with a pair of oxen and a wagon, and crossed the river above Omaha, proceeding thence to Tekamah, Burt County, where he took up a claim. The "city" consisted of one log house covered with bark, and two tents, and his

claim was one mile distant from its present site. He spent but two nights on his land, and then returned to Omaha, which was at that time but an insignificant village, with the post-office in a sod house, and the other buildings of pretty much the same rude description. Mr. Fitchie stopped at that place about a week, and then came to Nebraska City to spend a few days before retracing his steps to Muscatine. He walked nearly the entire distance, and slept two nights on the open prairie.

After settling his affairs in Iowa, Mr. Fitchie started with a team, accompanied by his family, to take up his abode on the wild prairies of Nebraska. He arrived with his wife and children in Nebraska City on the 10th day of October, 1855, and moved into a vacant log cabin in that part of the town now known as Kearney. There were then probably about 100 families in the city, and but one store to supply all their wants. He had shipped his chest of carpentry tools by the river, but they did not arrive until the following spring. So here he was, a stranger in a strange land, without money or the means of obtaining it. But he was not one to sit down and mourn over what could not be helped without stirring himself actively to find a remedy. He immediately went to a store and bought some tools on time, and was thus enabled to obtain plenty of work. After a few weeks he made a claim on Camp Creek, nine miles south of the city, built a house, partly with sod and partly with logs, and in midwinter moved into it with his family. There were no settlers west of him at that time, and no other than log houses anywhere in the vicinity. The land was nearly all owned by the Government, and for sale at \$1.25 an acre. Deer were plentiful and roamed at will over the broad prairies. There was a gristmill two miles distant from where he had located; it was worked by water power, but it took so long to grind the grist that one would get very hungry waiting its slow movements.

In the fall of that year Mr. Fitchie ingeniously contrived a grater, and picking the corn before it was hard, grated it to make bread. Having cows, milk was plentiful, and mush and milk was the principal food of the family for a time. A few months after coming to Nebraska City Mr. F. bought a house

and lot in that part of the city now called Kearney, paying \$100 for both. He made a few repairs, and in a short time the boom came and he sold his little property for the snug sum of \$775, taking stock in part payment, and he was thus enabled to settle on his land and improve a farm. He resided on it until 1877, and by that time it had greatly increased in value, and he sold it for a sum far above the original cost. Since that time he and his wife have made their home in Nebraska City with their son-in-law, Hon. William Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitchie have six children living: Martha D., widow of John K. Gilman, resides in Nebraska City; Margaret C., widow of S. B. Davis, in California; Samuel D. resides in Weeping Water; Elizabeth A. is the wife of Jeremiah Gilman, and Jennie, the wife of William Campbell; Thomas resides in Nebraska City. William N., their fourth child, died at the age of eighteen years; Ella I., the eighth child, died in infancy; John T., the ninth child, died at the age of thirty-three.

October 29, 1883, marked the golden milestone of the wedded life of our subject and his wife, who for fifty years have walked hand in hand through sunshine and shadow, and in sharing each other's joys and griefs have grown nearer and dearer to each other. On the occasion of the golden wedding, commemorative of that other wedding day that lay back in the past half century, when they united their fresh young lives for better or for worse, a large concourse of friends gathered to congratulate them, and showed the warm place they occupied in many hearts by the expression of kind and loving wishes and the presentation of many valuable gifts.

Mr. Fitchie identified himself with the Democratic party when he was a young man, and continued to advocate the policy of that party until 1860, when he voted for Lincoln, as his views in regard to the course to be pursued relative to suppressing the Rebellion coincided with those of the leaders of the Republican party, and he has been a staunch supporter of that party since that time. At the age of fifty-three years, when the Indian outbreak occurred in Nebraska, Mr. Fitchie, shouldering his musket and buckling on his armor, went out to defend his county and the firesides of the

pioneers in the western part of this State. He furnished his own horse, served four months, and accepted his pay in an honorable discharge. As will be observed, he was one of the old pioneers, and from an article which he wrote for the *Nebraska City Press* in connection with the early reminiscences of Otoe County, we clip the following:

"For want of better timber they made a 'Squire of your humble servant, and it was fortunate for both myself and the solemnity of the ceremony, that the first pair I married were so Dutchy they scarcely knew what I said, and it would have been hard to tell who was the worse frightened, they or I. The fees were an item in those days. I have heard of editors being compelled to take pumpkins and saw logs on subscription, but I suppose there are few men who have taken cottonwood rails as a fee for performing the marriage ceremony. Let me tell of one in particular who requested that I should wait for my fee until he could make and haul some posts, and to-day this man is worth over a cool \$100,000, a credit to himself and an honor to old Otoe County, as showing what a thoroughly hard-working man can do in this great country of ours."



**F**REDERICK ZUCK. The German element of Rock Creek Precinct, here as elsewhere, has aided largely in the growth and prosperity of the community. The subject of this sketch is one of its most successful farmers, and a native of the Fatherland, born in one of the Rhine Provinces, Nov. 6, 1840. He owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 36, and in addition to general agriculture, is interested in live stock, making a specialty of the popular Jersey-Red swine.

Mr. Zuck settled upon his present farm sixteen years ago, in the spring of 1873. He took the land in its wild and uncultivated state, and has transformed it into one of the most desirable homesteads of his precinct. He has labored early and late, through sunshine and storm, battled against difficulties and hardships, and is now enjoying the fruit of his labors. He came to Nebraska in October, 1867, landing in this county on the 30th day of the month, locating first in Nebraska City. The

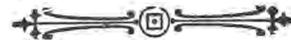
Territory had become a State two months previously. He has watched the growth and prosperity of the people around him, and in the building up of one of the best farms in his precinct has largely contributed to the position which it occupies among the intelligent communities of this section.

Mr. Zuck crossed the Atlantic when a young man of twenty-five years, and took up his residence first in Perry County, Ind., whence he removed to Rock Island, Ill., and from the Prairie State came to Nebraska. In his native Empire he had served three years in the German Army, and when at home had been engaged with his father in agricultural pursuits. He had little capital aside from his strong hands when coming to the West, and these have served him well.

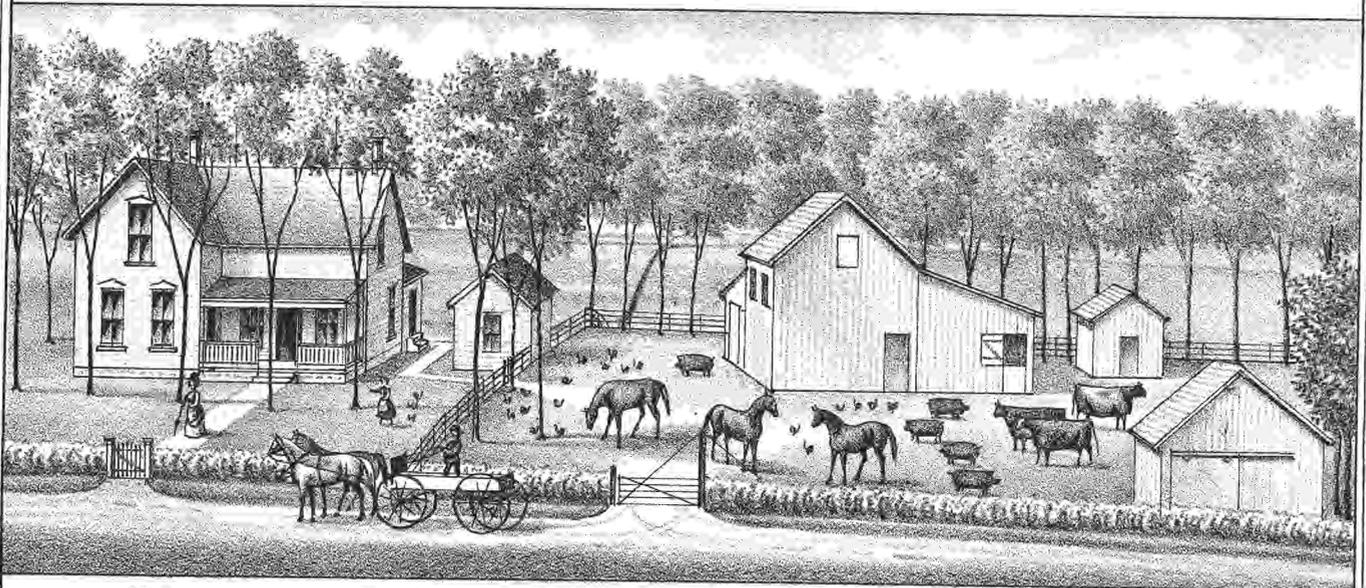
Mr. Zuck was married in Nebraska City, March 28, 1873, to Miss Fredricka Schomeius, who was born in Hanover, Germany, July 6, 1836, and is the sister of D. J. Schomeius, a prosperous boot and shoe merchant of Nebraska City, and a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.

The wife of our subject came to America with her mother in 1871, and lived in Nebraska City until her marriage. Of their union there is one child only, a daughter, Mary E., who was born Dec. 20, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Z. are members in good standing of the German Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, votes the Democratic ticket.

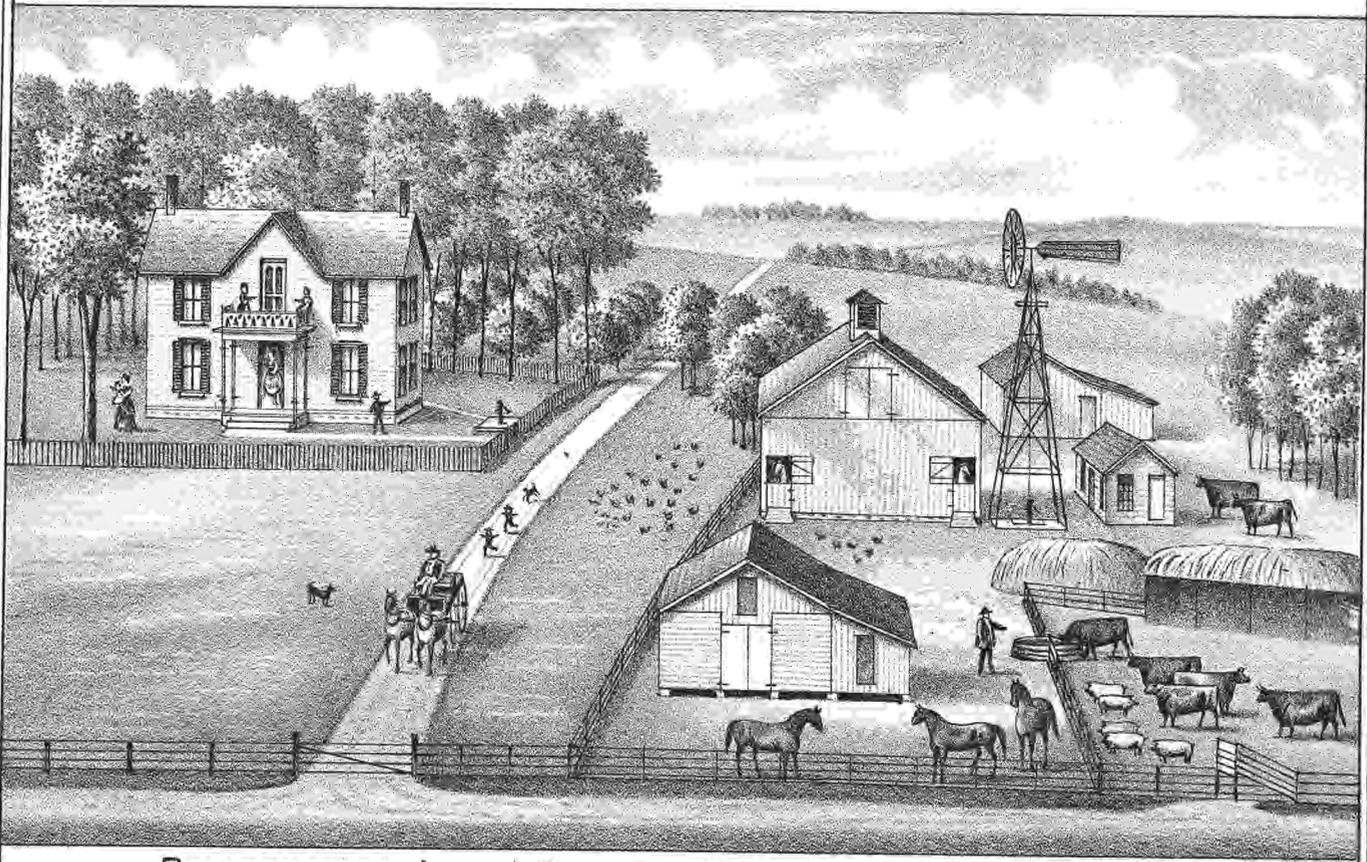
A view of Mr. Zuck's homestead is presented in connection with this brief personal sketch of its proprietor.



**J**AMES CARLIN has carried on farming successfully in Rock Creek Precinct since the spring of 1871, when he purchased on section 16, 160 acres of school land from the State. It was in its wild and uncultivated state, and for two years Mr. C. employed himself at teaming before settling upon his purchase. In 1872 he put up a dwelling, and gradually added the other buildings necessary for the successful prosecution of his calling, the comfort of his family, the storage of grain and the shelter of stock. He was prospered in his labors, and in due time pur-



RESIDENCE OF FRIEDRICK ZUCK, SEC. 36. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF JAMES CARLIN, SEC. 16. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.



chased eighty acres more on another section of the same precinct, and which he has also brought to a good state of cultivation.

The farm of our subject is well stocked with cattle and horses, and from this and the raising of the crops which flourish best in Southern Nebraska he enjoys a good income. Prior to his arrival in this State he had been a resident of Scott County, Iowa, to which he removed with his parents when a child. The latter were James and Mary (Dougherty) Carlin, who were natives of Counties Donegal and Tyrone, Ireland; they were married after coming to America, and settled in Philadelphia, Pa. There James, Jr., was born Nov. 15, 1840. The father was a weaver by occupation, and after coming to this country followed that trade. The parents were married in Philadelphia, where were born their seven sons and three daughters, of whom our subject was the second son and third child. From the Keystone State they moved to Illinois, where the father conducted a small store of general merchandise, and where the family lived about three years. They next changed their residence to Scott County, Iowa, settling upon a tract of land three miles from the city of Davenport, where the mother died when about fifty years of age. The father survived his partner a number of years, his death taking place in September of 1877, at the age of seventy. Both were members of the Catholic Church.

Our subject was reared to manhood in Scott County, Iowa, and was there married, Oct. 7, 1862, to Miss Bridget Moran. This lady was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in November, 1843, and came to the States with her parents, Michael and Mary (Egan) Moran. They located in the vicinity of Oswego, N. Y., where they lived a number of years. About 1855 they changed their residence to Rock Island, Ill., and later crossed the Mississippi into Davenport, Iowa. There the mother died in 1879 when little past middle life. The father is yet living there, being now about seventy-five years old. They also were members of the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Carlin was one of the elder children of her parents, and lived with them until her marriage, acquiring a common-school education. The household circle of our subject and his wife has been completed by the birth of eleven children. They are

named respectively: Mary, Anna, Elizabeth, Agnes, Maggie, James, Jr., John, Michael, Hugh and Leona. William died when an infant. Mrs. Carlin is a very capable and intelligent lady, one who has many friends in her neighborhood and community. Kind and hospitable, she makes her home pleasant for her own family and an attractive resort for all who may take shelter beneath their roof. Both Mr. and Mrs. C. are members of the Catholic Church, and our subject, politically, is a staunch Democrat. Mr. Carlin owned a farm in Rock Island County, Ill., where he farmed three years before coming to Nebraska, at which time he sold it.

A view of his farm property is shown in this connection.



PETER SIBERT and his estimable wife, Mrs. Sarah (Neal) Sibert, have for many years been favorably known among the people of Palmyra Precinct, where they are spending the evening of life, sheltered in a comfortable home and enjoying the esteem and confidence of hosts of friends. Although quite well advanced in years, they are remarkably well preserved, very intelligent, kind and hospitable, and possess all the elements of character which endear them alike to young and old. Their property includes a good farm of 160 acres, lying on sections 28 and 29. Although making little pretension to elegance or style, they have everything around them comfortable, and their home possesses the added charm of contentment, which is the mainspring of happiness in all the relations of life.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sibert were the children of humble homes in their youth, and both were endowed by a kind Providence with those elements of character which enabled them to rise above their early surroundings and educate themselves by a course of reading and communication with intelligent minds. The early home of Mr. S. was in Washington County, Pa., where he was born Sept. 17, 1817, and where he grew to manhood on a farm. He was twenty-two years of age when the free-school system was agitated among the voters

of the Keystone State, and he was one of those who most urgently labored and voted for its adoption.

Our subject began life on his own account as an apprentice to the blacksmith trade, which he followed a number of years. In 1848 he was married in his native county to Miss Hannah Fleek, and they became the parents of four children, namely: Mary, George, Jacob, and one who died in infancy. In the fall of 1840 Mr. Sibert, leaving his native State, emigrated to Wyandot County, Ohio, and for a period of eight years thereafter followed his trade at Little Sandusky. He was prospered in his labors, and accumulated a good property, including 160 acres of farm land and real estate in the village.

Our subject, however, was anxious to remove still further westward, and in 1848 left Ohio for Knox County, Ill. He invested a part of the proceeds of his Ohio property in 160 acres of land, but now began casting his eyes beyond the Mississippi. Selling out again he moved to Marion County, Iowa, where he became the owner of a farm of forty acres, and leaving there in the spring of 1860, he came to this county and secured the homestead which he now owns and occupies.

Mrs. Hannah Sibert departed this life at her home in Palmyra Precinct, on the 10th of August, 1859. Our subject in the year 1860 married for his second wife Mrs. Sarah (Neal) Horseman, the widow of Isah Horseman, and daughter of William and Mary (Agerhardt) Neal. Her parents were natives of Pennsylvania, and the father was a cooper by trade. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812, and spent his last years in Pennsylvania. The mother died in Ohio. The family consisted of thirteen children, namely: Susannah, Sarah, Elias, Joseph, Henry, William, Ellen, Mary A., Margaret, Jane Eliza; James A., who died young, and two infants who died unnamed.

The wife of our subject was trained to habits of industry and economy, and at an early age became familiar with household duties. She remained with her parents until twenty-two years of age, and was then married to Isah Horseman, a native of Ohio. They became the parents of eight children, the eldest of whom, William, died in the army during the late Civil War; David and Joseph served each

respectively three and one years in the army, and are now in Omaha and California; Plena, John, Samuel and Martha are all living. Melissa B. died when four years old. Mr. and Mrs. Horseman began their wedded life together in Ohio, and Mr. H. died on the journey from Kansas to Iowa in 1859.

Of the union of our subject and his present wife there has been born one child only, a daughter, Emma Jane, who married John Stewart, a farmer of Palmyra Precinct, and has become the mother of three children—Nancy B., Sarah E. and Benjamin.

Mr. and Mrs. Sibert upon coming to this State in the spring of 1860 looked upon Nebraska City when it was simply a trading-post. They were the only family in what is now Palmyra Precinct, and took up their residence in a little log cabin. In June of the following year Mr. Sibert built a larger dwelling, also of logs, and this was frequently the rendezvous for traders and other travelers to and from Denver and Nebraska City. Our subject and his wife have had a ripe experience in pioneer life, and have watched with warm interest the development of Nebraska Territory into one of the most important States of the Union. They labored together with one mutual purpose, the building up of a home for themselves and their family, and are now enjoying the rich reward of well-spent lives. The log house where they spent so many happy years is still standing, and although their circumstances have greatly improved since the time they first occupied that humble dwelling, they look upon it as one of the old landmarks which they would regret to see destroyed.

Mrs. Sibert is a lady of more than ordinary intelligence, and has not suffered care or trouble to dampen the natural cheerfulness of her disposition. Her plump figure and pleasant face are suggestive of what she might have been when a maiden of sweet sixteen. The loss of her first husband left her alone with a large family of children, who were entirely dependent upon her for support. To this duty she bent her energies with all the natural strength of her character, doing for them as well as she could, and it is safe to say that they rise up and call her blessed.

Mr. Sibert has been a pioneer, as we have seen, in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. He has lived to see the public school system of his native State become one of the most admirable of any in the Union. He voted for Harrison in the time of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." It is hardly necessary to say that he is a staunch supporter of Republican principles. Notwithstanding the long and varied experiences of his life, he is a hale, hearty and well-preserved old gentleman, bright and quick mentally, and one with whom it is pleasurable and profitable to converse. In speaking of the time when he officiated as "mine host" in the old log house, he says that the guests were often so numerous he was obliged to pack them on the floor like sardines in a box. They accommodated themselves to the situation philosophically, however, and it is hardly necessary to say, often engaged in great hilarity, in which they were joined by their whole-hearted host and hostess. The parents of our subject, Isaac and Fanny (Robison) Sibert, were natives respectively of Maryland and England, and the father served as a soldier in the War of 1812. The mother emigrated to America with her parents when a young girl, they settling in Maryland, where she was afterward married. Isaac Sibert learned the trade of shoemaker, and after marriage the parents removed to Washington County, Pa., where the father died when a comparatively young man, in 1828 at the age of thirty-nine years. The mother survived her husband only a few months, and passed away, in 1829, in Washington County, Pa. The parental household included five children, namely: Nancy, Isaac, Hannah, Joseph, and Peter, our subject. Grandfather Sibert was born in Germany, and emigrated to the United States early in life, settling in Maryland, where it is supposed he remained until his death.

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**L**OUIS B. SMOYER, a leading farmer of Otoe County, homesteaded his first land in 1865, this being located on the southwest quarter of section 2, in Syracuse Precinct. A native of Lehigh County, Pa., he was born Feb. 23, 1842, and is the son of Jacob and Anna (Biery) Smoyer, who

were also natives of the Keystone State. The paternal great-grandfather of our subject, Abraham Smoyer by name, was a native of Baden, Germany, whence he emigrated to the United States early in life, and settled in Pennsylvania. He was accompanied by his brother, and from these two are supposed to have descended the Smoyer families of the United States.

Great-grandfather Smoyer reared a large family, and his son Abraham retained possession of the old homestead, where he passed his entire life. Jacob, son of the latter, was born there and reared to manhood, where he married, and continued to reside on the old homestead until 1852. Thence he removed to Ohio, and from the Buckeye State in 1861 to Jackson County, Mich., where he carried on farming, and where his death occurred July 4, 1875. The mother died while a resident of Trumbull County, Ohio, April 10, 1854. Their family consisted of eight children, all living, namely: Emeline, the wife of A. C. Geiger; Martha, Mrs. Schuester; Louis B., our subject; Kate, Mrs. Alfred Troxel; Amanda, Mrs. Pells; Mary A., Sylvanus and James.

Our subject was eleven years old when the family removed to Ohio, where he pursued his studies in the district school. He accompanied the family to Michigan in 1861, and soon after the outbreak of the Civil War enlisted in a regiment of cavalry, but on account of his age was not permitted to serve. He then began farming, which he pursued in the Wolverine State until the summer of 1865. Then coming to Nebraska he homesteaded 160 acres of land in Syracuse Precinct, and in due time had brought the soil to a good state of cultivation, erected the buildings necessary for his comfort and convenience, and laid the basis of a future competency. Mr. Smoyer, after taking up his residence in this county was married, Oct. 17, 1866, to Miss Adelaide V. Sawtelle, who was born in Branch County, Mich., July 12, 1842. Her parents were Zera T. and Eliza A. (Cornell) Sawtelle, who were natives of New York State, whence they emigrated to Michigan during its pioneer days. The father followed farming, and, with his excellent wife, is still living, their residence being in the vicinity of Battle Creek. Their family consisted of three

daughters, there being besides Mrs. Smoyer, Abigail V., a twin sister, who married Caleb Manchester, and died in October, 1881, and Etta, the wife of Zera Masters, of Otoe County.

To Mr. and Mrs. Smoyer there have been born seven children, namely: George E., Jesse S., Etta V., Cora M., Gertie P. and Gracie P. (twins) and Nellie A. Mr. Smoyer, politically, votes the straight Republican ticket, and has steadily declined becoming an office-holder. Socially, he belongs to the Knights of Honor.



**J**OSEPH BEETEM is one of the prominent and representative citizens of Palmyra Precinct, where he is farming eighty acres of fine land on section 36. For the family history of this gentleman the reader is referred to the sketch of J. T. Beetem, which will be found upon another page of this volume.

The subject of our sketch was born in Shullsburg, Wis., on the 14th of August, 1844. When he was about six months old his parents took up their residence in Dubuque County, Iowa; when nine years of age they once more made a change, and he became a resident of Allamakee County. He continued with his parents until he was about nineteen, and then entered the arena and began life for himself. The first year he rented a farm, and was so successful that he was enabled to buy eighty acres, upon which he continued for five years, in that time making many improvements and bringing it to a high state of cultivation.

In 1872 our subject sold the above-mentioned farm and moved to Hancock County, Iowa, where he became the owner of 160 acres of wild, unimproved prairie. This he brought into good condition and put upon it various valuable improvements, when he again sold out, and went to the northern part of the county, purchasing 120 acres of prairie land, and repeated the process so far as it was possible of improvement. He continued there for seven years, but met with failure after failure in his crops, which resulted disastrously.

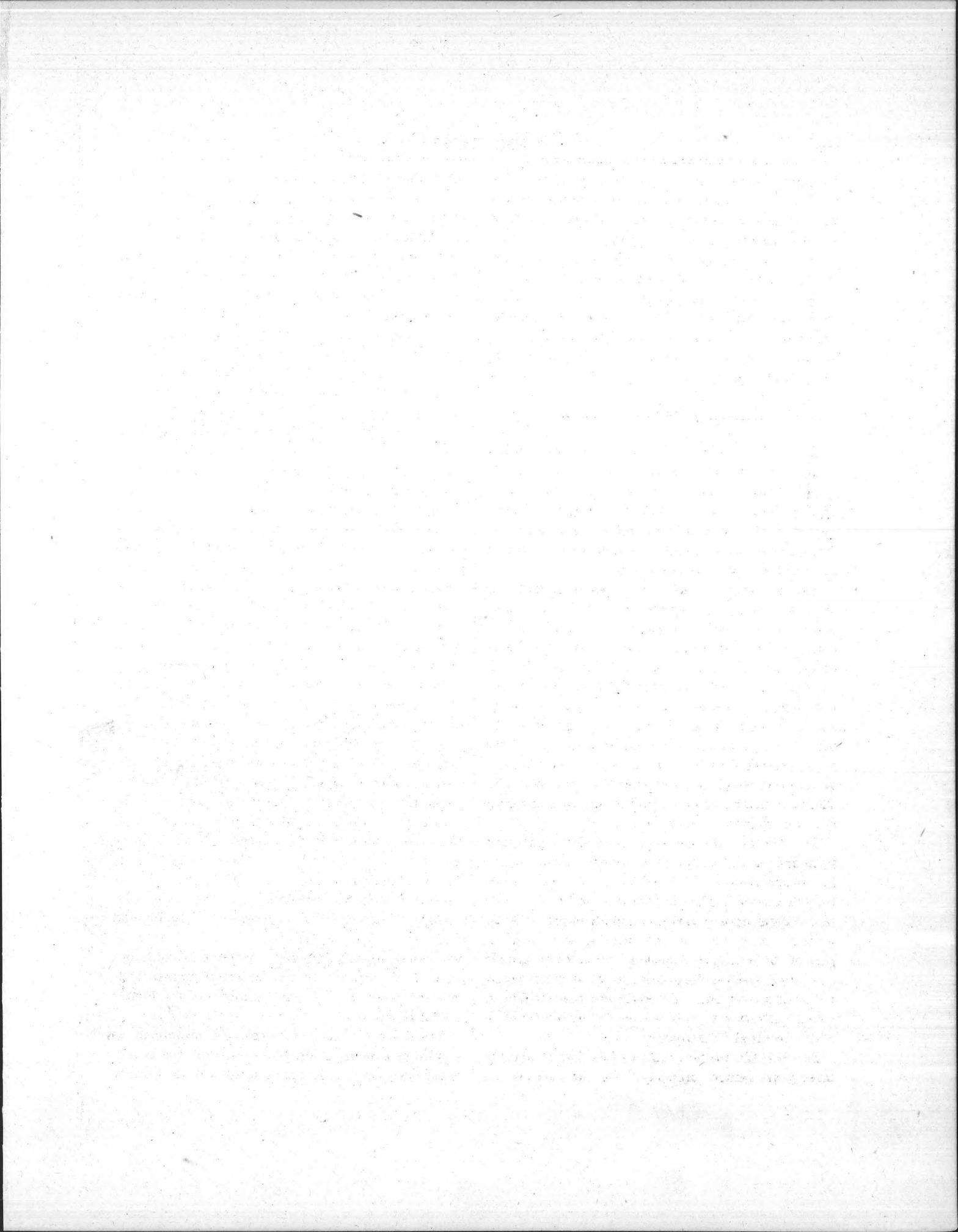
In 1877 Mr. Beetem came to this county and for three years rented property. He then moved to

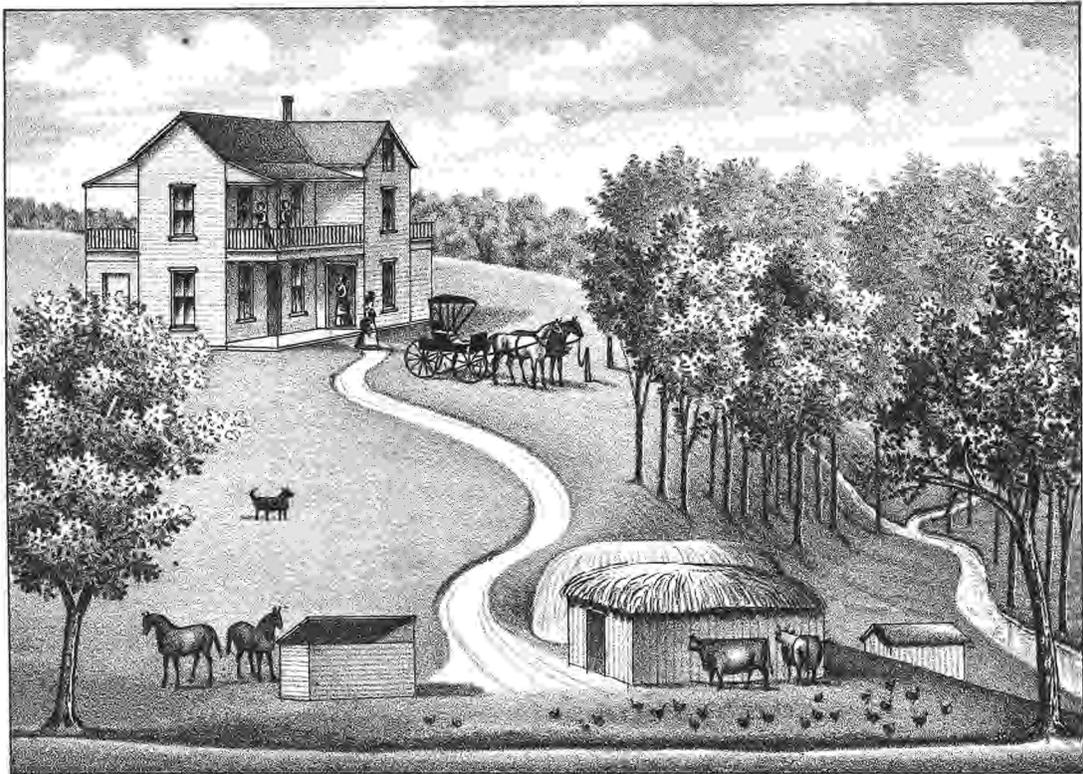
South Russell, where he made his home for about a year, then in 1881 bought his present place of eighty acres. His Iowa experience again took shape, and he had all the work of improving his land, from the turning of the first furrow to the erection and finishing of his buildings. To-day his farm is one of the best cultivated and most valuable, other things being equal, within a large district.

In Allamakee County, Iowa, on the 24th of January, 1864, the subject of our sketch became the husband of Miss Hester Greenup, the estimable daughter of the Rev. S. H. and Elizabeth (Hoyt) Greenup. Her father was born in Kentucky, her mother in New York. Her father was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and served in that capacity in the State of Iowa for twenty-five years. He is still engaged in the work of his profession, and holds a charge in Morrison County, Minn. Both parents are now sixty-seven years of age. They are the parents of eleven children, to whom have been given the following names: Hester A., Julia E., Edwin (deceased), Jason S., Wilbur F., Allen, Albert, Lucy (deceased), Frank, Edward, and also Elizabeth who is deceased. Edwin, who was in the war fighting in the 12th Iowa Infantry, died at Memphis, Tenn., in 1863.

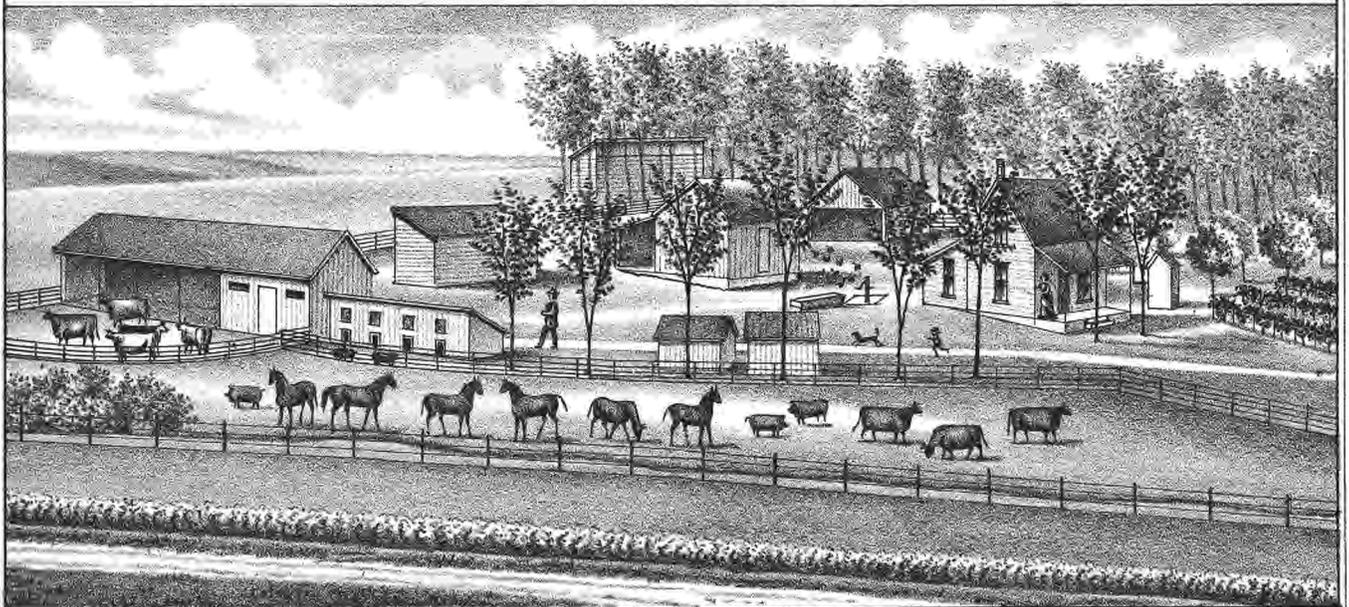
It will be noticed that Mrs. Beetem is the eldest child of her parents. She was born in Peoria, Ill., on the 23d of September, 1843. She attended the classes of both the common and High schools, and after passing a very successful examination and being graduated from the latter institution, was engaged in teaching for about five years, revealing the possession of talents of more than ordinary value. She is the mother of ten children, of whom three are dead. The names given to her children are as follows: Mary Elizabeth, Sarah E., George S. (deceased), Louisa M., Caroline A., Joseph, Jr. (deceased), Charles, Jennie (deceased), Johnnie and Benjamin. Mary is happily married to John Jose, who is successfully engaged in farming in Colorado; they are the parents of two children, named William and Joseph. The other members of the family are all at home.

The subject of our sketch has been prominent as a politician; he is an active member of the Democratic party and has served as delegate to the County





RESIDENCE OF JOS. L. WEBB, SEC 35 (NORTH) PALMYRA PRECINCT.



RESIDENCE OF HERMANN F. HELMERS, SEC. 17. ROCK CREEK PRECINCT.

Convention. For three years he has held the office of Supervisor of Roads, and is at present School Treasurer. He is a man of sterling worth and enjoys the confidence of the people. For twenty-four consecutive seasons Mr. Beetem was engaged in threshing, which is not a usual record. Nine seasons he was thus engaged in Missouri, fourteen in Iowa and one in Nebraska.



**H**ERMAN F. HELMERS. The snug 80-acre farm, owned and occupied by the subject of this sketch, is finely located on section 17, Rock Creek Precinct. Mr. Helmers has been residing here since the fall of 1875, and has in the meantime given his time and attention strictly to the improvement of his property. The results indicate with what industry he has labored, and should be a source of abundant satisfaction to him. A view, illustrating his homestead, is presented in connection with this brief sketch of its owner.

Mr. Helmers came to this locality from Chariton County, Mo., of which he had been a resident four years. Prior to this he had lived in the States of Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, and his earliest home had been on the other side of the Atlantic, in the little Kingdom of Hanover, Germany. There he was born Sept. 4, 1843, being the son of John Frederick and Mary (Alfke) Helmers, who were also of German birth and ancestry, and the former of whom spent his entire life on his native soil, dying when fifty-six years old. He was a mason by trade, and after his death his widow and children, Sept. 3, 1882, joined our subject in America, and have since resided in the vicinity of Berlin, this county. The mother is now sixty-seven years old.

Our subject was the second child of the family, which consisted of two sons and two daughters, all of whom are living and in this county. Herman F. was the first member of the family to cross the Atlantic, a journey which he never regretted, and it was through his means that his mother was persuaded to come with her family. He first settled in Wisconsin in the fall of 1865. He also had

learned the trades of a mason and plasterer, which he followed until coming to Nebraska ten years later. He was married, near the town of Syracuse, to Miss Sophia Beckefeld, also a native of Hanover, and born April 20, 1855. She came to America when nineteen years of age with our subject, and by her marriage with him became the mother of six children, only two of whom are living, Alfred and Oscar, who are eight and six years of age, and occupied at home. Mrs. Sophia Helmers departed this life at the birth of her last child in Rock Creek Precinct, Nov. 11, 1882. She was a lady greatly beloved by her husband and friends, a kind and affectionate wife and mother, a good neighbor, and a devoted member of the Lutheran Church.

Our subject in the fall of 1885 contracted a second marriage, with Miss Dora Bueckman, who was born in Hanover, in 1847, and came alone to the United States when thirty-three years of age, two years before her marriage. Of this union there is one child, a son William. Mr. and Mrs. Helmers are members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and our subject, politically, is a straight Republican.



**J**OSEPH L. WEBB, now operating a farm of 130 acres on section 35 of Palmyra Precinct, must be mentioned among the list of honored pioneers of Nebraska. He is the son of William and Mary Webb, who were born in New Jersey. The great-grandfather of our subject lived near May's Landing. He was one of the honored and prosperous citizens of his time, and of some pretensions to affluence. He had seven fine, stalwart sons, all of whom, with the exception of the grandfather of our subject, sought their fortunes in other States. The name of this gentleman was Frederick Webb. Upon the marriage of his son William arrangements were made for the young couple to settle at Bridgeton, in New Jersey, and there they made their home upon a farm. There were born to them eleven children, seven of whom grew up to years of maturity. Our subject is the youngest of this family, and was born on the 27th of February, 1833, near Morriston, Burlington Co.,

N. J. Upon the migration of William Webb and his family to Greene County, Ohio, our subject was about ten years of age.

Educational advantages in Ohio at that time were not so good even as those of more eastern localities, but such as they were he was privileged to enjoy. The memory is easily revived of the old log school-house that manifested all the signs so common in the days of the pioneers, but from these school-houses have come the men who have made America, and have brought it upon its way as a people and Government, until it occupies the first seat in the Hall of Nations. At nineteen years of age he went to Indianapolis and worked in a peg and last manufactory. From that he went back to Ohio and staid one year, and then went to Iowa, locating in Lee County for about twelve months. From there he drove across the plains in company with Elias Adsit and his family. They continued their journeying until they arrived at Nebraska City, in May, 1857. In beginning life in this State our subject and Mr. Adsit took land and farmed together. There he remained prosperously engaged.

Our subject was married, in the year 1861, to Miss Amanda White, the estimable daughter of George and Elizabeth (Nesmith) White. Her parents were from New Hampshire, but had become pioneers of Indiana. She was born in Jeffersonville, of that State, on the 9th of February, 1836. She was the youngest of seven children, three of whom came to mature years. She received an excellent education, which, with the careful home training received, has fitted her for almost any position she might be called upon to occupy. She came with her mother to Nebraska City in 1859, and was shortly after engaged in teaching in a private school. She was also a teacher of music on the piano, and was the first to follow that profession in that place. Her father, who was a well-educated man, and for many years a teacher in Pennsylvania, died in the year 1852, when she was about sixteen years of age. Her mother died in Seward County, of this State, at the advanced age of eighty years.

Our subject took up his homestead in Palmyra Precinct in 1863, and was among the first homesteaders in the United States. In 1880 he removed

to his present home, and by the erection of his commodious and comfortable dwelling, with its pleasant surroundings, supplemented by the financial success that has come to him, he has been able to make his family a very fine home. Five children have come to Mr. and Mrs. Webb, whose names are as follows: Mary, Cora, Josephine, Freddy and Clara. Cora, Josephine and Clara are engaged in teaching.

Mr. Webb is a representative American citizen. In political matters he is one free from the confining bonds of party policy, and votes independently, although at one time he was a Whig, and later a strong Republican. He is a stanch friend of the temperance cause, and an active worker therein. Both Mr. and Mrs. Webb are earnest and consistent members of the Baptist Church, he being one of the Trustees. He has taken a continued and growing interest in Sunday-school work, and for many years held the office of Sunday-school Superintendent. In religious circles and throughout the entire community he is eminently respected and esteemed. This is also true of Mrs. Webb and the daughters.

A view of Mr. Webb's homestead is presented on an adjoining page.



**J**OHAN HERMANN ARENDS, one of the wealthy men of Rock Creek Precinct, is a leading land-owner and agriculturist, being proprietor of nearly a section of land finely improved and well stocked. His homestead, a view of which we present in this volume, lies on section 32, and is a place creditable to the intelligence and industry of the proprietor. The buildings are convenient and substantial, the dwelling tasteful and commodious, the barns and out-buildings admirably adapted to the general requirements of farm life.

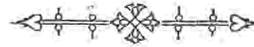
Mr. Arends crossed the Mississippi as early as 1859, while Nebraska was a Territory, and located in this county, where he has since lived. A native of Madison County, Ill., he was born Aug. 26, 1855, and is the son of Reka and Talk Mary (Tetten) Arends, who were natives of Hanover, Germany, where they were reared, educated and married.

The father served the allotted time in the regular army, but after the birth of six children, not being satisfied with his prospects or his condition in the Fatherland, resolved to emigrate to the United States. They made the voyage across the Atlantic early in the fifties, locating in Madison County, Ill., where our subject and his sister Catrenia were born. A few years later the family all came to Nebraska, there being now nine children in the household circle. The elder Arends pre-empted a quarter of section 30, Rock Creek Precinct, but less than two years later traded it for the same amount on section 32. Their neighbors at this time were few and far between, and the family were first sheltered in a log cabin. The father immediately set himself to work to cultivate the soil and build up a homestead, and was prospered in his labors. His death occurred on the 19th of September, 1874, when he was sixty-four years of age. He was an honest and industrious man, and a lifelong member of the German Lutheran Church. The circumstances of his death were peculiarly sad, it having been occasioned by his falling from a wagon-load of lumber, and he was instantly killed. This was during the erection of the First Lutheran Church in Rock Creek Precinct, the building material of which Mr. Arends was hauling from Nebraska City. He was a man greatly respected by all who knew him, and his death cast a gloom over the community. The mother is yet living, and makes her home with her son, our subject, being now seventy-one years old. She is still active in mind and body, and also a member of the German Lutheran Church.

Our subject was a child four years of age when he came with his parents to Nebraska, and acquired his education in the pioneer schools of this county. He was at an early period in his life taught those habits of industry and economy which have proved the secret of his success. Upon reaching manhood he was married in Rock Creek Precinct, Nov. 4, 1880, to Miss Lizzie Kastens, who was born in Hanover, Germany, March 15, 1862. Her parents were Chris and Dora (Mesegadus) Kastens, also natives of Hanover, who came to the United States while their daughter Lizzie was an infant. They settled first in Wisconsin, but about 1875 moved from there to Nebraska, settling in Rock Creek Precinct,

where they now live upon a good farm, and surrounded by all the comforts of life. Mrs. Arends received a common-school education, and lived with her parents until her marriage. She is now the mother of four children—Mary T., Dora S., Leta M. and Reka F. They are all at home with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Arends were brought up in the doctrines of the German Lutheran Church, to which they still loyally adhere, and are numbered among its most cheerful and liberal supporters. Mr. A., politically, is a staunch Republican, and has held the various minor offices of his precinct.



**R**G. BEETEM, the genial and popular landlord of the Hendricks Hotel in the little city of this name, is numbered among its leading men, as one taking a prominent and active part in all worthy public enterprises. He commenced at the foot of the ladder in life, and has worked his way up to a good position socially and financially. He put up the house which he now controls in 1888, and in its management has been ably assisted by one of the most excellent of women, Mrs. Beetem being an entertaining, intelligent hostess, who makes friends of all who have the good fortune to sojourn within her hospitable doors.

The subject of our sketch is the son of John D. and Mary (Burnum) Beetem, who were natives of Kentucky. In the sketch of his brother, John Beetem, found elsewhere in this volume, will be noted a more extended history of the parents. Our subject was born in Alamahee County, Iowa, near the then humble village of Lansing, on the 11th of June, 1855. He was reared as a farmer's boy, and attended the common school until fourteen years of age. Death then entered the family circle, removing the father and head of the household, and our subject was thrown mostly upon his own resources. In company with his brother John T., in June, 1870, he started overland to Nebraska, and they spent the following six months in Hendricks Precinct, this county. On their journey hither they

came through a stretch of country where wild game was plentiful, and saw numbers of elk and deer, who had hardly learned to be afraid of the rifle of the white man.

At the expiration of the time spoken of our subject returned to his old home in Lansing, where he remained three weeks, when he took up his residence in Hancock County, where he was employed on a farm about five years. Then returning to Lansing, he began operating an elevator, but not having recovered from the Western fever, one day took the train for Syracuse, this county, and soon afterward we find him again in Hendricks Precinct. Here he began farming, at which he continued for a period of ten years, at the end of which time he put up the Hendricks Hotel, which he has since conducted.

Our subject was married in Hendricks Precinct, April 2, 1883, to Miss Mary Flinn, a native of Sangamon County, Ill. Mrs. Beetem was born March 24, 1864, and was the sixth in a family of sixteen children, the offspring of Charles and Ann (Keegan) Flinn, who were natives of Ireland, and came to America in 1866, locating shortly after their arrival in this county. Mr. K. has been very prosperous in his adopted country, and is now the owner of 280 acres of fine land, comprising a good farm with the necessary improvements, and located in Hendricks Precinct.

Mr. and Mrs. Beetem became the parents of two children, Mary A. and John C. The latter died when one week old. Our subject and his estimable wife are members of the Catholic Church at Palmyra, and Mr. B. politically, is one of the most reliable adherents of the Democratic party.



**J**OHAN R. STEELE, one of the old citizens of Otoe County, and in fact, also of the State, is widely known and greatly respected, and carries on a successful business at Talmage, where he is connected with fire and life insurance, working for the Commercial Union, North British, Mercantile, the German of Freeport, and the German of Peoria Companies, and with the

Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York City. His connection with insurance dates from 1882, when Talmage Village was chartered. He has identified himself with almost every enterprise that is calculated to be a permanent benefit to the place, and has earned a reputation accordingly.

Mr. Steele was the first Postmaster of the town, and held the position for three years. He is now the Treasurer of the Building and Loan Association of Talmage, which has done good work since its organization in February, 1883. Its influence has been felt even beyond the city, and is one of the institutions that has helped to make the town what it is. Three years also he was Director of Public Schools, an office that he filled most creditably.

Before coming to this county Mr. Steele was successful as a farmer in Four Mile Precinct, and he now owns a fine property of forty acres near the town limits of Talmage, and also an addition, embracing eighteen lots, part of which has been sold and improved. He helped in the erection of the first building in Talmage, and has with much pride and pleasure watched the rapid progress recently made in the extension and welfare generally of the place.

With the exception of the years 1868, 1869 and 1870, Mr. Steele has been a resident of Nebraska since 1855. Prior to coming to Talmage his home was in Nebraska City and in the vicinity of that place for twenty-five years. There also he was engaged in the pursuit of agriculture, and being a thoroughly practical man, saw much prosperity therein. During the three years of his absence above mentioned he was farming in Nodaway County, Mo., but was not sufficiently enamoured of that district to remain longer.

The subject of our sketch was a resident of Fremont County, Iowa, from the year 1849 until he came to this State, and was one of the first settlers and pioneers of that district. He passed through the then not unusual experiences inseparably connected with such a new order of things, and helped in the development of that recently opened district.

Virginia is the native State of our subject, and was his home until he went to Fremont County, Iowa. He was born in Tazewell County, Va., on the 13th of June, 1841. The great-grandfather of

our subject was the first member of this family to settle in America, coming from his German home and settling in Wythe County, Va. There was born to him a son, David Steele, whose son William R. is the father of our subject.

David Steele was a prosperous and extensive Virginia farmer, and married a lady a native of that State, who presented him with nine children. After their children had almost all grown up he removed to Kentucky, and there died in the year 1863, at an advanced age. His wife, whose maiden name was Martha Peery, survived him, and afterward went to Missouri, where she died at the home of one of her children, having passed the allotted three-score years and ten.

There were born to Mr. and Mrs. David Steele nine children, the father of our subject being one of the older children. He grew to years of manhood in Tazewell County, Va., and was married to Nancy Peery, who was born of Virginia parentage, in Tazewell County, and was there educated and brought up. The family of which she was a member was one of the oldest and most respected in Virginia, and was of Scottish extraction. W. Peery became prominent in both religious and political circles. He was for many years a minister of the Methodist Church, and in addition held many offices of political connection, receiving on several different occasions marked expressions of confidence and esteem from his fellow-citizens. He departed this life at the age of ninety-four years. Mr. Peery is still remembered as the writer of many religious and other songs, and various literary efforts on a number of subjects. His son John was the father of Mrs. Nancy (Peery) Steele.

After his marriage the father of our subject began farming, but never accumulated a very large competency. In 1849, he, with eight other heads of families, accompanied by their wives and children, left their homes in Tazewell County and started for the Golden State, taking passage at Kenoa, on the Ohio River, and went west to the Mississippi, thence up the latter river, intending to leave the boat and go by land from St. Joseph, Mo., but after the boat got on its way to St. Joseph, the dread disease cholera attacked those aboard, and before they got to St. Joseph six of the original nine

promoters of the enterprise had sickened and died, the father of our subject being one of the number.

The above-mentioned disaster frustrated the intentions of the little party, and left the families in almost destitute circumstances. Mrs. Steele with her children, and in company with another family, then went to Fremont County, Iowa, settling in the wilds of that comparatively unknown district. The family was poor, the children small, and the circumstances and surroundings the very reverse of favorable. Nevertheless, mother love was sufficient to supply spirit, nerve and strength enough to provide for and take care of the five little ones for several years. In the year 1854 Mrs. Steele married her second husband, John W. Bounds. They settled in Four Mile Precinct, where they continued to live for several years, and there she died at the age of seventy-seven years. Mr. Bounds had died about two years previously while on a visit to Missouri.

The subject of our sketch was the first son and second child of five children born to his parents. He was eight years of age when the disastrous river voyage was undertaken. One year after landing in Iowa it was his misfortune to meet with an accident that left him a cripple for life. From the age of nine years until he was sixteen he was unable to do without his crutches and do anything to earn his living. When sixteen years of age, in spite of having had but few educational advantages, he had through the long years of his sickness become quite a bookworm, and by that means had become quite a student and a well-educated man. He is a splendid business man, and has a large circle of friends, more especially among the business men of the county.

The marriage of our subject was celebrated in Four Mile Precinct, this county, the lady of his choice being Miss Jane Biggs, who was born in Weston, Tenn., on the 29th of April, 1844. She is the daughter of Allen and Polly (Flatford) Biggs. Her mother died in Tennessee in the year 1856, and her father, who is a native of Tennessee and a farmer by occupation, is still living, and makes his home in Delta, this county, at the age of sixty-eight years.

There have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Steele eleven children, five of whom are yet living, and

whose names are as follows: William A., Frank P., Lucy B., Stully and Gladys. The deceased children bore the subjoined names: Douglas, Nancy A., Mary, John R., Roscoe and Dora. The surviving members of this family are still at home with their parents.

Mr. Steele is a member of the Knights of Pythias, and well received among his fellow-members of Eureka Lodge No. 8, of Talmage. He is recognized as one of the leaders of the Prohibition party, and has the distinguished honor of being the father of the party in this city. He is a liberal contributor to many Prohibition newspapers in a literary way, and the articles from his pen, terse, logical, trenchant and finished, are proof of his abilities in that direction. His fellow-townsmen manifested their confidence and esteem by nominating Mr. Steele for the State Legislature from this county on the Prohibition ticket.



**M**AGNUS TAYLOR JOHNSON. In the fall of 1857 the gentleman whose name stands at the head of this biography established himself in a modest way in his present business. In time this expanded to important proportions, and Mr. Johnson has now for many years been general agent for the lines of steamers from America to all points of the world. His natural intelligence and faculty of observation have proved qualities amply adapted to his branch of the business, of which he has made a success. By prompt attention to the details thereof, and his courteous manner of dealing with the general public, he has become widely and favorably known, especially among the circles where he has been the most largely called to operate. He is a man now of wealth and prominence, and one amply worthy of representation in a work of this kind, which comprises a record of those who by their enterprise have been important factors in the building up of Nebraska City.

The parents of our subject, Anderson and Ellen Johnson, were natives of Scandinavia, and are now deceased. Their family consisted of four children, of whom our subject came to America. Magnus

T. was born in the district of Christianstadt, Aug. 31, 1829, and attended school quite regularly near the home of his childhood until a lad fourteen years of age. He was then sent by his parents to the city of Berlin, Germany, where he prosecuted his studies in the High School until 1851, being then a young man twenty-two years of age, the master of fine acquirements, and having become familiar with several languages.

Before the close of his last term in the High School young Johnson, who had signalized himself as a youth of more than ordinary intelligence, was solicited by a Scandinavian colony to accompany them to America as interpreter, to which he consented, expecting to return to his own country when his mission had ended. After landing in the city of Quebec, however, he determined to explore a portion of the West, and coming over into the States, proceeded first to Chicago, and from there to Knox County, Ill., with teams. He stopped for a short time in the then little hamlet of Knoxville, and later went to Oquawka on the east bank of the Mississippi River, and in Henderson County. At this point Mr. Johnson engaged as clerk in a store, where he staid one year. He then went to Monmouth, in Warren County, and opened a clothing store, being engaged in this business there until 1856. Having in the meantime sold a considerable proportion of his goods on credit, he was in consequence a heavy loser, and was obliged on this account to close up his business, disposing of the remains of it for almost nothing.

Notwithstanding this experience, however, Mr. Johnson still believed there were opportunities in America not to be found in his own country, and he determined here to abide. The winter of 1856-57 we find him in Nebraska City, to which he had come via the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, landing with a capital of \$70 in his pocket. He at once procured employment, carrying chain for a surveyor, at which he was employed during that summer. In the spring of 1858 he established the business at which he is still engaged, and which has been, especially during late years, the source of a handsome income.

The marriage of Magnus Taylor Johnson and Miss Charlotte Waterfall was celebrated at the

home of the bride in Nebraska City, Oct. 12, 1858. Mrs. Johnson was born in Hampshire, England, Aug. 11, 1837, and came to America with her parents. Her father was a watchmaker by occupation, and the parents settled first in Cleveland, Ohio. The mother spent the last years of her life in St. Joseph; the father died in Illinois. Their family consisted of five children.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson commenced the journey of life together in a modest home in accordance with their means, and have now for a period of over thirty years been residents of Nebraska City. They have watched with lively interest the growth and development of one of the most flourishing commonwealths of the West, and Mr. Johnson, in the building up of one of its most important industries, has thus contributed his quota to the advancement of his adopted city. They have now a handsome and comfortable home, and enjoy the friendship of a large number of the best people around them. Their union has been blessed by the birth of six children, namely: Frederick, Henry, Crena, Charles, Nellie and Monas. The eldest of these is twenty-nine years of age and the youngest is eight. Mr. Johnson, politically, votes the Republican ticket, and in religious matters he and his estimable wife are members in good standing of the Episcopal Church.

In the spring of 1869 Mr. Johnson opened a hotel on Central avenue, where he officiated as "mine host" for a period of eight years. The house under his management became extremely popular, and was the favorite resort for travelers throughout this region.



**C**OL. S. N. STEWART, the well-known inventor and builder of the Pontoon bridge, which has proved such a boom to Nebraska City, is worthy of more than a passing mention in this work. At the organization of the Pontoon Bridge Company, he was unanimously selected as its President, and still holds the position. He is a native of Ohio, having been born at Marietta, April 27, 1845, and there spent the early years of his life. His father was a wholesale boot and shoe merchant,

and the family moved across the Mississippi to Iowa in 1859, when our subject was a lad of fourteen years.

Young Stewart continued a resident of the Hawkeye State until the outbreak of the Rebellion, and at the early age of sixteen years enlisted as a private in Company E, 18th Iowa Infantry, which was assigned to duty on the frontier. He went in as a private, and by the faithful discharge of his duties was in due time promoted to the rank of Captain. Later his strong Abolition sentiments induced him to resign his captaincy in the 18th Iowa for a First Lieutenantcy in a colored regiment—this being the 62d Regiment United States Infantry, serving on the Rio Grande. In the conflict at Palmetto Ranch, in Texas, on account of his gallant services, he was breveted Lieutenant Colonel. This was the last battle of the war, and Lieut. Stewart was the last man wounded, May 13, 1866, on the Union side in the late Rebellion.

After the war was ended our subject devoted himself to invention, and in 1876 crossed the Atlantic and remained in Europe for a period of five years, during which time he secured letters patent for his River Motor, disposing of the Austrian and Russian patents to a company in Vienna. In the meantime he traveled extensively in most of the countries of Europe, making the acquaintance of various notable personages, princes and potentates. Upon returning to the United States in 1881, he settled in Philadelphia, and has devoted himself entirely to his inventions for the past six or seven years. About half of this time, however, he has spent abroad. The Deep Sea Sounder, described in the *Engineering News* of 1883, is his invention, and is now largely in use in the English navy. The Current Motor, described in the same periodical, is also his invention.

The Pontoon bridge, however, is perhaps one of the most popular and useful inventions of Col. Stewart. He came to Nebraska in the spring of 1888, and at once arranged to put in one of these across the Missouri River. It has given universal satisfaction, and is considered a great advantage to the city. Although Col. Stewart has become widely and favorably known among the business men of this place, he still calls Philadelphia his home. His

wife was formerly Miss Nannie Wilson, the only daughter of Hon. John S. Wilson, the well-known philanthropist of Adams County, Ohio, and whose latest benefaction was \$50,000 donated for the purpose of founding an orphan asylum in Adams County. To Mr and Mrs. Stewart there have been born three children—Lulu, Noble and Donald. Col. Stewart makes his Western headquarters at Nebraska City, in whose future he has great faith. He is a liberal-minded and public-spirited citizen, and his generosity in assisting to build the street car line will long be remembered by its people.



**L**EWIS B. RICHARD. Among the agriculturists of Palmyra Precinct few are more thoroughly practical, enterprising and truly successful than Mr. Richard, who operates 160 acres on section 31. He is the son of Phillip and Sarah (Buebanan) Richard, who were natives respectively of Lycoming and Union Counties, Pa., where their parents settled and continued to reside after their marriage. There the father died in the year 1849, when our subject was about seven years of age, he himself being in the prime of life, and but thirty-five years old. This left his wife with the care of six children, viz: Elizabeth, Mary, Edward, Louis B., Albert and John Jacob. Edward served in the army, and fell at the post of duty. Albert served for two and John for five years with the army.

The subject of our sketch was born on the 30th of June, 1842, at Williamsport, Pa. He enjoyed the advantages of a common-school education, in spite of the fact that he began to work out at the early age of eight years. In 1868, in company with his mother he went to Stephenson County, Ill., and there remained for about two years. There subsequently he was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ellen Snyder. This lady is the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Snyder (the reader is referred to the sketch of Mr. Snyder, which appears in this volume.) Her mother died while she was quite small, and her father died in 1886, aged eighty years. This is a step they have never had occasion to regret, and their home is one of the bright and

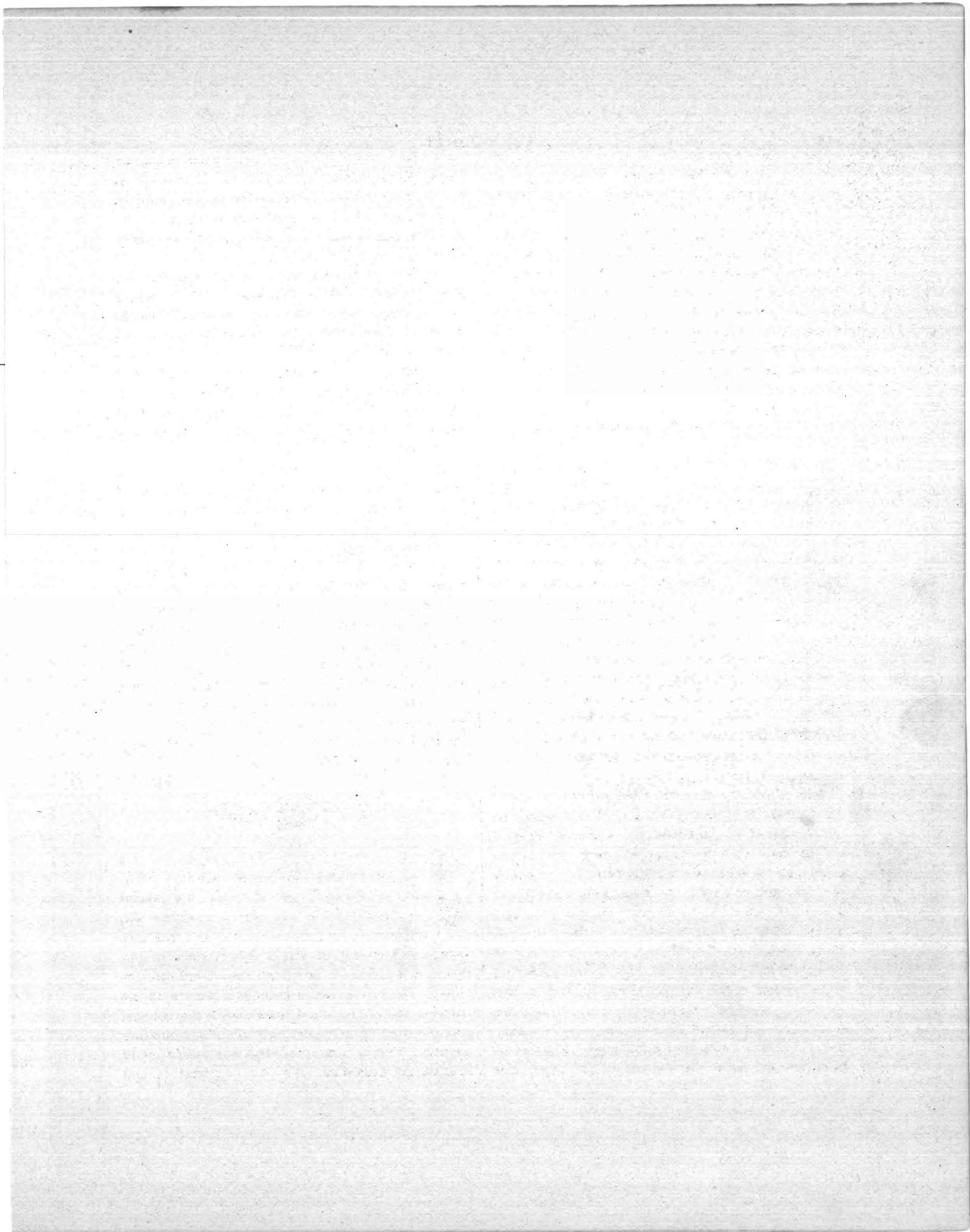
cheery places that are at the foundation of the prosperity of the nation. Their union has been happily consummated by the birth of three children, William, Luella and Jessie, of whom they are justly proud.

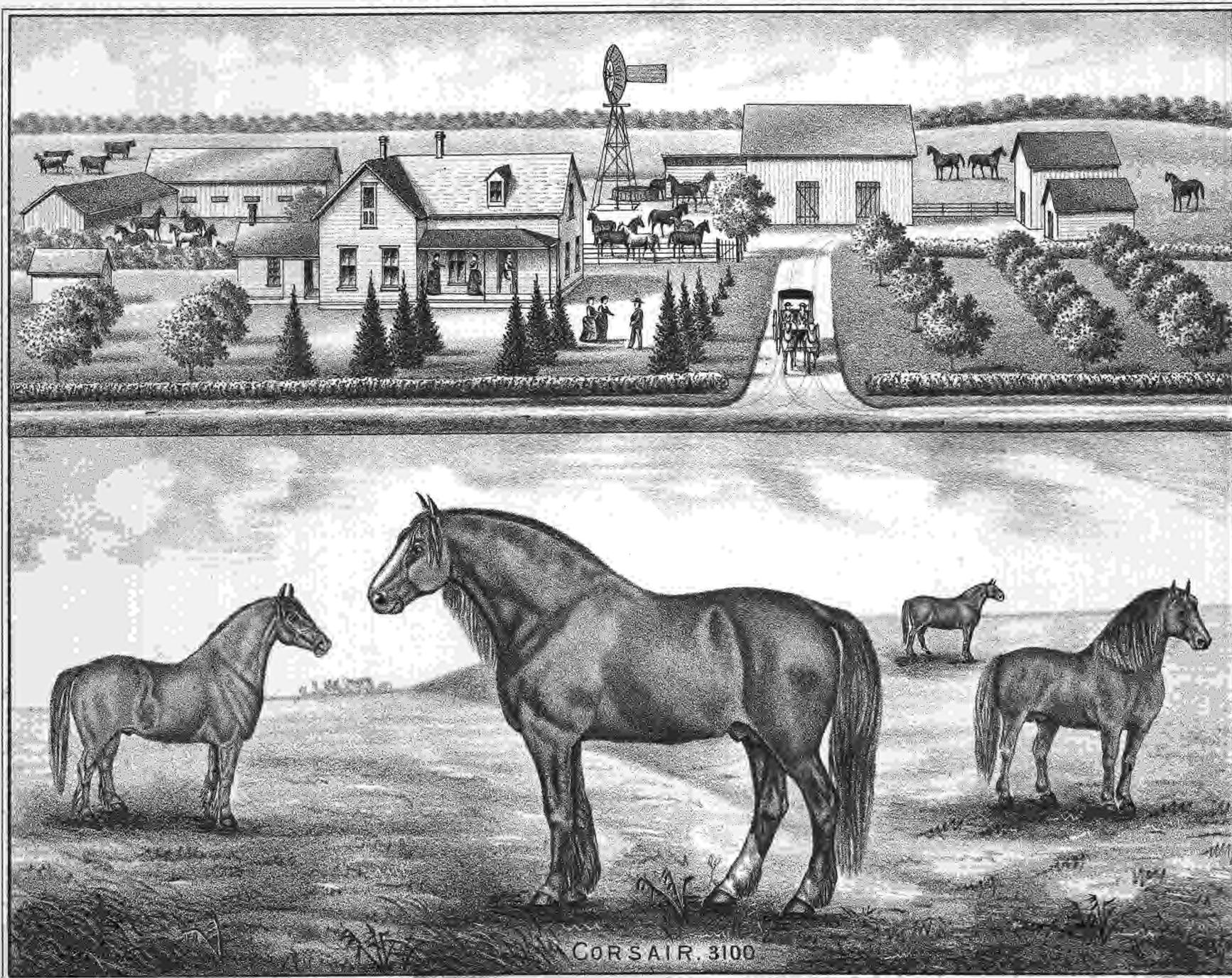
The first few years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Richard lived in Stephenson County, where he operated a farm. The same year that Lincoln was located he paid his first visit to Nebraska, and took a great fancy to the country. The second time that he came to this State was in 1879, and then he was accompanied by his wife and two children, and located on the northwest quarter of section 31, which he purchased almost immediately on arrival.

Mr. Richard has not been prominent in civic affairs, but has served one term as Director of Schools. In politics he is strictly independent, being swayed only by principles, and voting only for men of principle. He is a pronounced temperance man, and a worker in that cause. With his wife, he is numbered among the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in good standing, and there, as elsewhere in the community, they are held in high regard. The property of our subject is thoroughly improved, his residence is a pretentious, pleasant and comfortable dwelling, and his farm buildings are as good as any that can be found in the county. He has recently erected a very fine frame barn, standing 46x50 feet, and designed to meet every requirement incidental to the farm.



**J**OHN J. CASPERS. The subject of this narrative represents a large amount of property in Rock Creek Precinct, his landed estate embracing 480 acres on section 32, and a like amount in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County. The most of this is in a productive condition, and yields to the proprietor a handsome income. The homestead is located on section 32, occupying one of the finest situations in the county, and affording an extended view of the surrounding country. Everything that taste and means could suggest has been done to render it attractive, and





RESIDENCE OF REUBEN CHURCH, SEC. 13. OTOE PRECINCT, OTOE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

the inmates are surrounded by all of the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Mr. Caspers came to Nebraska while it was a Territory in the fall of 1856, and pre-empted 120 acres of land in Nemaha County. He took up his residence in Rock Creek Precinct, this county, in 1872. The distinguishing trait of his character has been a resolute perseverance that has kept him steadily at work, and which has enabled him to accomplish the fine results which are apparent to-day in his surroundings and his possessions.

Our subject was born in what was then the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, Feb. 10, 1831, and is the offspring of a good family, his father being John Caspers, Sr., who carried on agriculture successfully upon his native soil and there spent his entire life, dying at the ripe old age of eighty years. He had married in early manhood Miss Hilka Zimmermann, a native of the same Province as her husband, and who died several years before his decease, also well advanced in years. They were people greatly respected in their community, members in good standing of the Lutheran Church, and the parents of seven children. Only one brother of our subject emigrated to America, and is now a resident of Nemaha County, Neb.

Mr. Caspers received a good practical education in his native tongue, and worked with his father on the farm until reaching manhood. He was then married to Miss Margaret Barans, who was also born in Hanover, Oct. 10, 1827. Her parents, Lawrence and Ricksta (Johnson) Barans, were also natives of Hanover, and the father a farmer by occupation. They died not far from the place of their birth, when quite aged. Their daughter Margaret remained with them until her marriage.

To Mr. and Mrs. Caspers there have been born nine children, with five of whom they have been called to part, namely: Maggie (1st), Thomas, Maggie (2d), and two infants unnamed. John, their eldest son living, married Miss Mattie Hillis, and is farming in Benton Precinct, Nemaha County; Lawrence married Miss Mary Hillis, and they are living on a farm in Rock Creek Precinct; Benjamin married Miss Ida Pracht, and lives on a farm in LaFayette Precinct, Nemaha County; Ellen is at home with her parents. Both parents and chil-

dren are members of the Lutheran Church, and Mr. Caspers, in politics, is a fervent supporter of Democratic principles. Mr. Caspers upon reaching the United States located in Madison County, Ill., where he lived two years, and thence came to Nebraska. A view of Mr. Caspers' place is shown on another page.



**R**EUBEN CHURCH. Both physically and mentally considered, the subject of this sketch would at once attract the attention of any intelligent individual, and within the confines of Otoe Precinct there are none held more generally in respect on account of sterling worth of character combined with more than ordinary capabilities. Of noble stature and commanding presence, he also has a mind in keeping with the physical qualities bestowed upon him by a kindly Providence. Presiding over his domestic affairs his wife, Mrs. Lydia Church, is a lady in every way suited to her position as the companion of such a man as her husband, and one who in her younger years must have been a lady of uncommon beauty. She still retains a large measure of her youthful attractiveness, and is the mother of a blooming family, which the parents may be pardoned for looking upon with great pride.

Mr. Church owns and operates 245 acres of valuable land lying upon sections 13 and 18. Upon this he has labored for the last twenty years, and has very nearly brought it to perfection, the soil being in a highly productive condition, and the farm buildings, live stock and machinery of first-class description. The residence, a tasteful and commodious frame structure, is flanked by good barns and outhouses, an ample orchard, shade and fruit trees, and the usual appliances of the well-regulated country estate. The farm is largely devoted to the raising of fine stock, Mr. Church making a specialty of the celebrated Clydesdale horses. In this line he exhibits some of the handsomest specimens of the equine race to be found in Southeastern Nebraska.

Our subject is the offspring of a good family, being the elder of two children born to Charles and Sally (Dutton) Church, who were both natives

of Rutland County, Vt., born near the town of that name. The paternal great-grandfather carried a musket in the Revolutionary War, while Grandfather Church served in the War of 1812. The family is of English ancestry, and the first representatives it is supposed settled in the Green Mountain State during the Colonial days. The parents of our subject were married in New York State, and settled on a farm in St. Lawrence County, where they lived until 1835. Thence they removed to Ohio, and thereafter for a time lived in the vicinity of the Black River, in Lorain County. The father, however, in 1848, not yet satisfied with his surroundings, pushed on still further westward with his family, locating first in DeKalb County, Ill. Later he crossed the Mississippi into Iowa, and settled upon a farm in Hancock County, where he was greatly prospered in his labors as an agriculturist and accumulated a fine property. He lived to the advanced age of eighty-four years, and died at the homestead in Iowa, Dec. 25, 1884.

Mrs Sally (Dutton) Church, the mother of our subject, had died when a young woman only twenty-three years of age, during the residence of the family in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., leaving two children: Reuben, of our sketch, and his sister Polly. The latter is now the wife of Henry Cunningham, of Boone County, Ill., and they are the parents of one child. Charles Church after the death of his first wife was married again, in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., to Miss Calista Smith, and to them were born eleven children. The step-mother and her children are still living in the Hawkeye State.

Reuben Church was born in St. Lawrence County, N. Y., Nov. 26, 1826, and was a lad of eight years when his father removed to Ohio. He was educated in the common schools, and remained a member of his father's household until reaching his majority. In the fall of 1850 he started out for himself, making his way first to Chippewa County, Wis., where he was employed in the lumber regions for a period of four years. During this time he received a salary of \$26 per month the year around, saved what he could of his earnings, and thus laid the foundation of a future prosperity.

Up to this time Mr. Church, although now nearly

twenty-nine years of age, had wisely refrained from taking upon himself the responsibilities which too many men and women thoughtlessly assume, but he now judged it proper to begin the establishment of a home and domestic ties of his own. He had in the meanwhile formed the acquaintance of Miss Lydia Little, one of the most attractive and estimable young ladies of the Prairie State, as sensible as she was beautiful, and who fully appreciated the manly qualities of her stalwart suitor. Returning to DeKalb County, Ill., our subject was united in marriage with this lady at her home in Belvidere, March 27, 1855, amid the congratulations and best wishes of many friends, who voted them the handsomest pair seen in that region for many a day.

A few months after their marriage our subject and his young wife moved to Iowa, and Mr. Church purchased 160 acres of land in Avery Township, Hancock County. He entered earnestly upon the cultivation and improvement of his purchase and was greatly prospered. While at the same time prosecuting his labors as an agriculturist he became prominent in the affairs of Hancock County, his evident talents having obtained ready recognition among the people in that section of the Hawkeye State. He was instrumental in the organization of the county in 1858, and was elected its first Treasurer. He was twice re-elected to this office, serving a term of six years, and for four years of this time was also the County Recorder, holding both offices, as was frequently done in the new counties. For a number of years he officiated as Justice of the Peace. He was the Postmaster at Upper Grove in the same county during the administration of three Presidents, Buchanan, Lincoln and Johnson, resigning the office upon his removal from the State.

Although having little to complain of in his experience as an Iowa farmer and citizen, the reports reaching Mr. Church from the Territory of Nebraska induced him to change his location. He certainly has had little reason to regret this change and neither have the people around him. Since that time he has been a resident of Otoe Precinct, this county. He has studiously avoided mixing in public affairs since coming to Nebraska, preferring to give his attention to his farm and his family, al-

though he keeps himself well posted upon current events and continues a warm supporter of the principles of the Republican party. He has acquitted himself in an admirable manner, both as an agriculturist and a citizen. No man stands higher in the community, which he has been no unimportant factor in bringing to its present position, representing the intelligence and the enterprise of Southern Nebraska. The Church homestead is regarded with unalloyed admiration by every traveler passing through this section of the country, and a view of this, which we present in connection with this sketch, serves not only to embellish the ALBUM of Otoe County, but illustrates the labors and successes of one of its most prominent and valued citizens.

Of the eight children born to Reuben and Lydia (Little) Church the record is as follows: The eldest daughter, Sarah E., is the wife of Edgar Clayton, a well-to-do and highly respected farmer of Otoe Precinct; Reuben D., a youth of great promise, is a student in the State University at Lincoln, expecting to be graduated in the class of '89; Frances, a young lady of fine attainments, and a graduate of the Peru Normal School, is a popular teacher at Exeter, Neb., having charge of the grammar department; Ella, the third child, died Jan. 18, 1888, at the age of twenty-six years; Andrew died when a babe of fifteen months; Anna, also a graduate of the Peru Normal School, is a teacher in the grammar department of the graded school at Stromsburg; John and Katie I., also pupils of the Peru Normal School, give promise of distinguishing themselves in a manner similar to that of the elder children. Together they form a bright and interesting group, and will in due time take their places in the community as the most worthy representatives of one of the leading families of the "Water Valley."

**G**EORGE W. EISER, of Nebraska City, has been successfully operating a meat market for the past twenty years, during which time he has built up a prosperous trade. A native of Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, he was born Jan. 31, 1845, and is the son of George G. Eiser, who with his wife was also of German birth and parentage, and both died in their native land. There were two brothers beside our subject, Casper, who died in Peoria County, Ill., and John M., who still resides there.

Our subject remained a resident of his native province until sixteen years of age, in the mean-

time attending school until fourteen. He then commenced learning the trade of tanner, which he followed until 1862, in which year he came to the United States. He set sail from the port of Bremen and landed in New York City, whence he proceeded directly to Peoria, Ill., where he arrived with a capital of \$1.50 in his pocket. He secured employment with a butcher at \$10 per month and remained one and one-half years. He became familiar with this trade also and finally started for Nebraska, landing in Omaha, where he worked a few months and then migrated to North Platte, where he stayed six months. Thence he returned to Omaha, from there drifted back to Peoria, remaining until 1868. We next find him in Minonk, Woodford Co., Ill., with a capital of \$150, opening a meat shop on his own account. He soon commenced buying and shipping cattle, and in a comparatively short time accumulated \$12,000. He soon parted with this, however, and in 1870 concluded to seek his fortunes again in the farther West. He started out with a team of horses and wagon and traversed the State of Missouri, thence went to Solomon, Kan., and later turned his steps toward Nebraska, locating not long afterward in Nebraska City.

A few weeks later Mr. E. purchased a meat market and has been in business continuously since that time. In 1874 he returned to his old home in Germany and was married to Miss Lena Spengler, like himself a native of Hesse-Darmstadt. The newly married pair shortly afterward set out for the United States. They are now the parents of six children, Geo. W., Hattie, John M., Carl, Carrie and Amelia. Mr. Eiser, politically, supports Democratic principles. In 1882 he was elected Alderman of the second ward and re-elected in 1887. Socially, he belongs to Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., Eureka Lodge No. 3, K. of P., Nuckolls Lodge No. 7, A. O. U. W., and Camp No. 331, Modern Woodmen.

**F**RANCIS E. BROWN, Attorney-at-Law of Syracuse, located here in 1878. He was born in Livingston County, N. Y., July 1, 1847, and is the son of Francis and Harriet Brown. He was reared to manhood in his native State and received his education in the common schools. In 1859 he went to Darlington, Wis., where he remained until 1864. The Civil War being then in progress he enlisted in Co. E., 142d Illinois Infantry, in which he served until the close of the struggle.

In 1866 young Brown commenced the study of

medicine in the office of Drs. Hoyte and Johnson, in Hudson, N. Y., where he remained one year. Next in Mount Morris he read law with the firm of Wisner & Gamble, and was admitted to the bar at Rochester in 1871. He commenced practice at Mount Morris with Judge Norton, but subsequently removed to Newark, in Wayne County. In 1878 he started westward and not long afterward located in Syracuse, this county.

Mr. Brown was married in 1883 to Hattie W., daughter of Geo. Hartley of Syracuse, and they have two children, Duane and Vida. Politically he is an active Republican, and has frequently held the local offices. He was one time made the candidate of his party for State Senator, but was defeated by sixteen votes. Socially, he belongs to the Masonic Fraternity and is an Adjutant-General in the G. A. R. under Commander-in-Chief Vandervoort.

**D**R. W. C. CLARY, familiarly known as a competent veterinary surgeon of Nebraska City, was born in what was then Sangamon County, Ill., but is now Menard County, at Clary's Grove, Feb. 26, 1823. He was the seventh child and sixth son in a family of fourteen children, the offspring of John and Rhoda (Armstrong) Clary, the former a native of Lincoln County, Ky., and the latter of Tennessee. They were married in the latter State and removed to the Territory of Illinois in the fall of 1817, settling in Sangamon County, and the father thereafter voted on the slavery question and the adoption of the State Constitution.

John Clary made the first entry of land in the Springfield district, carried on farming, took an active part in politics and served as Justice of the Peace and County Commissioner. He and his father in the spring of 1819 settled at what was afterward known as Clary's Grove, when there were no white residents within five miles. Our subject received his education in the primitive schools, the first building in that vicinity devoted to this purpose being a log house on his father's farm. He waded through slough and snow across the prairie in the pursuance of his studies, and from his boyhood up entertained a remarkable liking for animals. He grew up strong and healthy, and when attaining manhood was married Aug. 19, 1847, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Green) Watkins, who was born and reared not far from the early home of her husband.

Our subject came to Nebraska with his family in 1858, employing ten days in making a trip which

can now be accomplished in nineteen hours. They located on a claim in Nemaha County, and endured the common lot of pioneers. Our subject improved a farm, which he left in 1877 for Nebraska City, where he entered upon the practice of his profession, in which during all these years he had been perfecting himself. He has signalized himself as a liberal and public citizen.

To Dr. and Mrs. Elizabeth Clary there were born nine children, namely: Robert M., George, Andrew J., who died in Illinois; Mary F., John L., also died in Illinois; William M.; Henry L., an infant, and Anna S. The present wife of our subject was formerly Miss Angeline G., daughter of James and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Hayes, to whom he was married April 30, 1871. This lady was born in Atchison County, Mo., and lived there until eleven years old. Thence she removed with her mother to Iowa, the father having gone to California, where he died. She lived in Iowa until her marriage. Of this union there are five children, the eldest of whom, Cora E., is a successful teacher; Martha E., Charles C., Lula E. and Ralph F. are at home with their parents.

The Dr. in 1874 lost \$6,000 by going security for a friend, which left him bankrupt. He endeavors however, to make the best of circumstances. Politically he affiliates with the Democratic party. During the Mexican War he enlisted June 16, 1846, in the 4th Illinois Infantry and served about six months, being discharged for disability. During the late Civil War he also participated in the conflict for union and freedom.

**J**OSIAH ROBERTS, a resident of Syracuse Precinct, settled here in February, 1883. He was born in Clinton County, Ohio, Feb. 14, 1830, and is the son of James and Mary (Antrim) Roberts, who were natives of Tennessee and of Welsh and English parentage respectively. The paternal grandfather, John Roberts, settled first in Tennessee, whence he removed to Ohio, where he spent his last day. He married Miss Phebe Myers, who was of German extraction. The maternal grandparents were natives of England.

The parents of our subject were married in Tennessee whence they removed to Ohio, settling in Clinton County during its pioneer days. Later they were residents of Logan County. James Roberts served under Gen. Andrew Jackson in the War

of 1812. Both he and his wife died in Logan County, Ohio, leaving a family of fourteen children, all of whom grew to mature years and of whom our subject was the ninth in order of birth. He was but two years old when the family took up their residence in Logan County, where he lived until eighteen years of age, and in the meantime commenced work at the blacksmith trade.

From Ohio, in 1851, Josiah Roberts removed to Knox County, Ill., and from there later to Fremont County, Iowa. Still later we find him at Fort Kearney, Nebraska, where he operated a blacksmith-shop in the employ of the Government eighteen months. He next migrated to Atchison County, Mo., where, in 1854, he was married to Elizabeth H. Wilson. Mrs. Roberts was born in Indiana. After marriage they came to Nebraska and our subject pre-empted land in Nemaha County upon which he made some improvements, then returned to Fremont County, Iowa, where he followed farming and blacksmithing until 1862,

The next removal of Mr. Roberts was to Mills County, Iowa, and at Glenwood he conducted a blacksmith-shop until after the war. He then settled on a farm in that county where he prosecuted agriculture until 1883, the year of his removal to this State, when he settled where he now lives. He owns 320 acres of good land here, besides two tracts, 320 and 160 acres respectively, in Russell Precinct. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping about 150 head of cattle. His success has been largely due to the increasing value of his land. In Iowa he owned a whole section. He paid for his present farm \$8,000, for the 320 acres in Russell precinct \$5,000, and for the 160 acres \$2,500.

Mr. and Mrs. Roberts have ten children living, namely; Lucinda, James N., Isaac M., Jasper M., Emmett, Bartley, Fanny, Edward, Luke and Alvira. Mr. Roberts, politically, is Independent, supporting such men as he believes are qualified for office. His estimable wife is a member of the Christian Church.



**H**ON. SAMUEL HOWARD CALHOUN, a prominent resident of this county, was born in Boston, Mass., May 27, 1836. His father, Charles Calhoun, was also a native of Boston, and his paternal grandfather, Andrew Calhoun, was born in Ireland. The latter came to America when a young man, locating first in Boston, and from there removed to New Hampshire, where he purchased land and engaged in farming. He spent his last days in the city of Concord. He

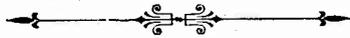
was a Presbyterian in his belief, and in this faith reared his children. Of these there were nine who grew to mature years. Their mother in her girlhood was Martha Chamberlain. Charles Calhoun, the father of our subject, was reared in his native city, and took to mercantile pursuits, which he carried on in Boston. About 1830 he was elected Secretary of the Massachusetts State Senate, and, with the exception of two years, when the Know Nothing party was in power, served continuously nearly thirty years. He accumulated property and became owner of a country seat at Woburn, where he spent a part of each year. In 1866 he came to Nebraska, and died at the home of his son, our subject, in September, 1869.

The father of our subject, politically, was an old line Whig. He married Miss Almira Stevens, who was born in Burlington, Mass., and who survived her husband until February, 1874, having also spent her last days with her son, Samuel H. There were in the family, besides the latter two daughters, Martha, who died at the age of twenty years, and Mary, who died when twelve years old. Samuel H. attended the city schools during his boyhood, and later was graduated from the Latin School of Boston, under Prof. Francis Gardner. He next entered Williams College, and was graduated in the class of '57.

In the fall of the year above mentioned Mr. Calhoun came to Kansas to accept a position in the office of an uncle, who was Surveyor-General, with headquarters at Lecompton. The year following the office was removed to Nebraska City, and in the month of August, that year, our subject made his advent in this place. There was no railroad nearer than Jefferson City, and transportation was effected by water and stage. The town comprised an outfitting point for freighters going with Government stores to Utah. When the gold excitement broke out the Pike's Peak emigrants came this way, business was lively and money plenty. Nebraska was a Territory, much of the land belonging to the Government, and unsurveyed. Indians of various tribes frequented this locality.

Mr. Calhoun remained in the office of the Surveyor-General until the beginning of the year 1860. In the meantime he had been reading law, and in December of that year was admitted to the bar. He commenced practice in Nebraska City, continuing until 1886, when he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the district of Nebraska, comprising this Territory and Dakota, with headquarters at Omaha. Politically, he has always been a Democrat, and prominent in the party here. He served several terms as Mayor of Nebraska City, and Prosecuting Attorney for Otoe County.

He represented the county in the State Senate, and has been a delegate to the various conventions. In 1875 he participated in the revision of the State Constitution, being Chairman of the committee appointed therefor. He was married, in 1864, to Miss Matilda McMechan, and they have four children—John C., Annie, S. Howard and Alexander. Mrs. Howard was born at Glasgow, Mo., and is the daughter of John and Matilda McMechan, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this volume.



**H**ON. J. STERLING MORTON. This is one of the names inseparably associated with the early history of Otoe County. Coming to Nebraska when it was a wilderness, he located on a tract of unbroken prairie, adjacent to which Nebraska City afterward grew, and his career has been marked more by the desire to establish a home, in the truest significance of the word, than the acquisition of wealth or political fame. Arbor Lodge forms one of the rarest spots in the landscape of this county—the ideal country home blessed by happiness and content, a home of culture and refinement, but from which one of the lights went out on the 29th of June, 1881, when the wife and mother, to whose efforts had been largely due the building up of this home, departed hence. There were left four children—Joy, Paul, Mark and Carl.

A native of the town of Adams, Jefferson Co., N. Y., Mr. Morton was born April 22, 1832. The first representative of the family of whom there has been preserved any authentic record was Richard Morton, a Scotchman by birth, a Puritan in religion, and a blacksmith by trade. He removed at an early day from Hartford, Conn., to Hadley, Mass., and thence to Hatfield, about 1668. One of his immediate descendants was Abner Morton, the paternal grandfather of our subject, who was graduated from Dartmouth College in 1799. After his marriage he settled in St. Albans, Vt., and became the father of a son, Julius Dewen, the father of our subject.

Julius Dewen Morton was a man of marked ability, and made for himself an honorable record, both as a business man and a citizen, and at the time of his death was President of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, of Detroit. He married Emeline Sterling, Sept. 30, 1830, and they removed from New York State to Michigan when their son J. Sterling was but a lad. He subsequently attended school at Albion, was then admitted to the State University at Ann Arbor, and finally entered Union

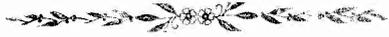
College, N. Y., then under charge of Dr. Eliphalet Nott, from whom he received his diploma in 1854. Prior to this he had shown strong predilections toward journalism, being a frequent contributor to the *Detroit Press*, and other papers of reputation.

On the 30th of October, 1854, occurred the marriage of J. Sterling Morton with Miss Caroline Ion French, of Detroit, with whom he had attended school from childhood, and to whom he had been betrothed at the age of sixteen. On the wedding day, accompanied by his wife, he started for Nebraska, and a few weeks later became owner of five town shares and seventy lots included in the present site of Nebraska City. He also became editor of the *Nebraska City News*, and was engaged in editorial work at intervals until 1877. In the meantime, the year after his arrival, he was elected to the Territorial Legislature, and was made a candidate the second term, but defeated by eighteen votes, in consequence of his opposition to the chartering of "wildcat" banks. He was reinstated as a member in 1857, and took an active part in the adjournment of the Legislature to Florence, a struggle as bitter perhaps as any in which Nebraska has been interested.

Mr. Sterling succeeded Thomas B. Cuming as Secretary of the Territory, in the spring of 1858, and a few months later, following the resignation of Gov. Richardson, became acting Governor. In the fall of 1860 he was nominated by the Democracy as a delegate to Congress, and was elected by a majority of fourteen votes. Secession coming on, and his party being in the minority, his seat was contested, and the question finally decided in favor of his opponent. He was at this time but twenty-nine years old, and on account of his more than ordinary capabilities there were enlisted in his behalf the strongest intellects on the Democratic side of the House. An able argument was made by Pendleton, sustained by speeches from Richardson, of Illinois; Vallandigham, Voorhees and John J. Crittenden, the last mentioned having moved and successfully insisted upon the passage of a resolution granting the defeated contestant mileage and pay for the time he was in Washington.

Upon returning home Mr. Morton took no active part in politics until the spring of 1866, when he received the gubernatorial nomination, contesting with David Butler the honor of being the first Governor of Nebraska as a State. In consequence of alleged irregularities in Rock Bluff Precinct, Cass County, by which about 160 ballots were thrown out, Butler was declared elected. Later, without a caucus being held, Mr. Morton received the entire strength of his party for United States Senator, but since that time he has withdrawn from political life, declining all nominations. He was

appointed to represent Nebraska at the Paris Exposition, and was one of the Commissioners at the National Centennial in 1876. He has served as President of the State Board of Agriculture and Horticulture, and is the originator of "Arbor Day," a festival adopted by many of the Western States.



**C**HARLES M. HUBNER, editor of the *Daily* and *Weekly News*, Nebraska City, is one of the leading journalists of Otoe County. He has traveled much in the United States, is a man of varied information, is fluent in conversation, and wields a ready pen. He was born in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 24, 1855, and is a son of Dr. George Alfred Hubner, a learned physician, a native of Mulhausen, Alsace, which at the time of his birth was a Province of France. His father, grandfather of our subject, belonged to one of the old Alsacian families of that place, and was a lifelong resident there.

Dr. Hubner was reared in his native town, and attended school quite regularly until he had attained manhood. He then commenced the study of medicine, going to Germany to take a course in one of the noted medical schools of that Empire. He afterward pursued his studies in one of the famous hospitals of Paris, and was graduated from there at the conclusion of seven years' study and practice, having attained high rank, and was thus well fitted for a career in which he gained considerable eminence as a physician of more than ordinary skill and learning. He traveled in different parts of Europe, and in about 1840 set his face toward America. After his arrival here he located in New Orleans, and practiced there for a time. He then bought a plantation in the Ouachita parish, and also became quite an extensive slave-owner, and for a number of years he spent only his winters in New Orleans, and the rest of the year on his plantation. He died in New Orleans in 1858, and a valued citizen was lost to that State, as he was a man enterprising and liberal, with shrewd business talents, and of well-balanced mind. His amiable wife, who was a fitting companion for such a man, now makes her home in Columbus, Ohio. Her maiden name was Ann Merton, and she was a native of Wales. Her father, William Merton, was also a native of that country, and he was a manufacturer of cloth. He came to America in 1839, located in Franklin County, Ohio, being quite an early settler there, and took a Government contract to build a bridge in that county, of which he was a resident until his death.

Charles Hubner, of whom we write, may be said

to have grown up with Nebraska City, as he was brought here when an infant, on account of ill-health, and in this fine climate grew to a vigorous manhood, receiving his education in the city schools. When he was fourteen years of age he commenced life for himself as a printer's devil in the Nebraska City *News* office, and in the course of time thoroughly mastered every detail of the art preservative. He then started out to see something of the world, and worked at his trade in several different cities in the United States. In 1879 Mr. Hubner took charge of the city department of the Lincoln *Globe*, and in 1881, in company with J. R. Dietrich, started a paper at Red Oak, Iowa, the paper being called the *Weekly Democrat*. The name may have been significant of the fact that the paper did not have a very strong hold on life, as after a few months its publication ceased, the venture not proving a success. Our subject, however, rose superior to this failure, and returning to Nebraska City in 1882, took charge of the *News*, with which he has been connected ever since, and by his energy and ability he has made it one of the best, newsiest, and most reliable papers in this section of the country, with a large circulation. On the 27th of February, 1887, the paper became the property of a stock company which was then formed, of which he is a member, his associates being E. D. Marnell and Thomas Morton. This company publishes the Nebraska City *Daily* and *Weekly News*, besides doing a large business in job printing.

Politically, Mr. Hubner is a Democrat; socially, he is a member of the Western Star Lodge No. 2, A. F. & A. M., and a thirty-second degree member of Alpha Consistory, A. & A. S. R.



**A**LLEX. S. McCARTNEY, of Belmont Township, has a farm of 400 acres on section 18, with a fine brick residence, a good barn and all the other outbuildings required for the successful prosecution of agriculture. He makes a specialty of stock-raising, keeping Poland-China swine, and good grades of Short-horn cattle. The land is in a good state of cultivation and the whole premises indicate comfort and plenty.

Our subject was born in County Antrim, Ireland, April 21, 1835, and is the son of James McCartney, a native of the same locality, and who is now deceased. The family emigrated to the United States in 1838, and sojourned for a time in New York City. Afterward they lived in Orange and Oneida Counties, N. Y., until 1845, when they changed their residence to Guernsey County, Ohio.

where Alex. S. completed his education in Madison College. For five years thereafter he taught school in Guernsey County.

Mr. McCartney came to Kansas in 1856, settling in Johnson County, and as a soldier under Gen. Jim Lane and John Brown participated in the border troubles. He returned to Ohio in 1858, and thence in 1863 came to Nebraska with five car loads of sheep. He visited the State in 1864, bringing four car loads of sheep, Spanish Merinos, and very valuable, and the year following superintended the transportation of a car load of horses to Iowa and Nebraska.

Our subject located on his present farm in June, 1866, at the time when it had undergone very little improvement. He worked diligently early and late for a number of years, and is now enjoying the reward of perseverance and industry. He was married to Miss Mary P., daughter of Thomas Milligan, and of this union there have been born eight children, six of whom are living, namely; Thomas B., Maggie, Martha A., Andrew, William and Robert. The two daughters are attending college in Tarkio, Mo. Mr. McCartney, politically, is identified with the prohibition party and was one of four men and three women who attended the first Prohibition convention in the county. During the late war he proffered his services as a soldier of the Union army but was rejected by the examining surgeon. In religious matters he is a member of the United Presbyterian Church,



**RUFUS A. LITTLEFIELD**, engaged in the practice of dentistry at Syracuse, was born in East Bridgewater, Plymouth Co., Mass., Dec. 17, 1850. His parents were Rufus A. and Abigail R. (Whitman) Littlefield. He was reared on a farm and received his education in the common schools, and made his home under the parental roof until twenty-seven years of age.

At this period of his life Mr. Littlefield went into the State of New Hampshire at Enfield, Grafton County, engaging in the manufacture of shoes. This place was located on the west shore of Mascoma Lake, and on the east side was a settlement of Shakers. Our subject sojourned here until the fall of 1880, when he returned home, and the year following came to Nebraska, joining his brother George H., who had previously settled here and become a prominent physician of Syracuse. In May, 1881, our subject commenced the study of dentistry

in Tecumseh with Charles H. Philpot, D. D. S., as preceptor, with whom he remained nearly three years. He practiced his profession in that place until December, 1884, when his office and dwelling were destroyed by fire. After this calamity he removed to Syracuse, of which he has since been a resident.

Dr. Littlefield was married, Oct. 24, 1884, to Miss Anna E. B. Emmons, daughter of James A. and Nancy Emmons, who was born in Brownville, this State. Her parents were among the first settlers of that region. The Doctor and his wife have two bright children, both sons—Rufus A. and James A. Politically, he is a Republican, religiously, a Congregationalist, and socially, a K. of P.



**AUGUST CLAIR**, the successful manager of the Planters' Stock Company of Delta, established in April, 1888, and now in a prosperous condition, and also the owner of a well-improved farm of eighty acres near Delta Station, and in these connections widely and favorably known throughout Otoe County, is the youngest of three children born to his parents. This interesting event occurred on the 18th of December, 1848, in Burgoyne, France. There he spent the first nine years of his life, coming with his parents to the United States in 1857. Their home was made in Nemaha County, this State, upon a pre-emption claim in Glenn Rock Precinct, where the father spent the remainder of his days, and also his mother, who survived him about twenty-three years; both had reached a very advanced age.

Miss Emily Carlin and the subject of our sketch celebrated their union in marriage in the above county, in September, 1879. His wife was born in France, which she left with her parents when she was about eleven years of age, and subsequently spent two years in Ohio, and then came to this State, growing to womanhood in Nemaha County; her parents are yet living upon a very productive and well-cultivated farm in Otoe County. Of this marriage there have been born four children, two of whom are deceased, viz: Julie and Nora. The two surviving children bear the same names, and are still with their parents.

Mr. Clair came to this place from Nemaha County in 1882. Prior to that date, until the year 1858, he had successfully operated a farm in Glenn Rock Precinct, comprising 160 acres, which had been originally entered by the father. He is energetic in business, and by no means short-sighted. He is one of the promoters, if not indeed the chief, of the

organization of the Planters' Stock Company, which he now represents as grain buyer, and was instrumental in the erection of the splendid elevator at Delta, which is their property, and has a capacity of 6,000 bushels, with an annual shipment of about 200,000.

Our subject was reared and has continued his allegiance as a Catholic, while his wife, for similar reasons, is a member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Clair is a firm supporter of the Democratic party, and is also an affiliate of the Knights of Pythias.



**C**HARLES JAMES. There came from Mercer County, Pa., in the spring of 1867, one who has since been numbered among the most successful and enterprising men of this county, the subject of this sketch. Nebraska had then but recently been transformed from a Territory into a State, and Mr. James, taking up 160 acres of the first school land that was put up on the market, applied himself at once to its improvement and cultivation, and in his labors met with most gratifying success. He is now notable as a land-owner and stock-raiser, and has his homestead on section 16, in Wyoming Precinct, embracing a tract of 160 acres. On section 8 he has 160 acres, which, like the other, has been brought to a good state of cultivation, and is considered one of the finest tracts of land in the precinct. The home farm is supplied with first-class buildings, including a comfortable residence and a fine large barn, the latter occupying an area of 32x64 feet, and underneath is a warm stone basement for the shelter of stock.

Our subject was born in County Donegal, Ireland, in 1845, and is consequently in the prime of life. He was one of a large family of children, the offspring of William and Margaret (Buchanan) James, the former of whom, a farmer by occupation, was of Irish birth and ancestry, and died when his son Charles was a little lad five years of age. The widow with her seven children emigrated to America in 1850, and settled in Mercer County, Pa., where she took up a tract of land, and where our subject developed into manhood. He was employed for a number of years in the oil regions of the Keystone State, which he left in 1867 to seek his fortune across the Mississippi. Upon first coming to Nebraska he employed himself at farming six years in Otoe County, then returned to Pennsylvania, and was married, in Venango County, to Miss Maria S. Strawbridge, Aug. 23, 1863. This lady was born in the latter county in 1845, where

she was reared to womanhood and received her education in the common schools. Her parents, Benjamin and Alvira (Sheffield) Strawbridge, were natives of Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, and the father was a farmer by occupation. They spent their last years in Venango County, Pa., dying at an advanced age. Their family included three sons and six daughters, all of whom are living.

Mr. and Mrs. James soon after their marriage returned to Nebraska, and took up their abode in an humble dwelling on the land which our subject had secured from the State, and here they have since made their home. The household circle was completed by the birth of four children, one of whom, a son, George W., died when seven weeks old. The survivors are Mary E., Charles S. and Hattie F. The eldest is thirteen years of age and the youngest eight, and all are at home with their parents. Mr. James, politically, is a sound Republican, and both he and his estimable wife hold a good position in the social circles of their community, enjoying the friendship of its best people.



**W**ILLIAM SCHACHT. The name which stands at the head of this sketch is a familiar one to a large majority of the people of Osage Precinct, of which he was one of the very first settlers, and is now one of its most extensive land-owners. His broad fields, embracing an area of 1,200 acres, includes some of the finest farming land along the southern line of the county. Situated in a beautiful and level valley, its soil, under careful cultivation, yields abundantly the richest products of Nebraska. The farm buildings of Mr. Schacht invariably attract the attention of the traveler through this region, as comprising all that is convenient for use and handsome in architecture. The dwelling, a fine and imposing structure, is commodious and well arranged, and, within, presided over by a lady of great amiability and good taste, illustrates the modern idea of the complete home. The family move in the highest social circles of Osage Precinct, and have everything about them to make life pleasant and desirable.

The subject of this sketch was born in the Prussian Province of Westphalia, March 25, 1832, and is the son of Christof and Wilhelmina (Brine) Schacht, who were also natives of Prussia, and of pure German ancestry. The father was born in 1797, and was an extensive farmer and land-owner in his native Province. When a youth of eighteen years he entered the German Army, and fought under Frederick William III. against the

first Napoleon. He continued in the army until the close of the war, then returned to the occupations of rural life, to which he had been familiar from his boyhood. He spent his entire life upon his native soil, dying at the advanced age of eighty-five years, in the winter of 1882. The mother had preceded her husband to the silent land fourteen years, her death having taken place in 1868, when she was fifty-five years old.

The ten children of the parental family all lived to mature years. They were named respectively: Francis, August, William, our subject, Charlotte, Katherine, Herman, Wilhelmina, Henry, Louis and Frederick. Of these six are now living, making their homes mostly in Nebraska.

William staid with his father until a youth of sixteen years, and then determined to seek his fortune on another continent. Embarking on the "Edmund," at the port of Bremen, he was tossed about on the waves of the Atlantic for a period of ten weeks and three days, finally landing in the city of New Orleans. Thence he went up the river by steamer to St. Louis, and from there to Franklin County, Mo., where he was engaged one and one-half years at his uncle's in farming.

We next find our subject in Macoupin County, Ill., where he was engaged in farming four years. Thence he returned to Missouri, and was in the employ of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company two years. The spring of 1857 finds him first in Nebraska City, where he was occupied in draying three years. Next he rented a tract of land near the city, upon which he farmed two years. In the fall of 1859, when the first land sale was opened in Nebraska, he purchased 160 acres of land in Osage Precinct, and settled in a log house, in April, 1862, being one of the earliest pioneers of that place.

The neighbors of Mr. Schacht were at this time few and far between. As soon as possible he provided a shelter for his family, and set about the improvement of his property. It is hardly necessary to recapitulate the story of the early settler and the difficulties which beset him on either hand, the far-away market, the lack of railroad facilities, the indifferent machinery for farm purposes, and the numberless other difficulties with which he had to contend. Our subject, however, had inherited too largely of the traits of his substantial German ancestry to permit him to give way to discouragements. He fought his way successfully, and in due time found himself surrounded by the results of his labor, in the shape of a good area of cultivated soil, convenient and comfortable farm buildings, and all other accessories of the progressive agriculturist. In due time he added to his real estate, purchasing at different periods 160 acres in

Johnson County, 520 acres in McWilliams Precinct, Otoe County, and enough in Osage Precinct to make up the sum of 1240 acres. The most of this is now under a state of cultivation, and represents a value approaching \$100,000. In 1884 he helped start the Bank of Talmage, of which he is now a stockholder. When we consider that the proprietor began at first principles, having no capital save his courageous heart and willing hands, it must be admitted that he has done well.

To Miss Caroline Bock, of Missouri, our subject was married, at Nebraska City, on the 14th of April, 1859. Mrs. Schacht, like her husband, is also a native of Prussia, and was born Oct. 18, 1836. Her parents were Christof and Caroline (Krappig) Bock, also of German birth and parentage, and the father a farmer in good circumstances. He died in his native Germany in 1843, when but forty-three years old. The mother subsequently came to America, and died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. M. Hofman, in Leavenworth, Kan., Feb. 22, 1879, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. The parental family included four children—Minnie, Dora, Caroline and Hannah.

The mother of Mrs. Schacht, when the latter was a young girl eighteen years of age, came with her family to America, settling in Gascouade County, Mo., where Miss Caroline made the acquaintance of her future husband. Of their union there have been born ten children, two of whom, Johanna and Henry, died when fifteen years and several hours old respectively. The others are Charlotte, Minnie, Emma, Herman, Caroline, William, Matilda and Christof. Charlotte is the wife of Charles Brandt, a traveling salesman for an agricultural implement firm of Omaha; they reside at Nebraska City. They have two children—Martha and Otto. Minnie married Henry Armknecht, and they are living on a farm in Arapahoe County, Col.; they have three children—Bertha, Martha and Ellen. The younger children of our subject continue under the home roof. Herman is an especially bright boy, and was for a time a student in the Business College at Burlington, Iowa.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Schacht are members in good standing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Osage. Mr. S. was one of the charter members, assisting in its organization, and has been uniformly a most liberal and cheerful contributor to its support. Politically, he votes the straight Republican ticket, has been a member of the School Board in his district for a period of eighteen years, and Road Supervisor for several years. He is a man whose influence has been most sensibly felt in this region, and one the very force of whose example has worked good to the entire precinct.